Dear Faculty and Staff,

Last night, U.S. News & World Report released its annual ranking of the Best Hospitals in America, ranking us at #2 in pulmonology. This year marks the 20th in a row that National Jewish Health has been named the #1 or #2 respiratory hospital in the nation, an accomplishment of which we are extremely proud.

Additionally, U.S. News also recognized National Jewish Health as “high performing” for the care of patients with COPD and, for the first time this year, for Lung Cancer Surgery. While the Best Hospitals rankings highlight hospitals that can address the most difficult and complicated patients, the Common Care ratings evaluate care of more common conditions. Congratulations to surgeons John Mitchell, MD; Michael Weyant, MD; and Robert Meguid, MD, the staff of the Thoracic Surgery Clinic and the team at Saint Joseph Hospital for this well-deserved honor.

We also congratulate our colleagues at The Mount Sinai Hospital for their listing on the “Honor Roll” in the Best Hospitals rankings for 2016. Mount Sinai ranked No. 15 nationally on the Honor Roll. They were ranked in the top 50 in 11 categories, including a first for them in pulmonology at #45. The pulmonology ranking reflects the terrific work that is happening through our collaborative Mount Sinai – National Jewish Health Respiratory Institute.

Saint Joseph Hospital has also received very good news recently on the quality rankings. In addition to being ranked high performing by U.S. News for hip replacement and knee replacement, they recently rose to an “A” grade in the closely watched Leapfrog ratings.

$11.5 Million for Research and Care of Warfighters with Lung Disease
The U.S. Department of Defense has awarded $11.5 million to a team of National Jewish Health researchers led by Greg Downey, MD, and Cecile Rose, MD, to research the causes and evaluate new treatments for warfighters who developed lung disease after their service in the Middle East. The grants take advantage of a unique cohort of 100 previously deployed veterans with lung disease, seen by Dr. Rose and her team. The grants also leverage the expertise of Dr. Downey and other National Jewish Health researchers in lung disease and repair. Co-investigators on these grants include Tasha Fingerlin, PhD; Max Seibold, PhD; Richard Meehan, MD; Steve Groshong, MD; David Lynch, MD; Steve Humphries, PhD; Bill Janssen, MD; Hong Wei Chu, MD; and Brian Day, PhD. Read more.

Reuben Cherniack, MD, Remembered
Reuben Cherniack, MD, Chair of the Department of Medicine from 1978 to 1984 and a giant in pulmonary medicine, passed away July 14. During his tenure as Chair, Dr. Cherniack transformed the small National Jewish Health Department of Medicine into a major force both nationally and internationally. There will be a celebration of his life and work 8 to 10 a.m., Friday, August 19, in Heitler Hall. If you wish to attend please RSVP to Carolyn Wehrheim at wehrheimc@njhealth.org or x1847.

50th Anniversary of IgE Discovery
In June at the meeting of the Japanese Society of Allergology, Erwin Gelfand, MD, helped celebrate the 50th anniversary of the discovery at National Jewish Health of IgE, the antibody produced during an allergic reaction, which causes the release of histamine and other chemicals associated with allergy symptoms. IgE was
discovered in 1966 by the husband and wife team of Kimishige and Teruko Ishizaka, both PhD researchers at National Jewish Health at the time. The discovery has had a major impact on allergy and asthma treatment and research around the world.

Research Highlights
Max Seibold, PhD, and his colleagues showed that alternative splicing of the cytokine IL-33 allows it to be secreted from epithelial cells and bind to receptors on mast cells and basophils, which then release cytokines that drive Type 2 inflammation in asthma.

Lisa Maier, MD, and her colleagues examined 7,118,535 death certificates in a search for clues to the causes of sarcoidosis. They found increased risk of sarcoidosis among people in several job categories, including metal, health care, teaching, sales, banking and administrative. The effect of occupational exposures was greater in women than in men, and in blacks than whites, with the most prominent effect in black women.

Tod Olin, MD, and his colleagues reported that continuous laryngoscopy, performed while a patient is exercising vigorously, reliably and measurably detects vocal cord dysfunction in patients who suffer shortness of breath during exertion. Dr. Olin has been developing the procedures and techniques for continuous laryngoscopy for several years to better diagnose vocal cord dysfunction.

Golf Tournament in New York Raises Nearly $230,000 for Asthma Cure
The New York real estate industry once again showed strong support for National Jewish Health at the 20th Annual Golf Tournament and Cocktails at Fresh Meadow Country Club in Lake Success, New York on June 13. Tournament Co-Chairs (left to right), Robert Helpern, Founding Partner of Tannenbaum, Helpern, Syracuse & Hirschtritt; Stephen Siegel, Chairman of CB Richard Ellis’ Global Brokerage; and longtime Chairman Emeritus, Samuel Lewis, SBL Property Consultants, LLC, helped raise nearly $230,000 for National Jewish Health and the Fund to Cure Asthma.

Thanks for all the hard work you do every day and congratulations on the recognition from U.S. News & World Report for 20 years straight.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Salem, MD, FACS
President & CEO

Thank you for reading this update letter. We hope it helps you stay more informed about our accomplishments and our challenges as we all strive to deliver our very best toward our mission in patient care, research and education. Feedback and suggestions are always appreciated. You may share your thoughts directly with me or respond by email to feedback@njhealth.org.