

From the Heart



The Mount Sinai
Medical Center



MOUNT SINAI
SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE



The Children's Heart Fund
Mount Sinai Medical Center

The Children's Heart Fund at Mount Sinai Medical Center is a charitable organization founded by the parents of children with disorders of the heart.

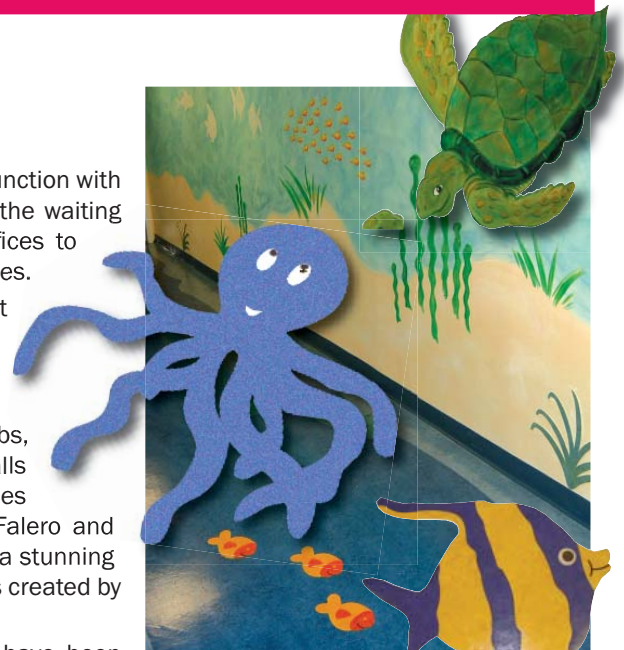
Division of Pediatric Cardiology Space Receives Total Makeover

The Children's Heart Fund and the families of former patients, working in conjunction with the Division of Pediatric Cardiology, have taken great efforts to brighten up the waiting areas, exam and echocardiography rooms, corridors and administrative offices to make them more comfortable and accommodating to patients and their families.

Started in the first half of 2005, and in the planning stages since 2002, great strides have been made. The renovations were funded by The Children's Heart Fund Gallery Event, which raised more than \$165,000.

An underwater theme was used throughout the space, with a dramatic aquatic environment – featuring octopi, whales, dolphins, sea turtles, crabs, schools of brightly colored fish, and seaweed - appearing on the floors and walls of the corridor. Among the major components are custom made linoleum tiles featuring sea creatures designed by Laura Scharf, John Feinsot, Carmen Falero and Darlene Peoples of A.D. Sutton and reproduced by Lane Flooring. In addition, a stunning aquatic-themed wall mural spanning the entire length of the main corridor was created by muralist Carolyn Norden.

"The Children's Heart Fund and all the people involved in the renovation have been wonderful," said Dr. Ira Parness, Chief of the Division of Pediatric Cardiology. "They've considered every last detail in helping to create a wonderful and warm healing place for our patients, their families and even our own staff."



Dear Friends,

This has been an exciting year for Mount Sinai's Children's Heart Center and Division of Pediatric Cardiology. On the clinical front, we have made huge strides in reducing the trauma of open heart surgery. Dr. Nguyen, Director of Congenital and Pediatric Heart Surgery, has successfully performed 29 "invisible" open heart surgeries, perfecting his unique underarm incision for a variety of congenital heart defects. Exciting advances in anesthesia and pain management that have allowed more than 75% of our patients over a month of age to be removed from the respirator *in the operating room* immediately after surgery! Patients recover faster with some children *going home* even less than 24 hours after an open heart repair, thanks, in part, to the cutting edge care they receive in our Pediatric Cardiology Intensive Care Unit (PCICU).

Our PCICU is headed by the accomplished Dr. Umesh Joashi, who we recently recruited from the largest congenital cardiac center in England. Our congenital cardiac MRI program affords state-of-the-art diagnostics under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Wyman Lai who recently returned from a 6-month Sabbatical in congenital cardiac MRI.

We continue our outstanding pediatric cardiology fellowship program, including a senior pediatric imaging fellowship supported by a generous grant from The Children's Heart Fund (CHF). We have just cut the ribbon on the new home for Mount Sinai's Center for Molecular Cardiology (CMC), in the Saul Family Laboratories, an entire floor beautifully renovated with state of the art labs and equipment. Dr. Bruce Gelb, our renowned Director of Cardiovascular Genetics Program has been named the director of the CMC and is busily recruiting other researchers to expand our research efforts to find cures for congenital heart disease. Much more is going on than I have space to tell you about. To learn more, please call 212-241-8662 and arrange a visit to our newly renovated space.

My boundless thanks go out to all of you who have supported The Children's Heart Fund. In this issue you will read about the incredible successes of our CHF. With your help we have accomplished much; with your continued support, the sky's the limit!

Sincerely,

Ira A. Parness, MD

Chief, Division of Pediatric Cardiology

A Message From CHF President

Dear Friends,

Having been involved with The Children's Heart Fund for the past eight years - including serving as president for the past three - I'm extremely proud of our activities over the last 18 months. As you can tell from this newsletter, there's been a lot going on, including renovations, celebrations and events that help us raise money to continue our goal.

We have plans to embark on a major capital campaign and will be proactively pursuing corporations to complement the tremendous support provided by the families of patients with the Division of Pediatric Cardiology.

I'd like to thank all our supporters - large and small - for their efforts. Whether you donate money, time or materials, it is truly appreciated by us, the medical staff and the families and patients.

Regards,

Gary Meltzer
President, The Children's Heart Fund



Introducing ... Dr. Umesh Joashi

Full Name: Dr. Umesh Chandra Joashi

Position: Medical Director of Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit at Mount Sinai.

Background: Dr. Joashi, 42, joined Mount Sinai's staff in January 2006, after serving as an Attending in the Pediatric Intensive Unit at Great Ormond Street Hospital in London for two years and as a Fellow in the Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Unit at The Brompton Hospital and Guy's Hospital, both of London, for two years apiece. He has extensive teaching experience; is an accomplished researcher and has been published numerous times. Additionally, Dr. Joashi has lectured in the U.S. and Europe.

Dr. Joashi was introduced to Dr. Ira Parness and Mount Sinai during several trips to Romania, in which U.S. and British doctors provided cardiac care in Romanian hospitals as part of a larger philanthropic mission.

"Considering the current shortage of intensivists, we are extremely lucky to have been able to attract Dr. Joashi, especially considering his outstanding talent," said Dr. Parness. "He's been a great addition to our pediatric cardiology team as well as to the patients and their families who have benefited directly from his skills."

Responsibilities: Dr. Joashi is responsible for the care of any and all infants and adolescents in the Pediatric Cardiology Intensive Care Unit. He supervises the clinical fellows and physician assistants involved in the care of all those patients. Dr. Joashi is also overseeing the building of a new Pediatric Cardiology Intensive Care Unit.

"Shorter hospital stays are better, and with this in mind, we approach our patients aggressively," says Dr. Joashi. "The best place to get well is at home; other hospitals may be less aggressive, resulting in longer stays. Our patients stays are typically three times shorter."

Education: King's College School of Medicine London, MBBS, June 1988.



A Movie for Medicine

The September 14th event, "A Movie for Medicine," presented by Young at Heart was a wonderful success. More than \$16,000 was raised for The Children's Heart Fund to benefit the Division of Pediatric Cardiology. The event was held at Lincoln Square Movie Theater in Manhattan and started with a silent auction with items donated by various organizations followed by a screening of the movie "Hollywoodland" starring Ben Affleck. Ira Parness, MD, Chief of the Division of Pediatric Cardiology and Gary Meltzer, President of The Children's Heart Fund each gave speeches highlighting the needs of the division and their own personal experiences. The event sponsors were Kellwood Apparel and Stephen Dweck. A special thanks to Amanda Cyrulnik, Chairperson for the event, for putting together a wonderful night to benefit The Children's Heart Fund.



The Children's Heart Fund at Mount Sinai Medical Center is a charitable organization founded by the parents of children with disorders of the heart. The mission of the organization is to provide funding for clinical, educational, research, and therapeutic recreational programs that directly benefit the Division of Pediatric Cardiology.

HAVE HEART Wristbands

The Children's Heart Fund has created silicone wristbands as part of the HAVE HEART campaign. The purpose of the HAVE HEART campaign is to increase awareness of congenital heart defects and to raise funds for The Children's Heart Fund. The HAVE HEART bracelet campaign is featured and individuals can purchase bracelets or donate online at www.ChildrensHeartFund.org.



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If you have any questions or comments, please contact Rachel Justus or Kerri Lee at 212-241-7456.

Donations may be made to:

The Children's Heart Fund, One Gustave L. Levy Place, Box 1201, New York, NY 10029
or on the web at www.ChildrensHeartFund.org.

Pediatric Center Profiled in New York Times Ad

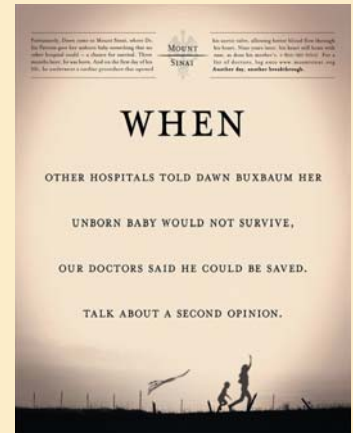
Success stories large and small occur on a regular basis at Mount Sinai's Division of Pediatric Cardiology. Usually only the families involved and their circle of friends and relatives are privy to the life-saving efforts of the medical staff.

But Dr. Ira Parness, the division's chief and the entire staff gained a measure of national fame over the last 12 months as they were featured in the hospital's award-winning advertising campaign.

The print advertisement, which ran about 10 times in the *New York Times' Sunday Magazine*, featured the story of expectant mother Dawn Buxbaum, and how she benefited from Dr. Parness' "second opinion" on the birth of her baby 10 years ago.

"When other hospitals told Dawn Buxbaum her unborn baby would not survive," the ad reads, "Our doctors said her baby could be saved. Talk about a second opinion."

While Buxbaum's baby was still in the womb, it was determined that he had a critical obstruction of the aortic valve. Other doctors had said the baby would need either a heart transplant or three complex open heart surgeries and the quality of the baby's life even following those surgeries was in question. While in her 27th week of pregnancy, she turned to Mount Sinai's pediatric cardiology experts and received information to the contrary. As predicted (by Dr. Parness), the newborn was successfully treated with balloon dilations of the affected valve performed in Mount Sinai's catheterization laboratory on the baby's first day of life and again at 4 months of age. Ten years later, as the advertisement reads, "his heart beats with ease, as does his mother's."



The (Fixed) Heart of a Marathoner Benefits The Children's Heart Fund



Because Matt Strain has always been driven by goals, it came as no surprise to friends, family and colleagues that just 18 months after major heart surgery, he decided to run the New York City Marathon in November 2006.

And it's not enough for Strain, 35, just to run. He upped the stakes by dedicating his first marathon to The Children's Heart Fund, the Division of Pediatric Cardiology at Mount Sinai, and all its patients and families.

"I figured as long as I was going to be torturing myself, why not make it worth something?" said Strain, who raised money in donations from friends, family, and his employer, Corporate Synergies Group, a benefits consulting firm in Manhattan. "I know whatever The Children's Heart Fund does with that money will be in the best interests of the patients and their families - to make a very trying time a little easier for them."

In March 2005, Strain underwent mitral valve repair surgery, some 30 years after his first cardiac surgery, at age 4, to repair an atrial septal defect, a hole in the wall between the upper chambers of the heart that he had been born with. The mitral surgery postponed Strain's plan to run in last year's marathon but left him even more determined to do so in 2006. He was back to work just a month after surgery, exercising in three months, and completed a half marathon less than a year after the surgery. Strain's running partner is his girlfriend, Kelly Dynan, who doubles as his trainer and his nutritionist.

"In addition to raising money, I want to be a resource for parents who see their kids having heart surgery and wonder if they are going to have to live a life full of restrictions," said Strain. "Back when I had my first heart surgery, I was the second child in a New York hospital to ever have that surgery, so my parents didn't have the ability to talk to someone like me, who is living proof that their kids can do and be anything they want."

Child Friendly Cath Lab Puts Patients, Parents at Ease

Along with a strong dose of experience and skill, the staff at Mount Sinai's Division of Pediatric Cardiology serves up equal helpings of empathy and support. While working with anxious parents and patients who are scared and apprehensive is the norm for the staff, they never take for granted what families are going through.

The proof is in the catheterization lab and its recovery area, which was made child friendly when it was recently renovated.

Along with state-of-the-art Siemens imaging equipment, there are two pediatric recovery bays whose walls are a giant aquatic mural. So while the doctors and medical staff can appreciate the high resolution medical images and lower radiation doses, the kids are distracted by the frog flooring they just jumped across and the eye-catching fish tank.

"We have the opportunity because of the renovation, to make the lab a little less institutional and a little more inviting," said Dr. Barry Love. "We know parents and kids would prefer not to be here; but while they are here, if we can make the experience a little fun and get their minds off the procedures and the tests, we will do it."

"People love it, both adults and the kids" said Dr. Love. "The whole space is a work of art which helps the kids forget - at least temporarily - that they're in a hospital."



Recent Publications

When not attending to patients and their families, the physicians and medical staff at Mount Sinai's Division of Pediatric Cardiology find the time to participate in research and author peer-reviewed articles for some of the most prestigious medical journals in their field.

Here are articles published recently by the Division of Pediatric Cardiology staff:

"Marfan's Syndrome and Related Disorders—More Tightly Connected Than We Thought," an editorial by Dr. Bruce Gelb, was published in the New England Journal of Medicine in the August 2006 issue.

"Parents and Clinicians Underestimate Distress and Depression in Children Who had a Transplant" appeared in the October 2005 issue of Pediatric Transplantations Journal. Dr. Bruce Gelb was one of the authors on this publication.

"Transgenic Drosophila models of Noonan syndrome causing PTPN11 gain-of-function mutations" appeared in the Feb. 15, 2006, issue of Human Molecular Genetics Journal. Dr. Bruce Gelb was an author on this paper.

"Diversity and Functional Consequences of Germline and Somatic PTPN11 Mutations in Human Disease" appeared in the American Journal of Human Genetics in February 2006. Dr. Bruce Gelb was an author.

"Physiology of isolated anomalous pulmonary venous connection of a single pulmonary vein as determined by cardiac magnetic resonance imaging" was published in the American Journal of Cardiology in July 2006. Drs. Avnit Kaur, Ira Parness and James Nielsen were authors on this publications.

"Color Doppler tissue imaging for evaluation of right ventricular systolic function in patients with congenital heart disease" appeared in the Journal of the American Society of Echocardiography in October 2005. Drs. Irene Lytrivi, Wyman Lai, James Nielsen, Ira Parness, and Shubhika Srivastava and pediatric cardiology echo technician, Helen Ko, were the authors.

"First appropriate use of automated external defibrillator in an infant" appeared in Resuscitation in October 2005. Dr. Barry Love was an author.

"Mechanism and therapy of cardiac arrhythmias in adults with congenital heart disease" appeared in the July 2005 issue the Mount Sinai Journal of Medicine. Dr. Barry Love was an author on this paper.

"Preparing Children and Families for Surgery: Mount Sinai's Multidisciplinary Perspective" appeared in the January/February 2006 issue of Pediatric Nursing. Pediatric social worker Rachel Justus was the author.

Medical Staff Continues Research

In an effort to improve treatment and care, the Division of Pediatric Cardiology physicians and medical staff are involved in a number of research projects.

The current research projects include:

- The PREMIUM Migraine Trial which looks at PFO closure in patients with migraines. Mount Sinai is one of 20 centers in the U.S. participating under the direction of Dr. Love.
- Dr. Bruce Gelb is studying the genetics of Noonan syndrome, and specifically the molecular aspects of the genetic changes in this gene and why those changes cause Noonan syndrome. His efforts are also focused on finding the other gene(s) that maybe involved in Noonan syndrome.
- Drs. Barry Love and Maria Thanjan are researching infants and children with dilated cardiomyopathy in order to improve early detection of children with dilated cardiomyopathy.
- Dr. Gelb is also studying the genetics of congenital heart defect. Drs. Gelb and Lai along with their collaborators at Cincinnati Children's Hospital are looking to discover the genetic reasons why children have heart defects.



Heart Transplant Program Includes Support Component

There's more to heart transplants than the life-saving surgery.

Today, the medical staff at Mount Sinai's Division of Pediatric Cardiology realizes that pre- and post-surgery support from social and psychological perspectives play a meaningful role in the patient's recovery and the family's overall well-being.

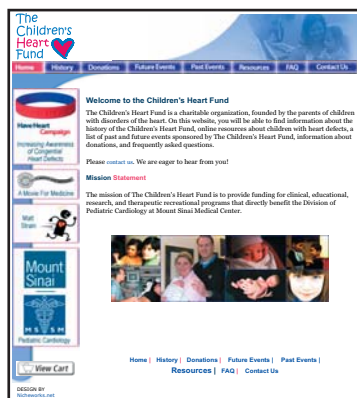
The Pediatric Heart Transplant team takes a multi-disciplinary approach, and is comprised of doctors, nurses, a pediatric nurse practitioner, a medical assistant, echocardiograph technicians, a Child Life Specialist, a pediatric social worker, a pediatric chaplain and a transplant coordinator.

Few people realize that the psychosocial needs can be just as great as the medical needs throughout the process and can greatly affect outcomes. The Pediatric Heart Transplant Support Program includes:

- A Support Group, led by a social worker and a Child Life Specialist, which provides a way for patients and families to understand, discuss and deal with their unique challenges.
- The Heart-to-Heart Program, which matches families in the beginning stage of the transplant process with families that are further along in the journey. The program eliminates the feeling of isolation for the new family and allows other families to give back.
- Therapeutic Recreational Events, which provide a fun and informal special-event setting in which medical staff, patients and families can share in the progress being made. Summer picnics and year-end holiday parties are among the yearly events.

"Just as we've made great strides in the medical technology and the procedures, we've come to the understanding that there are non-medical programs which add to a patient's recovery and success," said Dr. Umesh Joashi, Medical Director of the Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit. "We deal with pediatric cardiology issues every day, but we realize for families this is a traumatic and life-altering experience. Through our support program, we recognize the psychological and social effects and help patients and families deal with these issues."

Updated Web Site Provides Information To Concerned Families



The Children's Heart Fund at Mount Sinai can now add "virtual support" to the list of benefits it provides patients, their families and friends.

A recently revamped web site (www.ChildrensHeartFund.org) not only provides the latest information on current projects, but also offers informational support to parents looking for reliable medical information on congenital heart disease.

"The Children's Heart Fund web site fills a small void for the families of patients looking for more information," said Dr. Wyman Lai, Associate Chief, Division of Pediatric Cardiology, who has overseen the web site's progress. "We had a site, but we wanted to improve it to give the family and friends of our patients as much information as possible on both heart disease and the support that is available to them through The Children's Heart Fund. At a time when these families are under a great deal of stress, the web site helps to provide them a sense of community."

Kindergarten Quilt Leads to PCICU Renovation

When the kindergarten class at Horace Mann School in Manhattan made a quilt, many parents saw a surprisingly beautiful piece of art. Joanna Sirulnick, one of the proud parents, also saw a great way to tie in children's natural artistic ability with volunteerism and community service.

The result of that brainstorm was the renovation of Mount Sinai's Pediatric Cardiology Intensive Care Unit (PCICU) waiting area. Started in February 2004 and completed in Spring 2005, the PCICU waiting room now features walls emblazoned with clouds; new flooring and overhead lights; as well as new toys and books for young family members who often accompany parents while a sibling is in the ICU.

The Horace Mann kindergarten class for the past three years has been responsible for the creation of lightboxes, which serves as both artwork and a series of nightlights on the walls of the waiting room. Each of the last three kindergarten classes, including the 2006 class, has created one. Altogether, 240 students have been involved in the project.

"I realized that kids are capable of so much and thought that we could combine their abilities with community service to create a program which teaches the children about doing something for the community in a fun way," said Sirulnick, who is the chairperson of the community service committee at Horace Mann. "My father is a trustee at Mount Sinai, and years ago, my mother had sponsored the renovation of a room. So I talked with the school and contacted Mount Sinai with the idea."

Sirulnick and the community service committee at Horace Mann raised

\$10,000 from the parents of students at the school and persuaded several contractors, including an electrician and a decorator, to donate their time.

"The kindergarten students at Horace Mann are still involved even though the renovations are complete," said Sirulnick. "We'll be coming back regularly to update the room and make sure it looks as nice as it can."



Mount Sinai Cardiologists First to Use Berlin Heart Device in New York

Cardiac surgeons at Mount Sinai's Division of Pediatric Cardiology were the first in New York to use the Berlin Heart Ventricular Assist Device, a specialized miniaturized device made specifically for children, in March, when it was used to save the life of a 5-year-old Queens, N.Y. girl. Just 18 days after receiving the external pump, a suitable donor organ became available and the she underwent a successful heart transplant.

The Berlin Heart, developed in Germany, is the world's only ventricular assist device for children aged five and younger, but it is not been approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for general use in the United States. Because of the critical condition of their young patient, Dr. Khanh Nguyen, Chief of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery, and the medical team were able to obtain special FDA authorization to use the Berlin Pump.

The young girl came to Mount Sinai late last year from another hospital with what was initially thought to be a severe upper respiratory infection. However, her problem turned out to be a heart muscle disease of unknown cause. Her condition grew progressively worse and by January it became clear that she would need a transplant.

"Dr. Nguyen and the team worked tirelessly to get FDA approval in time to help save this girl's life," said Dr. Ira Parness, Chief of the Division of Pediatric Cardiology. "We realized that this patient was a great candidate for the Berlin Heart and felt that this was the best chance of extending her life and providing her the best window of opportunity for a transplant."

Dr. Parness Named First Recipient of the Award for Excellence in Teaching Echocardiography in Pediatrics

The American Society for Echocardiography (ASE) recently named Dr. Ira Parness, Chief, Division of Pediatric Cardiology at Mount Sinai, the first recipient of the Award for Excellence in Teaching Echocardiography in Pediatrics.

The award, established in 2005, recognizes an ASE member who demonstrates exceptional commitment and skill in teaching pediatric echocardiography, has been a mentor to students and serves as a role model for the profession, and is someone who has fostered a sense of clinical excellence and research investigation in the individuals they teach.

“Teaching future pediatric cardiologists the art of echocardiography is one of my greatest passions,” said Dr. Parness, who also serves as Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. “To be recognized for what I love doing by an esteemed organization such as the ASE is truly an honor.”

The American Society of Echocardiography is an international organization of cardiovascular professionals committed to excellence in cardiovascular ultrasound and its application to patient care through education, advocacy, research, innovation and service to its members and the public.

Fetal Heart Program Takes Care of the Entire Family

The Fetal Heart Program at Mount Sinai’s Division of Pediatric Cardiology is a multi-disciplinary, full family approach to providing medical attention to an unborn child and helping the entire family deal with a challenging and often stressful situation. The Fetal Heart Program was the first of its kind in the New York metropolitan area when it debuted eight years ago.

The program brings together OB-GYNs, cardiologists, neo-natal specialists and cardiothoracic surgeons as one “team” and provides concerned parents and family members with a single point of entry at the hospital. The team also includes nurses, social workers and genetic counselors.

“The more cases we saw, the more we recognized that we needed a team approach,” said Dr. Wyman Lai, Associate Chief, Division of Pediatric Cardiology and Director, Pediatric Echocardiography Laboratory. “When your unborn baby has a serious medical condition, you want to know that an entire team of specialists is working together to ensure your baby’s future. Our concept and program instills a great deal of confidence that the child is getting the overall attention he or she deserves.”

Most families are introduced to The Fetal Heart Program when it’s determined that an echocardiogram is needed for the unborn child. Typically performed at 18 weeks, it allows for the earliest possible diagnosis and a better chance to counsel expectant families. About 70 fetuses are diagnosed each year, and about half of those are treated at Mount Sinai as part of The Fetal Heart Program.

“A baby diagnosed in utero has the best chance to get the post-birth care they need,” said Dr. Lai. “The early diagnosis allows us to eliminate much of the stress on the baby and parents and concerned family members as well. It also allows our entire team – including genetic counselors and social workers – to help the family deal with potential issues that lie ahead.”



Pediatric Cardiology In the News

The medical staff at Mount Sinai’s Division of Pediatric Cardiology knows a good story when they see one, or two, or three... and the news producers at **WABC-TV, NY1 News** and **Telemundo**, a leading Spanish language station, agree. Mount Sinai patients and their doctors were featured recently on all three of these well-watched newscasts.

- **Channel 7 WABC-TV** produced a segment on April 14 on the successful and unprecedented open heart surgery of infant Tylor DeFazio. The news feature detailed how Dr. Khanh H. Nguyen and Dr. Umesh Joashi used a surgical technique called selective cerebral perfusion during the procedure, which allows blood to continue flowing to the brain and heart during the surgery.

The surgery, to correct a discontinuous aorta/ventricular defect, saved the baby’s life – and had him back home resting in just three days.

Selective cerebral perfusion, in which blood flow in certain areas of the body are stopped for short amounts of time, was never before performed on a patient so young.

- **Telemundo’s** nightly newscast and morning show profiled heart transplant patient Danny Collado, a 19-year-old who hasn’t let his surgery, or the prospect of another transplant, slow him down. Telemundo interviewed Danny, his devoted mother, and Dr. Bruce Gelb during the February Valentine’s Day party. At that party, Danny played bass on stage with his band, Identity. In March, Telemundo invited Danny to play with his band during a live morning news program.

- **NY1 News** aired a Mother’s Day Makeover story on Kathleen Hermeý, a Rochester, N.Y., mother of three who takes care of a husband and two children, all of whom suffer from cardiac-related illnesses. Kathleen received Mother’s Day pampering complete with a new hair style and beauty look courtesy of a team of local philanthropic organizations. Both Kathleen and Mount Sinai staff members were interviewed for the segment.

20th Annual Valentine's Reunion Another Blast

There's a general rule of thumb regarding reunions: the higher the reunion (10th, 20th, 30th ...) the smaller the party. But attendance at the annual Valentine's Reunion Party at Mount Sinai is growing year after year thanks to improved pediatric cardiology procedures and the skills of the medical staff within the hospital's Division of Pediatric Cardiology.

As the list of heart surgery "alumni" grows, patients are living longer and better lives – and attending the Valentine's Day party with their family and friends. This past Valentine's Reunion, the 20th, was attended by more than 400 former patients, their families and Mount Sinai staff. The party was hosted by the Division of Pediatric Cardiology, together with The Children's Heart Fund and the Mount Sinai Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery.

"It's a reunion that fortunately gets bigger and bigger each year," said Robbin Berry, medical assistant in the outpatient area, who helps organize the event. "The families truly bond with each other because of their shared experience, and it shows the families of newer and younger patients how happy and productive lives are being led by kids who had medical issues similar to their child's."



Former New York Knicks guard John Starks takes time for pictures and autographs

Among the attendees was former patient Steven Caruso, now Dr. Caruso, a 34-year-old orthopedic physician practicing in New Jersey. Also among the attendees was Danny Collado, a 19-year-old former patient who now performs in the band, Identity, which provided the musical entertainment for the party. Another alum, Nicholas Wright, a 17-year-old former patient and aspiring artist, helped decorate and paint the party areas.

"Each year, the event gives patients, their families, and staff members the opportunity to celebrate their lives," said Berry. "It's great to see how these former patients are growing and hear what's going on in their lives since the last event."

Also in attendance was New York Knicks legend John Starks, a former star guard, and model Yoanna House, the winner of America's Top Model Season 2, the nationally televised model competition.

For the 20th anniversary reunion, the lobby was decorated in a Dora The Explorer theme, with Dora and Diego characters on hand to entertain the children. Children enjoyed getting their faces painted, dancing and singing to the songs of the live musicians, and creating their own masterpieces in the spin art booth.

Among the sponsors were Josh Glatt and the New York Fun Factory; and Carl and John Makula and Ambassador Food Service.



A Special Thanks

This newsletter, believe it or not, comes to you courtesy of Michael Worner, age 18 months. Young Michael, born four weeks early with a congenital heart defect that required an operation to repair his coarcted aorta, has fully recovered and is now a typical active and curious toddler.

Understandably, parents Janice and Mike Worner are relieved and appreciative of the care given to their son and themselves by the staff at Mount Sinai's Division of Pediatric Cardiology. So appreciative, in fact, that the Worners, who own Keystone Printing in Bergen County, N.J., produced one of the most creative thank you letters the medical staff can remember. Written by young Michael (actually ghost-written by mom Janice), the letter told of his ordeal, from diagnosis through successful thoracic heart surgery, and thanked all the doctors, nurses and medical staff at Mount Sinai.

But the Worners went one step further. Like many parents of patients, the Worners were so pleased with the care and treatment their son received, they wanted to give something back to the Division of Pediatric Cardiology. The most useful gift, it was determined, was the gift of printing. Working closely with the staff, this newsletter was written, designed and produced by Keystone Printing as a unique and innovative way for the Worners to give back. "These people literally had my baby's heart in their hands," said Janice. "Before, during and after the surgery, the entire staff was tremendous in the way they treated our son and us. This newsletter is a labor of love for the people who ensured a healthy start to Michael's life."


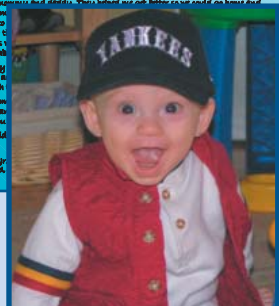
July 2005
Hi everyone,

As most of you know, I decided to surprise mommy and daddy and come into the world 4 weeks early. Their boss mommy said one cannot (safely) in the house to enough, so now I'm a Nurse (Internist, pediatric and dermatologist).

I would wish we all get asked to do any real consulting (besides what we do), but eventually I couldn't wait any more and mommy told me to see Dr. Vidua when I began to wheeze. Good thing! We went to the hospital straight away for some tests and we ended up staying overnight. Well, things got better from there. Thank goodness Dr. Vidua ordered a test called an echocardiogram because he saved my life!

Anyway, he then sent me to meet some special doctors at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York city that fix babies hearts (some babies think). We had to stay there for 22 days. Dr. Higgins did an operation to fix my heart. The main thing that worries about from the heart to the rest of the body. Dr. Marcus is making me better with medicine and sometimes to make sure I'm alright! There were so many doctors and nurses that helped make me better that we can't remember all of their names, but we wanted to say thank you again to all of them! Especially, Dr. Vidua since I'm almost as good as new!

The nurses at Mount Sinai in the PICU (Pediatric Critical Intensive Care Unit) were so good to me and mommy and daddy. They helped me eat better, sleep and to have fun!

The Children's Heart Fund

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Gallery Event Brings Out Best in Everyone

As ecstatic as Maura and Kevin Sheridan were about helping to raise \$165,000 through a Gallery Event for The Children's Heart Fund earlier this year, they were just as impressed by the commitment and enthusiasm of the Mount Sinai staff and the families of other patients in making the event an overwhelming success.

The Gallery Event, held in February at Loft 11 in New York City, was attended by more than 250 people who had the opportunity to bid on the artwork of contemporary artist Patricia Miranda, dinners at exclusive New York restaurants including Rao's and Fresco by Scotto, and golf outings at prestigious courses such as Maidstone, Shinnecock Hills and National Golf Clubs. The evening featured delicious food by Taylored Menus and professional lighting design courtesy of Neil Mazzella. Miranda donated 50 percent of proceeds from purchased artwork to The Children's Heart Fund.

The Children's Heart Fund is using the \$165,000 raised to help renovate the Pediatric Cardiology outpatient area and fund a senior pediatric noninvasive imagery fellowship.

"Kevin and I were so touched and overwhelmed by the response to the event and the outpouring of support we received," said Maura Sheridan, Gallery Event Chair. "I didn't have to recruit anyone to help. Families of patients and so many friends reached out to see what they could do." According to Sheridan, many staff members of Mount Sinai's Division of Pediatric Cardiology donated their time and efforts to ensure the event's success. Because everything was donated - from the invitations to the food and the flowers - virtually none of the money raised went to administrative costs. Like many parents who have been involved in fundraising for The Children's Heart Fund, this was a labor of love - and appreciation - to the doctors and staff at Mount Sinai's Division of Pediatric Cardiology for the Sheridans. They had brought their 7-year-old daughter, Grace, to numerous New York hospitals when she was 18 months old following her bone marrow transplant seeking answers to their daughter's heart issues. The Sheridans found clarity when they finally met with Dr. Ira Parness, chief of the Division of Pediatric Cardiology. Grace was diagnosed with cardiomyopathy, and has been successfully treated with medication every since.



Event Co-Chairs, Maura and Kevin Sheridan with Dr. Parness (center)



Maura Sheridan shares a moment with Anthony and Theresa Scotto



Chris and Stapley Russell



Alison Morrison (left) and guests