



Health Care & Pharma

Mount Sinai, Valley partner on cancer care

By **Anjalee Khemlani**, June 27, 2016 at 3:00 AM

Mount Sinai Health System is partnering with Valley Health System to offer enhanced cancer care in northern New Jersey.

The partnership will give patients access to clinical trials and avoid a trip across the river for cancer care, said Dr. Robert Korst, director of Valley's Blumenthal Cancer Center.

This will benefit patients who visit the main campus in Ridgewood and the cancer center in Paramus. In December 2015, the partners announced plans to join forces.

While this doesn't mean any physical or structural changes at Valley, it does mean potentially more patients will be attracted to the facility now that there is a major cancer brand there, Korst said.

Dr. Steve Burakoff, director of the Tisch Cancer Institute at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, said it's a mutually beneficial effort.

"The whole New York metro area is a very competitive place, which is very good for patients. There are also more major medical centers in Manhattan and nearby than other places in the country," Burakoff said. "Everybody gains."

This means Mount Sinai has to be involved in cutting-edge treatments and solutions, and offer a different level of care to the sophisticated patients in the region — which includes New Jersey, he said.

The focus is the opening of a new clinical genomic unit at Valley, along with the collaboration for a clinically integrated trial system.

Patients will have access to new treatments and treatment protocols for cutaneous malignancies, including melanoma and other skin cancers; genitourinary malignancies, including prostate and kidney cancers; and hematologic cancers and serious blood disorders, including leukemia, lymphoma, multiple myeloma and myelodysplastic syndromes, according to a joint statement from both medical entities. Some treatment protocols will include bone marrow transplantation and immunotherapeutic vaccines.

Arthur Klein, president of the Mount Sinai Health Network, said in a statement, “The clinical and academic affiliation between the Valley Health System and the Mount Sinai Health System will lead to better-coordinated, higher-quality health care in many arenas across our tri-state metropolitan region.”

Valley Health CEO Audrey Meyers said: “This relationship with Mount Sinai will benefit our community by offering access to an expanded roster of clinical trials, programs and services for patients diagnosed with cancer. We look forward to working with Mount Sinai to bring world-class cancer care to the residents of northern New Jersey.”

Several renowned Mount Sinai cancer experts are expected to begin collaborating with Valley’s cancer care team, including:

- Dr. Philip Friedlander, assistant professor of medicine, hematology and medical oncology, and dermatology;
- Dr. Luis M. Isola, director of the bone marrow transplantation program, Gerald J. Friedman Professor of Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, and Pediatrics;
- Dr. Sundar Jagannath, director of the multiple myeloma program and professor of medicine, hematology and medical oncology;
- Dr. William K. Oh, chief of the Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology, Ezra M. Greenspan, M.D., Professor in Clinical Care Therapeutics, associate director of clinical research, and professor of medicine, hematology and medical oncology, and urology.

An important aspect of the Valley-Mount Sinai partnership is the opportunity for prospective multidisciplinary videoconferences, during which cancer care experts at both hospitals will discuss patient cases with a goal toward determining optimal treatment, follow-up, and management of individual patients, according to the statement.