David H. Adams, MD, Marie-Josée and Henry R. Kravis Professor and Chair of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at The Mount Sinai Medical Center, has performed the first U.S. implantation of a new ring designed to treat deterioration of the heart’s tricuspid valve. Dr. Adams also invented the device, called the Tri-Ad™ Adams Tricuspid Annuloplasty Ring, which was recently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and is owned by Medtronic.

The tricuspid valve is situated on the right side of the heart and separates the lower heart chamber from the upper chamber. The ring is used in patients whose tricuspid valve does not close completely, and instead leaks blood back into the heart’s lower right chamber. The condition prevents blood from being fully pumped into the lungs, and can lead to complications such as congestive heart failure and irreversible heart damage.

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New $8 Million Grant To Improve Pediatric Care

Researchers at Mount Sinai School of Medicine have received an $8 million federal grant to improve and develop methods for evaluating the quality of pediatric care in the United States. Lawrence C. Kleinman, MD, MPH, Vice Chair for Research and Education, Department of Health Evidence and Policy, will lead the 66-member research team from Mount Sinai and nine other partner organizations.

“Currently, it is difficult to measure and compare pediatric care across different populations of children, or across states, providers, and health care plans,” said Dr. Kleinman, who is also Associate Professor in the departments of Health Evidence and

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Dr. Adams says advances in echocardiography and magnetic resonance imaging technology have led to a greater understanding of the valve’s structure. “We know exactly which parts dilate, and we also know that several areas of the tricuspid are very flexible; unlike prior tricuspid devices, this novel ring accommodates targeted and flexible remodeling of the valve,” he says.

The first surgery using this ring took place in September 2010. Since then, Dr. Adams and his team have treated more than 140 patients with the new ring. The devices are available throughout the world.

Dr. Adams’ earlier work as the co-inventor of two rings with renowned French cardiac surgeon and professor Alain Carpentier, MD, PhD, for use in mitral valve surgery, helped pave the way for the newest device.

“Once again, Dr. Adams has broken new ground as a cardiac surgeon,” says Valentin Fuster, MD, PhD, Director of Mount Sinai Heart, the Zena and Michael A. Wiener Cardiovascular Institute, and the Marie-Josée and Henry R. Kravis Center for Cardiovascular Health. “He has shown himself to be one of the true pioneers in the field of cardiovascular disease by pushing the frontiers of our abilities forward.”

The Mount Sinai Medical Center hosted Pampers’ 50th birthday celebration on Tuesday, April 12, and helped kick off Pampers’ Little Miracle Missions campaign to encourage acts of kindness and support for very ill and premature infants who require neonatal intensive care. As part of the celebration, LaLa Anthony, Mark Consuelos, Ali Larter, and Joey Lawrence, four celebrities who have young children themselves, visited Mount Sinai’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) to distribute special care packages to parents there. Pampers has partnered with Graham’s Foundation, a nonprofit organization, to donate more than 30,000 care packages to families with newborns in level-three NICUs across the country that care for the sickest babies.

As the inventor of the Medtronic Tri-Ad™ Adams Tricuspid Annuloplasty Ring, both Dr. Adams and Mount Sinai School of Medicine receive royalties from Medtronic in connection with the sale of this product, but do not receive any royalties when he implants the device in his patients at Mount Sinai. Dr. Adams is also the National Co-Principal Investigator of the FDA Medtronic-CoreValve Pivotal Trial.

Pampers Celebrates Its 50th Birthday

2011 Mitral Conclave

More than 800 physicians, surgeons, and researchers in mitral valve disease from around the world will participate in the 2011 Mitral Conclave in New York City to share the latest data on treatment approaches, surgical techniques, and devices. The meeting will take place Thursday and Friday, May 5 and 6, and is sponsored by the American Association for Thoracic Surgery. Mount Sinai’s David H. Adams, MD, is the meeting’s Program Director.

Dr. Adams and his team will make several key research presentations on degenerative mitral valve disease, and Dr. Adams will honor Alain Carpentier, MD, with the Mitral Conclave Achievement Award.

To learn more about the conclave program, visit www.aats.org/mitral/.