

SPEAKER: Hi everyone. Welcome to the children's heart center at Mount Sinai in New York City. Today I'm here because I want to introduce you to some new leadership. I want you to meet Dr. Robert Pass. He's the new director here. And thank you so much for being with us.

ROBERT PASS: Thank you for having me. It's a pleasure.

SPEAKER: I want to hear more about you. We'll save that for later. But first, let's talk about the children's heart center. What makes this place so unique?

ROBERT PASS: Well it's unusual to have a program that has such high levels of expertise all in the same place. Most programs may have some junior staff, some senior staff and we have that as well. But all of the leadership in all the areas of pediatric and adult congenital heart disease are manned at our program by highly experienced people.

So whether you have an electrophysiologic problem, an interventional cardiology problem, need congenital heart surgery, need an imaging question answered, or need a fetal consultation we can really take care of a patient who has congenital heart disease from before the time they're born right into their adulthood.

SPEAKER: Very interesting. What drew you to this program?

ROBERT PASS: Well, as I mentioned a moment ago, this is one of the rare places that has such profound levels of expertise in every single area of cardiology. And the opportunity to work with such a wonderful group of wonderful, compassionate, and outstanding physicians was really, I think, the major motivation for my wanting to come here to Mount Sinai.

SPEAKER: This is such an exciting time for the children's heart center. You're making so many advancements here. Talk to us about the changes that are being made.

ROBERT PASS: Well, I think the biggest issue for us is that we're getting busier and busier because of the level of expertise that the administration has arranged and chosen to have at this hospital. We now are getting the word out and we have a huge number of patients. And that's a wonderful problem to have.

And so our new brand new cardiac intensive care unit is busting at it's seems already. We opened only three or four weeks ago and we are already are at full census and over census almost every day. And it's just a wonderful thing to see how we are scaling our program to become larger and larger. Because ultimately there's really only one goal which is taking the best care of our patients. And by bringing all the expertise right here to Mount Sinai and we're now able to do that and offer that type of service right here at Mount Sinai.

SPEAKER: What does this mean for referring physicians?

ROBERT PASS: Well, the most important thing I found in all the years that I've been practicing as a cardiologist and as a physician is communication. And one of the reasons I'm so excited to be able to have this discussion with you today is because I want people to understand that we believe that referring physicians need good communication.

And so people who are interested in sending patients to our centers should know that they're going to hear from us-- maybe even more than they want to because we believe very strongly that the referring physician is an important member of the team of people who are caring for our patients.

SPEAKER: And patients will benefit from this as well.

ROBERT PASS: Absolutely. As I mentioned earlier, it is unusual to have a center that is so well able to manage every single major area of cardiology. So really no matter what you walk through the door with in regards to having heart disease for a congenital problem you can feel pretty confident that you'll meet an expert in that area right here at Mount Sinai.

SPEAKER: Now I want to learn more about you. Talk to us about your areas of expertise.

ROBERT PASS: Well I'm a bit of an oddball in pediatric cardiology in that I'm both an interventional cardiologist as well as an electrophysiologist. I think probably I'm a little bit more well-known in electrophysiology. And so what that means is that I do both cardiac catheterizations for structural problems in patients, but I also am an electrician of the heart as well.

SPEAKER: And how does your expertise benefit the team here?

ROBERT PASS: Well, this team has always benefited from having one of the greatest interventional and electrophysiology cardiologists in the world in Dr. Barry Love, but now we have two people with very high levels of experience. And it's really wonderful now to be able to work with somebody like Dr. Love in order to have two very strong opinions regarding every patient.

And the best part of it really for me and for our patients is that very often the two of us are working together in helping to take care of our patients congenital heart problems in the cardiac cath lab. Both on the EP side as well as the interventional side. And that is very unique to have two people with such high levels of experience actually working together to help our patients.

SPEAKER: Which is so important. We're so glad to have you here.

ROBERT PASS: Thank you.

SPEAKER: What are your goals for the children's heart center?

ROBERT PASS: Well, I think the biggest goal that I have is to get the word out to people about how wonderful the care is at our institution. It always has been wonderful but it is really much expanded. I want people to understand that really any problem they have now in the worlds of pediatric or adult congenital heart disease can be tackled here now at Mount Sinai.

And I want to improve the communication amongst all the different providers. We've grown quite profoundly in the last two years. We're literally doubled the size in terms of caregivers that we have even two or three years ago. And so it's an important role for me to make sure that everybody is communicating well because good communication in my experience always equals good outcomes.

SPEAKER: Some big things are happening here at the children's heart center and we're definitely excited to see what the future holds. Thank you so much for being with us.

ROBERT PASS: Thank you. A real pleasure.

SPEAKER: And thank you all for watching.