SCIENCE MAGAZINE ONLINE – December 6

Mount Sinai Receives $1 Million Grant For Prostate Cancer Research

The Milton and Carroll Petrie Department of Urology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai has received a $1 million grant from The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation. “The work being done by Mount Sinai has forever changed the course of research and medicine,” said Mr. Blank, Chairman of The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation and member of the Urology Department’s Chairman’s Board. “We are tremendously grateful to Arthur Blank for his support in advancing our understanding of prostate cancer,” said Ashutosh Tewari, MD, MBBS, MCh, chair of the department of urology at the Mount Sinai Health System. The donation comes on the heels of the 2019 International Prostate Cancer and Urology Symposium at The Mount Sinai Hospital. Mr. Blank and Nina Bhardwaj, MD, PhD, Professor of Medicine (Hematology and Medical Oncology) and Director of Immunotherapy at The Tisch Cancer Institute at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, were honored for their contributions to prostate cancer research.

— Ashutosh Tewari, MD, MBBS, MCh, Professor, System Chair, Urology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

— Nina Bhardwaj, MD, PhD, Professor, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Director, Immunotherapy, The Tisch Cancer Institute, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

— Arthur Blank, Member, Urology Department Chairman’s Board, Mount Sinai Health System

Additional coverage: News-Medical

NEW YORK ONE – December 9

Annual Party Brings Holiday Cheer To Children Battling Brain Tumors

Santa's grand entrance Sunday at Mount Sinai Beth Israel Hospital in Union Square brought cheers and smiles from hundreds of tiny faces who were all guests at a special holiday party. ProTravel, the largest luxury travel agency based in New York, joined forces with the hospital and the Children's Brain Tumor Foundation to host the 35th annual holiday party.

— Mount Sinai Beth Israel

YAHOO FINANCE – December 9

Janssen Presents Initial Results for BCMA CAR-T Therapy JNJ-4528 Showing Early, Deep And High Responses In The Treatment Of Relapsed Or Refractory Multiple Myeloma

The Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson announced today initial results from the Phase 1b/2 CARTITUDE-1 study (NCT03548207) evaluating the efficacy and safety of JNJ-68284528 (JNJ-4528), an investigational B cell maturation antigen (BCMA)-directed chimeric antigen receptor T cell (CAR-T) therapy being evaluated in the treatment of patients with relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma. "These initial results from the Phase 1b portion of the CARTITUDE-1 study highlight a compelling clinical profile for JNJ-4528 in heavily pre-treated patients with relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma," said principal investigator Deepu Madduri, MD, assistant professor of medicine, hematology, urology and medical oncology, Tisch Cancer Institute at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

— Deepu Madduri, MD, Assistant Professor, Medicine, Hematology, Medical Oncology, Urology, Assistant Director, Cellular Therapy Service, Multiple Myeloma at The Tisch Cancer Institute, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Additional coverage: Onclive; Medscape; Oncology Times; Cure Today; OBR Oncology; MedPage Today; Healio: HemOnc Today; Onco'Zine; Pharma Times

YAHOO FINANCE - December 9

Onconova Therapeutics Announces Data On Genomic Profiles Of Higher Risk Myelodysplastic Syndromes Patients Refractory To Azacitidine Therapy Enrolled Into The Pivotal INSPIRE Trial And Updated Oral Rigosertib Data Informing A Potential Adaptive Clinical Trial Design At The American Society Of Hematology 2019 Annual Meeting

Onconova Therapeutics, Inc. (ONTX) ("Onconova"), a Phase 3-stage biopharmaceutical company discovering and developing novel products to treat cancer, with an initial focus on myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS), today announced data presented from INSPIRE related abstracts at the American Society of Hematology (ASH) 2019 Annual Meeting. "Efforts to improve the response rate with single agent AZA is an area of active research. The efficacy and safety data of the doublet of oral rigosertib and AZA warrants further investigation in a pivotal trial of this novel combination compared to AZA alone. If the preliminary efficacy of the doublet is confirmed in a pivotal controlled study and has an acceptable safety profile, patients with HMA naïve higher risk MDS may have an important new treatment option," said Lewis Silverman, MD, associate professor of medicine, hematology and medical oncology, and oncological sciences at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

— Lewis Silverman, MD, Associate Professor, Medicine, Hematology, Medical Oncology, Oncological Sciences, Director, Translational Research Center, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

ONCLIVE – December 9

Dr. Oh on Remaining Challenges in mHSPC

William Oh, MD, chief of hematology and medical oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, discusses remaining challenges in metastatic hormone-sensitive prostate cancer (mHSPC). "Although moving effective treatment options from later-line settings to earlier settings has proven to be beneficial for patients, doing so can leave patients who progress without options." He added, "In order to develop effective treatments targeting resistance pathways in mHSPC, a comprehensive understanding of the disease biology will be critical going forward."

— 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

MEDSCAPE – December 9

Increase In Autologous HSCT For Myeloma, Decline In Allogeneic

A global survey has found an increase in the number of autologous hematopoietic stem cell transplants (HSCT) in patients with multiple myeloma. According to Joshua Richter, 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, "It's an ongoing discussion, at least in the US, about what the role is for autologous transplant in the setting of all of these new therapies."

— Joshua Richter, MD, Assistant Professor, Medicine, Hematology, Medical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

MEDSCAPE – December 9

Hair Dyes Linked To Elevated Breast Cancer Risk

Use of permanent hair dye or hair straightening chemicals were both associated with a higher risk for breast cancer than 'never use' — and the risks are particularly pronounced among black women, a new analysis of a 50,000-participant study shows. Stephanie Bernik, MD, FACS, chief of breast service at Mount Sinai West who was not involved in the study called the study "provocative" and suggested that it does raise questions as to the safety of permanent hair dyes. She added, "However, these women already inherently have an increased risk of breast cancer because each woman in the study had a sister with breast cancer."

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

SURVIVOR NET – December 9

Experts Tell SurvivorNet No Need to Panic About Hair Dye And Cancer Link

A recent large-scale study that identified a link between permanent hair dye and chemical straightening products with an increased risk of breast cancer has many women wondering if they should embrace their natural hair. “This study, while a large number of patients, needs further investigation to determine the correlation of hair dye with breast cancer,” said Sarah Cate, MD, assistant professor of surgery at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai who was not involved in the study.

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

MEDICAL XPRESS – December 10

Potential Therapy Discovered For Deadly Breast Cancer That Has Few Treatment Options

Researchers at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai have designed an innovative experimental therapy that may be able to stop the growth of triple-negative breast cancer, the deadliest type of breast cancer, which has few effective treatment options, according to a study published in *Nature Chemical Biology* in December. Research teams led by Jian Jin, PhD, director of the Mount Sinai Center for Therapeutics Discovery, and Ramon Parsons, MD, PhD, director of The Tisch Cancer Institute at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, developed MS1943 as a first-in-class small-molecule agent that selectively degrades EZH2. "Our findings suggest that EZH2 selective degraders such as MS1943 may provide an emerging therapeutic approach for the treatment of triple-negative breast cancer," said Dr. Jin.

— Jian Jin, PhD, Professor, Oncological Sciences, Pharmacological Sciences, Mount Sinai Professor, Therapeutics Discovery, Director, Mount Sinai Center for Therapeutics Discovery, Co-Leader, Cancer Clinical Investigation, The Tisch Cancer Institute, 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

Additional coverage: News-Medical; Science Codex

ONCLIVE – December 10

CPI-0610 Shows Strong Efficacy Signals For Advanced Myelofibrosis

The BET inhibitor CPI-0610 demonstrated promising spleen volume responses (SVR) and a meaningful reduction in total symptom score (TSS) as monotherapy and in combination with ruxolitinib (Jakafi) for patients with refractory or intolerant advanced myelofibrosis, according to researchers at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. "CPI-0610 as monotherapy or add-on to ruxolitinib in relapsed/refractory population demonstrated antitumor activity, as evidenced by spleen and symptom improvements, along with improvements in hemoglobin and bone marrow fibrosis," said John Mascarenhas, MD, associate professor of hematology and medical oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. He added, “Among evaluable patients who were transfusion dependent on ruxolitinib, 6 of 14 patients converted to transfusion independence after the addition of CPI-0610 in the study."

— John O. Mascarenhas, MD, Director, The Adult Leukemia Program, Associate Professor, Medicine, Hematology and Medical-Oncology, The Tisch Cancer Institute, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Additional coverage: Cancer Therapy Advisor; MD Magazine

MEDICAL RESEARCH – December 10

Biomarker For Response To Treatment Of Acute Graft-Versus-Host Disease

Hrishikesh Srinagesh MD candidate at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai discusses his recent study. “Graft-versus-host disease (GVHD) is the leading cause of non-relapse mortality (NRM) after allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplantation. Acute GVHD occurs in approximately 50 percent of HCT patients and targets the skin, liver, and gastrointestinal tract primarily.” He added, “These findings support the clinical utility of repeated MAP measurements during the first month of treatment to gauge response to GVHD therapy.”

— Hrishikesh K. Srinagesh, MD Candidate, The Tisch Cancer Institute, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

HEMATOLOGY ADVISOR – December 10

The Role Of Erythroferrone In Regulating Iron Metabolism, Erythropoiesis In Beta Thalassemia

The bone marrow-secreted protein erythroferrone (ERFE) may play an integral role in the coordination of iron metabolism, erythropoiesis, and bone hemostasis, according to researchers at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. “ERFE loss in beta thalassemia has an effect on both bone formation and resorption, with a larger effect on formation,” said Melanie Castro-Mollo, MS, of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. She added, “ERFE is an important protective mechanism to prevent excessive bone loss in beta thalassemia.”

— Melanie Castro-Mollo, MS, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

THE ASCO POST – December 10

ASH 2019: Phase Ib/II Study Of BCMA-Directed CAR T-Cell Therapy For Pretreated Multiple Myeloma

Patients with multiple myeloma who had received a median of five prior therapies with refractory disease had a high response rate when treated with the investigational chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy JNJ-4528, which targets B-cell maturation antigen (BCMA), a protein commonly found on the surface of multiple myeloma cancer cells, according to researchers at the Icahn School of Mount Sinai. “We are seeing a high response rate, with most patients achieving minimal residual disease (MRD) negativity,” said principal investigator Deepu Madduri, MD, assistant professor of medicine, hematology, urology and medical oncology, Tisch Cancer Institute at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

— Deepu Madduri, MD, Assistant Professor, Medicine, Hematology, Medical Oncology, Urology, Assistant Director, Cellular Therapy Service, Multiple Myeloma at The Tisch Cancer Institute, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

HEALIO: ENDOCRINE TODAY – December 10

VIDEO: Spotlight On Similarities, Differences Of Obesity- And Diabetes-related Cancers

Derek LeRoith, MD, PhD, professor of medicine, endocrinology, diabetes and bone disease at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, discusses hyperinsulinemia as a risk factor for cancer. According to Dr. LeRoith, “One of the major risk factors for cance] was indeed endogenous hyperinsulinemia. Most of our obese and diabetic patients have insulin resistance and this leads to hyperinsulinemia, which can stimulate cancer cells.”

— Derek LeRoith, MD, PhD, Professor, Medicine, Endocrinology, Diabetes and Bone Disease, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

MEDPAGE TODAY – December 10

Novel Anti-HER2 Agents Look To Change Practice At SABCS

The San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium is about to kick off here, and the 2019 meeting is expected to draw some 7,500 physicians, researchers, and other healthcare professionals from over 90 countries to the city. "It's one of the best meetings," said Amy Tiersten, MD, clinical director of breast medical oncology at The Mount Sinai Hospital. "And it's the most important breast cancer meeting in the world."

— Amy D. Tiersten, MD, Professor, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Oncologist, Breast Cancer Medical Oncology Program, Dubin Breast Center, The Mount Sinai Hospital

THE ASCO POST – December 10

Expert Point Of View: Joshua Richter, MD

Joshua Richter, MD, assistant professor of medicine, hematology, and medical oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai offered his thoughts on the CANDOR study, noting that the findings point to "a new and exciting treatment regimen for our patients with relapsed and refractory multiple myeloma." Dr. Richter added, "Overall, the KdD regimen offers an [immunomodulatory drug]-sparing triplet with high and rapid efficacy and manageable toxicity in the early-relapse setting. This is likely to become one of the standard regimens in the clinic."
— Joshua Richter, MD, Assistant Professor, Medicine, Hematology, Medical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

CANCER THERAPY ADVISOR – December 11

Epigenetic Drug CPI-0610 Called Clinically Active, Tolerable In Myelofibrosis

The investigational epigenetic drug CPI-0610, a selective small-molecule bromodomain and extraterminal domain inhibitor (BETi), is clinically active against refractory myelofibrosis (MF), according to findings from the multicenter, open-label phase 2 MANIFEST trial. "Preliminary data indicate that CPI-0610 alone or 'add-on' to rux is generally well tolerated and provides clinical benefits in MF patients with inadequate responses or who are refractory to rux," said John Mascarenhas, MD, associate professor of hematology and medical oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. He added, "Improvement in BM fibrosis and anemia responses indicate the potential for meaningful disease modification."
— John O. Mascarenhas, MD, Director, The Adult Leukemia Program, Associate Professor, Medicine, Hematology and Medical-Oncology, The Tisch Cancer Institute, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

MEDICAL RESEARCH – December 11

Abnormalities Of PPM1D In Myeloproliferative Neoplasms

Bridget Marcellino, MD, research fellow at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai discusses her recent study. "Our work focuses on elucidating the mechanisms that drive the pathogenesis and progression of myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPN). Dysregulation of the TP53 pathway is associated with MPN progression evidenced by the association of *TP53* loss of heterozygosity with transformation to acute myeloid leukemia (AML) and the presence of inactivating mutations of *TP53* found in a proportion of MPN-related AML patients."
— Bridget Marcellino, MD, Research Fellow, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

MEDICAL RESEARCH – December 11

Mount Sinai Researcher Discusses Emerging Therapeutic Approach For Triple-Negative Breast Cancer

Jian Jin, PhD, director of the Mount Sinai Center for Therapeutics Discovery, discusses his recent study. "Triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC), a subtype of breast cancer that lacks estrogen receptor (ER), progesterone receptor (PR) and human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2), represents 12-20 percent of all breast cancers. TNBC has poor prognosis, high recurrence, a low survival rate, and has higher incidence in African-American and Hispanic women." He added, "This study is the first to discover an EZH2 selective degrader and demonstrate that EZH2 selective degraders, but not EZH2 inhibitors, are effective in treating triple negative breast cancer in preclinical models."
— Jian Jin, PhD, Professor, Oncological Sciences, Pharmacological Sciences, Mount Sinai Professor, Therapeutics Discovery, Director, Mount Sinai Center for Therapeutics Discovery, Co-Leader, Cancer Clinical Investigation, The Tisch Cancer Institute, 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
Additional coverage: Health News Digest

THE ASCO POST – December 11

Despite Challenges, Pioneer In CT Screening For Early Lung Cancer Works To Move The Field Forward

In 1999, a team of researchers from Weill Cornell Medical College advocated the use of a then-novel practice: low-dose radiation CT screening for lung cancer. *The ASCO Post* recently spoke with one of the leading champions of low-dose CT screening for lung cancer, Claudia Henschke, MD, PhD, clinical professor of molecular and interventional radiology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. “Part of what I do, which is extremely rewarding, is community outreach; we offer at-risk people a life-saving opportunity where we not only look at the lungs but also at the heart and provide smoking cessation treatment.” She added, “The early problem with garnering support from advocacy groups was that there just weren’t that many survivors in lung cancer. “

— Claudia I. Henschke, MD, PhD, Clinical Professor, Molecular and Interventional Radiology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

THE ASCO POST – December 11

ASCO Provides Guidance On Managing Osteoporosis In Cancer Survivors

Cancer survivors are at an increased risk of osteoporotic fractures due to the accelerated loss of bone mineral density as a result of their treatment. The fracture risks for postmenopausal women are well known, but this guideline “recognizes that osteoporosis is a problem for all cancer survivors, as bone loss is more rapid and severe in this population. A lot of our treatments cause bone loss,” said Charles Shapiro, MD, director of translational breast cancer research and cancer survivorship at The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai.

— Charles Shapiro, MD, Director, Translational Breast Cancer Research, Director, Cancer Survivorship, Professor, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

MEDSCAPE – December 11

New Triplet, New Standard Of Care In Relapsed Myeloma?

A new triplet therapy, comprising carfilzomib (*Kyprolis*, Amgen), dexamethasone, and daratumumab (*Darzalex*, Amgen), known as KdD, should become a new standard of care in the treatment of patients with relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma (RRMM), say researchers reporting the phase three CANDOR trial. According to Joshua Richter, MD, assistant professor of medicine, hematology, and medical oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, “One of the things that stands out about this is that regardless of whether patients are transplant eligible, most patients are on lenalidomide in the up-front setting and remain on it until progression.”

— Joshua Richter, MD, Assistant Professor, Medicine, Hematology, Medical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

MEDSCAPE – December 11

Oral Azacitidine: First Maintenance Therapy

For the first time, there is a maintenance therapy for patients with acute myeloid leukemia (AML) in remission that can improve overall survival — a new oral formulation of an old drug, azacitidine, known as CC-486 (Celgene). "This is an important clinical trial that addresses an unmet need in AML care," said John Mascarenhas, MD, associate professor of hematology and medical oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai who was not involved in the study. He added, “Older patients can often receive induction chemotherapy but frequently do not ultimately do well, as the disease relapses and survival is limited.”

— John O. Mascarenhas, MD, Director, The Adult Leukemia Program, Associate Professor, Medicine, Hematology and Medical-Oncology, The Tisch Cancer Institute, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

REUTERS HEALTH ONLINE – December 11

Children Conceived From Frozen Embryos At Increased Risk For Certain Cancers

When frozen embryos are used during in vitro fertilization (IVF), the resulting children have a slightly higher risk than other kids for certain types of cancer, evidence from a new study suggests. The new study has looked at an important question, said Alan Copperman, MD, director of the division of reproductive endocrinology and infertility in the department of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive science at Mount Sinai Health System. He added, “It is not clear whether the finding is related to the procedure itself or the patients who needed the procedure.”

— Alan B. Copperman, MD, Director, Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, Vice Chairman, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Science, Mount Sinai Health System, Professor, Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Science, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

MEDSCAPE – December 12

New Standard Likely For Some Metastatic HER2 Breast Cancer

Patients with HER2-positive metastatic breast cancer— with and without brain metastases — whose disease is progressing after multiple targeted therapies now likely have a new treatment option, according to a new study. "This is the most exciting study presented today at San Antonio," said Amy Tiersten, MD, clinical director of breast medical oncology at The Mount Sinai Hospital who was not involved in the study. “I think this regimen may be considered a new standard of care for pretreated HER2-positive metastatic disease.”

— Amy D. Tiersten, MD, Professor, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Oncologist, Breast Cancer Medical Oncology Program, Dubin Breast Center, The Mount Sinai Hospital

HEALTH DAY – December 12

Two Drugs Make Inroads Against Aggressive Breast Cancers

Two experimental drugs show real promise against an aggressive, treatment-resistant form of breast cancer that's spread to other parts of the body, researchers say. "This trial is the first trial I am aware of that also included patients with untreated or progressive brain metastases," said Amy Tiersten, MD, clinical director of breast medical oncology at The Mount Sinai Hospital who was not involved in the study. "Overall, tucatinib reduced risk of progression or death by 50 percent.”

— Amy D. Tiersten, MD, Professor, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Oncologist, Breast Cancer Medical Oncology Program, Dubin Breast Center, The Mount Sinai Hospital

Additional coverage: U.S. News & World Report

HEALIO: HEMONC TODAY – December 12

Exciting Immunotherapies For Lymphoma Presented 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 exciting data on novel immunotherapies for different types of lymphoma presented at ASH Annual Meeting & Exposition. “I think these agents can become FDA approved in a year from now, or sometime soon, so we need to learn how to use them – both as effectively as possible and as safely as possible. That’s some of what we’re learning here now,”

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

ONCLIVE – December 12

Dr. Marron On Shortening Treatment Duration Of Immunotherapy In Melanoma

Thomas Marron, MD, PhD, assistant professor of medicine, hematology, and medical oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai discusses the potential benefit of shortening the length of immunotherapy treatment in melanoma. “The goal of cure may be within sight since the introduction of immunotherapy. However, a remaining question in melanoma is when to stop treatment with immunotherapy. In previous clinical trials, nivolumab (Opdivo) was given indefinitely while pembrolizumab (Keytruda) was given for two years.”

— Thomas Marron, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

MEDPAGE TODAY – December 16

HRT Has 20-Year Impact On Breast Cancer Risks

Menopausal hormone replacement therapy with estrogen alone yielded lasting reductions in breast cancer incidence and death, while estrogen plus progestin showed persistent increases in both, long-term data from two Women's Health Initiative trials indicated. "As soon as the WHI findings were reported, long-term use of hormone replacement therapy decreased greatly," said Charles Shapiro, MD, director of translational breast cancer research and cancer survivorship at The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai. "It is reassuring for women with intractable menopausal symptoms that short-term therapy with CEE alone has decreased risks of breast cancer."

— Charles Shapiro, MD, Director, Translational Breast Cancer Research, Director, Cancer Survivorship, Professor, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

MEDSCAPE – December 16

'Remarkable' New Data On Menopausal Hormone Therapy

After about 19 years of follow-up, CEE alone resulted in a significant 23 percent reduction in breast cancer incidence, whereas CEE+MPA resulted in a significant 29 percent increased risk of breast cancer. “It's clear that the risk — "both positive and negative" — continues beyond using hormone therapy for at least ten years,” said Charles Shapiro, MD, director of translational breast cancer research and cancer survivorship at The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai. “Women should be reassured if they had short-term estrogen exposure they are not at increased risk — in fact, the data suggest there is decreased risk.”

— Charles Shapiro, MD, Director, Translational Breast Cancer Research, Director, Cancer Survivorship, Professor, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

HEALIO: HEM ONC TODAY- Decembe 16

Accelerated Partial Breast Irradiation Effectively Prevents Recurrence in Early Breast Cancer

Accelerated partial breast irradiation after surgery appeared as effective as whole breast irradiation for preventing recurrence among patients with early breast cancer, according to 10-year follow-up results from the randomized phase 3 APBI IMRT Florence trial presented at San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium. “This study offers exciting news for patients with early-stage breast cancer. Being able to reduce the amount of time it takes for a woman to complete a course of radiation will open the door to this modality to women who previously opted for mastectomies due to inability to get to a radiation facility,” said Stephanie Bernik, MD, FACS, chief of breast service at Mount Sinai West.

— Stephanie Bernik, MD, FACS, Chief, Breast Service, Mount Sinai West, Associate Professor, Surgery, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

SURVIVOR NET – December 16

Hopeful News for Breast Cancer: A New Drug Combination to Extend Survival Time

A combination of three drugs increased the amount of time that women with metastatic HER2-positive breast cancer could live without their cancer getting worse. The study, published in *The New England Journal of Medicine,* and presented recently at the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium, looked at women whose cancer has spread beyond the breast to other parts of the body, including the brain. “This study gives us a new promising option for all patients upon disease progression after previous treatment, including those with untreated brain metastases who have typically been excluded from trials,” said Natalie Berger, MD, assistant professor of medicine, hematology and medical oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. “This trial offers an exciting new treatment,” said Hannah Irie, associate professor of medicine, hematology and medical oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

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

— Hannah Irie, MD, PhD, Associate Professor, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Oncological Sciences, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

HEALTHLINE – December 17

Ten Years After Breast Cancer Diagnosis, Heart Disease Becomes A Top Danger

A new study reports that a significant number of people diagnosed with breast cancer will live so long they're more likely to die of another disease, especially heart disease. "The problem with SEER database studies is that it's not necessarily representative of the whole population in the United States," said Sarah Cate, MD, assistant professor of surgery at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, who was not involved in the study. "But it is interesting to see what these patients ended up dying from."

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

HEALTH DAY – December 17

Shedding Pounds May Shrink Breast Cancer Risk

Losing weight might be a powerful weapon against breast cancer, a new study suggests. "Perhaps women that lost weight made a conscious effort to live a healthier lifestyle overall, which may have included a healthy diet, more exercise and less drinking, all of which contribute to a lower risk of cancer," said Stephanie Bernik, MD, FACS, chief of breast service at Mount Sinai West. "In the United States, where obesity is the norm, hopefully studies like this will help women understand the importance of healthy living."

— Stephanie Bernik, MD, FACS, Chief, Breast Service, Mount Sinai West, Associate Professor, Surgery, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Additional coverage: U.S. News & World Report; Clinical Connection; Doctor's Lounge

THE HEALTHY – December 17

Eight Signs of Breast Cancer You Might Be Ignoring (Besides A Lump)

Nearly 250,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year. It's important to pay attention to any breast changes, and see your doctor if you notice any of the following possible breast cancer symptoms. "A lot of people just have dry skin that goes away, but if you notice the scaling and it doesn't disappear, that's concerning," said Sharon Rosenbaum Smith, MD, FACS, assistant clinical professor of surgery at Mount Sinai St. Luke's and Mount Sinai West. "Redness of the skin usually indicates some sort of infection, but when the affected area of the breast isn't tender or hot to the touch and continues to expand instead of disappearing, that's a red flag."

— Sharon M. Rosenbaum Smith, MD, FACS, Assistant Clinical Professor, Surgery, Mount Sinai St. Luke's, Mount Sinai West

HEALIO: HEMONC TODAY – December 17

Antibody-drug Conjugate Provides 'Unprecedented' Benefit In Metastatic HER2-positive Breast Cancer

Trastuzumab deruxtecan conferred durable benefit to women with heavily pretreated HER2-positive metastatic breast cancer, according to results of a new study. "This is a very exciting molecule and the results are extremely impressive considering the population of heavily pretreated patients, all of whom had failure ado-trastuzumab emtansine. I'm sure this agent will get FDA approval for this indication," said Charles Shapiro, MD, director of translational breast cancer research and cancer survivorship at The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai, who was not involved in the study. He added, "There is toxicity but, overall, the side effects are not too bad. Investigators on this study did observe interstitial pneumonitis in a small number of patients, and it led to a couple deaths, so you definitely have to be aware of it."

— Charles Shapiro, MD, Director, Translational Breast Cancer Research, Director, Cancer Survivorship, Professor, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

ONCOLOGY NURSING NEWS – December 17

Nurses Are Crucial In The Myeloma Treatment Team

Joshua Richter, MD, assistant professor of medicine, hematology, and medical oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, discusses how oncology nurses are crucial members of the myeloma treatment team. “At our center, and at many of the myeloma centers, we have a whole care team that really helps us manage all aspects of the patient care. This extends not only to physicians, but to nurses, nutritionists, social workers, and the whole gamut.”

— Joshua Richter, MD, Assistant Professor, Medicine, Hematology, Medical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

MEDICAL RESEARCH – December 17

Weekly Yoga Reduced Nausea And Improved Well-Being In Breast Cancer Patients On Chemotherapy

Tiffany Won-Shau Chen MD, internal medicine resident at Mount Sinai Beth Israel, discusses her most recent study. “The research I presented details a randomized, prospective study done to evaluate whether it would be feasible and effective to implement a yoga program for breast cancer patients receiving chemotherapy that could reduce patients’ chemotherapy-related symptoms and improve their quality of life.” She added, “Our results showed that after participating in the yoga program for 12 weeks, there were significant decreases in patient-reported nausea and significant increases in reported energy levels.”

— Tiffany Won-Shau Chen MD, Internal Medicine Resident, Mount Sinai Beth Israel

HEALIO: DERMATOLOGY – December 18

31-GEP Test Shows Clinical Utility In Cutaneous Melanoma

Researchers at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai showed that the 31-gene expression profile test in cutaneous melanoma may be supported by more evidence than designations by three major dermatology organizations would indicate. “A 31-gene expression profile (31-GEP) test is currently available for patients diagnosed with cutaneous melanoma; this test helps inform patients’ individual treatment plans, especially when combined with traditional biomarkers,” said Danielle Dubin, BA, of the dermatology department at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. She added, “The objective of this study was to review the current literature and establish the level of evidence for a cutaneous melanoma 31-GEP test.”

— Danielle P. Dubin, BA, Department of Dermatology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

MEDSCAPE – December 18

'Never Too Late' To Lower Breast Cancer Risk Via Weight Loss

Women in their 50s who experience sustained weight loss over ten years are at reduced risk for breast cancer in comparison with those whose weight remains stable, US researchers conclude from a large prospective study. It "supports the notion that lowering overall body weight reduces the risk of cancer," said Stephanie Bernik, MD, FACS, chief of breast service at Mount Sinai West who was not involved in the study. Dr. Bernik urged women to "use this information to motivate them to make lifestyle changes that may ultimately influence longevity."

— Stephanie Bernik, MD, FACS, Chief, Breast Service, Mount Sinai West, Associate Professor, Surgery, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

REUTERS HEALTH ONLINE – December 18

Sustained Weight Loss In Middle-age May Lower Breast Cancer Risk

In women over age 50, losing just four pounds and keeping the weight off can lower breast cancer risk, a new study suggests. “While the new study finds an association between weight loss and lowered breast cancer risk, it doesn’t prove cause and effect,” said Stephanie Bernik, MD, FACS, chief of breast service at Mount Sinai West who was not involved in the study. She added, “People who lose weight are generally doing other things.”

— Stephanie Bernik, MD, FACS, Chief, Breast Service, Mount Sinai West, Associate Professor, Surgery, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Additional coverage: MD Alert

MEDPAGE TODAY – December 18

Key Point About Weight Loss And Breast Cancer Risk

Women age 50 or older who were able to lose weight and keep it off over a ten-year period had a lower risk of breast cancer than women who maintained a stable weight, a new study showed. According to Sarah Cate, MD, assistant professor of surgery at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, who was not involved in the study, “Most of the data we have on breast cancer patients and weight loss is related to risk of recurrence. She added, “There is not a lot of data showing that losing weight and sustaining weight loss reduces risk for breast cancer."

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

MEDSCAPE – December 19

Denosumab Increasingly Used In Myeloma Despite High Cost

In a niche therapeutic area, a newer drug has captured 40 per of the market within 15 months despite being no better — but far more costly — than an older drug. "There is no survival difference," said lead author Charles Shapiro, MD, director of translational breast cancer research and cancer survivorship at The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai. He added, "This is not strong enough evidence to make it a preference."

— Charles Shapiro, MD, Director, Translational Breast Cancer Research, Director, Cancer Survivorship, Professor, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

PHYSICIAN’S WEEKLY – December 20

Sustained Weight Loss In Middle-age May Lower Breast Cancer Risk

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— Stephanie Bernik, MD, FACS, Chief, Breast Service, Mount Sinai West, Associate Professor, Surgery, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

MSN – December 20

A New Study Links Breast Cancer Risk And Hair Dye – Here’s What The Experts Think

Researchers found that women who'd used permanent hair dye in the past year were nine percent more likely to develop breast cancer than women who hadn't used hair dye. “These women already inherently have an increased risk of breast cancer because each woman in the study had a sister with breast cancer,” said Stephanie Bernik, MD, FACS, chief of breast service at Mount Sinai West who was not involved in the study. Dr. Bernik added, “Therefore the results are not conclusive.”

— Stephanie Bernik, MD, FACS, Chief, Breast Service, Mount Sinai West, Associate Professor, Surgery, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

MEDPAGE TODAY – December 20

SABCS: Changing Practice In The First Two Hours

Stephen Malamud, MD, associate professor of medicine, hematology and medical oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai discusses the recent SABCS 2019 meeting. “This is my 20th year attending the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium, and it's been a phenomenal first day. The first that I've seen in all this time and it has produced essentially four groundbreaking practice changing abstracts in the first two hours of the meeting.” He added, “

— Stephen C. Malamud, MD, Associate Professor, Medicine, Hematology, and Medical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

MD ALERT – December 20

'Liquid Biopsy' Shows Promise In Triple-negative Breast Cancer

Early results from an ongoing study suggest that serial monitoring of cell-free DNA (cfDNA) and circulating tumor cells (CTCs) in patients with triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) may be useful to help stratify risk and offer biomarkers for new therapies, according to researchers at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Hanna Yoko Irie, MD, PhD, associate professor of medicine, hematology and medical oncology and oncological sciences at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. According to Dr. Irie, "There is a lot of interest in developing liquid biopsies, essentially a blood test where we can detect small amounts of cancer being released not only from the primary tumor site but also potentially from other sites were the cancer may have metastasized."

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

MEDICAL RESEARCH – December 20

Neoantigens Can Stimulate Immunity In Relapsed Multiple Myeloma

Samir Parekh, MBBS, director of Translational Research in Myeloma at The Tisch Cancer Institute at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai discusses his recent study. "Myeloma is considered a "cold" tumor for immunotherapy (as compared to some solid tumors such as melanoma) given the relatively fewer DNA mutations in an average myeloma patient. Our clinical experience suggests that this may not be totally correct." He added, "T cell responses could serve as a direct pharmacodynamics biomarker of immunotherapeutic interventions in myeloma and neoantigens could be targeted by neoantigen targeting cancer vaccines in the future."

— Samir S. Parekh, MBBS, Associate Professor, Oncological Sciences, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Director, Translational Research in Myeloma, The Tisch Cancer Institute, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

MEDICAL RESEARCH – December 20

Oncotype DX Breast Cancer Assay: BRCA Mutations And Association With Discordance In A Large Oncotype Database

Julia Blanter, MD, MS, internal medicine resident at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai discusses her most recent study. "The Oncotype DX Breast Cancer Assay was developed to genetically profile patients with early stage, hormone positive breast cancer and predict their ten-year risk of distant recurrence." She added, "Given our findings, we were able to conclude that discordance, tumor grade and tumor size should be considered in treatment plans of breast cancer patients regardless of BRCA mutation status."

— Julia Blanter, MD, MS, Internal Medicine Resident, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

DOCWIRE NEWS – December 23

A Potential Blood Cancer Vaccine Formula

Researchers from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai have discovered a new way to improve immunotherapy by using genomics to inform immunotherapy treatments for multiple myeloma, according to a study published in *Clinical Cancer Research*. "Tumor neoantigens represent excellent targets for immunotherapy, due to their specific expression in cancer tissue," said Samir Parekh, MBBS, director of Translational Research in Myeloma at The Tisch Cancer Institute at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. "Until now, there has been no direct evidence that DNA mutations induce neoantigen-specific T-cell responses following immunotherapy in multiple myeloma."

— Samir S. Parekh, MBBS, Associate Professor, Oncological Sciences, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Director, Translational Research in Myeloma, The Tisch Cancer Institute, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

MEDICAL RESEARCH – December 23

Neoantigens Can Stimulate Immunity In Relapsed Multiple Myeloma

Samir Parekh, MBBS, director of Translational Research in Myeloma at The Tisch Cancer Institute at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, discusses his recent study. “Myeloma is considered a “cold” tumor for immunotherapy (as compared to some solid tumors such as melanoma) given the relatively fewer DNA mutations in an average myeloma patient. Our clinical experience suggests that this may not be totally correct.” He added, “T cell responses could serve as a direct pharmacodynamics biomarker of immunotherapeutic interventions in myeloma and neoantigens could be targeted by neoantigen targeting cancer vaccines in the future.”

— Samir S. Parekh, MBBS, Associate Professor, Oncological Sciences, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Director, Translational Research in Myeloma, The Tisch Cancer Institute, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

HEALIO: HEMONC TODAY – December 23

Oral Paclitaxel Regimen Improves Outcomes vs. IV Formulation In Metastatic Breast Cancer

A novel combination of oral paclitaxel plus encequidar significantly improved overall response rates compared with IV paclitaxel among women with metastatic breast cancer, according to results of a randomized phase three study presented at San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium. According to Amy Tiersten, MD, clinical director of breast medical oncology at The Mount Sinai Hospital who was not involved in the study, “This study was one of the most exciting presented at this meeting. It is unusual for trials in metastatic disease to show a survival difference, and this study showed a survival benefit of close to a year. This — in combination with the fourfold decrease in neuropathy and less alopecia — makes these data incredibly exciting.”

— Amy D. Tiersten, MD, Professor, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Oncologist, Breast Cancer Medical Oncology Program, Dubin Breast Center, The Mount Sinai Hospital

SURVIVOR NET – December 23

Some Dietary Supplements May Be Harmful To People Getting Chemo For Breast Cancer

A new study that looked at the relationship between dietary supplements, particularly antioxidants, and breast cancer outcomes found that people may want to avoid them during chemotherapy for breast cancer. According to Sarah Cate, MD, assistant professor of surgery at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, who was not involved in the study. “We know that many of the supplements are metabolized by the liver, and the liver metabolizes both chemotherapy agents and anti-estrogen treatments.” She added, “While larger studies are needed to validate these findings, I would recommend that patients really limit these medications while on active treatment for cancer.”

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

MEDICAL XPRESS – December 26

U.S. Incidence of Thyroid Cancer Plateaued in 2009

From 2009 to 2016, the incidence of thyroid cancer reached a plateau and possibly started to decline, according to a research letter publish in the *Journal of the American Medical Association.* Ann E. Powers, a medical student at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, and colleagues examined trends in age-adjusted thyroid cancer incidence from 1992 to 2016. “Although a true decline in the occurrence of thyroid cancer is a possible explanation for these changing trends, less intensive workup of thyroid nodules is more likely,” said the authors.

— Ann E. Powers, Medical Student, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Additional coverage: Physician’s Weekly; Drugs

REUTERS – December 26

Taking Certain Vitamins During Breast Cancer Chemo Tied to Recurrence, Death

Patients with breast cancer who use supplements during chemotherapy may be at an increased risk of recurrence and death, a new study suggests. “I am really happy to see that this study has been done,” said Amy Tiersten, MD, oncologist in the breast cancer medical oncology program at the Dubin Breast Center at The Mount Sinai Hospital. “For years, we have been cautioning patients about the use of vitamins, in particular anti-oxidants, during chemotherapy for breast cancer.”

— Amy Tiersten, MD, Professor, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Oncologist, Breast Cancer Medical Oncology Program, Dubin Breast Center, The Mount Sinai Hospital

THE WASHINGTON POST – December 26

Sustained Weight Loss in Middle-Age May Lower Breast Cancer Risk

In women over age 50, losing just four pounds and keeping the weight off can lower breast cancer risk, a new study suggests. While the study finds an association between weight loss and lowered breast cancer risk, it does not prove cause and effect, said Stephanie Bernik, MD, FACS, chief of breast surgery at Mount Sinai West. “People who lose weight are generally doing other things. They’re usually exercising more and eating better. It could be lifestyle modifications that are reducing the risk of breast cancer.”

— Stephanie Bernik, MD, FACS, Chief, Breast Surgery, Mount Sinai West, Associate Professor, Surgery, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

MEDPAGE TODAY – December 27

Studies Show (Again): Exercise Cuts Cancer Risk – Diana Swift

December 27

Recommended amounts of leisure-time physical activity was tied to reduced risk of seven cancers, with a dose-response risk reduction at higher levels for several cancer types, according to pooled data from nine prospective studies involving more than 750,000 adults. Oncologist, Charles Shapiro, MD, director of cancer survivorship at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, said the study confirms what many physicians have suspected. “The new information points to reductions in risk of cancers such as liver, multiple myeloma, kidney and endometrial cancers where the evidence for physical activity as decreasing risk of these cancers was lacking,” said Dr. Shapiro, who was not involved in the analysis. “The bottom line is even a moderate amount of exercise is part of a healthy lifestyle for everyone, and may reduce risk of developing cancer,” he noted.

— Charles Shapiro, MD, Director, Translational Breast Cancer Research, Director, Cancer Survivorship, Professor, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

HEALTHDAY – January 2

Breast Density Alerts Might Not Be Helping Women

Having dense breast tissue raises a women’s odds for breast cancer, so many states require providers to notify women if a mammogram finds they have dense breast tissue. But a new study suggests that the notifications may be having little impact in alerting women to their added breast cancer risk. Stephanie Bernik, MD, FACS, chief of breast surgery at Mount Sinai West, reacted to the findings. She said it is unfortunate that the notifications seem to have so little impact on women’s understanding of their breast cancer risk. “It appears that more needs to be done to get the message out that if a women has dense breast tissue, she may have to do more than just a mammogram, and should probably advocate for a 3D mammogram and breast ultrasound,” said Dr. Bernik.

— Stephanie Bernik, MD, FACS, Chief, Breast Surgery, Mount Sinai West, Associate Professor, Surgery, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Additional coverage: US News & World Report; WebMD; United Press International

MEDPAGE TODAY – January 2

Tucatinib Demonstrates Survival Benefit in HER2+ Breast Cancer

Patients with heavily treated metastatic HER2-positive breast cancer lived significantly longer when an investigational anti-HER2 drug was added to trastuzumab and chemotherapy, according to the phase II HER2CLIMB trial present at the recent 2019 San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium. In this exclusive MedPage Today video, study author Amy Tiersten, oncologist in the breast cancer medical oncology program at the Dubin Breast Center at The Mount Sinai Hospital, discusses the HER2CLIMB trial.

— Amy Tiersten, MD, Oncologist, Breast Cancer Medical Oncology Program, Dubin Breast Center, The Mount Sinai Hospital, Professor, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

CURE TODAY – January 3

Understanding the Key Aspects of a Multiple Myeloma Diagnosis

The landscape for treating patients with multiple myeloma is constantly evolving, but for newly diagnosed patients the message remains the same, continue long-term therapy until intolerable toxicity or progression of disease, according to Joshua Richter, MD, assistant professor of medicine, hematology, and medical oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. He noted that there are always exceptions to this rule, but the standard of care is to keep patients with multiple myeloma to continue therapy long term. “In general, the standard of care is to attempt to get people onto three drugs,” said Dr. Richter. “The three drugs usually mean a steroid, and then either an immunomodulatory drug, a proteasome inhibitor or a monoclonal antibody, and using those different combinations to come up with two or three-drug combinations, and actually in some cases four-drug combinations.”

*— **Joshua Richter, MD, Assistant Professor, Medicine, Hematology, Medical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai***

PIX11 – January 3

FDA approves ovarian cancer drug as treatment for advanced pancreatic cancer

A ray of hope for patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer as an FDA-approved drug becomes approved for treatment of the disease. Although Lynparza is not a new drug, a study found patients with pancreatic cancer who were treated could live nearly twice as long without their cancer worsening than those taking a placebo. “We didn’t have any drugs that really worked that well in the metastatic setting, in fact patients live just a few months. So now we can extend that to give us opportunities to deploy other treatments that will help them live longer,” said Daniel Labow, MD, chief of the surgical oncology division at The Mount Sinai Hospital.

*— **Daniel M. Labow, MD, Chief, Surgical Oncology Division, The Mount Sinai Hospital, Professor, Surgery, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Site Chair, Department of Surgery, Mount Sinai St. Luke’s, Mount Sinai West***

RADIO HEALTH JOURNAL January 3

Changing Prognoses for Melanoma Patients

Philip Friedlander, MD, PhD, director of the Melanoma Oncology Program at The Tisch Cancer Institute at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, discusses the rapidly improving prognoses for melanoma patients. “The prognosis of people with melanoma 15 years ago was very poor. If one had stage 4 melanoma, which means distant spread of the melanoma, it was largely incurable and life expectancy on average was well under one year.” He adds, “Now we have treatments that have the potential to put the melanoma to a durable response.”

*— **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***

FOX FIVE NEW YORK - January 6

Google Creates AI To Help Doctors Find Breast Cancer In Patients

According to the American Cancer Society, mammograms generally fail to find one in five breast cancers. "Physicians can struggle to read some mammograms when the breast tissue is dense," said Laurie Margolies, MD, FACR, director of breast imaging at the Dubin Breast Center at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. According to Dr. Margolies, more fibrous tissue can obscure tumors from doctors. But now, new technology is helping doctors find that hidden 20 percent of breast cancers.

— Laurie Margolies, MD, FACR, Director, Breast Imaging, The Dubin Breast Center of the Tisch Cancer Institute, Professor, Diagnostic, Molecular and Interventional Radiology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

ECANCER – January 7

CARTITIUDE-1: BCMA-targeted CAR T-cell Therapy Shows High Response Rates In Patients With Multiple Myeloma

Deepu Madduri, MD, assistant professor of medicine, hematology, urology and medical oncology, The Tisch Cancer Institute at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai discusses the findings from the CARTITUDE-1 study which evaluated the response rate of JNJ-4528, a BCMA-directed CAR T-cell therapy in patients with multiple myeloma. She said, "The aim of the trial was to characterize safety and confirm the phase II dose." In terms of efficacy, she states that a "100 percent overall response rate was achieved" and concludes by outlining the next steps for this study.

— Deepu Madduri, MD, Assistant Professor, Medicine, Hematology, Medical Oncology, Urology, Assistant Director, Cellular Therapy Service, Multiple Myeloma at The Tisch Cancer Institute, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

ECANCER – January 7

Multiple Myeloma Patients Treated With BCMA-directed CAR T-cell Therapy Have High Response Rate

Deepu Madduri, MD, assistant professor of medicine, hematology, urology and medical oncology, Tisch Cancer Institute at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai presents her study at ASH 2019. "As we know multiple myeloma is a rare blood cancer. There is 160,000 new cases worldwide per year." She added, "In the U.S., there's about 25,000 new patients diagnosed with a mortality of 13,000."

— Deepu Madduri, MD, Assistant Professor, Medicine, Hematology, Medical Oncology, Urology, Assistant Director, Cellular Therapy Service, Multiple Myeloma at The Tisch Cancer Institute, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

CANCER NETWORK – January 8

Study Results Show Promise For Neoantigen Targeting Strategies Such As Peptide Vaccines

A study published in *Clinical Cancer Research* performed by researchers at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai found that somatic mutations in multiple myeloma can be immunogenic and induce neoantigen specific T-cell activation that is associated with antitumor activity *in vitro* and clinical response *in vivo.* "Tumor neoantigens represent excellent targets for immunotherapy, due to their specific expression in cancer tissue," said Samir Parekh, MBBS, director of Translational Research in Myeloma at The Tisch Cancer Institute at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Following this research, co-author Nina Bhardwaj, MD, PhD, professor of medicine, hematology and medical oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine, and colleagues are pursuing a clinical trial investigating the safety and responsiveness of a personalized neoantigen vaccine for the treatment of cancers, including multiple myeloma.

— Samir S. Parekh, MBBS, Associate Professor, Oncological Sciences, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Director, Translational Research in Myeloma, The Tisch Cancer Institute, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

— Nina Bhardwaj, MD, PhD, Professor, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Director, Immunotherapy, The Tisch Cancer Institute, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

SURVIVOR NET – January 8

Women Who Lose As Little as 4.5 lbs. Can Lower The Risk For Breast Cancer: Study

A new study that found women over 50 who lose even modest amounts of weight decrease their risk of breast cancer has sent ripples of excitement through the medical community. “This study gives us concrete numbers that correlate weight-loss and risk reduction,” said Sarah Cate, MD, assistant professor of surgery at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, who was not involved in the study. “Sustained weight loss is really important in preventing breast cancer. We know that fat cells make estrogen which fuels most breast cancers after menopause. Now, the whole concept of weight loss is much easier to discuss with patients.”
— Sarah P. Cate, MD, Assistant Professor, Surgery, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

WOMEN’S HEALTH – January 8

Breast Cancer And Hair Dye: MDs Weigh In On How Worried You Should Be About The Link

A new study linking permanent hair dyes and chemical straighteners to increased breast cancer risk had a lot of women worried when it first came out in early December. But should you *actually* cancel your next appointment at the hair salon? "These women already inherently have an increased risk of breast cancer because each woman in the study had a sister with breast cancer," said Stephanie Bernik, MD, FACS, chief of breast surgery at Mount Sinai West. She added, “The study is provocative and raises questions as to the safety of permanent hair dyes.”
— Stephanie Bernik, MD, FACS, Associate Professor, Surgery, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Chief, Breast Surgery, Mount Sinai West

MODERN HEALTHCARE – January 10

Lack of insurance linked to racial disparities in breast cancer treatment

Lacking health insurance coverage may be a leading driver for racial disparities in breast cancer detection and mortality rates, according to a new study. The study, published Thursday in JAMA Oncology, marks one of the first examinations of how insurance has contributed to later diagnosis of breast cancer among women in ethnic minorities and resulted in poorer disease outcomes. Nearly half of the minority women diagnosed with late-stage breast cancer were uninsured or on Medicaid, according to the results. Stephanie Bernik, MD, chief of breast surgery at Mount Sinai West, expressed concern that the study's emphasis on insurance could ignore other underlying issues that lead to the disparities. "People shouldn't simplify it too much and just say it's a matter of insurance," Dr. Bernik said. "The problem is much more complicated and much more intertwined to a patient's whole life cycle, which includes genetics, environment and lack of care and access — it's not a mathematical formula."
— Stephanie Bernik, MD, FACS, Associate Professor, Surgery, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Chief, Breast Surgery, Mount Sinai West
Additional coverage: WTVB

CANCER THERAPY ADVISOR – January 10

New Investigation Into PD-1 Blockade for Hepatocellular Carcinoma

Researchers are taking a new approach to sorting out why immunotherapy only works in select patients with hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). A team of investigators is using newly developed high-throughput technologies to evaluate the therapeutic effects of the programmed death receptor 1 (PD-1) antibody (cemiplimab-rwlc), which was developed by Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc, and Sanofi. “Our goal is to finally understand dynamic changes in the tumor immune microenvironment induced by novel immunotherapies and/or chemotherapy,” said study investigator Thomas Marron, MD, PhD, who is the assistant director of early-phase and immunotherapy trials at The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai. He said the trial in HCC is open and actively accruing patients who are slated for surgery.
— Thomas Marron, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

REUTERS HEALTH ONLINE – January 13

Lack Of Insurance May Explain Much Of Disparity In Breast Cancer Detection

Lack of insurance may be a major cause of delayed breast cancer detection in racial and ethnic minority women in the U.S., a new study suggests. Stephanie Bernik, MD, chief of breast surgery at Mount Sinai West who was not involved in the study, suggested that the solution would be more complex than just improving insurance coverage. She added, "But we must continue to look for the cause for poorer prognosis in women of color diagnosed with breast cancer."

— Stephanie Bernik, MD, FACS, Associate Professor, Surgery, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Chief, Breast Surgery, Mount Sinai West

HEALIO: HEMONC TODAY – January 13

'Immunotransplant' Shows Potential For Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma

A combination of immunotherapy and stem cell transplantation could benefit patients with treatment-resistant non-Hodgkin lymphoma, according to preclinical data published in *Cancer Discovery*. "Using immunotransplant to enhance the efficacy of checkpoint blockade therapy could be broadly significant as these immunotherapies are a standard therapy for melanoma, kidney cancer, lung cancer and others," said study author Joshua Brody, MD, director of the Lymphoma Immunotherapy Program at The Tisch Cancer Institute at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. He added, "Even for settings in which checkpoint blockade therapy proves ineffective, our data suggest that its efficacy may be 'rescued' by immunotransplant. This research also suggests that the addition of checkpoint blockade may improve other T-cell therapies, such as chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy."

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

ONCLIVE – January 14

Dr. Rohs On The Use Liquid Biopsies In Lung Cancer

Nicholas Rohs, MD, assistant professor of medicine, hematology and medical oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, discusses the use of liquid biopsies in lung cancer. "Liquid biopsy is perhaps one of the most exciting diagnostic modalities in oncology, particularly in lung cancer." He added, "These biopsies provide more insight into a patient's tumor by way of a blood test. Importantly, liquid biopsies could be prognostic as well as predictive."

— 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

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL – January 14

9/11 Responders Have Higher Rates Of Leukemia, Study Shows

(Subscription required)

Researchers found an elevated incidence of leukemia in first responders and other workers at the World Trade Center site after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks compared with the general population. "The findings also suggest that, as more time passes from the attacks, researchers may discover increased rates of other cancers in first responders and recovery workers," said co-author Henry Sacks, MD, PhD, professor of environmental medicine and public health at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. He added, "This shows us that even after many years that the number of cancers is still increasing."

— Henry Sacks, MD, PhD, Professor, Environmental Medicine & Public Health, Biomathematical Sciences, Medicine, Infectious Diseases, Oncological Sciences, Pediatrics, Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine, Director, Thomas C. Chalmers Clinical Trials Unit Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

— Susan L. Teitelbaum, PhD, Professor of Environmental Medicine and Public Health at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

— Moshe Z. Shapiro, Data Base Manager, Environmental Medicine and Public Health, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Additional coverage: Time; Healio: HemOnc Today; Science Magazine; Medical Xpress; News-Medical; Healthmedicinet; International Business Times; Eurasia Review; Destination Sante; Ozarks First

HEALTH DAY – January 15

Nearly 20 years Later, Cancer Rates Higher In 9/11 First Responders

Nearly two decades after terrorists attacked New York's World Trade Center, certain cancers are striking police and recovery workers who saved lives, recovered bodies and cleaned up the wreckage. “Yet there is no evidence of an epidemic of cancer. There is evidence of increased risk for certain cancers among WTC-exposed responders," said co-author of the study Moshe Shapiro, data base manager and biostatistician at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. "There are lots of different things that were in that dust cloud, many of which are known to be harmful," said co-author Henry Sacks, MD, PhD, professor of environmental medicine and public health at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

— Moshe Z. Shapiro, Data Base Manager, Biostatistician, World Trade Center Health Program General Responder Data Center, Environmental Medicine and Public Health, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

— Susan L. Teitelbaum, PhD, Professor of Environmental Medicine and Public Health at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

— Henry Sacks, MD, PhD, Professor, Environmental Medicine & Public Health, Biomathematical Sciences, Medicine, Infectious Diseases, Oncological Sciences, Pediatrics, Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine, Director, Thomas C. Chalmers Clinical Trials Unit Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Additional coverage: U.S. News & World Report; Healio: HemOnc Today; WebMD; WCBS 880; Physician's Weekly; IFL Science; Medscape;*1010Wins (No Web Link Available); Fox Five (No Web Link Available); New York One (No Web Link Available)*

MEDICAL XPRESS – January 15

Heterogeneity Of Liver Cancer Cells Helps Explain Tumor Progression In Patients

Many liver cancer tumors contain a highly diverse set of cells, a phenomenon known as intra-tumor heterogeneity that can significantly affect the rate at which the cancer grows, according to researchers at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. "Tumors are a complex ecosystem, and we're developing for the first time a blueprint of the different ways they can evolve in patients with liver cancer by interacting with the immune system," said study author Augusto Villanueva, MD, PhD, assistant professor of medicine, hematology, liver diseases, and medical oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine. “By better understanding how tumors progress, we're learning more about how they adapt to pharmacological pressures, and how they can develop mechanisms of resistance to cancer therapies. This greater awareness will hopefully lead to the identification of biomarkers that can predict which patients will be responsive to treatment."

— Augusto Villanueva, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, Medicine, Hematology, Medical Oncology, Liver Diseases, Tisch Cancer Institute, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

CANCER NETWORK – January 21

Joshua Brody, MD, On Cross-Section of Science And Medicine At SITC 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 the gratification of the crossover between medicine and science at the 34th Annual Meeting & Pre-Conference Programs of the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer. “Here at SITC 2019, a lot of exciting oral presentations, some very exciting poster presentations that we saw as well. I think in big concept what is most exciting is the remarkable bringing together of scientists and clinicians here.” He added, “For the past few years, a lot of the focus had been on what is the next PD1 or CTLA4 therapy. But they were really focused on the next thing on the T-cell, whereas, some of these intratumoral therapies recognize the importance of intratumoral immunomodulation in the myeloid compartment, and especially on intratumoral dendritic cells and their ability to cross-present antigens.

— 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 – January 21

Brain Cancer Specialist Joins Mount Sinai Faculty

Dolores Hambardzumyan, PhD, MBA, has been appointed senior faculty in the department of neurosurgery and member of The Tisch Cancer Institute at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. “I am excited to join a world-class neurosurgery department that strives to make a difference in patients’ lives,” said Dr. Hambardzumyan. “Our neurosurgery department fosters a close partnership between researchers and clinicians, and the addition of Dolores Hambardzumyan to our team further enhances our efforts to deliver cutting-edge treatments from the laboratory to the clinic,” said Joshua Bederson, MD, the chairman of neurosurgery for the Mount Sinai Health System.

— Joshua B. Bederson, MD, Professor, Neurosurgery, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, System Chair, Department of Neurosurgery, Mount Sinai Health System

— Dolores Hambardzumyan, PhD, MBA, Senior Faculty, Department of Neurosurgery, The Tisch Cancer Institute, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai