

# inside mount sinai

A Newsletter for Employees and Friends of Mount Sinai

March 27 – April 3, 2006

## Students Match at Top Residency Programs

On March 16, Match Day, fourth-year medical students around the country found out where they would continue their training. Mount Sinai's Class of 2006 opened their envelopes during a joyous ceremony in the Annenberg West Lobby.

"I am thrilled to have been given the opportunity to stay at Mount Sinai and train in pediatrics," says Dana Sirota, a fourth-year student, whose happiness was echoed by many of her classmates who found that they had placed at top medical centers around the country such as Stanford, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and UCLA Medical Center.

Every one of the 111 members of the class who planned to begin a residency program were placed via the National Residency Matching Program. Ms. Sirota and 37 other students found out that they are staying at Mount Sinai. About 40 percent of the



Dana Sirota, a fourth-year medical student (right), was all smiles after finding out she had matched to Mount Sinai in pediatrics.

class matched in primary care specialties. The most popular fields were medicine, surgery, and surgical sub-specialties, followed by pediatrics and anesthesia.

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## Faculty and Students Receive Recognition

*In the last few months, Mount Sinai faculty, students, and programs have been recognized locally, nationally, and internationally for the outstanding work they do. Here are some recent accolades:*

Mount Sinai faculty and students swept the awards at the 2006 Northeast Regional Group on Educational Affairs Annual Meeting. Medical students **Carrie Sager** and **Stephanie Pieczenik**, and their faculty mentor, **Jeffrey Laitman, PhD**, Distinguished Professor, Professor of Anatomy and Functional Morphology and Professor of Otolaryngology, won both the



Medical students Stephanie Pieczenik (left) and Carrie Sager (right) were among the winners at the Northeast Regional Group on Educational Affairs Annual Meeting.

Innovation in Pre-Clinical Medical Student Education Award and Best Poster Award for Living Anatomy, a class designed to teach anatomy through yoga and Pilates. Also taking home honorable mentions for Best Poster were **Valerie Parkas, MD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Infectious Diseases), **Judith**

**Quintana, BS**, Clinical Curriculum Administrator in Medical Education, **Rosamond Rhodes, PhD**, Professor of Medical Education, **Michael Cahill, JD**, Assistant Professor of Law, Brooklyn Law School, **Rainier Soriano, MD**, Assistant Professor of Geriatrics and Adult Development, and of Medicine, and medical students **Jonathan Jausmann**, **Stefan Kenel-Pierre**, **Alon Seifan**, **Gabriela Soriano**, and **Ryan Ungaro**.

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## Students Match

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"Our exceptional success at Mount Sinai is credited to the academic and professional credentials of our students who further enhance their scholastic achievements by involvement in research, school leadership, and a sincere dedication to service learning and the community," says Suzanne Rose, MD, Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs. "Students received outstanding support from Department Chairs and faculty. Our great success in the Match is due to our collective strength, including the achievements of our students, support from superb faculty, and the outstanding reputation of our school."

Fourth-year students weren't the only ones pleased with where they had matched. Faculty in several departments also expressed delight with the medical students who will be arriving *here* for residency in July.

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Five of the six new residents in the Department of Surgery, for example, were elected to the Honor Society, Alpha Omega Alpha, and come from such top schools as Brown Medical School, Morehouse School of Medicine, Tufts University School of Medicine, the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, as well as Mount Sinai.

Of the 45 students who matched to the Department of Medicine, 18 have one or more advanced degrees in addition to their medical degree, including PhDs, MBAs, MPHs, and MSs. These students come from Harvard, Duke, Yale, Cornell, Columbia, Johns Hopkins, University of Pennsylvania, Vanderbilt University, Washington University, and Mount Sinai.

"Many of the students who chose to pursue medical residency at Mount Sinai could have gone anywhere in the country," says Paul Klotman, MD, the Murray Rosenberg Professor and Chairman of Medicine. "Clearly Mount Sinai's Internal Medicine Residency Program is competing with top programs around the country for students who can go anywhere and want to go to the best."

## Recognition Received

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**Ira Eliasoph, MD**, Associate Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, was recognized as an outstanding leader by the City Council of New York on February 19. He was honored as a physician, ophthalmologist, former member of the US Navy, professor, and mentor. A proclamation noted that Dr. Eliasoph has "greatly enriched our city with his contributions and is worthy of the esteem of all New Yorkers."

**The Ear, Nose, and Throat Service at the Bronx VA Medical Center**, a Division of the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, has been recognized for increased productivity and performance. The commendation from the US Department of Veterans Affairs NY/NJ Veterans Healthcare Network notes the establishment of new specialty clinics in laryngology; facial plastics; dysphagia/tracheoesophageal puncture; otology/neurotology; and head, neck, and skull base.

**Keith Benkov, MD**, Chief of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Associate Professor of Pediatrics (Gastroenterology), received a humanitarian award for his work with the community from the Rabbinical College-Merkaz Hakolilim Dshikun Square on February 19.



**Valentin Fuster, MD, PhD**, Director of both the Zena and Michael A. Wiener Cardiovascular Institute and the Marie-Josée and Henry R. Kravis Center for Cardiovascular Health, and the Richard Gorlin, MD/Heart Research Foundation Professor, received the Distinguished Researcher Award from the Interamerican Society of Cardiology in recognition of his contributions to the field of cardiology.

**Margaret M. McGovern, MD, PhD**, Professor of Human Genetics, and Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, and of Oncological Sciences, was named the new Director of the General Clinical Research Center. She was also appointed to the Veterans Affairs Genomic Medicine Program Advisory Committee, which will advise the Department of Veterans Affairs on emerging issues in genomic medicine.



**Elton Strauss, MD**, Associate Professor of Orthopaedics, spoke at the Long Island Arthritis Telethon, which was broadcast around the tri-state area on cable television.

**Walter Futterweit, MD**, Clinical Professor of Medicine (Endocrinology), gave a presentation on non-alcoholic fatty liver disease in polycystic ovary syndrome at an international meeting in Athens.



**Joseph A. Odin, MD, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Liver Diseases), received a two-year \$200,000 award from the American Liver Foundation to study whether vitamin D supplementation enhances immune function in primary biliary cirrhosis.