

Help Fight Proposed State Budget Cuts



Massive healthcare budget cuts have been proposed by Governor Eliot Spitzer. In his 2008 executive budget proposal, the Governor calls for \$1.2 billion in cuts to critical healthcare funding, including \$500 million to hospitals (including the loss of Federal Medicaid funds). A preliminary estimate of the one-year loss to Mount Sinai could be nearly \$10 million. These proposed cuts are all the more damaging because they come on top of \$1.2 billion in cuts to New York's hospitals proposed by President Bush in his 2008 budget.

"Many employees have stated their willingness to contact State elected officials to express their opposition to Governor Spitzer's proposed budget cuts," says Brad Beckstrom, Mount Sinai's Director of Government Affairs, who notes that eliminating these proposed cuts will require an aggressive advocacy program. Mount Sinai will be working with the Greater New York Hospital Association, Health Care Association of New York State, 1199, and other advocates.

Mr. Beckstrom urges employees to write or call their elected officials in Albany before April 1, which is when the budget is expected to be completed, to express opposition to these healthcare cuts and to emphasize that these proposed cuts will have a devastating effect on the Hospital's ability to provide quality health care.

To find the address for your elected official, go to www.senate.state.ny.us (and click on Senators) and www.assembly.state.ny.us. Enter your zip code to determine the name and address of your elected official.

In addition to contacting your state legislators, employees are urged to contact the legislative leaders of the Senate and Assembly. They can be reached as follows:

The Honorable Joseph Bruno Senate Majority Leader New York State Senate Legislative Office Building Room 909 Albany, NY 12247	Speaker Sheldon Silver New York State Assembly Legislative Office Building Room 932 Albany, NY 12248
--	--

Medical Student Honored at 10 Downing Street



First-year medical student Robert Accordinno, co-founder of Music for Autism, a nonprofit organization that promotes music education for children and adults with autism (center), was honored for his work with the organization by Cherie Booth, wife of British Prime Minister Tony Blair (left) at a reception held on January 30 at 10 Downing Street in London. Also honored at the reception was Christine Cairns (right), founder of Music for Autism.

Not everyone gets an invitation to 10 Downing Street in London, but first-year medical student Robert Accordinno did. Mr. Accordinno was honored by Cherie Booth, wife of Prime Minister Tony Blair, for his work as co-founder of Music for Autism, a nonprofit organization that promotes music education for children and adults with autism. The reception was held on January 30.

Continued on page 3

In this issue...

- New Heart Health Guidelines for Women
- Celebrating \$12 Million Adolescent Health Center Grant
- Sign Up for Employee Recognition Poster Session

A Party to Celebrate \$12 Million Grant to Adolescent Health Center from the Atlantic Philanthropies



(Left photo) Trustees Diane Fegg (third from right) and Blaine Fegg (not shown) hosted a party in their home on January 25 to celebrate the Mount Sinai Adolescent Health Center's recent \$12 million grant from the Atlantic Philanthropies. The grant, which will be used over the next five years to expand and enrich health services to disadvantaged adolescents in New York City, will also ensure that the Center serves as a model and resource for delivering comprehensive health care to adolescents across the country. Also attending the party were (left to right) Dennis S. Charney, MD, Dean for Academic and Scientific Affairs for the School of Medicine and Senior Vice President for Health Sciences of the Medical Center, Angela Diaz, MD, Director of the Mount Sinai Adolescent Health Center and the Jean C. and James W. Crystal Professor of Pediatrics, Adolescent Medicine, and Community and Preventive Medicine; Trustee James W. Crystal; Kurt Hirschhorn, MD, Professor of Pediatrics, Medicine, and Genetics and Genomic Sciences; and Trustee Jean C. Crystal.

(Right photo) At the party, Dr. Diaz (right) celebrated the \$12 million award with Debra Delgado, Programme Executive of the Atlantic Philanthropies (left), an international organization dedicated to bringing about lasting changes in the lives of disadvantaged and vulnerable people.

Medical Student Honored at 10 Downing Street

Continued from page 1

Ms. Booth—a human rights attorney and longtime advocate of children and education—held the reception to thank Music for Autism's founders, board members, donors, and friends. At the reception, Ms. Booth applauded the organization's members for helping children with autism learn and enjoy music and also personally recognized Mr. Accordinno for his work.

"I was moved, greatly humbled, and tremendously inspired," Mr. Accordinno says. "It was a memorable evening, and I'm so grateful that Ms. Booth took an interest in our work and honored us in this way."

After graduating from Princeton University, Mr. Accordinno went to England to pursue a Fulbright Scholarship at Oxford University where he studied musical and language processing in autistic patients. It was through his work that he met John Lubbock and Christine Cairns, who founded Music for Autism in 2002. In 2003, Mr. Accordinno became co-founder and is now working to establish a sister organization in the United States. An accomplished musician who has performed on Broadway as well as at Lincoln Center and Tanglewood, Mr. Accordinno plans, after earning his medical degree, to work with autistic patients and continue his research in music and autism.

Mr. Accordinno took his honor in stride. He traveled to London for only one day so as to miss as few medical school classes as possible.

For more information on Music for Autism, visit www.MusicForAutism.org.

In Memoriam

Evening Fire Marshal George Litsios died on November 19 after a short illness. Mr. Litsios began his career at Mount Sinai nearly 20 years ago, first serving in the Security Department and then in the Fire Safety Department. His duties included ensuring a safe environment for patients, visitors, and staff and assisting New York Fire Department responders. He will be missed by his colleagues. A memorial service has been scheduled for April 14 at 10 am at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 608 Isham Street (and Broadway) in Inwood.

Day Care and Summer Camp Services

The Employee Assistance Program offers parents information regarding day care and summer camp for their children. For information about these services, call the Employee Assistance Program at 212 241-8937.