

Children's Heart Fund is the Toast of the Town at Fashion Week Kick-off



Gary Meltzer, President of the Children's Heart Fund (second from left), embraced his 11-year-old daughter, Samantha, a former Mount Sinai cardiac patient (left), as he answered questions from a NYC TV reporter during an event to benefit the Children's Heart Fund held on February 1 at the Loft in Brooklyn.

When she was six months old, Samantha Meltzer was treated at Mount Sinai for a congenital heart defect. Today, she is the picture of health—a lively 11-year-old who is a competitive swimmer.

Gratitude and appreciation for the care that Samantha and many other young patients receive at Mount Sinai were the themes of an event held on February 1 to benefit the Children's Heart Fund, an organization dedicated to provide funding for clinical, educational, research, and therapeutic recreation programs that directly benefit pediatric cardiology patients at Mount Sinai. The event, held at the Loft in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, was sponsored by *New York Moves* magazine, a fashion and lifestyle magazine for New York-area working women, and POM Wonderful, the pomegranate beverage company.

The highlight of the event was the presentation of \$15,000, donated by POM Wonderful employees, to Children's Heart Fund President Gary C. Meltzer, one of the founders of the Fund and Samantha's father. Mr. Meltzer was also joined by his wife, Rina, and their eight-year-old son, Ben.

More than 300 people, including celebrities from the fashion and media industries, attended the party, which featured live jazz, hors d'oeuvres, chocolates, champagne, and pomegranate martinis.

Mr. Meltzer, a partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers, has served as the Children's Heart Fund's president since 2003. The Children's Heart Fund was created in 1998, three years after Samantha was

treated, by parents whose children have been treated for heart disorders.

"The Children's Heart Fund is a group of extremely grateful parents who wanted to show their appreciation to the physicians, nurses, social workers, and all of the staff at Mount Sinai who profoundly impacted our lives and the lives of our children," Mr. Meltzer said. "This extraordinary team is making major innovations in pediatric cardiology, saving lives, helping families, and giving back to the community. They are worthy of the highest level of support, and philanthropy is critical to advancing this work and helping New York City's children and families."

Faculty and Staff Receive Awards

In the last few months, Mount Sinai faculty and staff have received local, national, and international recognition. Here are some recent accolades:



Albert Altchek, MD, Clinical Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Chief of Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology, was invited to speak at the First International Conference on Transplantation of the Human

Uterus on April 1 in Sweden. Dr. Altchek's talk is titled "Emotional and Practical Aspects of Managing Rokitansky syndrome and Transplantation of the Uterus." Rokitansky syndrome is a condition in which a female is born without a vagina or uterus.



Vladimir Bogdanov, PhD, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Hematology and Medical Oncology), was awarded a 2006 prize for the Best Article by Young Investigators under 35 years of age by the *Journal of Thrombosis and*

Haemostasis, the journal of the International Society for Thrombosis and Haemostasis. The article, titled "Identification and characterization of murine alternatively spliced tissue factor," describes a recently discovered molecule, called 'alternatively spliced Tissue Factor' (asTF). In the article, Dr. Bogdanov and colleagues discuss how this molecule is produced, its presence in blood and tissues, and its biochemical properties.

[Note: An awards article in last week's issue of *Inside Mount Sinai* incorrectly placed a description of Dr. Vladimir Bogdanov's award next to a photo of Dr. Albert Altchek. The correction appears above.]