



**Mount
Sinai**

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National Organization for Rare Disorders Designates The Mount Sinai Hospital as a Center of Excellence

Joins a nationwide network designed to facilitate rare disease diagnosis, treatment, and research.

New York, NY (November 4, 2021) – The National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) has designated the [Division of Medical Genetics and Genomics](#) at The Mount Sinai Hospital as a Rare Disease Center of Excellence. With this designation, Mount Sinai will join a highly selective nationwide network of 31 medical centers that specialize in rare disorders. This newly established and innovative network seeks “to foster knowledge-sharing between experts across the country, connect patients to appropriate specialists regardless of disease or geography, and improve the pace of progress in rare disease diagnosis, treatment, and research.”

“At Mount Sinai we are committed to helping patients who have a wide range of rare disorders,” said George Diaz, MD, PhD, who will direct the program at the Division of Medical Genetics and Genomics at Mount Sinai. “We are both honored and excited to join this network. We especially look forward to working with others in the network to improve and hasten the treatments that millions of patients need.”

According to the National Institutes of Health, a rare disease is one that “[affects fewer than 200,000 people](#)” in the United States. More than [7,000 rare diseases have been described](#), affecting 25-30 million Americans. These patients can often find it challenging to arrive at a diagnosis and benefit from available treatment.

NORD’s Rare Disease Centers of Excellence program was established to help combat these challenges. At its core, the program aims to establish and implement new standards of rare



The Mount Sinai Hospital Designated a Rare Disease Center of Excellence

The National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) has designated the Division of Medical Genetics and Genomics at The Mount Sinai Hospital as a Rare Disease Center of Excellence. *Courtesy of The Mount Sinai Hospital.*

disease care while also facilitating the development of new therapies and treatments. The 31 centers were chosen based on their ability to “provide exceptional rare disease care and have demonstrated a deep commitment to serving rare disease patients and their families using a holistic, state-of-the-art approach.” In addition, each center had to show that it has a wide range of experts who can match the diversity of patients seen around the country and that it is committed to “patient education, physician training, and research.”

The Division of Medical Genetics and Genomics at The Mount Sinai Hospital has a large team of experts who strive to provide rare-disease patients with high-quality care and access to cutting-edge treatments while also training the next generation of doctors and other health care providers in the field.

“Right now, far too many rare diseases are without an established standard of care. The Centers of Excellence program will help set that standard—for patients, clinicians, and medical centers alike,” said Ed Neilan, Chief Scientific and Medical Officer of NORD. “We are proud to announce the Division of Medical Genetics and Genomics, Department of Genetics and Genomic Sciences, at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai as a NORD Rare Disease Center of Excellence and look forward to their many further contributions as we collectively seek to improve health equity, care, and research to support all individuals with rare diseases.”

About the Mount Sinai Health System

About the Mount Sinai Health System

The Mount Sinai Health System is New York City's largest academic medical system, encompassing eight hospitals, a leading medical school, and a vast network of ambulatory practices throughout the greater New York region. Mount Sinai advances medicine and health through unrivaled education and translational research and discovery to deliver care that is the safest, highest-quality, most accessible and equitable, and the best value of any health system in the nation. The Health System includes approximately 7,300 primary and specialty care physicians; 13 joint-venture ambulatory surgery centers; more than 415 ambulatory practices throughout the five boroughs of New York City, Westchester, Long Island, and Florida; and more than 30 affiliated community health centers. The Mount Sinai Hospital is ranked on U.S. News & World Report's "Honor Roll" of the top 20 U.S. hospitals and is top in the nation by specialty: No. 1 in Geriatrics and top 20 in Cardiology/Heart Surgery, Diabetes/Endocrinology, Gastroenterology/GI Surgery, Neurology/Neurosurgery, Orthopedics, Pulmonology/Lung Surgery, Rehabilitation, and Urology. New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai is ranked No. 12 in Ophthalmology. Mount Sinai Kravis Children's Hospital is ranked in U.S. News & World Report's “Best Children's Hospitals” among the country's best in four out of 10 pediatric specialties. The Icahn School of Medicine is one of three medical schools that have earned distinction by multiple indicators: ranked in the top 20 by U.S. News & World Report's "Best Medical Schools," aligned with a U.S. News & World Report "Honor Roll" Hospital, and No. 14 in the nation for National Institutes of Health funding. Newsweek's “The World's Best Smart Hospitals” ranks The Mount Sinai Hospital as No. 1 in New York and in the top five globally, and Mount Sinai Morningside in the top 20 globally.

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