

Gov. Blagojevich signs bill designating Mount Sinai a children's hospital. The new status – shared with Children's Memorial, University of Chicago, LaRabida, Rush and others – brings an extra \$2 million-\$3 million a year in IDPA reimbursements for pediatric care. In 2002, Sinai cared for 84,000 children, more than half the system's patient volume. With designation official, new program and operational opportunities are under review, and Pediatrics Chairman **Daniel Johnson, MD**, has been named medical director of Sinai Children's Hospital.



Daniel Johnson, MD

OB inpatient volumes soar to highest level in years, boosting "Caring for Our Future" revenue growth effort. Expanded prenatal classes, tours, open house, car-seat program attract/retain patients. During peaks, extra beds are opened to handle Mother-Baby Unit overflow, and Med/Surg nurses help out in L&D. To ease stress during one rush, moms got a catered meal with a rose, and doctors and nurses were visited by a massage therapist.

Departmental chairman searches advance. Interviews begin shortly with candidates for the surgery post, and several potential candidates have been identified for the anesthesia position. **Robert Parker, MD, CMO**, believes a new surgery chair can be on board by fall. In the interim, scheduling and administrative duties in the ORs are coordinated by acting perioperative director **Jerry Biala, RN**. New periop director **Daphne Mitchell, RN**, joins Sinai mid-August.

Discharged patients can keep inpatient test appointments. New policy encourages discharge of stable patients when only testing remains and there is no acute reason for continued hospitalization. **Kathryn Stewart, MD**, Care Management, says patients with cardiopulmonary or radiology appointments now can return for their inpatient slot after discharge, rather than rescheduling as an outpatient days or weeks later. The testing department must be notified, to assure proper coding as outpatient.

SMG CAO Dan McCormick departs July 11. Finance VP **Jesse Ford** assumes many of the group's executive functions, although a complete list of responsibilities is still being worked out.

New hospitals president sets Employee Town Hall meetings. **Larry Volkmar** discusses what's happening at Sinai and answers staff questions in open sessions. Mount Sinai meetings are noon Tuesday, July 15; 3:45 p.m. Wednesday, July 16; 4:30 a.m. Thursday, July 17; and 8 a.m. Monday, July 21, all in Glasser Auditorium. Schwab Town Halls are at 8 a.m. Tuesday, July 22; 3:45 p.m. Wednesday, July 23; noon Thursday, July 24; and 4:30 a.m. Friday, July 25, in the first-floor conference room.

Sinai Health System

Department of
Public Affairs
Room NR-326
California Ave. at 15th St.
Chicago, IL 60608

doclink@sinai.org

Consult dictation policy revamped to boost communication with referring physicians.

Reports must be dictated within 48 hours of exam, and draft must be e-signed within two business days of receipt. Clinic staff then forwards report to referring physician. Follow-up reports or letters are handled the same way. All reports are in the PCI module of Meditech, under "Consults."

Quality Boot Camp set for 9 a.m.-1p.m. Friday, July 11, in Glasser. An introduction to Sinai's Quality Improvement Initiative, the program for hospital leadership focuses on fundamentals of quality care and avoiding medical errors. To prepare, check out the Institute of Medicine report, "[To Err is Human: Building a Safer Health System.](#)" For info, contact **Jerry Cholewa**, Ext. 5713, or **Susan Morelli**, Ext. 6423.

Cardiology study on exercise seeks subjects. IRB-approved research compares three exercise protocols in men and women, 30-80, with no known cardiovascular or pulmonary disease. Subjects will represent a cross-section of U.S. population and should not be trained athletes or actively working out. To enroll, call **Jean Chilson**, RN, Ext. 5438, pager 2-6829. Questions? Page **Vasundhara Vidyarthi**, MD, 1-9528, or **David Lubell**, MD, 1-6430.

IR procedure offers major pain relief. **Kenneth Ekechukwu**, MD, says vertebroplasty injects "cement" into pain-arousing fractured osteoporotic or otherwise diseased vertebral bodies, using intermittent fluoroscopy for guidance. The injectant provides reinforcement, resulting in durable and immediate relief in more than 90 percent of cases, with few complications. [Society for Interventional Radiology](#) offers information online. To schedule a patient, contact Dr. Ekechukwu at 773/257-6260, pager 2-6536.

Israeli physician visits Sinai. David Zangen, MD, of Hadassah Hospital, Jerusalem, shared experiences of working with terror victims with **Daniel Johnson**, MD; **Lisa Thornton**, MD; **Michelle Gittler**, MD; **Marc Mal**, RN; **Ramon Canellada**; and **Wendy Benson**. Also facilitating the visit were **Gary Kaufman**, MD; **Norell Rosado**, MD; **Rich Macur Brousil**, PsyD; **Felicia Madlock**; **Sara Reed**; and **Danette Palomar**.

Kudos, etc...

- **Vince Miranti**, assistant director of psychology, Schwab, co-authored "Outcomes of Systematic Motivational Counseling for Substance Use Following Traumatic Brain Injury," in the *Journal of Addictive Diseases* (Vol. 22, No. 1, 2003).
- "[Medical Clearance of the Psychiatric Patient in the ED,](#)" by **Leslie Zun**, MD, chairman, Emergency Medicine, was featured on the EMedHome.com Web site.
- **Ankush Gosain**, MD, and **Michele Holevar**, MD, took first place, clinical category, in the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma annual papers competition.
- A letter by **Lawrence Feldman**, MD, Hematology/Oncology, on treatment of sickle cell anemia patients has been accepted for publication in the August *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Sinai co-authors include **Max Westerman**, MD, and **Sandra Allen**, also of Hematology/Oncology.

Send information
for *Sinai DoLink* to
doclink@sinai.org

Reading a print version of *Sinai DoLink*? The free email edition arrives instantly, in color, and has links to more information. To sign up, send your email address to doclink@sinai.org.