Bringing together clinical expertise to diagnose, treat, and manage melanoma.
A Leading Health Care Resource for the Region

With the worst of the pandemic behind us, together we have continued to maintain Mount Sinai South Nassau’s position as a leading health care resource for the region. Our success is rooted in an approach that emphasizes the full continuum of health care, from compassionate primary care to the most advanced diagnostic and therapeutic technologies.

At the heart of coordinated care are relationships. Our medical staff prioritizes patient-focused care by fostering relationships that support collaboration. In this publication, you can learn about the newest members of our medical staff, including primary care physicians Naderi Mehr, MD, and Goustina Adly, DO, along with pediatric gynecologist Glynithia Trotman, MD, who are featured on page 3. Other new additions to the medical staff are noted on pages 9 and 10, including two new neurologists and our new Chief Medical Officer, Alan Wong, MD, profiled on page 8. Having up-to-date facilities is an essential part of meeting the health care needs of our community. On page 6, you will find updates on our Wantagh project as well as the latest on construction of the Long Beach Medical Arts Pavilion.

As the Long Island flagship of the Mount Sinai Health System, we are poised to elevate health care in our region to a higher level than ever before. Patients will benefit from this partnership, allowing for smooth transitions in all facets of health care and a wide network of experts across all specialties with access to comprehensive clinical care, telehealth resources, clinical trials, and cutting-edge technology.

Our new linear accelerator at the Gertrude & Louis Feil Cancer Center in Valley Stream offers a nonsurgical and targeted radiation treatment for patients with certain types of cancer (see page 10). As our practices become ever more data-driven, we are pleased to make Mobile Heartbeat available to you. Mobile Heartbeat is a mobile app that enhances clinical workflow and supports communication among clinicians. Read more about this innovative tool on page 8.

Now that summer is approaching, people of all ages will head outdoors to enjoy the warm weather, and many will inadvertently put themselves at risk of melanoma. The incidence of melanoma is increasing, particularly among younger patients.

To underscore our commitment to the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of melanoma, this issue features Mount Sinai South Nassau’s Melanoma Program. This comprehensive resource will serve as a hub of education, information, and care for those diagnosed with melanoma. You can read more about the program on pages 4 and 5.

The wide range of activities and advances that we continue to make every day here at Mount Sinai South Nassau is a source of pride for all of us associated with this hospital. Regardless of external pressures and forces beyond our control, we continue to progress. Our commitment to the patients we serve is evident. On behalf of those patients, thank you for the work you do and for your continued support of this hospital and our mission.
Mount Sinai South Nassau Adds Two Internal Medicine Specialists to Mount Sinai Doctors Bellmore Primary Care and Cardiology

Mandana Naderi Mehr, MD, is board certified in internal medicine. She earned a medical degree from Tehran University of Medicine in Iran, and completed a residency in internal medicine at Jamaica Hospital Medical Center in Queens.

Goustina Adly, DO, is board certified in internal medicine. After earning a medical degree from NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine in Old Westbury, she completed a residency in internal medicine at Nassau University Medical Center in East Meadow. Previously, Dr. Adly served as an Attending Hospitalist Physician at St. Francis Hospital & Heart Center in Roslyn.

Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecologist Gynthia E. Trotman, MD, MPH, Joins the Mount Sinai South Nassau Staff

Gynthia Trotman, MD, MPH, is board certified in obstetrics and gynecology and has a focused practice designation in pediatric and adolescent gynecology.

She also serves as the Director of Pediatric Gynecology of the Mount Sinai Health System and is an Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology as well as an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in Manhattan.

She earned a medical degree from SUNY Downstate Medical College and completed a residency at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. She was fellowship trained in pediatric and adolescent gynecology at MedStar Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Naderi Mehr and Dr. Adly practice at:
Mount Sinai Doctors - Bellmore
2750 Merrick Road
Bellmore, NY 11710
P: 516-409-2000
F: 516-409-2720

Mount Sinai Doctors - Freeport, OB/GYN
155 W Merrick Road, Suite 204
Freeport, NY 11520
P: 516-513-1439
F: 516-390-2898
A full-body skin exam was never on Carol Ciminelli’s “to-do” list, at least not until two years ago when the 74-year-old avid sun bather noticed what she thought was a suspicious-looking mole on her arm. She mentioned it in passing to her mail carrier who had been treated for melanoma in the past. “He told me if you’re concerned about it, you should do something about it,” recalled the Amityville resident, who as a teen sunbathed coated in baby oil and armed with a reflector that often resulted in blistering sunburns.

The grandmother of four scheduled a consultation with a dermatologist who biopsied the mole. The doctor also biopsied a second mole on the back of the same arm that she deemed “suspicious-looking.”

A week later, Ms. Ciminelli, who has no family history of melanoma, was relieved to find out that the mole she thought was “funny-looking” was not cancerous. However, she was devastated to learn the other mole she thought nothing of was melanoma. “I had this growth for at least 10 years,” she said. “I thought it was a bruise.”

Her dermatologist referred her to Eric Seitelman, MD, FACS, a surgical oncologist at Mount Sinai South Nassau’s Melanoma Program, who reassured her and performed a wide excision of the melanoma along with sentinel lymph node mapping and a biopsy in early 2020.

Nearly 100,000 Americans will be diagnosed with melanoma this year, and more than 7,600 will die of the disease, according to the American Cancer Society.

“Melanoma is more common than people think and can be dangerous. However, dermatologists do a wonderful job screening patients with an annual full-body skin check. Surgeons are able to effectively treat melanoma with minimally invasive techniques. We have many immunotherapies at our disposal for even advanced melanoma that we didn’t have a few years ago,” said Dr. Seitelman, who is part of a
Nearly 100,000 Americans will be diagnosed with melanoma this year and more than 7,600 will die of the disease.

**Risk of getting melanoma?**
Melanoma is more than 20 times more common in whites than in Blacks. Overall, the lifetime risk of getting melanoma is about 2.6% (1 in 38) for whites, 0.1% (1 in 1,000) for Blacks, and 0.6% (1 in 167) for Hispanics.

*Source: American Cancer Society*

 multidisciplinary team who diagnoses and treats melanoma and other cancers. “Luckily, we caught her cancer in its earliest stage.”

For Ms. Ciminelli, sunbathing is no longer a favorite pastime. And when she joins her husband on walks around their neighborhood, she wears a broad-spectrum sunscreen, a wide-brimmed hat, and sometimes a long-sleeved, sun-protective shirt.

Every six months she sees a dermatologist for a full-body skin exam and Dr. Seitelman who checks her to ensure that her cancer has not recurred.

“Ms. Ciminelli’s prognosis is excellent,” he said. “She has a very low risk of recurrence or metastasis.”

She regrets not being proactive about regular skin check-ups and urges others to be more mindful of their health.

“Melanoma can happen to anyone at any time,” said the retired library assistant. “Do your head-to-toe self-assessments every three months and see a dermatologist for a skin exam every year. I wish I had started sooner. There was a lot of neglect. Don’t trust your own eyes to try to determine if a growth looks suspicious. You don’t have a trained eye. Only a doctor can tell you with any certainty.”

**Eric Seitelman, MD, FACS,** specializes in general surgical oncology and focuses on melanoma, other skin cancers, soft tissue tumors, and breast cancer. He is board certified in surgery and is the Surgical Residency Program Director at Mount Sinai South Nassau.

Dr. Seitelman earned a medical degree from the Sackler School of Medicine in Tel Aviv, Israel, and completed a general surgery residency at Nassau University Medical Center. He was fellowship trained in surgical oncology at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia.

**Mount Sinai South Nassau Gertrude & Louis Feil Cancer Center**
One South Central Avenue
Valley Stream, NY 11580
P 516-632-3350 / F 516-632-3396

**Mount Sinai Doctors Merrick Hematology Oncology**
2209 Merrick Road, Suite 101
Merrick, NY 11566
P 516-632-3350 / F 516-632-3355

**The Melanoma Program at Mount Sinai South Nassau**

The Melanoma Program at Mount Sinai South Nassau brings together a skilled multidisciplinary team to diagnose, treat, and care for patients with melanoma and other skin cancers. The program includes experts in medical and radiation oncology, plastic surgery, pathology, and radiology. Nurse navigators with dedicated knowledge and skills in the treatment of melanoma help guide patients through their continuum of care.

**Patients interested in scheduling an appointment should call 516-632-3350.**
Mount Sinai South Nassau plans to invest $35 million to transform a vacant Verizon building at 2020 Wantagh Avenue into a state-of-the-art medical office building that will offer a range of specialty services—including cardiovascular care, digestive health, pediatrics, rheumatology, neurology, women’s health, cancer care, laboratory services, and radiology—all at one convenient location.

The facility will be staffed by employed Mount Sinai South Nassau physicians and other medical providers who will serve the South Shore community and augment the availability of specialty care but not compete with local health professionals.

Your neighbors and loved ones will receive potentially lifesaving diagnoses for cancer and cardiac disease, which, if caught early, can result in better outcomes. There is ample parking on site. Traffic from the parking area will be directed to exit toward Sunrise Highway to lessen any impact on surrounding streets.

State-of-the-Art Center Will Restore Specialty Care to Barrier Island

Construction on a multi-specialty $35 million Medical Arts Pavilion in Long Beach is underway and projected to open in June 2023.

The 15,400-square-foot, one-story Long Beach Medical Arts Pavilion will bring specialty medical care back to the barrier island and offer access to a wide variety of medical specialists and services, including
Physicians’ Forum

A rendering of the Long Beach Medical Arts Pavilion.

Primary care, geriatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, gastroenterology and GI procedures, orthopedics, urology, cardiology, treadmill stress testing, diagnostic imaging, and lab services.

“Mount Sinai South Nassau remains committed to improving access to health care services on the barrier island. When the Medical Arts Pavilion opens its doors, Long Beach and the surrounding community will be home to a collaborative system of health care services that provides standard-setting primary and specialty medical services,” said Adhi Sharma, MD, Mount Sinai South Nassau’s President. “Coupled with Long Island’s only free-standing Emergency Department, the comprehensive system of health care services will ensure that residents do not have to leave the barrier island for care.”

The Medical Arts Pavilion will house 15 comfortably furnished, private patient examination and consultation rooms; four minor procedure rooms; and nine post-care preparation, recovery, and diagnostic imaging areas. The building has been designed with a hospital-grade air filtration system and with space planning guidelines to reduce the spread of infection. Entryways and bathroom facilities will be touchless to reduce the possibility of infection spread. As is standard with all Mount Sinai South Nassau facilities, it will feature an attractive interior design and décor with fully furnished lounge areas and an appealing exterior with manicured landscaping that complements the surrounding neighborhood.

Mount Sinai South Nassau is using Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds to build the Medical Arts Pavilion. The hospital purchased the Long Beach Medical Center property in bankruptcy after Superstorm Sandy, making it eligible for $174 million in FEMA funds. The hospital was the only health care institution to come forward during the bankruptcy proceeding to bid on the property. Under an alternative use provision of federal FEMA legislation, the hospital was permitted to use some of the FEMA funds at its Oceanside campus to fortify the hospital against future storms and expand services for the entire South Shore of Nassau County.

Mount Sinai South Nassau remains committed to improving access to health care services on the barrier island.

— Adhi Sharma, MD, President
Mount Sinai South Nassau
Alan Wong, DO, MBA, has been appointed Chief Medical Officer of Mount Sinai South Nassau.

Dr. Wong previously served at Catholic Health System’s Mercy Medical Center as Chief of Critical Care, Chair of Internal Medicine, and Vice President for Safety and Chief Quality Officer.

He earned a medical degree from New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed a residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in pulmonary and critical care at the then-Winthrop University Hospital (NYU Langone Hospital – Long Island).

You need to urgently contact a specialist who saw your patient. You have questions about what tests are being ordered and a possible diagnosis. But the specialist is back at the office seeing patients and is not immediately reachable.

Enter Mobile Heartbeat (MH) CURE, a secure smartphone application that connects all members of a patient’s care team. The app lists a real-time patient-specific clinical team directory, including primary care physicians, hospitalists, clinical specialists, nurses, technicians, and other staff, that enables the user to view the availability of those team members at all times whether they are inside or outside the hospital.

The HIPAA-compliant MH-Cure also enables 24/7 on-site or off-site access to critical lab results, important hospital notifications, pertinent patient information, such as telemetry monitoring, nurse call requests, and provides users secure texting, voice, caregiver-specific alarms and alerts.

Hospital users of the technology report that MH-CURE improved workflows that led to better patient outcomes. It reduced length of stay from 4.2 days to 3.8, resulted in 15 percent faster Emergency Department admissions using group chat and led to 20 percent faster radiology turnaround time. Mount Sinai South Nassau plans to implement the system by this summer.

“This communication technology will speed up care team communications and will save time lost to callbacks and eliminate telephone tag and long holds,” said Neal Scolnick, Mount Sinai South Nassau’s IT Physician Liaison. “Most importantly, this tool will improve the delivery of patient care by allowing the team to communicate and collaborate more effectively.”
Mount Sinai South Nassau Expands Neurology Practice

Mount Sinai South Nassau Names Kerin B. Hausknecht, MD, Interim Chief of Neurology

Kerin B. Hausknecht, MD, has been appointed Interim Chief of Neurology. Prior to his appointment at Mount Sinai South Nassau, he served as Chair of the Division of Neurology at NYC Health + Hospitals/Metropolitan.

Board certified in neurology and psychiatry, Dr. Hausknecht earned a medical degree from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and completed a residency in neurology at Mount Sinai Medical Center and an epilepsy mini-fellowship at Bowman Gray School of Medicine in Wake Forest, North Carolina. He served as Chief Resident of Neurology at Mount Sinai Medical Center, NYC Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst, and VA Bronx Health Care System.

Mount Sinai Doctors- Rockville Centre, Neurology
242 Merrick Road, Suite 302
Rockville Centre, 11570
P: 516-374-8566 / F: 516-374-8563

Shaik Sanai, MD, Joins the Mount Sinai South Nassau Staff

Shaik Sanai, MD, is board certified in neurology and treats a wide range of general neurological disorders, including headache, epilepsy, and stroke. He has expertise in performing electromyography and single-fiber EMG.

After he earned a medical degree from Kamineni Institute of Medical Sciences in India, he completed an internship in internal medicine and a residency in adult neurology at the Jacobs School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and completed a residency in neurology at Mount Sinai Medical Center. He is fellowship trained in neuromuscular medicine at Harvard Medical School/Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston.

Mount Sinai Doctors- Rockville Centre, Neurology
242 Merrick Road, Suite 302
Rockville Centre, 11570
P: 516-374-8566 / F: 516-374-8563

Attending Neurologists Jin Zhou, MD, PhD, and Vikas Patel, MD, Join Hospitalist Staff at Mount Sinai South Nassau

Jin Zhou, MD, specializes in stroke, epilepsy, headaches, dementia, neurodegenerative diseases, multiple sclerosis, and spinal and movement disorders. Before joining the Mount Sinai South Nassau staff, Dr. Zhou was in private practice at Long Island Neurology Consultants in Lynbrook.

A native of China, she earned a medical degree at the Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of Sciences in Shanghai, a Master’s of Science in Chinese medicine, and a PhD in pharmacology. She completed an internship and residency in neurology at SUNY Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn.

Vikas Patel, MD, is board certified in neurology. He earned a medical degree at St. Matthew’s University in Grand Cayman and completed a residency in neurology at Emory University in Atlanta. He was fellowship trained in vascular neurology at Robert Wood Johnson Hospital in New Brunswick, New Jersey, and in endovascular surgical neuroradiology at Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, New York.

New Medical Staff

- Evelina Badalov, PAC
  Surgery/Plastic Surgery
- Kristine L. Olsen, CRNA
  Anesthesiology
- Kristine L. Olsen, CRNA
  Anesthesiology
- Kristine L. Olsen, CRNA
  Anesthesiology
- Kristine L. Olsen, CRNA
  Anesthesiology
- Kristine L. Olsen, CRNA
  Anesthesiology
- Leela Montague, NP
  Medicine/Hematology/Oncology
- Abraleana D. Wilson, DO
  Surgery/Surgical Critical Care
- Krisnet Tam, PAC
  Surgery/Orthopedic Surgery
- Kaumudi Somnay, MD
  Medicine/Gastroenterology
- Suzanne Picciuuro, CNIM
  Medicine/Neurophysiology
- Ling Cui, MD
  Medicine/Endocrinology
- Xiao L. Lin, PAC
  Medicine/Internal Medicine
- Diego H. Suarez, MD
  Family Medicine
- Nicole L. Valinoti, CRNA
  Anesthesiology
- Joseph W. Doria, MD
  Medicine/Neurophysiology
Unleashing a New Life After Hip Replacement Surgery

It started as a searing pain in the middle of 62-year-old Patricia DeDomenico’s back. But no sooner had the Massapequa resident’s pain specialist administered a lidocaine shot than her hip began to hurt. About six weeks later, she received a cortisone injection in her hip, but the pain intensified, making it nearly impossible to sit, stand, or lie down. “On a scale of one to 10, the pain was a nine,” recalled the grandmother of six. “I would have benefited from a cane or walker.”

Ms. DeDomenico consulted orthopedist Shazann Hushmendy, MD, Chief of Joint Replacement Surgery at Mount Sinai South Nassau. Dr. Hushmendy ordered an MRI of her left hip, which showed significant osteoarthritis. He told her the condition and pain would only worsen over time and recommended hip replacement surgery.

Ms. DeDomenico is one of the more than 50 million older Americans who experience debilitating and chronic musculoskeletal pain due to a bad back, achy shoulder, cranky hip, or tender knee, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Within hours after the surgery, Ms. DeDomenico was discharged home and able to walk up a stairway. Today, she feels like a “new woman.” She can salsa dance, play with her grandchildren, ride her bike, and walk to the train station pain-free. “Having the surgery is the best thing I ever did,” said Ms. DeDomenico.

“Our tradition of excellence and quality is a direct result of treating our patients with leading-edge medical technologies while maintaining the highest standards in safety and care,” said Stelios Koutsoumbelis, MD, Chair of Orthopedic Surgery at Mount Sinai South Nassau.

Mount Sinai South Nassau is the only hospital on Long Island named to Healthgrades’ list of America’s 100 Best Hospitals for orthopedic surgery for five consecutive years and is rated high performing by U.S. News & World Report for care in orthopedics.

Delivering More Powerful Cancer Treatments With High Precision and Pinpoint Accuracy

Looking for a powerful radiotherapy system that can treat many different types of tumors with precision and speed while sparing surrounding healthy tissues?

Enter the Varian Truebeam Radiotherapy System. The next-generation medical linear accelerator, now in its new home at Mount Sinai South Nassau’s Gertrude & Louis Feil Cancer Center, creates images using 25 percent less radiation and can treat complex tumors in the body—including brain and spine, head and neck, breast, lung, liver, pancreas, and prostate—accurately and efficiently, minimizing patient discomfort.

For lung and other tumors subject to respiratory motion, the system makes it possible to monitor the patient’s breathing and compensate for movement of the tumor while the dose is being delivered.

For more information about the radiotherapy system, contact Radiation Oncology at 516-632-3330.
Mount Sinai South Nassau Celebrates National Doctors Day

Alan Wong, DO, Chief Medical Officer and Senior Vice President for Medical Affairs, center, thanks Indra Daniels, MD, and Steven Weiss, MD, for their contributions of service on National Doctors’ Day, March 30. Mount Sinai South Nassau marked the event by recognizing the hospital’s nearly 970 physicians for their selflessness and devotion to compassionate patient care.

News Notes:

Attending neurosurgeon Jeffrey A. Brown, MD, led a two-day virtual conference for the Suwanee, Georgia-based Facial Pain Association, where he chairs the medical advisory board. Dr. Brown presented, “Principles of Microvascular Decompression Surgery for Trigeminal Neuropathic Pain.”

The Department of Medical Education led by Samuel Sandowski, MD, Vice President of Medical Education and Chair of Family Medicine; Salma Rahimi, MD, Urogynecologist and Director, Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency; and Indra Daniels, MD, nephrologist and palliative care specialist, presented a health care disparities symposium to students, residents, and faculty on February 11.


The following residents, Malcom Forbes, MD; Edmond O’Leary, MD; Jason D’Cruz, MD; Sadaf Popal, MD; Farah Gazi, MD; and Benjamin Felder, MD, from the departments of Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, and Surgery have written chapters on transplantation, kidney transplantation, kidney disorders, and hospice for the ninth Edition of Magill’s Medical Guide (Salem Press, April 2022), a compendium for the lay reader. Indra Daniels, MD, nephrologist and palliative care specialist, coauthored the chapters along with Paul Moglia, PhD, Associate Residency Director and Director of Faculty Development.

Fourth Annual Mudra Foundation Addresses Global Impact of Pandemics on Society

Michael Leitman, MD, FACS, above right, Dean for Graduate Medical Education and Designated Institutional Official, Professor of Surgery, Professor of Medical Education, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, presented “From Influenza to COVID: Lessons Learned and the Impact on Global Health” at the Fourth Annual Mudra Foundation lecture on March 14.

Before an audience of physicians, residents, and allied health professionals, Dr. Leitman discussed the similarities and differences between the 1918 Spanish flu and COVID-19 and how pandemics impact society, politics, the economy, and global health.

The Muttontown-based Mudra Foundation, co-founded by Dr. Arti and Rajiv Datta, MD, uses the artistic medium of dance and music to raise funds and awareness to aid the mission of other nonprofit educational and charitable organizations.
Physicians’ Events Calendar

2022 Quarterly Staff Meetings

Meets on the first Tuesday of each quarter

WHEN: October 4 and December 6
WHERE: Meetings begin at 6 pm via Teams until further notice.

Save the Date

Soirée Under the Stars

Join us for a night of entertainment to support Mount Sinai South Nassau

WHEN: Saturday, September 17*
WHERE: The Seawane Club, Hewlett Harbor

For registration or sponsorships, call Lynne Nordone in the Development Office at 516-632-5360 or email lynne.nordone@snch.org.

*Date pending COVID-19 restrictions.

Providing Language Assistance to Limited-English-Proficient Patients

Office-based Medicaid providers can now be reimbursed for language interpretation services to limited-English-proficient patients in their offices. This includes language services provided over the phone through companies such as CyraCom, which offers interpretation services in more than 170 languages, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, or if you use a certified hospital interpreter for the interpretation. Note: Use of an interpreter must be documented in the EMR to bill Medicaid.

For more information, refer to the “New York State Medicaid Update,” October 2012, V. 28, No. 1, or call the Mount Sinai South Nassau Language Coordinator, Lina Hoyos, at 516-632-3484.