

Mount Sinai inside



Alain Carpentier, MD, PhD (right), and David Adams, MD (left), work side by side in the operating room.

Dr. Alain Carpentier Wins Lasker Award

Alain Carpentier, MD, PhD, Adjunct Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Mount Sinai and Professor of Cardiovascular Surgery at Hopital Européen Georges Pompidou in Paris, is one of two researchers who pioneered the field of heart-valve replacement to win the 2007 Albert Lasker Award for Clinical Medical Research, one of the most prestigious medical prizes awarded each year.

Known as the father of mitral valve repair, Dr. Carpentier, along with Albert Starr, MD, of the Providence Health System in Portland, Oregon, was recognized for the development of replacement valves. While Dr. Starr is known for performing the first metal valve replacement in a human, Dr. Carpentier is credited with creating valves from pigs, thus eliminating the need for patients with artificial valves to take blood thinners for the rest of their lives. He is also recognized for developing valve repair surgery, which, as the Lasker Foundation pointed out, “ushered in the modern era of valve reconstruction.”

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Toy Story

Alumni Day Kicks Off

BreastCare
Community Outreach

Rounds

NIH Center of Excellence Created for Alzheimer's Disease

Mount Sinai has received an award of more than \$8 million from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to create a Center of Excellence for Research in Complementary and Alternative Medicine in Alzheimer's disease, the first NIH-funded Center of its kind in the US.

The grant, funded by the NIH's National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, will enable Giulio Maria Pasinetti, MD, PhD, Professor of Psychiatry and Neuroscience, Geriatrics and Adult Development, and colleagues to continue their study of diets that prevent or delay the onset of age-related neurodegenerative disorders, such as Alzheimer's disease.

The new Center will focus on the protective role of grape-derived polyphenolics. “This is the first center in the US systematically

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Giulio M. Pasinetti, MD, PhD
Principal Investigator of the Center

Alzheimer's Disease (continued from page 1)

exploring the idea that a longer, disease-free life isn't necessarily determined only by our genes but also in part by our lifestyles," says Dr. Pasinetti.

The research will initially focus on trying to identify naturally-occurring molecules that are derived from grapes. The team will try to identify and understand the active compounds in grape-derived molecules that may be beneficial in delaying the onset of Alzheimer's disease.

"The objectives of the research are built on the foundation we have laid suggesting that grape-derived polyphenolics may beneficially influence Alzheimer's disease amyloid pathogenesis," says Dr. Pasinetti.

Working in collaboration with the Botanical Center at the University of Purdue, the team will strive to understand the bioavailability of grape-derived compounds—specifically, which ones reach the brain and exert a benefit.

"Most importantly, the proposed research will provide critical information about the functional role of selected grape-derived polyphenolics in the prevention and/or attenuation of Alzheimer's disease cognitive deterioration," he explains. "Our final goal is to learn in five years' time which compounds are bioactively available to reach the brain and exert a benefit. The major ramification is that we will have a series of natural molecules, currently unknown, that we will be able to use for future clinical use."

11 million

The projected number of Alzheimer's patients in the United States in 2050 if a cure is not found.

Alain Carpentier, MD, Wins Lasker Award (continued from page 1)

Dr. Carpentier has worked collaboratively for many years with David Adams, MD, the Marie-Josée and Henry R. Kravis Professor and Chair of Cardiothoracic Surgery. In 2003, Edwards Lifesciences introduced the Carpentier-McCarthy-Adams IMR ETlogix Annuloplasty Ring, a medical device designed to repair the mitral valve in patients whose mitral valve disease causes regurgitation triggered by ischemic heart disease, a condition characterized by reduced blood supply to the heart. Prior to the creation of the ring, surgeons had been using only one mitral valve ring for all types of repairs.

Dr. Adams and his partner Farzan Filsoofi, MD, Associate Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery, are co-authoring a textbook with Dr. Carpentier, entitled *Carpentier's Valve Reconstruction*, due out in 2008. Drs. Adams and Carpentier are also collaborating on a future generation of annuloplasty rings that will facilitate mitral valve repair in degenerative disease.

"Without question, our unique collaboration with Professor Carpentier is one of the key elements that have catapulted Mount Sinai into the upper echelon of mitral valve reconstructive centers in the world," says Dr. Adams.

The other winners of this year's Lasker Award were: for basic research, Ralph M. Steinman, MD, of Rockefeller University, who discovered



Alain Carpentier, MD, PhD (left), and David Adams, MD (right)

dendritic cells, which trigger defenses against germs; for public service, Anthony Fauci, MD, who directs the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.



October Is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Mount Sinai's Breast Health Resource Program—BreastCare, the Mount Sinai Community Breast Health Education and Screening Program—participates in about 50 outreach visits a year throughout the community. At these events, the Program offers clinical breast exams on site and helps women obtain mammography, as recommended.

BreastCare

Friday, October 19
Little Sisters of the Assumption Church
333 East 115th Street
To register, call Sister Suzanne Chapelle at 212-987-4422 or Allison Lopez at 212-987-3063.