

# Mount Sinai inside



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Robert Accordino, MSc, Medical Student Leadership Award Recipient; David Muller, MD, Pride in the Profession Award Recipient; Nicholas Meo, Medical Student Leadership Award Recipient; Peter W. Carmel, MD, AMA Board of Trustees and AMA Foundation Board Member

## Highest Honors

David Muller, MD, the Dean for Medical Education at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, was one of only four physicians in the United States to receive the Pride in the Profession Award from the American Medical Association (AMA) Foundation. The awards were presented during the seventh annual Excellence in Medicine Awards dinner on March 9 at the AMA Foundation's National Advocacy Conference in Washington, DC.

The AMA Foundation recognizes not only physicians who represent the highest ideals of medical service in providing care to patients, but also those who demonstrate altruism, compassion, leadership, excellence, integrity, and high ethical standards. The Pride in the Profession Award recognizes the contributions of physicians who work in underserved areas and those who sacrifice their time for volunteer and public service efforts.

Dr. Muller, who is also an Associate Professor of Medicine and Medical Education, co-founded and directed the Mount Sinai Visiting Doctors Program after completing his internship and residency in Internal Medicine at Mount Sinai.

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## Look inside

Anatomy Gets Funky

Champions of  
Discovery

Immigration Clinic  
Schedule

Help Save a Life

## Reviving Stem Cell Research

A Conversation with Dr. Lemischka

Ihor R. Lemischka, PhD, is the Director of The Black Family Stem Cell Institute. He sat down with *Inside Mount Sinai* to discuss how changes in the political climate will affect scientific discovery.

**Question:** Last month, President Barack Obama lifted the Bush administration limits on federal funding for embryonic stem cell research and pledged that his administration would "make scientific decisions based on facts, not ideology." The reversal ends a nearly eight-year ban during which the federal government denied funding the creation of new embryonic stem cell lines. How has the ban impacted the pace of scientific discovery?



Ihor R. Lemischka, PhD

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# A New Way to Teach Anatomy

Looking for some interesting reading? Jeffrey T. Laitman, PhD, Distinguished Professor; Professor and Director of the Center for Anatomy and Functional Morphology; and Professor of Medical Education and of Otolaryngology, and two of his students have a new book coming out called *Gray's Anatomy for Fitness Professionals*. The book, which will be published by Elsevier Press in 2010, is co-authored by Dr. Laitman, fourth-year medical students Carrie McCulloch, a certified pilates instructor, and Stephanie Pieczenik, a certified yoga teacher—and fitness instructor Matt McCulloch.

“This is truly a remarkable achievement, and speaks volumes about both of these extraordinary students and the wonderful and nurturing educational environment that is our school,” says Dr. Laitman. “I take great pride in all my medical students. Not too many, however, have authored a book during medical training!”

The book, which is the first of its kind, boils down the complex world of anatomy and musculoskeletal injuries for a wide medical and biomedically related audience. It will entwine anatomy with the substrates for movement and injuries, and be profusely illustrated.

This unique collaboration started in 2004 when Ms. Pieczenik and Ms. McCulloch—both very keen on the mind-body connection—approached Dr. Laitman with a “funky idea” to teach muscular and skeletal anatomy through pilates and yoga.

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## Mount Sinai is a creative place. It's in our genetic blueprint to think outside the box.

— JEFFREY T. LAITMAN, PHD

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The publication fills a much-needed gap by teaching fitness and movement professionals about underlying anatomy and builds upon the success of Mount Sinai's award-winning course “living anatoME,” which teaches muscular and skeletal anatomy through pilates and yoga. The course was created by Ms. Pieczenik, Ms. McCulloch, and Dr. Laitman.

From that idea sprang “living anatoME,” which received considerable press coverage and garnered national awards. Dr. Laitman and his students also received grants from national societies to teach the course at anatomy and experimental biology conferences.

“Mount Sinai is a creative place,” says Dr. Laitman. “It's in our genetic blueprint to think outside the box.”

Ms. Pieczenik and Ms. McCulloch will graduate in May, receiving their MD's with Distinction in Research due to their extraordinary and creative educational research accomplishments. Ms. Pieczenik will pursue a career in Psychiatry, and Ms. McCulloch will work in Rehabilitation Medicine.

This year, Dr. Laitman was also elected President of the American Association of Anatomists—the largest international body for the advancement of science, education, and policy issues relating to the anatomical sciences. Dr. Laitman will begin serving a two-year term as President-elect in April. In 2011 he will become President of the prestigious Bethesda-based organization for another two years.

“The opportunities presented to me at Mount Sinai enabled my election,” says Dr. Laitman. “It is in no small part based upon the high regard Mount Sinai holds throughout the world.”



LEFT TO RIGHT: Jeffrey T. Laitman, PhD; medical students and co-authors Carrie McCulloch and Stephanie Pieczenik

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## Faculty, Students Receive Highest Honors (continued from page 1)

Visiting Doctors brings high-quality medical care to men and women with complex and serious illnesses who have difficulty leaving their homes. Founded in 1995, Visiting Doctors is now the largest academic physician home visiting program in the country. Additionally, Dr. Muller has been Dean for Medical Education since 2005.

“We are all honored to have Dr. Muller's work and contributions to Mount Sinai, and medicine be recognized in this important way,” said Dennis Charney, MD, the Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Dean of Mount Sinai School of Medicine and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs at The Mount Sinai Medical Center. “He is a true asset to Mount Sinai and it is a privilege to work with him.”

“The awards ceremony was an inspiring event,” said Dr. Muller. “It not only highlighted the good work being done by students and physicians from around the country, it reinforced Mount Sinai's

superb reputation in service and leadership. We were the best-represented school there, with two medical students and one faculty member receiving leadership awards.”

In addition, two Mount Sinai School of Medicine students, Mr. Robert Accordino and Mr. Nicholas Meo, received Leadership Awards. The awards are presented to medical students, residents/fellows, and early-career physicians in recognition of strong, nonclinical leadership skills in advocacy, community service, public health, and education.

While at Mount Sinai, Mr. Accordino founded and has served as the executive director of Music for Autism, an organization that aims to improve the quality of life, education, and clinical care of individuals with autism, particularly those in underserved areas. Mr. Meo serves as director of the East Harlem Health Outreach Partnership, a free health clinic for the uninsured.