

## Mount Sinai Cancer in the News

JAMA NETWORK – October 14

### Gold Nanoshells Ablate Prostate Tumors

Laser-excited gold nanoparticles safely destroyed prostate tumors in a recent pilot study involving 16 patients with low- to intermediate-risk prostate cancer, performed by researchers at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. In the recent study, the heated particles killed prostate tumors without destroying nearby tissue. No serious adverse events were reported at three months, the primary safety end point, and there were no significant changes in prostate or sexual health symptoms. According to principal investigator Ardeshir Rastinehad, DO, associate professor of urology and radiology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, "Because many tumor types have leaky blood vessels, the approach could have broad oncology applications."

— **Ardeshir R. Rastinehad, DO, Associate Professor, Urology, Radiology, Director, Interventional Urology and Focal Therapy Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

DAILY NEWS – October 14

### Transgender Woman Who Beat Rare Type Of Breast Cancer Hopes Case Inspires Others To Seek Answers And Better Medical Care

When Connie Fleming, 54, underwent surgery for breast implants in 2000, the associated risks of cancer were barely an afterthought. Fleming went for her first-ever mammogram at Mount Sinai's Center for Transgender Medicine and Surgery and was diagnosed with advanced Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma, caused by breast implants. "These tend to occur in people who have breast implants," said Richard Bakst, MD, associate professor of radiation oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, and Fleming's doctor. In March 2018, Dr. Bakst and Dr. Alice Yao, MD, assistant professor of surgery at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai removed Fleming's textured saline implants, and performed a capsulectomy, taking out the surrounding scar tissue around the implants where atypical cancer cells had formed. According to Dr. Yao, "It just shows you the importance of surveillance after implants, and in the transgender community." According to Joshua Safer, MD, executive director of Mount Sinai's Center for Transgender Medicine and Surgery, "It's not known how aggressively we need to watch for certain cancers in transgender people relative to cisgender people."

— **Joshua Safer, MD, Executive Director, Center for Transgender Medicine and Surgery at Mount Sinai, Senior Faculty, Medicine, Endocrinology, Diabetes and Bone Disease, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

— **Richard Bakst, MD, Associate Professor, Radiation Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

— **Alice Yao, MD, Assistant Professor, Surgery, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

WQAD-TV – October 15

### Your Health: Testing An Implant That Cuts Clinic Trips For Some Cancer Patients

Kathleen DePalo was diagnosed with Stage One breast cancer in December 2017. Making lengthy, repeated trips into Manhattan for treatment wasn't a good option. Elisa Port, MD, FACS, director of the Dubin Breast Center and chief of breast surgery at The Mount Sinai Health System and Sheryl Green, MBBCh, associate professor of radiation oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai recommended another option. "Brachytherapy, or the therapy we are talking about, uses specific devices to really plant radiation directly at the source of the tumor," Dr. Green said. Dr. Port added, "The devices to deliver the radiation have been perfected and refined, and I think we are giving it at a much higher level."

— **Elisa R. Port, MD, FACS, Associate Professor, Surgery, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Director, Dubin Breast Center, Chief, Breast Surgery, The Mount Sinai Hospital**

— **Sheryl Green, MBBCh, Associate Professor, Radiation Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

MSN – October 15

### 50 Everyday Habits That Reduce Your Risk of Breast Cancer

Women who are at average risk for breast cancer should get an annual screening mammogram and clinical breast exam by a doctor starting at age 40. According to Sarah Cate, MD, assistant professor of surgery at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, "Mammograms have been shown to decrease the stage at diagnosis of breast cancer." She added, "If you are at an increased risk of breast cancer, you should start mammography earlier."

— **Sarah P. Cate, MD, Assistant Professor, Surgery, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

## Mount Sinai Cancer in the News

### HEALTH DAY – October 15

#### Beyonce's Dad Puts Spotlight on Male Breast Cancer

Beyonce Knowles' father first suspected something was wrong when he noticed a dot of blood that kept appearing on his shirts and bedsheets. "Imagine a piece of white paper and you took a red pen and just put a dot," Mathew Knowles told the *New York Times*. "That's what it looked like in my T-shirt." Knowles scheduled a mammogram in July after he squeezed a nipple and a bit of bloody discharge came out. The diagnosis: stage 1A breast cancer. "Most men who get breast cancer usually present with a mass behind the nipple," said Paul H. Schmidt, MD, PhD, associate professor of surgery at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. "If there is a tumor, people may be more likely to notice it."

— **Paul H. Schmidt, MD, PhD, Associate Professor, Surgery, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Director, Cancer Risk Program, Dubin Breast Center, Mount Sinai Health System**

Additional coverage: [U.S. News & World Report](#)

### HEALTHINATION – October 16

#### What Is a Lumpectomy? A Breast Cancer Surgeon Explains

Surgery for breast cancer can help remove the tumor, but it can also help prevent cancer from coming back in the future. Mastectomies—or a total removal of the breast or breasts—are commonly associated with breast cancer treatment, but many women actually opt for a lumpectomy instead. "Most women who are diagnosed with breast cancer will have surgery at some point during their treatment," said Jaime Albany-Oller, MD, a breast surgeon at the Dubin Breast Center at the Tisch Cancer Institute at the Mount Sinai Hospital. He added, "The goal of lumpectomy surgery is to take the cancer out and do the safest operation that we can, while at the same time, leaving the breast looking the most like it looked before surgery."

— **J. Jaime Albany-Oller, MD, Assistant Professor, Surgery, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, The Dubin Breast Center, Tisch Cancer Institute, The Mount Sinai Hospital**

### WABC-TV ONLINE – October 18

#### Breast Cancer: New Vision And New Hope

Connie Flemming is a brave, transgender fashionista who is fearless when it comes to spreading the word on breast cancer and textured implants. According to Connie, "I was aware of my transgender identify at around four. I started to transition at the age of 19. I wanted top surgery." Connie was diagnosed with breast cancer after receiving top surgery. According to Alice Yao, MD, assistant professor of surgery at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, "There is a myth that women with implants should not be getting mammograms, because actually all women should get mammos as recommended past the age of 40, or earlier if there's a family history." According to Richard Bakst, MD, associate professor of radiation oncology and otolaryngology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, "I've worked with transgender patients in the past, but this specific cancer in a transgender patient is exceedingly rare."

— **Alice S. Yao, MD, Assistant Professor, Surgery, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

— **Richard Bakst, MD, Associate Professor, Radiation Oncology, Otolaryngology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

### SCIENCE DAILY – October 18

#### Targeted Therapy To Help Children With Deadly Nerve Cancer

Researchers at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai have identified a targeted therapy for adolescent patients with neuroblastoma, a deadly pediatric nerve cancer, who would otherwise have no treatment options, according to a study published in *Cancer Cell*. "We hypothesized that mutant ATRX proteins contribute to aggressive neuroblastoma," said senior author Emily Bernstein, PhD, professor of oncological sciences and dermatology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. "In this study, we aimed to decipher the underlying biology of these altered proteins in neuroblastoma, a tumor for which effective therapeutic strategies remain obscure, and to exploit identified dependencies."

— **Emily Bernstein, PhD, Oncological Sciences, Dermatology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

Additional coverage: [Medical Xpress](#); [Technology Networks](#); [Yahoo Finance](#) .

## Mount Sinai Cancer in the News

### MYELOMA RESEARCH NEWS – October 21

#### Xpovio Leads to Promising Responses in Heavily Treated Multiple Myeloma Patients, Phase Two Trial Shows

Taking Xpovio (selinexor) in combination with the steroid dexamethasone leads to promising responses in heavily treated patients with relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma, according to researchers at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. "This study proved that a novel, first-in-class drug with a new mechanism of action can kill a patient's cancer cells," said senior author Sundar Jagannath, MBBS, director of the Multiple Myeloma Center of Excellence and Director of the Multiple Myeloma Program at The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai Health System and professor of medicine, hematology and medical oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai. According to first author Ajai Chari, MD, director of clinical research in the Multiple Myeloma Program at The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai, "This study is meaningful for patients with multiple myeloma who haven't had success on multiple other therapies." Ramon Parsons, MD, PhD, Director of The Tisch Cancer Institute, Chair of Oncological Sciences, and Ward-Coleman Professor in Cancer Research of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai said, "The Center of Excellence for Multiple Myeloma is part of The Tisch Cancer Institute and uses the most advanced diagnostic and treatment approaches within state-of-the-art facilities of a National Cancer Institute-designated cancer center."

— **Sundar Jagannath, MBBS, Director, Multiple Myeloma Center of Excellence, Director Multiple Myeloma Program at The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai, Professor, Medicine, Hematology, Medical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai**

— **Ajai Chari, MD, Director, Clinical Research in the Multiple Myeloma Program, Associate Director, Clinical Research, Mount Sinai Cancer Clinical Trials Office, Associate Professor, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

— **Ramon Parsons, MD, PhD, Director of The Tisch Cancer Institute, Chair of Oncological Sciences, and Ward-Coleman Professor in Cancer Research of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

### U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT – October 21

#### A Patient's Guide To Multiple Myeloma

Multiple myeloma is a type of blood cancer with multiple effects on your health. It disrupts your ability to fight infections, weakens once-healthy bones and potentially leads to kidney failure. Blood is made up of red blood cells, platelets and white blood cells. Multiple myeloma is a cancer of a specific type of white blood cells called plasma cells. "So it is a cancer of the antibody-producing cells," said Sundar Jagannath, MBBS, director of the Multiple Myeloma Center of Excellence and Director of the Multiple Myeloma Program at The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai Health System and professor of medicine, hematology and medical oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai. He added, "If you have access to a multiple myeloma specialty center for treatment, that's ideal."

— **Sundar Jagannath, MBBS, Director, Multiple Myeloma Center of Excellence, Director Multiple Myeloma Program at The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai, Professor, Medicine, Hematology, Medical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai**

### LA-CROIX – October 22

#### United States, September 11-Related Cancers Up Sharply

Thousands of people exposed to toxic products contained in the ruins of twin towers are affected by sometimes rare cancers. Eighteen years after these attacks, the incubation periods are coming to an end. "The sample we follow is, in proportion, more affected by cancer than the general population. And the patients are younger," said Michael Crane, MD, MPH, medical director of the World Trade Center Health Program Clinical Center for Excellence at Mount Sinai. He added, "In the case of 9/11, we are dealing with an unprecedented combination of carcinogens such as asbestos, metals, fiberglass, fuels ... What happens when, on such a large scale, Are benzene, which causes leukemias, mixed with asbestos? We do not know it."

— **Michael A. Crane, MD, MPH, Professor, Environmental Medicine and Public Health, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Medical Director, Selikoff Centers for Occupational Health and World Trade Center Health Program Clinical Center of Excellence, Mount Sinai Health System**

## Mount Sinai Cancer in the News

WABC-TV NY – October 22

### [Making Strides Against Breast Cancer](#)

(No Web Link Available)

Hanna Irie, MD, PhD, associate professor of medicine, hematology, medical oncology, and oncological sciences at the Icahn School of Medicine discusses her breast cancer research. "I'm studying ways to prevent the spread of a particularly aggressive cancer called triple breast cancer." She added, "I'm also studying how we can leverage the immune system to better fight breast cancer."

— **Hanna Y. Irie, MD, PhD, Associate Professor, Medicine, Hematology, Medical Oncology, Oncological Sciences, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

TARGETED ONCOLOGY – October 23

### [Miles Highlights The Impact Of Early Detection On Patient Outcomes In Thyroid Cancer](#)

Primary treatment for patients with early-stage thyroid cancer is generally surgical resection. According to Brett A. Miles, MD, DDS, professor and co-chief of the division of head and neck oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, the five-year survival rate for thyroid cancers that are caught and treated early with surgery is around 98 percent, demonstrating the importance of diagnosing patients in the early stages of the disease. "In terms of advanced thyroid cancers, depending on the type, these cancers often spread to lymph nodes in the neck or spread distantly, most commonly to the lungs, but certainly many of them can be treated effectively."

— **Brett A. Miles, DDS, MD, Professor, Otolaryngology, Director, Head and Neck Oncology-Microvascular Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship Program, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Co-Chief, Division of Head and Neck Cancer Surgery, Department of Otolaryngology, Mount Sinai Health System**

CANCER NETWORK – October 23

### [Combo Therapy Shows Modest Survival Gain, More Toxicity For Gastric Cancer](#)

Patients with metastatic gastric cancer or gastroesophageal junction cancer (mGC/GEJC) had an overall survival (OS) gain when treated with trifluridine (Viroptic)/tipiracil (FTD/TPI) in the third or later line, according to the results of a preplanned subgroup analysis of the phase three TAGS. Although survival benefit was seen regardless of whether a patient had a prior gastrectomy, the gain was modest and came with additional toxicity. According to Nicholas Rohs, MD, assistant professor of medicine, hematology and medical oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, who was not involved in the study, "For some patients who are still robust and are very motivated for treatment, it sounds like it could be good." He added, "But for those frail patients, it may not be worth the cost of side effects with just a couple of months of benefit."

— **Nicholas Rohs, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, The Tisch Cancer Institute, Mount Sinai Health System**

MEDSCAPE – October 25

### ['Truly Amazing': Huge Change in Melanoma Prognosis](#)

Back in 2005, Philip Friedlander, MD, PhD, completed his fellowship, the first clinical trials of checkpoint inhibitor clinical trials were just beginning, and he was very interested in immunotherapy. "A few of us were sitting together in a room, and I said I wanted to focus on melanoma," said Dr. Friedlander. Now director of the Melanoma Oncology Program at The Tisch Cancer Institute at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, the last two decades have been such an improvement in the prognosis of patients with advanced melanoma that the treatment of this cancer can be considered one of the great success stories in medicine.

— **Philip Friedlander, MD, PhD, Director, The Melanoma Oncology Program, The Tisch Cancer Institute, Assistant Professor, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Dermatology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

## Mount Sinai Cancer in the News

ONCLIVE – October 25

### Dr. Cho on Investigational BiTE Therapies in Multiple Myeloma

Hearn Jay Cho, MD, PhD, associate professor of medicine and hematology and medical oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, discusses investigational bispecific T-cell engager (BiTE) therapies in multiple myeloma.

— **Hearn Jay Cho, MD, PhD, Associate Professor, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Icahn school of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

NEW YORK POST – October 28

### UWS Broker Discovers Breast Cancer While Training For NYC Marathon

59-year-old Elizabeth Marks, was readying to go out on a 20-mile trek in August to train for the marathon when she said, “I was putting on my running bra, and I felt this lump. And it was like that instant dread.” A few days later, she went to the doctor for tests and soon learned the 3-centimeter lump was a malignant tumor and that she had stage two breast cancer. Soon, she was in surgery for a double mastectomy and breast reconstruction. She overwhelmingly credits her doctor, Elisa Port, MD, FACS, director of the Dubin Breast Center and chief of breast surgery at The Mount Sinai Health System, with really saving her.

— **Elisa R. Port, MD, FACS, Associate Professor, Surgery, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Director, Dubin Breast Center, Chief, Breast Surgery, The Mount Sinai Hospital**

FORBES – October 29

### Private Jet Companies Take Flight For Breast Cancer Awareness Month

As with their role as first responders after catastrophic emergencies like hurricanes, earthquakes and floods, private aviation providers are showing their philanthropic side during October to help support Breast Cancer Awareness Month. For Wheels Up, the initiative comes under its Wheels Up Cares, which is dedicated to identifying causes important to Wheels Up and its members. Through the program, a King Air 350i aircraft is custom designed to represent the established cause and annually enters the fleet where it will remain indefinitely as a flying symbol of each charity’s mission. Its pink King Air 350i is now in its fourth year in the Wheels Up fleet. In its case, “The Pink Plane” raises awareness in support of the Dubin Breast Center of The Tisch Cancer Institute at The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, one of the world’s most renowned and advanced facilities for breast cancer treatment and research.

— **Dubin Breast Center, The Tisch Cancer Institute, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

ENELL – October 30

### 11 Things Cancer Researchers Wish You Knew About Breast Cancer Prevention

More than 250,000 new cases of “invasive” breast cancer will be diagnosed in 2019, and almost 70,000 cases of “non-invasive.” Sarah Cate, MD, assistant professor of surgery at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai said, “Five or more drinks per week is a moderate risk factor for breast cancer. Alcohol can increase estrogen, which certain types of breast cancer love. It can also damage DNA, which is one of the prime ways cancer cells sneak in.”

— **Sarah P. Cate, MD, Assistant Professor, Surgery, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

ASH CLINICAL NEWS – November 1

### Subcutaneous And Intravenous Daratumumab Have Similar Safety, Efficacy In Previously Treated And Newly Diagnosed Myeloma

A subcutaneous formulation of daratumumab, plus standard-of-care treatment, led to response rates that were similar to those seen with intravenous daratumumab in patients with newly diagnosed and previously untreated multiple myeloma (MM), according to results from researchers at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. According to Ajai Chari, MD, director of clinical research in the Multiple Myeloma Program at The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai, the study’s primary efficacy endpoints were overall response rate (ORR) and the rate of very good partial response or better.

— **Ajai Chari, MD, Director, Clinical Research in the Multiple Myeloma Program, Associate Director, Clinical Research, Mount Sinai Cancer Clinical Trials Office, Associate Professor, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

CBS NEW YORK – November 1

## Healthwatch: Breaking Down Myths And Misconceptions About Breast Cancer

One breast cancer myth is that breast cancer always shows up as a lump. "Breast cancer can show up as nipple discharge," said Elisa Port, MD, FACS, director of the Dubin Breast Center and chief of breast surgery at The Mount Sinai Health System. "It can show up as inversion of the nipple or dimpling of the skin. It can show up as a rash on the breast, changes of the skin on the breast."

— **Elisa R. Port, MD, FACS, Associate Professor, Surgery, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Director, Dubin Breast Center, Chief, Breast Surgery, The Mount Sinai Hospital**

Additional coverage: [MSN](#)

HEALTHLINE – November 5

## How Close Are We To A Blood Test For Breast Cancer?

There's a new blood test that aims to detect breast cancer. It's one of many attempts to create an effective early detection method. The test evaluates the body's immune response to the substances tumor cells produce. "There is not a blood test method yet that is used clinically for early detection," said Natalie Berger, MD, assistant professor of medicine, hematology and medical oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. She added, "There are multiple subtypes of breast cancer, and to detect these cancers through a blood test may not be a one-size-fits-all approach."

— **Natalie Berger, MD, Assistant Professor, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

REUTERS HEALTH ONLINE – November 5

## Diabetes May Distract Women From Cancer Screenings

The burdens of managing a chronic disease like diabetes may lead women to skip recommended cancer screenings, researchers say. "Patients with diabetes get screened for development of traditional diabetes complications like retinopathy, nephropathy and neuropathy, and blood pressure, lipid monitoring and treatment," said Emily Gallagher, MD, assistant professor of medicine, endocrinology, diabetes and bone disease at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, who was not involved in the study. She added, "The focus on managing diabetes may result in cancer getting lower priority."

— **Emily J. Gallagher, MD, Director, Research Residency in the Department of Medicine, Assistant Professor, Medicine, Endocrinology, Diabetes and Bone Disease, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

NEWS-MEDICAL – November 6

## HIMC At Mount Sinai To Evaluate Therapeutic Effects Of Novel Cancer Immunotherapy

The Human Immune Monitoring Center (HIMC) at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai will apply cutting-edge high-throughput technologies to evaluate the therapeutic effects of Libtayo® (cemiplimab-rwlc), a PD-1 antibody blockade developed by biotechnology company Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc and Sanofi. Led by Miriam Merad, MD, PhD, director of the precision immunology institute and co-director of cancer immunology program, The Tisch Cancer Institute of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, the HIMC leverages new proprietary technologies and platforms to characterize immune profiles and responses across a diverse range of disease settings. "We are a team of highly integrated scientists with distinct expertise in medicine, immunology, technology, mathematics and physics, whose goals are to dissect the contribution of the immune system to human diseases and use this knowledge to design novel immune-based therapies," said Dr. Merad. "The breadth and number of partnerships between the HIMC and leading academic and industry partners reflects the quality of cutting-edge, proprietary techniques and technologies developed by Dr. Merad and her team," said Erik Lium, PhD, executive vice president of Mount Sinai Innovation Partners.

— **Miriam Merad, MD, PhD, Professor, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Oncological Sciences, Director, Precision Immunology Institute, Director, Mount Sinai Human Immune Monitoring Center, Co-Director, Cancer Immunology Program, The Tisch Cancer Institute, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

— **Erik Lium, PhD, Executive Vice President, Mount Sinai Innovation Partners**

Additional coverage: [Health News Digest](#)

## Mount Sinai Cancer in the News

CBS NEW YORK – November 6

### Robotic Microscope Helping Surgeons During Delicate Brain Tumor Removal Procedures

Christina Giuffrida's brain tumor was benign, but even benign brain tumors can be deadly. There's no room in the skull for a tumor to grow, and when it starts pressing on vital brain areas, bad things start to happen. "The headaches, they were almost a 9 at times," Giuffrida said. "She could go deaf on the left-hand side. She could have paralysis of her face. She could lose the ability to swallow. She could have problems with her balance," said Constantinos Hadjipanayis, MD, director of neurosurgical oncology for the Mount Sinai Health System. Fortunately, Dr. Hadjipanayis is now using a new high-tech microscope that's a cross between a super high-def digital scope, a robotic arm and a GPS system that allows him to know exactly where his instruments are in the brain, combined with a heads-up display of important brain images. Now, just six months after surgery, Christina is happy and healthy.

— **Constantinos G. Hadjipanayis, MD, PhD, Professor, Neurosurgery, Oncological Sciences, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Site Chair, Department of Neurosurgery, Mount Sinai Downtown Union Square, Director, Brain Tumor Nanotechnology Laboratory, The Tisch Cancer Institute, Director, Neurosurgical Oncology, Mount Sinai Health System**

MEDPAGE TODAY – November 6

### Cancer Meeting Roundup: Prediction, Screening, Detection

In men, elevated levels of two hormones -- insulin-like growth factor-I and free testosterone -- were linked to an increased risk of prostate cancer. Overall, according to the study researchers, men with the highest levels of IGF-I had a 25 percent higher risk of prostate cancer than men with the lowest levels, and men with the highest levels of free testosterone levels had an 18 percent higher risk of prostate cancer than men with the lowest levels. "I believe we are years away from seeing this technology in the clinic," said Natalie Berger, MD, assistant professor of medicine, hematology and medical oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai who was not involved in the study. "Before a test can be reliably used in the clinic there have to be large trials to evaluate its sensitivity and specificity."

— **Natalie Berger, MD, Assistant Professor, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

CANCER NETWORK – November 7

### Nivolumab And Bevacizumab Combo Shows Activity In Ovarian Cancer

Combination therapy with nivolumab and bevacizumab appeared to have clinical activity in ovarian cancer patients with platinum-sensitive or platinum-resistant disease, with no new safety concerns, according to researchers at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and published in *JAMA Oncology*. "The trial was "unusual" because both patients with platinum-resistant disease and platinum-sensitive disease were included," said Konstantin Zakashansky, MD, associate professor of obstetrics, gynecology, and reproductive science at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. He added, "But it's better than what we see, especially in the platinum-resistant setting, where we really don't have a lot of great options."

— **Konstantin Zakashansky, MD, Associate Professor, Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Science, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

ONCLIVE – November 11

### Dr. Oh On Choosing AR-Targeted Therapy Versus Chemotherapy In mHSPC

William Oh, MD, chief of hematology and medical oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, discusses factors to consider when choosing a treatment for patients with metastatic hormone-sensitive prostate cancer (mHSPC). According to Dr. Oh, "Abiraterone acetate (Zytiga) and apalutamide (Erleada) are approved for the treatment of men with mHSPC based on findings from the phase III LATITUDE and TITAN trials, respectively. Enzalutamide (Xtandi) is currently under review by the FDA for a supplemental new drug application in this indication based on data from the phase III ARCHES and ENZAMET trials." He added, "Conversely, patients who receive AR-targeted therapy and androgen deprivation therapy, remain on treatment indefinitely."

— **William K. Oh, MD, Professor, Medicine, Hematology, Medical Oncology, Urology, Chief, Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Deputy Director, The Tisch Cancer Institute**

ONCLIVE – November 12

## Dr. Hirsch On The Expansion Of Molecular Testing In Lung Cancer

Fred Hirsch, MD, PhD, executive director in the Center for Thoracic Oncology at The Tisch Cancer Institute Sinai and professor of medicine, hematology and medical oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, discusses the expansion of molecular testing in lung cancer. "Genetic and genomic testing has expanded quickly over the past few years, Hirsch explains. There are emerging technologies to test for biomarkers and an increasing number of actionable targets in lung cancer." He added, "Small cell lung cancers and squamous cell carcinomas, on the other hand, are not routinely tested in clinical practice but are usually tested in academic centers."

— **Fred Hirsch, MD, PhD, Executive Director, Center for Thoracic Oncology, Associate Director, Biomarker Discovery, The Tisch Cancer Institute, Professor, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

NEWS-MEDICAL – November 12

## Popular Cancer Drug Linked To Weight Gain And Increased Systolic Blood Pressure

A popular cancer drug is associated with significant weight gain and increased systolic blood pressure, researchers from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai report in a study published in *Scientific Reports*. The drug, ruxolitinib, was the first and currently remains the most widely used FDA-approved mechanism-based therapy for myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPNs), blood cancers that include myelofibrosis and polycythemia vera. "Weight gain with ruxolitinib has previously been reported in clinical trials, but our study provides real-world experience regarding the extent of that weight gain," said lead author Emily Gallagher, MD, assistant professor of medicine, endocrinology, diabetes and bone disease at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. She added, "We recommend that patients who go on this medication and do have an increase in weight get a full metabolic evaluation."

— **Emily J. Gallagher, MD, Director, Research Residency in the Department of Medicine, Assistant Professor, Medicine, Endocrinology, Diabetes and Bone Disease, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

Additional coverage: [Yahoo Finance](#); [Market's Insider](#); [Science Magazine](#); [Medical Xpress](#) .

SCIENCE DAILY – November 13

## Metabolic Effects Of An Oral Blood Cancer Drug

A popular cancer drug is associated with significant weight gain and increased systolic blood pressure, researchers from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai report in a study published in *Scientific Reports*. The drug, ruxolitinib, was the first and the most widely used FDA-approved, mechanism-based therapy for myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPNs), blood cancers that include myelofibrosis and polycythemia vera. "Weight gain with ruxolitinib has previously been reported in clinical trials, but our study provides real-world experience regarding the extent of that weight gain," said lead author Emily Gallagher, MD, assistant professor of medicine, endocrinology, diabetes and bone disease at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. "We recommend that patients who go on this medication and do have an increase in weight get a full metabolic evaluation."

— **Emily J. Gallagher, MD, Director, Research Residency in the Department of Medicine, Assistant Professor, Medicine, Endocrinology, Diabetes and Bone Disease, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

NEW YORK POST – November 13

## Man Gets Soccer Ball-size Tumor Removed From His Neck

Milton Wingert, 81, watched a cancerous tumor on his neck grow to larger than his own head in the span of six months. "I kept seeing different doctors and going to different hospitals, and it kept growing and growing and getting bigger and bigger," he said. "I was getting worried, wondering when I was going to get that operation." Earlier this month, Mr. Wingert met with Nazir Khan, MD, assistant professor of otolaryngology and associate director of the head and neck cancer research program at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. "It was the largest tumor I've ever operated on," said Dr. Khan. "It had caused him significant quality of life issues, so I felt sorry that it had gotten to this point." Luckily, the operation went off without a hitch and the patient is recovering well.

— **Nazir Khan, MD, Assistant Professor, Otolaryngology, Associate Director, Head and Neck Cancer Research Program, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

Additional coverage: [New York Daily News](#); [Fox News](#) .

ONCOLOGY LEARNING NETWORK – November 13

## Should Monoclonal Antibodies Be Used In The Front-Line Setting For MM?

Ajai Chari, MD, director of clinical research in the Multiple Myeloma Program at The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai explains whether anti-CS1, anti-CD38, and bispecifics, should be used in the frontline setting for multiple myeloma. "We are continually losing patients, including standard and low-risk patients, even those patients don't have a flat survival curve. The other important part is that we lose patients continually with each relapse. Not every patient who's diagnosed will get to first relapse, and subsequently second, and third." He added, "I think it raises the question of potentially exacerbating infections, perhaps when given with proteasome inhibitors, because that was also seen with the Elo-VD versus VD study. Future studies are pending though. Elo-RD in transplant-ineligible, Elo-RVD from both the German Group and SWOG, so stay tuned."

— **Ajai Chari, MD, Director, Clinical Research in the Multiple Myeloma Program, Associate Director, Clinical Research, Mount Sinai Cancer Clinical Trials Office, Associate Professor, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

HEALTH DAY – November 13

## Cancer Risk May Rise After Heart Attack

Here's some worrisome news for folks who manage to survive a heart attack: New research suggests they might be far more vulnerable to developing cancer down the road. People who suffered a heart health scare -- a heart attack, heart failure or a dangerously erratic heart rhythm -- had a more than sevenfold increased risk for subsequently developing cancer, compared to those with healthy tickers. According to Nicholas Rohs, MD, assistant professor of medicine, hematology and medical oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, who was not involved in the study, "All of these stressors are things that can lead to cancer. The cells are stressed and they end up misbehaving because of that."

— **Nicholas Rohs, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, The Tisch Cancer Institute, Mount Sinai Health System**

Additional coverage: [U.S. News & World Report](#)

HEALIO: ENDOCRINE TODAY – November 14

## Oral Blood Cancer Drug May Worsen Cardiometabolic Health

An oral chemotherapy treatment used to treat myeloproliferative neoplasms is associated with substantial weight gain and increased systolic blood pressure, according to findings from a real-world analysis published in *Scientific Reports*. "As people are living longer with cancers and remaining on treatment long term, it is increasingly important that we understand the metabolic consequences of novel, targeted cancer therapies," said lead author Emily Gallagher, MD, assistant professor of medicine, endocrinology, diabetes and bone disease at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. "In addition, we found increased systolic blood pressure and liver enzymes. Our correlative preclinical studies suggested that these effects may be due to direct inhibition of JAK1/2 signaling in adipose tissue. We found that JAK1/2 inhibition with ruxolitinib in patients with myeloproliferative neoplasms led to significant weight gain in more than half of patients, with many patients unexpectedly developing obesity."

— **Emily J. Gallagher, MD, Director, Research Residency in the Department of Medicine, Assistant Professor, Medicine, Endocrinology, Diabetes and Bone Disease, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

CNN ONLINE – November 14

## Doctors Removed A Tumor The Size Of A Soccer Ball From A Man's Neck

Milton Wingert, 81, watched a cancerous tumor on his neck grow to larger than his own head in the span of six months. Earlier this month, Mr. Wingert met with Nazir Khan, MD, assistant professor of otolaryngology and associate director of the head and neck cancer research program at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. "When a case is more complicated, my thought process is always, what is the best-case scenario, what's the worst-case scenario, and I prepare for the worst-case scenario and hope for the best," said Dr. Khan. The surgery, which took seven hours, was a success. Dr. Khan said the malignant tumor he removed weighed between five and seven pounds. "I'm happy for him because I know that he was very scared before the surgery. It was a relatively quicker surgery than we anticipated. We didn't have to do a reconstruction, and he did well."

— **Nazir Khan, MD, Assistant Professor, Otolaryngology, Associate Director, Head and Neck Cancer Research Program, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

Additional coverage: [Daily Mail](#); [Univision](#); [WPIX-TV Online](#); [People](#)

## Mount Sinai Cancer in the News

### BUSINESS INSIDER – November 14

#### [Marcia Cross' Anal Cancer May Have Been Linked To HPV. She Wants People To Know They Could Have The Virus Too.](#)

Marcia Cross isn't shy about saying that she's had anal cancer — or that, like more than nine out of ten people with the diagnosis, she likely got it from the ubiquitous human papillomavirus, or HPV. "It's not something that you do wrong," said Cross. "It doesn't have to do with whatever sexual life you have." According to Marshall Posner, MD, professor of medicine, hematology and medical oncology and otolaryngology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, "The virus doesn't spread through the bloodstream — it's really spread through secretions." He added, "We think that this is a disease that's transmitted by physical contact between people, and that's often intimate contact."

**— Marshall Posner, MD, Professor, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Otolaryngology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

### MEDSCAPE – November 15

#### [More Than a Quarter of Completed Lung Cancer Trials Are Unpublished](#)

Approximately 27 percent of completed lung cancer trials were unpublished as of 2016, raising concern about publication bias, a cross-sectional study suggests. According to Nicholas Rohs, MD, assistant professor of medicine, hematology and medical oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, who was not involved in the study, "The publication process can be exhausting, frustrating, and lengthy, particularly with all of the other demands on a researcher's time. If you feel you may not get your work published in a journal with a high impact factor, it may not seem worth going through all of the work."

**— Nicholas Rohs, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, The Tisch Cancer Institute, Mount Sinai Health System**

### CBS NEW YORK – November 18

#### [Tiny Seeds, Big Promise: Breakthrough Procedure Helping Breast Cancer Patients In Just One Treatment](#)

Kathleen DePalo, a patient at The Dubin Breast Center at The Tisch Cancer Institute at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai was a candidate for a different radiation therapy. It's done during the same surgery as the original lumpectomy. After the small tumor is removed a radiation delivery device is inserted into the tumor cavity. The operation and the radiation are complete 45 minutes later. "It is not exposing the entire breast to radiation, more importantly, the normal tissues that are nearby to the breasts, the lung and the heart are really going to receive minuscule doses of radiation," said Sheryl Green, MBBCh, associate professor of radiation oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

**— Sheryl Green, MBBCh, Associate Professor, Radiation Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

### TARGETED ONCOLOGY – November 18

#### [Genomic Testing Expands With Evolving Lung Cancer Treatment Paradigm](#)

Fred Hirsch, MD, PhD, executive director in the Center for Thoracic Oncology at The Tisch Cancer Institute Sinai and professor of medicine, hematology and medical oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, discusses how genomic testing has expanded over the last few years and has impacted the lung cancer treatment paradigm. According to Dr. Hirsch, "Different technologies are emerging for genomic testing in lung cancer, and there are an increasing number of targets that can be durable for lung cancer treatment." He added, "Patients with squamous or non-small cell lung cancer are routinely tested in clinical practice, but these patients tend to undergo testing in academic centers."

**— Fred R. Hirsch, MD, PhD, Executive Director, Center for Thoracic Oncology, Associate Director, Biomarker Discovery, The Tisch Cancer Institute, Professor, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

## Mount Sinai Cancer in the News

HEALTH – November 20

### These Three Women Were Each Diagnosed With Advanced Lung Cancer—Even Though They Never Smoked

Long before vaping became trendy, the best way to get a nicotine fix was (and often still is) by smoking cigarettes. Women younger than 55 (whether they ever smoked or not) are now more likely than young men to develop lung cancer. And no matter their age, more women die from lung cancer than breast cancer or any other type of cancer. "We don't know why never-smokers get lung cancer," said Jorge Gomez, MD, assistant professor of medicine, hematology, and medical oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. He added, "'The vast majority of never-smokers will never get lung cancer."

— **Jorge E. Gomez, MD, Assistant Professor, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

Additional coverage: [Yahoo Lifestyle](#)

NY DAILY NEWS – November 21

### Anal Cancer Rates Rising And It Can Be Prevented: Study

Anal cancer incidence and death are on the rise, a new study finding made more poignant by the fact that there's a vaccine to prevent the underlying cause — except few people know to get it. "Screening for anal cancer is not currently performed, except in certain high-risk groups, and the results of this study suggest that evaluation of broader screening efforts should be considered," said study author Keith Sigel, MD, associate professor of medicine, general internal medicine and infectious diseases at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

— **Keith M Sigel, MD, Associate Professor, Medicine, General Internal Medicine, Infectious Diseases, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

Additional coverage: [NBC News](#); [People](#); [Insider](#); [Medical Xpress](#); [Sky Statement](#); [CNN](#); [The Sun](#); [Study Finds](#) .

ONCLIVE – November 21

### Dr. Chari On Transplant Eligibility In Multiple Myeloma

Ajai Chari, MD, director of clinical research in the Multiple Myeloma Program at The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai discusses transplant eligibility in multiple myeloma. "Typically, fit patients under the age of 70 are considered transplant eligible, says Chari. Patients with comorbidities that include an ejection fraction >50 percent or a FEV1/FVC ratio >50 percent are typically not eligible for transplant." He added, "Determining transplant eligibility in older patients is more challenging."

— **Ajai Chari, MD, Director, Clinical Research in the Multiple Myeloma Program, Associate Director, Clinical Research, Mount Sinai Cancer Clinical Trials Office, Associate Professor, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

SURVIVOR NET – November 22

### Study: Anal Cancer, and Mortality Rates From the Disease, Have Increased — What's Going On?

Anal cancer rates in the U.S. have increased dramatically — especially among young black men — new research finds. Although there is now a safe and highly effective vaccine for HPV, it has only been available since 2006, when it was first approved under the name Gardasil. And because HPV is a sexually-transmitted infection, people who were sexually active before the vaccine became available could have contracted HPV, then lived with the virus in a "dormant" state until it ultimately developed into cancer. At the recent People v. Cancer conference, Marshall Posner, MD, professor of medicine, hematology and medical oncology and otolaryngology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai said that the vaccine was not just for the young: "I think it's reasonable to get it up through your seventies."

— **Marshall Posner, MD, Professor, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Otolaryngology, Director, Head and Neck Medical Oncology, Associate Director, Center for Personalized Cancer Therapeutics, Co-Leader, Cancer Clinical Investigation program, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

CBS NEW YORK – November 25

## Trio Of Medical Networks Join Forces To Fight Cancer With New Proton Center In Harlem

There's a major development for cancer patients who need radiation therapy, an amazing technology in which protons are shot into a tumor at near the speed of light. It was about a year and a half ago that Larry Giamarco's PSA level came back elevated. The treatment Giamarco opted for was radiation, but not conventional external beam radiation. He chose proton therapy. As of a couple of months ago, he could have come to a gleaming New York Proton Center, a \$300 million state of the art facility taking up an entire city block in East Harlem. To share that cost, it is a consortium of Memorial Sloan Kettering, Mount Sinai Health System and Montefiore.

— **Mount Sinai Health System**

MEDPAGE TODAY – November 26

## Machine Vs Man For Cancer Detection In Barrett's Esophagus

A deep-learning computer-aided detection system identified neoplasia with high accuracy and near-perfect delineation performance in Barrett's esophagus (BE), achieving greater accuracy in primary detection than non-specialized endoscopists, an international study found. According to Satish Nagula, MD, associate professor of medicine and gastroenterology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, about five percent to ten percent of patients with longstanding acid reflux develop BE, and approximately two percent to five percent of these will ultimately develop esophageal cancer. He added, "Our current strategies for BE involve regular surveillance, usually a routine upper endoscopy every three to five years in patients with a known diagnosis of BE. The challenge in BE is identifying these precancerous areas during endoscopy."

— **Satish Nagula, MD, Associate Professor, Medicine, Gastroenterology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Director, Endoscopic Ultrasound, Mount Sinai Health System**

HEALIO: HEMONC TODAY - December 2

## Highlights In Lymphoma Research To Look Forward To At ASH 2019

Joshua Brody, MD, director of the Lymphoma Immunotherapy Program at The Tisch Cancer Institute at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai discusses some highlights to look forward to at this year's ASH annual meeting, including novel therapeutics and how the data will impact clinical practice. "ASH 2019 will be one of the more exciting meetings in recent years, revealing anticipated data in lymphoma and chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), especially regarding some clinically relevant novel therapeutics like T-cell based therapies (bi-specific antibodies and CAR-T) and newer generation BTK inhibitors."

— **Joshua Brody, MD, Director, Lymphoma Immunotherapy Program, The Tisch Cancer Institute, Assistant Professor, Medicine, Hematology, Medical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

HEALIO: HEMONC TODAY – December 3

## Partnership Funds Research To Assess Connection Between Cancer, Aging

The Partnership for Aging and Cancer Research Program awarded seven grants intended to fund research into the link between aging and cancer. Doris Germain, PhD, professor of medicine, hematology and medical oncology, and oncological sciences at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai is a recipient. The partnership — a collaboration of NCI, National Institute on Aging and Samuel Waxman Cancer Research Foundation — launched in 2018 as a 2-year pilot to fund cross-disciplinary, cross-institutional research into why older age contributes to cancer risk. Researchers who study cancer are paired with investigators who study aging.

— **Doris A. Germain, PhD, Professor, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Oncological Sciences, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

Additional coverage: [Ticker Tech](#)

NEWSWEEK – December 4

## Breast Cancer Linked To Permanent Hair Dye and Chemical Hair Straighteners In Study Of Almost 50,000 Women

Women who regularly use permanent hair dye could be increasing their risk of breast cancer up to 60 percent, according to a new study. "Black women are already at an increased risk of breast cancer, and drawing a clear line to hair products is difficult," said Stephanie Bernik, MD, FACS, chief of breast service at Mount Sinai West who was not involved in the study. She added, "Having said that, I do believe the study gives us enough evidence to call for a prospective trial designed to specifically look at this one factor to see if the increased risk of cancer persists. In the meantime, I would caution patients that there is a possible link between hair dyes and cancer, although more research is needed."

— ***Stephanie Bernik, MD, FACS, Senior Faculty, Surgery, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Chief, Breast Service, Mount Sinai West***