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**Mount Sinai School of Medicine Receives \$5 Million NCI Grant  
to Study Impact of Palliative Care Programs**

**New York, NY** — The National Palliative Care Research Center, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, has been awarded a \$5 million grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). According to Dr. Diane Meier, the Principal Investigator of the project, “The study will evaluate the impact of hospital palliative care on the quality of care for cancer patients. It will also create the evidence base necessary to determine which components of palliative care programs are key to their effectiveness.”

Palliative care consultation teams have been shown in small preliminary studies to improve the identification and treatment of pain and symptoms; to increase the occurrence of goal setting discussions and appropriate discharge planning; and to improve family satisfaction with care. However, these studies have not explained the structures and processes of care linked to the achievement of these outcomes.

The new multi-million dollar, multi-site study will assess the structure, processes and clinical outcomes of care among hospitalized persons with advanced cancer that receive palliative care consultation team services — as compared to similar patients receiving usual hospital care. The study will look at palliative care consultation at five hospitals with well-established palliative care consultation teams, utilizing existing National Comprehensive Cancer Network-American Society of Clinical Oncology practice guidelines and protocols for pain and symptom management, patient-care team communication, and transition management.

The five performance sites include:

- Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY
- Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA
- Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI
- Mount Carmel Health Systems, Columbus, OH
- University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

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The National Palliative Care Research Center (NPCRC) promotes evidence-based palliative care research in order to improve the care of patients with serious illness, and their families. Located in New York City at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, NPCRC works in partnership with the Center to Advance Palliative Care. [www.npcrc.org](http://www.npcrc.org)