2023 Alumni Reunion Awards Ceremony

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

**2023 Alumni Reunion Awards Ceremony**

**Wednesday, May 10, 2023**

To celebrate and honor the many achievements of members within the Mount Sinai Alumni Community.

The New York Academy of Medicine
1216 Fifth Avenue
New York City
Welcome & Remarks

Alexis Colvin, MD, MSSM ’02
Associate Dean for Alumni Affairs

Dennis S. Charney, MD
Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Dean
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
President for Academic Affairs
Mount Sinai Health System

Alumni Podcast Audio Recording

Kenneth L. Davis, MD, MSSM ’73
Chief Executive Officer
Mount Sinai Health System

Video Welcome

Talia H. Swartz, MD, PhD, MSSM ’08, MSH ’13
President, The Mount Sinai Alumni Association

Award Presentation

Leo M. Keegan, MD, MSSM ’86, MSH, ’94
Vice President, The Mount Sinai Alumni Association
Chair, Alumni Association Awards Committee

Carl W. Braun, MD
President, St. Luke’s-Roosevelt Alumni Association

Award Recipients

The Mount Sinai Alumni Leadership Award
Christopher Bellaire, MD Candidate ’23
Hashem Emad Zikry, MD, ISMMS ’18

St. Luke’s-Roosevelt
Distinguished Young Physician of the Year
Alberto Paniz-Mondolfi, MD, PhD, SLR ’11

The Jeffrey T. Laitman, PhD Award
for Achievement in Medical Education
Bret P. Nelson, MD

The Mount Sinai Graduate School Alumni Award
Basil Hanss, PhD
Cardinale Smith, MD, PhD, MSSM ’15, MSH ’10

The Mount Sinai Master Clinician Award
Meg A. Rosenblatt, MD, MSH ’89

The Mount Sinai Alumni Special Recognition Award
Silvia Chavez, MSN, ANP-BC
Vesna Najfeld, PhD

The Terry Ann Kruilwich
Physician-Scientist Alumni Award
Daniel J. Weiss, MD, PhD, MSSM ’88

The Dr. Sidney Grossman
Distinguished Humanitarian Award
James C. Tsi, MD, MBA

The J. Lester Gabrilove Award
Robert O. Wright, MD, MPH

St. Luke’s-Roosevelt
Distinguished Alumni Award
Katherine A. Hawkins, MD, JD, SLR ’77
Leif Holgersen, MD, FACS, SLR ’70

The Saul Horowitz, Jr. Memorial Award
David R. Friedland, MD, PhD, MSSM ’95, MSH ’00
Five decades ago, a group of visionaries embarked on an ambitious enterprise: to build a medical school at The Mount Sinai Hospital.

These visionaries—founders, philanthropists, educators—and the students they attracted, built the foundation of what has risen to become one of the nation’s premier schools of medicine.

It has been a collaborative effort over the generations, a result of generous donors, committed faculty, and brilliant students who all shared a singular goal: the advancement of biomedical knowledge to improve the practice of medicine for the benefit of humanity.

By every measure, the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai has enjoyed great success. We have recruited world-class clinicians and scientists, generated breakthroughs in basic and translational science, and educated thousands of students who have gone on to become outstanding physicians, researchers, and public health leaders who have made countless contributions to elevating clinical practice, biomedical discovery, and public health policy. Thus, it is a great distinction to be honored among Icahn Mount Sinai educators and graduates, especially when that honor comes from fellow alumni.

This year, we also mark the 10th anniversary of the Mount Sinai Alumni Association’s affiliation with the St. Luke’s-Roosevelt Alumni Association. Together, the Alumni Associations tonight are presenting Awards to: Christopher Bellaire, MD Candidate ’23; Hashem Emad Zikry, MD, ISMMS ’18; Alberto Paniz-Mondolfi, MD, PhD, SLR ’11; Bret P. Nelson, MD; Basil Hanss, PhD; Cardinale Smith, MD, PhD, MSSM ’15, MSH ’70; Meg A. Rosenblatt, MD, MSH ’88; Silvia Chavez, MSN, ANP-BC; Vesna Najfeld, PhD; Daniel J. Weiss, MD, PhD, MSH ’88; James C. Tsai, MD, MBA; Robert O. Wright, MD, MPH; Katherine A. Hawkins, MD, JD, SLR ’77; Leif Holgersen, MD, FACS, SLR ’70; and David R. Friedland, MD, PhD, MSSM ’95, MSH ’00.

Congratulations to all of the award recipients. We are proud of their achievements and their contributions to Icahn Mount Sinai, the Mount Sinai Health System, and the field of medicine.

Sincerely,

Kenneth L. Davis, MD, MSSM ’73
Chief Executive Officer
Mount Sinai Health System

Dennis S. Charney, MD
Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Dean
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
President for Academic Affairs
Mount Sinai Health System

Across more than 50 years, the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai has grown into a top-tier medical school, establishing a legacy of excellence in medical education and scientific research whose discoveries have helped countless patients around the world.

We are now the nation’s largest sponsor of graduate medical education, with nearly 2,600 residents and clinical fellows across 250 programs. This remarkable progress is a credit to the innovators and leaders from Mount Sinai who have distinguished themselves as teachers, physicians, scientists, entrepreneurs, benefactors, and others whose exemplary service often goes unrecognized.

The Mount Sinai Alumni Association boasts more than 26,000 members, a network of distinction and accomplishment that reaches back to 1968. Those early graduating classes of 1970, 1971, 1972, and 1973 established the foundation for all that prodigious growth, and every alum that followed can take great pride in that unique connection we all share. It is a privilege to know that as the classes of 1970, 1971, 1972, and 1973 join us to celebrate their 50-year milestones, we, too, have a stake in the successes and achievements that make Icahn Mount Sinai the world-class institution it is today.

Together, the Mount Sinai Alumni Association and the St. Luke’s-Roosevelt Alumni Association recognize greatness by bestowing their Alumni Awards upon those who have achieved a measure of distinction as teachers, leaders, clinicians, and scientists. These individuals are not only passionate about their work, but compassionate toward the students and patients that work serves.

Please join me in congratulating the 2023 Alumni Award recipients:

Christopher Bellaire, MD Candidate ’23; Hashem Emad Zikry, MD, ISMMS ’18; Alberto Paniz-Mondolfi, MD, PhD, SLR ’11; Bret P. Nelson, MD; Basil Hanss, PhD; Cardinale Smith, MD, PhD, MSSM ’15, MSH ’70; Meg A. Rosenblatt, MD, MSH ’88; Silvia Chavez, MSN, ANP-BC; Vesna Najfeld, PhD; Daniel J. Weiss, MD, PhD, MSH ’88; James C. Tsai, MD, MBA; Robert O. Wright, MD, MPH; Katherine A. Hawkins, MD, JD, SLR ’77; Leif Holgersen, MD, FACS, SLR ’70; and David R. Friedland, MD, PhD, MSSM ’95, MSH ’00.

The Alumni Award recipients of 2023 have made great advancements in science and medicine. They are also sterling representatives of the enduring legacy of Icahn Mount Sinai and the Mount Sinai Health System.

Sincerely,

Alexis Colvin, MD, MSSM ’02
Associate Dean for Alumni Affairs
Professor, Department of Orthopedic Surgery
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
Being back together in person for this wonderful event is a great pleasure.

On behalf of the Mount Sinai Alumni Association and the St. Luke’s-Roosevelt Alumni Association, I am pleased and honored to welcome you to the 2023 Alumni Reunion Awards Ceremony.

We are thrilled to honor an exceptional group of awardees this year. The caliber of all the nominees was truly remarkable, and we were blown away by their exceptional work. Each nominee has significantly impacted their respective fields, and we are honored to have such an accomplished group of individuals associated with our program. While we wish we could recognize all the nominees, we are delighted to present this year’s deserving recipients, who have stood out for their remarkable achievements:

The Mount Sinai Alumni Leadership Award
Rachel K. Langer, MD, FAAN
The Terry Ann/Julie Chromium Psychiatric Scientist Alumni Award
Vesna Najfeld, PhD
The Dr. Sidney Grossman Distinguished Humanitarian Award
Katherine A. Hawkins, MD, JD, SLR ’77
The Saul Horowitz, Jr. Memorial Award
Cardinal Smith, MD, PhD, MSSM ’15, MSH ’10

Congratulations to each recipient, and thank you for all you do to enhance the legacies of the Alumni Associations of both Mount Sinai and St. Luke’s-Roosevelt.

Last, but certainly not least, we are here to recognize a special group of alumni from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. I would like to extend a special welcome to the classes of 1970, 1971, 1972, and 1973. They are the first four classes from what was then the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, and they are collectively celebrating their 50th anniversary at this ceremony. Without their rigorous and diligent work, we would not be able to honor the exceptional achievements of our alumni.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to all the members of the Alumni Association who have worked tirelessly to select this year’s award recipients. Their dedication and commitment to upholding the integrity of the selection process have been essential to making this ceremony possible. Without their rigorous and diligent work, we would not be able to honor the exceptional achievements of our alumni community in such a meaningful way. Their continuous support is critical to strengthening the Association’s legacy. We welcome the new members who joined this past year, who have been essential to our mission of broadening the diversity of our Alumni Association, including, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, degree, and career path, for both those who stayed at Mount Sinai and those who have pursued opportunities at other institutions. Each member brings a unique perspective and rich experiences that add dynamism to our community.

I hope you enjoy being in each other’s company again. Here’s to all tonight’s honorees, award recipients, and all of you for being here to celebrate with us.

Best regards,

Talla H. Swartz, MD, PhD, MSSM ’08, MSH ’13
President, The Mount Sinai Alumni Association
Senior Associate Dean for MD-PhD Education
Director, Medical Scientist Training Program
Associate Professor of Medicine, Infectious Diseases
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the St. Luke’s-Roosevelt Alumni Association, along with the Mount Sinai Alumni Association, welcome to the 2023 Alumni Reunion Awards Ceremony Dinner and Event Series.

I am pleased that we can once again gather together in person at the New York Academy of Medicine for this year’s dinner.

The legacy of St. Luke’s-Roosevelt lives on through its alumni, and I am proud to say that the Association is now in its 152nd year of existence. Members in good standing include all physicians and surgeons who have received all or part of their training at St. Luke’s, which is now Mount Sinai West. Those who received their training elsewhere and are currently or have been on staff at either hospital up to the present are members of the Alumni Association.

We are delighted by the support and unity we share with the Mount Sinai Alumni Association. This year’s event will again honor physicians from both Mount Sinai and St. Luke’s-Roosevelt, including three outstanding St. Luke’s-Roosevelt alumni:

Alberto Paniz-Mondolfi, MD, PhD, SLR ’11
Katherine A. Hawkins, MD, JD, SLR ’77
Robert O. Wright, MD, MPH

Thank you for supporting the St. Luke’s-Roosevelt Alumni Association, and for sharing this wonderful evening with us. We look forward to seeing you.

Best,

Carl W. Braun, MD
President, St. Luke’s-Roosevelt Alumni Association
Clinical Professor of Neurology, Estelle and Daniel Maggin Department of Neurology
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
Alumni Reunion and Awards Ceremony Supporters

Alan Adler, MD
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Judith and Michael S. Balkin, MD, MSSM ’72
Genevieve and Christopher Bellaire
Robert A. Berenson, MD, MSSM ’72
Mariya Bezugly
Claude Bloch, MD, MSH ’60
Gloria and Bob Blumenthal
Lisa Louise Brailey, MD
Drs. Norma and Carl Braun
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Brendan Carr, MD, MS and Department of Emergency Medicine
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Carlos Cordon-Cardo, MD, PhD
and the Lilian and Henry M. Stratton-Hans Popper
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and Cell-Based Medicine,
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
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Bonnie M. Davis, MD, MSSM ’73
and Kenneth L. Davis, MD, MSSM ’73
Allison Devia
Ryan P. Dougal
Kenneth L. Edelson, MD, MSSM ’72
Ebby Elahi, MD, MSSM ’96, MSH ’00
Evan L. Flatow, MD
and Mount Sinai West
Eleftheria Maratos-Flier, MD, MSSM ’76
and Jeffrey S. Flier, MD, MSSM ’72
Arthur L. Frank, MD, MSSM ’72, MSH ’77
David R. Friedland, MD, PhD, MSSM ’95, MSH ’00
Eric M. Genden, MD, MHA, FACS
Varda and Steve Goldman
Katherine Teets Grimm, MD, MSSM ’71
Lynn Chiniz, MD and Steven Gruenstein, MD
Basil Hanss, PhD
Katherine A. Hawkins, MD, JD, SLR ’77
and Paul Chrzanowski, MD and the Hawkins Family
Beverly and Steven B. Heymsfield, MD, MSSM ’71
Ronald Hoffman, MD
Marcia and Leif Holgersen, MD, FACS, SLR ’70
Camelia Iancu-Rubin, PhD
Marsha and Steven Kafka
Nadine Keegan, MD, MSSM ’86, MSH ’91
and Leo Keegan, MD, MSSM ’86, MSH ’94
Leila B. Laitman, MD
and Jeffrey T. Laitman, PhD
Peter Lang, MD, MSSM ’72

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Andrew Leibowitz, MD
I. Michael Leitman, MD, FACS
Jeffrey L. Levine, MD, MSSM ’88
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Theresa Mack, MD, MPH
Moneesha Malloy
Bridget Marcellino, MD, PhD
Vesna Najfeld, PhD
Bret P. Nelson, MD
Etta Siegelstein Novick, MD, MSSM ’75
and Isaac M. Novick, MD
Amary Novoselac, MD
Alberto Paniz-Mondolfi, MD, PhD, SLR ’71
Ronald M. Podell, MD, MSSM ’71, MSH ’72
Steven C. Port, MD, MSSM ’72, MSH ’75
Elliot J. Rayfield, MD
Malcolm Reid, MD
Joy S. Gaylinn Reidenberg, PhD
Jacob Ressler, MD, MSSM ’75
Meg A. Rosenblatt, MD, MSH ’89
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Ernst J. Schaefer, MD, MSSM ’72, MSH ’73
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Eileen Scigliano, MD
Samuel L. Seward, Jr., MD, FACP,
Professor and Chair Mount Sinai Morningside
and Mount Sinai West Department of Medicine
Nicholas A. Sgaglione, MD, MSSM ’85, MSH ’84
Andrew Shenker, MD, PhD, MSSM ’86
Chana Silberstein
Marlene Marko, MD, MSSM ’72
and Loren R. Skeist, MD, MSSM ’72
Greta Smith
Cardinale Smith, MD, PhD, MSSM ’75, MSH ’10
Talia H. Swartz, MD, PhD, MSSM ’08, MSH ’15
The Tisch Cancer Institute,
Mount Sinai Health System
Joseph Tripodi, PhD
Kevin Troy, MD
Tracey and James C. Tsai, MD, MBA
Daniel J. Weiss, MD, PhD, MSSM ’88
and the Weiss Family
Dr. Nathaniel Wisch
and Mrs. Helen Wisch
Department of Environmental Medicine and Public
Health, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and
the Mount Sinai Institute for Exposomic Research
Robert O. Wright, MD, MPH
Judith Hannaway
and Emad Zikry, PhD
Hashem Emad Zikry, MD, ISMMS ’18

List as of 4/17/23
A special recognition to the Class of 1970 celebrating their 50th anniversary.

Congratulations and we thank them for the mark they left on our institution and the world of science and medicine.

THE CLASS OF 1970
Nanci A. Allen, MD, MSSM ’70, MSH ’71
David R. Barthold, MD, MSSM ’70
Claude A. Burnett, III, MD, MSSM ’70
Stanley F. Chang, MD, MSSM ’70, MSH ’71
Kenneth R. Cohen, MD, MSSM ’70
Katherine Falk, MD, MSSM ’70
Elliot W. Jacobs, MD, MSSM ’70, MSH ’71
John E. Jacoby, MD, MSSM ’70
Fred H. Kleinsinger, MD, MSSM ’70
Milton J. Koch, MD, MSSM ’70
Stephen R. Koller, MD, MSSM ’70
Jeffrey P. Kaplan, MD, MSSM ’70
Philip G. Patt, MD, MSSM ’70, MSH ’71
Jeffrey M. Pearl, MD, MSSM ’70
Linda A. Pollack-Mercer, MD, MSSM ’70
Paul M. Reif, MD, MSSM ’70
Harvey Rosenkrantz, MD, MSSM ’70
Walter Rosett, MD, MSSM ’70
Miriam S. Rossi, MD, MSSM ’70, MSH ’72
Seymour Siegel, MD, MSSM ’70
Joseph Tarantolo, Jr., MD, MSSM ’70
Jeffrey S. Willner, MD, MSSM ’70
Eric A. Wurmsner, MD, MSSM ’70
A special recognition to the Class of 1971 celebrating their 50th anniversary.

Congratulations and we thank them for the mark they left on our institution and the world of science and medicine.

THE CLASS OF 1971
Sara J. Abramson, MD, MSSM ’71, MSH ’72
Paul E. Alexander, MD, MSSM ’71
Jeffrey D. Blake, MD, MSSM ’71
Samuel L. Bruce, MD, MSSM ’71
Robert J. Cappa, MD, MSSM ’71
Stephen Davis, MD, MSSM ’71
Edward B. Feinberg, MD, MSSM ’71
Howard S. Feldman, MD, MSSM ’71
Howard A. Freed, MD, MSSM ’71
Joseph J. Gartner, MD, MSSM ’71
Marilyn J. Gifford, MD, MSSM ’71
Richard A. Greenwald, MD, MSSM ’71, MSH ’72
Katherine T. Grimm, MD, MSSM ’71
Leonard H. Hellman, MD, MSSM ’71
Steven B. Heymsfield, MD, MSSM ’71
Edwin C. Holstein, MD, MSSM ’71
David L. Jonas, MD, MSSM ’71
Martin H. Karasch, MD, MSSM ’71
Eugene M. Kawaguchi, MD, MSSM ’71
Sandra Moss, MD, MSSM ’71
Patricia A. Nobel, MD, MSSM ’71
Samuel Oberstein, MD, MSSM ’71, MSH ’72
Marshall Pearlman, MD, MSSM ’71
Ronald M. Podell, MD, MSSM ’71, MSH ’72
Anthony F. Posteraro, Jr., MD, MSSM ’71
Joseph Profita, MD, MSSM ’71
James E. Scharbach, MD, MSSM ’71
Philomena N. I. Ude, MD, MSSM ’71
Bert F. Van Beever, MD, MSH ’71
Lyle D. Victor, MD, MSSM ’71
Robert H. Wadle, MD, MSSM ’71, MSH ’72
Daniel E. Williams, MD, MSSM ’71
Roy K. H. Wong, MD, MSSM ’71
Nieves M. Zaldivar, MD, MSSM ’71, MSH ’72
Jane E. Zirin, MD, MSSM ’71
A special recognition to the Class of 1972 celebrating their 50th anniversary.

A unique milestone in the history of the School of Medicine, as this is the first class to graduate having completed all four years of their education at Mount Sinai.

THE CLASS OF 1972

Michael S. Ballin, MD, MSSM '72
David A. Ballan, MD, MSSM '72
Robert A. Berenson, MD, MSSM '72
Richard H. Bernstein, MD, MSSM '72
Howard S. Blank, MD, MSSM '72, MSH '73
John A. Cammarata, MD, MSSM '72
Mark P. Cilo, MD, MSSM '72
Naomi L. Corman Luban, MD, MSSM '72
Stanley D. Denver, MD, MSSM '72
Kenneth L. Edelson, MD, MSSM '72
Bernadette D. Fucina, MD, MSSM '72
Jeffrey S. Flier, MD, MSSM '72, MSH '75
Zusana E. Galasova Fligel, MD, MSSM '72, MSH '75
Arthur L. Frank, MD, MSSM '72, MSH '77
Louis M. Germaine, MD, MSSM '72
Steven J. Glick, MD, MSSM '72
Avrum H. Golub, MD, MSSM, '72, MSH '74
Alan I. Harris, MD, MSSM '72, MSH '75
Elliot A. Heller, MD, MSSM '72, MSH '75
Marvin A. Kaplan, MD, MSSM '72
Mark S. Kashen, MD, MSSM '72
Duke O. Kasprisin, MD, MSSM '72
Peter Lang, MD, MSSM '72
Stanley J. Lewis, MD, MSSM '72
Frederick V. Lorenzo, MD, MSSM '72
William V. Lorimer, Jr., MD, MSSM '72
Marlene Kerman Marko, MD, MSSM '72, MSH '76
Nina M. D. Marlowe, MD, MSSM '72
Benjamin A. May, MD, MSSM '72
Richard J. Meyer, MD, MSSM '72, MSH '73
Carl R. Nash, MD, MSSM '72
Steven C. Pott, MD, MSSM '72, MSH '75
Arnold S. Prywes, MD, MSSM '72, MSH '75
Richard J. Radna, MD, PhD, MSSM '75, MSH '81
Alexander J. Rubin, MD, MSSM '72
Marc H. Rudofsky, MD, MSSM '72, MSH '75
Ernst J. Schaefer, MD, MSSM '72, MSH '75
Mark A. Seldon, MD, MSSM '72
Stuart L. Silberstein, MD, MSSM '72
Loren R. Skeist, MD, MSSM '72, MSH '76
Michael B. Starr, MD, MSSM '72
Mark J. Stern, MD, MSSM '72
Bernard Terry, MD, MSSM '72
Robert J. Thomas, MD, MSSM '72, MSH '75
Margaret M. Vacek, MD, MSSM '72, MSH '73
Alan B. Wachtel, MD, MSSM '72, MSH '76
Joel Weinreb, MD, MSSM '72
James A. White, MD, MSSM '72
Ellen L. Wolf-Slater, MD, MSSM '72
A special recognition to the Class of 1973 celebrating their 50th anniversary.

Congratulations and we thank them for the mark they left on our institution and the world of science and medicine.

THE CLASS OF 1973

Ralph D. Bien, MD, MSSM ’73
Andrew Blitzer, MD, MSSM ’73, MSH ’77
George Braff, MD, MSSM ’73
Stuart J. Bramhall, MD, MSSM ’73
Howard L. Cohn, MD, MSSM ’73
Augustus D. Coley, MD, MSSM ’73
Tecla L. Critelli, MD, MSSM ’73
Bennie M. Davis, MD, MSSM ’73
Kenneth L. Davis, MD, MSSM ’73
Kenneth J. Einstein, MD, MSSM ’73
Philip C. Fracassa, MD, MSSM ’73
Robert P. Friedland, MD, MSSM ’73, MSH ’77
Susan N. Fukushima, MD, MSSM ’73
Fred Garfinkel, MD, MSSM ’73
Genevieve Go, MD, MSSM ’73
Martin N. Gordon, MD, MSSM ’73, MSH ’74
Janet Gorkin, MD, MSSM ’73, MSH ’74
Steven Grant, MD, MSSM ’73, MSH ’74
Stefan L. Irving, MD, MSSM ’73
Steven H. Kunkes, MD, MSSM ’73 MSH ’78
Garth O. Laidlaw, MD, MSSM ’73
Norman J. Martin, MD, MSSM ’73
Thermutus Mercurius, MD, MSSM ’73
Paul A. Meyers, MD, MSSM ’73, MSH ’75
Etta Novick, MD, MSSM ’73
Samuel R. Nussbaum, MD, MSSM ’73
John N. Palumbo, MD, MSSM ’73
Donald B. Perlman, MD, MSSM ’73, MSH ’74
Michael R. Pike, MD, MSSM ’73
Eric N. Prysztowsky, MD, MSSM ’73, MSH ’74
Richard J. Radina, MD, MSSM ’73, MSH ’81
Robert F. Reder, MD, MSSM ’73
Jacob Rispiner, MD, MSSM ’73
Robert L. Seaver, MD, MSSM ’73, MSH ’74
Arthur Selvan, MD, MSSM ’73, MSH ’76
George Stern, MD, MSSM ’73
Mark H. Swartz, MD, MSSM ’73, MSH ’77
Steven D. Targum, MD, MSSM ’73, MSH ’74
William A. Terranova, MD, MSSM ’73
Stephen B. Thacker, MD, MSSM ’73
Jeremy R. Torstveit, MD, MSSM ’73
Stephen W. Warren, MD, MSSM ’75
Richard L. Wasserman, MD, MSSM ’73
Spencer G. Weig, MD, MSSM ’75
Arthur S. Weisel, MD, MSSM ’73
Edra B. Weiss, MD, MSSM ’75
Murray H. Weissmann, MD, MSSM ’73
Kerrin L. White, MD, MSSM ’73
Jon G. Wininger, MD, MSSM ’73
Christopher is a Marine Corps veteran and graduating MD candidate at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Originally from Atlanta, Georgia, Christopher graduated from Princeton University’s School of Public and International Affairs in 2011. He served as an intelligence officer in the Marine Corps for four years, with deployments to Japan and the southern Philippines. During his deployment to the southern Philippines in 2017, an ISIS-aligned terrorist group attacked and took over the city of Marawi, killing hundreds of people and creating a humanitarian crisis of 300,000 internally displaced persons. Christopher was part of the Special Operations task force that spearheaded the U.S. mission: to advise and assist host-nation partners on counterterrorism operations against the ISIS threat.

From this experience, Christopher took to heart the human consequences of war and poverty and the disparities in global healthcare access. Following his service in the Marines, Christopher attended Columbia University’s post-baccalaureate pre-medical program before starting medical school at the Icahn Mount Sinai. Christopher is committed to advocating for veterans’ health in his medical training and future career as a physician, and he hopes to increase awareness within the medical community about how military service can affect veterans’ physical and mental health later in life. Christopher volunteers with the educational non-profit Service to School to encourage veterans to pursue careers in medicine, and he is the leader of the military medicine and veterans healthcare group at Mount Sinai.

Christopher is married to his college sweetheart, Genevieve, and they welcomed their first child, Ryan, in March 2023. Christopher matched at Georgetown’s orthopedic surgery residency program in Washington, DC, where he will start this summer.

Hashem Emad Zikry, MD, ISMMS ’18, is a resident in Emergency Medicine, Chief Resident for the 2022-23 academic year, and prior Director of the Third Year Medical Student Emergency Medicine Elective at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

Dr. Zikry’s unflinching dedication to providing the best patient care imaginable under such fraught and frightening circumstances was chronicled in a lengthy New Yorker story published that April. “I often think about what mistakes I may have made, what I could do better,” the article quotes Dr. Zikry as saying during one particularly harrowing moment. “But the one mistake I know I never make is the mistake of not caring.”

As Chief Resident at Icahn Mount Sinai, he directs the academic conference for residents and faculty by managing curriculum, overseeing content for weekly meetings, delivering lectures, and helping to develop the Grand Rounds Speaker committee.

In 2022, as a member of the New York American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), Dr. Zikry was the only physician on a committee advocating for high-quality emergency care and informed public health policy in the state of New York. In 2020-2021, he was a resident member of the ACEP Quality and Patient Safety Committee and a member of the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine (SAEM) Administration and Clinical Operations Committee and the SAEM Consultation Services Committee.

As a medical student, Dr. Zikry implemented an athletic program to complement outpatient transition at Odyssey House, a drug and alcohol rehabilitation program in New York City. He also was accepted to the Mount Sinai/Deloitte Fellowship in health care policy consulting in Washington, DC, where he participated in mapping sessions with Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, to develop a metric for general surgeon and orthopedic surgeon deployment.

Dr. Zikry is a recipient of the Harvard Macy Award for clinician educators.

He earned his MD from Icahn Mount Sinai, where he was a Humanities and Medicine Program Scholar. Dr. Zikry will also be a scholar in the National Clinician Scholars Program at UCLA.
Alberto Paniz-Mondolfi, MD, PhD, SLR ‘11, is Director of Molecular Microbiology and Clinical Microbiology for the Mount Sinai Health System and Associate Professor of Pathology, Molecular, and Cell-Based Medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

Dr. Paniz-Mondolfi is a world-renowned specialist in medical microbiology, tropical medicine, and infectious diseases. He also has a remarkable backstory. In a 2020 profile in the New York Times, a former adviser during his doctoral studies referred to Dr. Paniz-Mondolfi as “a fearless virus hunter” and “an extraordinary clinician and microbiologist.” Dr. Paniz-Mondolfi once succeeded in isolating and sequencing a new species of parasite that had infected a Bronx man, and a new mycobacterium that had sickened two people in Connecticut.

After completing his second residency at St. Luke’s-Roosevelt, Dr. Paniz-Mondolfi returned to his native Venezuela to study and treat patients suffering from dengue, Chagas’ disease, chikungunya, and the mysterious and highly fatal Guanarito virus. His team was also among the first in that country to identify a mosquito-borne disease that can cause fatal brain infections known as the Madariaga virus.

The Zika epidemic struck Venezuela at a time of great political and economic strife, and soon Dr. Paniz-Mondolfi was treating nearly 400 patients while trying to make sense of the infection with virtually no budget. He was forced to sneak supplies into the country to operate his lab. Water and power were scarce, and Dr. Paniz-Mondolfi was forced to milk his father-in-law’s cows to feed his newborn son. Somehow, he and his student lab managed to publish a dozen papers and to make a breakthrough discovery related to Zika transmission and breastfeeding.

Dr. Paniz-Mondolfi’s work highlighting various disease outbreaks in Venezuela drew the ire of the government there. In 2019, he fled to the U.S. with his biologist wife and two children and joined the faculty at Icahn Mount Sinai.

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Paniz-Mondolfi sought to solve why the coronavirus made a very small segment of children who were primarily Black and Latino very sick, even as most children were largely spared from any serious illness. Under his leadership, the Molecular Microbiology Laboratory developed a highly sensitive saliva-based SARS-CoV-2 test, which was granted Emergency Use Authorization by the FDA allowing the expansion of the Mount Sinai COVID-19 testing program as well as aiding in the reopening of NYC public schools. His laboratory was also among the first labs in the East Coast to develop and implement a Monkeypox-specific detection test. His research is now focused on developing surveillance and predictive models for studying the emergence of vector-borne diseases and other arboviruses.

Dr. Paniz-Mondolfi earned an MD from José María Vargas School of Medicine in Caracas, Venezuela. He received an MSc in Tropical Parasitic Diseases from Universitat de Valencia in Valencia, Spain. He did a residency at José Gregorio Hernández Medical Institute at the Instituto Venezolano de los Seguros Sociales in Caracas. He did a second residency in Anatomic Pathology/Clinical Pathology at St. Luke’s Roosevelt and earned a PhD in Fundamental Medical Sciences from Universidad de Los Andes in Merida, Venezuela.
Basil Hanss, PhD, is Senior Associate Dean for Postdoctoral and Student Affairs in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Associate Dean for the Graduate School of Well-Being and Resilience at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. He is also Associate Professor in the departments of Medicine, Medical Education, and Structural and Chemical Biology at Icahn Mount Sinai.

Dr. Hanss has built his career around his passions for research and teaching. His research focuses on discovering the mechanisms by which gene-therapeutic nucleic acids enter the cell. This poorly understood step limits the efficacy of many forms of gene therapy. Extensions of his research have led to the development of a high-throughput electrophysiology system and a modularized microfluidics lab-on-chip platform, both of which are currently under development.

Dr. Hanss’ lab studies are balanced by his work in education, both in the classroom and as an administrator. He has taught medical and graduate students for more than 30 years at Tulane University, the MIT/Harvard MD-PhD Program, and Icahn Mount Sinai. He has been Course Director for several courses at Icahn Mount Sinai, including more than 10 years as Director of Medical Physiology. He was Director of the Humanities and Medicine from 2011 to 2015 and FlexMed programs from its founding until 2015.

The Icahn Mount Sinai faculty and Dr. Hanss’ students have frequently recognized his excellence as an educator and mentor by bestowing him with numerous awards and honors. In 2004 and 2008, Dr. Hanss was recognized for his Excellence in Teaching for the Preclinical Years. In 2006, he was given the Faculty Council Award for Academic Excellence. In 2015, Dr. Hanss received the Student Council Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2018, he was named Outstanding Faculty Mentor. And in 2016 and 2019, Dr. Hanss earned the Edward J. Ronan Award, which is “given to an individual who the students feel provides support, both in and out of the classroom, and who goes above and beyond what they are ‘supposed to do’ for students.” Dr. Hanss’s students have twice selected him as both the graduation Marshal and the graduation Grand Marshal.

Dr. Hanss received a BS in Biology from Lewis and Clark College and a PhD in Physiology from Tulane University. He completed his postdoctoral fellowship at the National Institutes of Health before joining Mount Sinai.

Cardinale B. Smith, MD, PhD, MSSM ’15, MSH ’10, is Chief Medical Officer at The Tisch Cancer Hospital, Vice President of Cancer Clinical Services, and Chief Quality Officer for The Tisch Cancer Center at the Mount Sinai Health System. She is also Professor with tenure in the Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology and the Brookdale Department of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

Dr. Smith is a distinguished medical oncologist and palliative care physician whose clinical practice is focused on lung cancer and palliative care. She is also a dedicated leader in the effort to combat systemic inequities in cancer and palliative care. Her research interests include doctor-patient communication and improving the quality of care for patients with cancer, with a focus on underrepresented populations and developing novel models of equitable cancer care delivery.

In 2013, Dr. Smith received a mentored research scholar grant from the American Cancer Society to evaluate determinants of disparities in the utilization of palliative care among patients with lung cancer. She also served as a co-investigator on a Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute grant to teach and enable goals of care conversations and advance care planning among oncologists. In 2018, she received a Sojourns Scholar Leadership Grant to identify the role of implicit bias among oncologists on minority patient outcomes. In 2015, Dr. Smith received a Sojourns Scholar Leadership Grant to identify the role of implicit bias among oncologists on minority patient outcomes.

Dr. Smith is currently the primary investigator on two grants from the National Cancer Institute: CONNECT (Conversations about Cancer with Clinicians and Patients), which evaluates the role of implicit bias among oncologists on minority cancer patient outcomes; and ALERT (mAchine LEarning to impRoVe paTient care), which utilizes machine learning predictions to engage oncologists in earlier serious illness communication. She is also a co-primary investigator on a grant from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities to study the role of patient beliefs, stigma, medical mistrust, and physicians’ implicit bias on racial disparities in lung cancer screening.

In recognition of her excellence in clinical service and teaching, Dr. Smith has received Mount Sinai’s Dr. Solomon Silver Award in Clinical Medicine and the Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology’s Dr. Robert E. Rosenfeld Award. In 2015, she was named one of the Top 40 Leaders under 40 by the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

Dr. Smith earned an MSCR and a PhD in Clinical Research from Icahn Mount Sinai. She earned an MD from the Drexel University School of Medicine in Philadelphia and completed her residency at The Mount Sinai Hospital.
Meg A. Rosenblatt, MD, FASA, MSH ’89

Dr. Rosenblatt is a groundbreaking anesthesiologist who made history by being the first person to administer a 20 percent intravenous lipid emulsion (ILE) to a human to treat local anesthetic systemic toxicity (LAST). Since the publication of the clinical report of this event, 20 percent ILE has become a standard treatment for LAST and is also used to reverse the toxic effects of other lipid soluble agents. Since 2010, ILE has appeared in the Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) guidelines to treat cardiac arrest secondary to local anesthetic and propranolol toxicity. Dr. Rosenblatt cites her experience as an example of how important it is for clinicians to read the latest literature in their field.

Dr. Rosenblatt has lectured regionally, nationally, and internationally about the use of lipid to treat local anesthetic systemic toxicity. Her current research interests are focused on the use of ultrasound to perform peripheral and truncal nerve blocks, and she also moderates and teaches peripheral nerve block workshops. Dr. Rosenblatt hopes to define the enhanced recovery after surgery pathway for patients undergoing total joint replacements and is engaged in multiple ongoing interdepartmental studies to investigate this.

Dr. Rosenblatt serves on the Board of Directors for the American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine. In 2020, she was Chair of the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Anesthesiologists. In 2020 and 2021, she was General Chair of the New York State Society of Anesthesiologists’ Post-Graduate Assembly (PGA). Dr. Rosenblatt is an oral examiner for the American Board of Anesthesiologists and a past editor of the Basic Written Exam. She currently writes questions for the Standardized Oral Exam.

Dr. Rosenblatt has received numerous honors and awards for being a spectacular teacher and mentor. The residents in the Department of Anesthesiology at Icahn Mount Sinai have named her Outstanding Mentor of the Year and twice named her Outstanding Teacher of the Year. In 2020, the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) and Society for Education in Anesthesiology recognized her as a Distinguished Educator in Anesthesiology. In 2022, the ASA recognized her as a Woman of Impact in Anesthesiology. She is also the recipient of the 2025 Distinguished Service Award from the New York State Society of Anesthesiologists.

Dr. Rosenblatt earned an MD from New York Medical College and did her postdoctoral training at The Mount Sinai Hospital.

Silvia Chavez, MSN, ANP-BC

Ms. Chavez is an experienced nursing administrator and advanced clinician with 26 years of experience in nursing, including program development, inception of nursing roles, inclusion of an interdisciplinary team approach, and telehealth medicine. She provides supervision, scheduling, annual evaluations, and education of the nursing and support staff. She also promotes teamwork and empowers the staff to contribute and participate in evidence-based practices and patient-centered value-based care. Her additional duties include performance improvement, leadership collaboration, budgeting, supplies, medication and medical equipment, laboratory services, working with diagnostic vendors, and organizing and monitoring the general flow for Mount Sinai Visiting Doctors (MSVD).

In 2002, the former Cabrini Medical Center hired Ms. Chavez to provide medical services to an underserved community in New York City. Though she was given no formal guidance, Ms. Chavez collaborated with a social agency and the New York City Housing Authority to create the Baruch Elders Service Team (BEST), which served the Baruch Houses, one of the largest Manhattan public housing developments. Despite many challenges, Ms. Chavez was able to gain community trust and respect to provide medical services to more than 3,000 mostly Latino seniors via blood pressure screenings, health fairs, health counseling, a small home visits program, walking clubs, a mental health program, vaccinations, and a nutrition and diabetes program. She also served as Program Director for the Susan G. Komen Greater NYC Mujeres Latina Breast Cancer Initiative.

Ms. Chavez joined Mount Sinai in 2008 as a Nursing Clinical Specialty Coordinator. She has been instrumental in leading a unique health care delivery model for the office-based Nurse Practitioner by developing a role to provide real-time clinical intervention via phone. She also developed a multidisciplinary team approach that is now a permanent part of the MSVD Program, which has evolved to include the most complex and high-risk homebound patients within the practice.

Ms. Chavez has been instrumental in maintaining MSVD’s certification for the New York State Patient-Centered Medical Home program, which remains at the highest recognition level. She also developed protocols for conducting safe house calls and home testing during the COVID-19 pandemic, and helped secure personal protective equipment for the practice and COVID-19 vaccinations for homebound patients.

She is the recipient of numerous awards, including House Call Clinician of the Year from the American Academy of Home Care Medicine and the Diseases Attacking the Immune System (DAISY) Nursing Leader Award for Extraordinary Nurses.

Ms. Chavez earned her BSN from SUNY Health Science Center at Brooklyn and her MSN and ANP-BC from Hunter College.
Vesna Najfeld, PhD, is Director of the Tumor CytoGenomics Laboratory at The Mount Sinai Hospital and the Professor of Pathology and Medicine, Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and as such, a member of The Tisch Cancer Institute.

Dr. Najfeld is an internationally renowned cancer cytogeneticist who has made major contributions in advancing the concept of multistep clonal evolution in chronic myeloproliferative disorders and hematological malignancies. In 1981, she established a Tumor Cytogenetics clinical laboratory at The Mount Sinai Hospital that is considered among the best in the world. It is the core cytogenetic lab for a National Institutes of Health-funded international program for the myeloproliferative disease consortium.

Dr. Najfeld is at the forefront of the advancement and implementation of molecular cytogenetic technology for diagnostic and prognostic purposes, both for hematological malignancies and solid tumors. Her clinical laboratory processes more than 4,500 specimens and performs more than 20,000 cytogenetic and gene alteration clinical tests per year. Dr. Najfeld’s pioneering research in delineating the step-wise pathogenesis of chronic myelogenous leukemia served as groundbreaking work for subsequent investigations into the origin and pathogenesis of other hematological malignancies.

Her current research focuses on chromosomal and gene alterations in the process of neoplastic development, specifically multistep pathogenesis and clonal development of Ph-negative myeloproliferative neoplasm using cytogenomic technology such as high resolution karyotyping combined with single nucleotide polymorphism for intracellular diagnosis of gene rearrangements in clonally derived CD34+ stem/progenitor cells.

Dr. Najfeld has served on the editorial board of three prestigious academic journals: Leukemia, Blood, and Cancer Genetics and Cytogenetics, and organized three scientific symposia at Mount Sinai. She is a scientific reviewer for 15 peer-reviewed journals and has published more than 150 peer-reviewed articles. Dr. Najfeld has held a number of leadership positions and was the only PhD elected as President of the Society for the Study of Blood, the oldest hematological society in the United States.

Dr. Najfeld has given invited lectures throughout the world and has mentored over 100 postdoctoral students and fellows in Hematology/Oncology as well as Pathology. In 2006, she received the prestigious Richard E. Rosenfeld Faculty Achievement award from the Samuel Bronfman Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology, in recognition of her excellence in teaching and research in hematological malignancies.

Dr. Najfeld earned an MPhil in Bacterial Genetics from the University of East Anglia in Norwich, England. She received a PhD in Human Cytogenetics at Royal Marsden Hospital and the Institute for Cancer Research at the University of London. She did her postdoctoral training at the University of Washington in Seattle.

Daniel J. Weiss, MD, PhD, MSSM ‘88, is Professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of Vermont’s Larner School of Medicine, Professor of Cell and Molecular Biology in the graduate program at Larner College of Medicine, and Affiliate Professor of Biomedical Engineering in the University of Vermont’s College of Engineering. He also has a clinical practice in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at the Vermont Lung Center at the University of Vermont (UVM).

Dr. Weiss is a world-renowned clinician and investigator with a longstanding interest in lung repair and regeneration after injury, particularly with gene and cell therapy approaches for lung diseases. The work of his team at the Weiss Pulmonary Research Lab reflects his passion, which is to strive to better understand the physiology of these diseases and to create advanced therapies to help treat and prevent them. His passion is also to foster and train the next generation of biomedical investigators.

The Weiss Lab utilizes a broad range of cutting-edge approaches, including the study of stem and progenitor cells, cell-based therapies, and a range of bioengineering approaches. Its goal is to create regenerative lung tissue to fix damaged lungs.

In 2005, Dr. Weiss began hosting the Vermont Stem Cell Conference, which takes place every other year. This gathering is recognized around the world for its specific focus on the role of stem cells, cell therapies, and bioengineering in lung biology and diseases. The conference attracts national and international experts and produces recommendations for basic and translational research that are utilized by the National Institutes of Health and non-profit respiratory disease foundations to formulate research and funding guidelines. The gathering also places a strong emphasis on mentoring and development for junior investigators and trainees.

Dr. Weiss is a member and Past Chair of the Respiratory Tract Committee of the American Society of Gene Therapy, a founder and Past Chair of the American Thoracic Society’s (ATS) Stem Cell Working Group, and a member of the ATS Research Advocacy Committee. He was the inaugural Chief Scientific Officer and also sits on the Board of Directors of the International Society for Cell Therapy (ISCT), is a member of ISCT’s Presidential Task Force on Stem Cell Medical Tourism, and Chair of the ISCT Clinical Translational Committee.

He is a recipient of the Research Mentor Award from both the UVM Department of Medicine the UVM College of Medicine. Dr. Weiss earned both his PhD and MD from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. He completed his residency at the University of Michigan and his fellowship at the University of Washington in Seattle.
James C. Tsai, MD, MBA, is President of the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary (NYEE) of Mount Sinai, the first and longest-operating specialty hospital in the Western Hemisphere. He is also Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and the Mount Sinai Health System and the inaugural Delafield-Rodgers Professor of Ophthalmology at Icahn Mount Sinai. Additionally, Dr. Tsai is Vice President for Population Health Specialty Services at Mount Sinai and Director of the Center for Ophthalmic Artificial Intelligence and Human Health at Icahn Mount Sinai.

Dr. Tsai is a widely recognized physician-scientist and experienced administrator. At NYEE, he is responsible for the strategic and sustainable growth of the venerable institution. He has guided the Ophthalmology Department to pursue groundbreaking research in ocular imaging, artificial intelligence, and genomics. He has enhanced the capabilities of the country’s first ophthalmic robotic assistant, a highly sophisticated device that promises to change the face of micro-interventional ophthalmic surgery. Dr. Tsai has also overseen the implementation of an innovative system-wide tele-consult program for diabetic retinopathy, emergency department ophthalmic conditions, and central retinal artery occlusion (i.e., eye stroke). Under his leadership, NYEE has developed the largest ophthalmology residency program in the country.

Dr. Tsai is President of the International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology, Chair of the Section on Ophthalmology of the New York Academy of Medicine, and Trustee-at-Large of the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology. At Mount Sinai, he serves as Executive Advisor to the Center for Asian Equity and Professional Development, Co-Chair of the Committee to Address Anti-Asian Bias and Racism, and Member of the Task Force to Address Racism. In November 2022, Dr. Tsai began a three-year term on the Administrative Board of the Council of Teaching Hospitals for the American Association of Medical Colleges.

He has received the American Academy of Ophthalmology’s Life Achievement Honor Award, Fight for Sight’s Physician Scientist Award, Crain’s New York Business’ 2022 Notable Health Care Leaders Award, USC/Doheny Eye Institute’s Distinguished Alumnus Award, and the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Tsai earned an MD from Stanford University School of Medicine and an MBA from Vanderbilt University in Nashville. He completed his residency in ophthalmology at Doheny Eye Institute in Los Angeles. He received his glaucoma fellowship training at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute at the University of Miami Health System and at Moorfields Eye Hospital/Institute of Ophthalmology in London. He is also the recipient of a MA (Hon) from Yale University.

Robert O. Wright, MD, MPH, is Ethel H. Wise Professor and Chair of the Department of Environmental Medicine and Public Health and Director of the Institute for Exposomic Research at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. He is also the founder, past Director, and current Associate Director of the Senator Frank Lautenberg Laboratory of Environmental Health Sciences at Mount Sinai.

Dr. Wright is a distinguished pediatrician, medical toxicologist, and environmental epidemiologist who has published over 250 research papers. He has been the Principal Investigator (PI) on 19 different NIH grants and is a world leader in investigating the health impacts of the multiple chemical, social and physical environmental factors that compose the exposome – the measure of all health-relevant human exposure throughout the lifespan.

Dr. Wright works closely with the Mexican National Institute of Public Health on a 17 year NIH funded longitudinal birth cohort based in Mexico City called the Programming Research in Obesity, Growth, Environment and Social Stress (PROGRESS) study, which tackles the role of prenatal exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals on adolescent obesity. He is the Principal Investigator of PROGRESS and founded the Metals Assessment Targeting Community Health (MATCH) study in Tar Creek, Oklahoma, a seminal study on the effects of mining waste on child development.

Dr. Wright founded the Senator Lautenberg lab in 2014 and established the Mount Sinai Transdisciplinary Center on Early Environmental Exposures—a National Institutes of Health-funded center that provides infrastructure support to Mount Sinai researchers.

From 2018 to 2022, Dr. Wright served on the National Advisory Environmental Health Sciences Council (NAEHS), a congressionally mandated advisory board supporting the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Director of the NIH, and the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). He has also served on multiple international and national committees as well as advisory boards at NIH, CDC, and EPA.

Dr. Wright is a recipient of the Young Investigator Award from the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine and the Charlotte Promersberger Johnston Endowed Lectureship at the Medical College of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Dr. Wright was on faculty at Brown and Harvard prior to joining Mount Sinai in 2012. He earned his MD from the University of Michigan and an MPH from the Harvard School of Public Health. He completed his residency in Pediatrics at Northwestern University and did separate fellowships in Emergency Medicine at Brown University, along with Medical Toxicology, Environmental Epidemiology, and Genetic Epidemiology at Harvard University.
Katherine A. Hawkins, MD, JD, SLR ’77

Dr. Hawkins is an accomplished doctor and lawyer who has been an impactful administrator for many years. She joined the Department of Medicine administration at St. Luke’s Hospital in 1991, when a poor residency program match and a subsequent turnover of leadership required strong leadership. She developed a curriculum at St. Luke’s that provided board training for medical residents and more successful matches in the residency program. This led to substantial improvements in board passage rates and fellowship placements. She also directed the third-year Medicine clerkship and fourth-year Medicine subinternship programs for Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Dr. Hawkins then joined a larger residency program at Beth Israel, where she served as Assistant Director of the Medicine residency program in addition to directing the third-year Medicine clerkship and fourth-year subinternship programs for Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

Dr. Hawkins performed basic research in coagulation with Simon Karpatkin, MD, during her Hematology Fellowship at New York University School of Medicine. Her work since then has been primarily in education, administration, and her clinical practice, though she did serve as the Responsible Investigator for Cancer and Leukemia Group B in the early 1980s. Dr. Hawkins has maintained an active interest and commitment to teaching medical students, residents, and fellows.

Dr. Hawkins has served on numerous professional boards and committees over the years. She is currently on the Clinical Competence Committee, Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology, at Icahn Mount Sinai, and a member of The Tisch Cancer Institute Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

As an attorney, Dr. Hawkins served as an associate at Gair, Gair, Conason, Steigman & Machauf from 2002 to 2008. From 2009 to 2016, she served as Executive Secretary for the Board for Professional Medical Conduct for the New York State Department of Health.

Dr. Hawkins earned her MD from the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and her Juris Doctor from the Fordham University School of Law. She did her medical internship at Presbyterian Hospital, where she was also a Visiting Fellow in Ambulatory Care. She completed her internship and residency in Primary Care Internal Medicine at Roosevelt Hospital.

St. Luke’s-Roosevelt
Distinguished Alumni Award

Leif Holgersen, MD, FACs, SLR ’70

Leif Holgersen, MD, FACs, SLR ’70, is a United States Air Force veteran and was a Professorial Lecturer in the Department of Surgery at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. He is also a retired internationally distinguished pediatric surgeon and emeritus staff member at Mount Sinai West Hospital. Dr. Holgersen served in the Air Force for two years and achieved the rank of Major as a surgeon. He volunteered at the Grenfell Mission Hospital in Labrador, Canada, as a surgical consultant.

In 1974, Dr. Holgersen joined St. Luke’s-Roosevelt Hospital Center as Associate Attending Surgeon, and he spent the next 40 years there. This was a period of great change and growth for pediatric services at St. Luke’s-Roosevelt. Dr. Holgersen and his team developed a groundbreaking protocol for diagnosing and treating bowel strictures in infants following necrotizing enterocolitis, along with a proposed etiology and management of spontaneous newborn gastric perforations. Both discoveries built on protocols established by the renowned Dr. Farrokh Shalhavit, who had transformed neonatal surgery in his updated neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at St. Luke’s-Roosevelt.

The adolescent HIV, oncology, and sickle cell programs at St. Luke’s-Roosevelt expanded in part because of the surgical support provided by Dr. Holgersen and his team. At the urging of pioneering sickle cell researcher Dr. Doris Wethers, Dr. Holgersen adapted a partial splenectomy for very young patients with sequestration crisis to decrease the risk of post-splenectomy sepsis. He takes great personal satisfaction from the significant benefits these breakthroughs have provided to the world.

Dr. Holgersen has published more than 30 academic papers and delivered more than a dozen major presentations across the U.S. and Europe, most notably Neuroblastoma with Intrapulmonary Extension at the Surgical Section of the American Academy of Pediatrics in 1982; Spontaneous Resolution of Antenatally Diagnosed Adrenal Masses at the American Pediatric Surgical Association’s annual meeting in 1995; and Surgery on Children with Sickle Cell Disease at the 7th Annual Sickle Cell Symposium in 2000.

He has held a number of administrative, academic, and hospital appointments, including multiple roles as the Chief of the Division of Pediatric Surgery at numerous hospitals: St. Luke’s-Roosevelt (1982-2014), Our Lady of Mercy Medical Center in the Bronx (1980-95), St. John’s Riverside Hospital in Yonkers (2000-10), and Lawrence Hospital Center in Bronxville (2002-2014). From 1997 to 2014, Dr. Holgersen was Chief of the Section of Pediatric Surgery at Sound Shore Medical Center in New Rochelle, New York. He also held a continuous appointment at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons from 1976 to 2015, which he ended as the Associate Clinical Professor of Surgery.

Dr. Holgersen earned an MS in Physiology from Indiana University and an MD from Rutgers New Jersey College of Medicine in Newark before completing his internship at the New Jersey Medical Center in Jersey City. He was Assistant Resident, Surgery, and Chief Resident, Surgery, at St. Luke’s-Roosevelt, and Resident, Pediatric Surgery, at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, with Dr. C. Everett Koop as mentor.
The Saul Horowitz, Jr. Memorial Award

David R. Friedland, MD, PhD, MSSM ’95, MSH ’00

David R. Friedland, MD, PhD, MSSM ’95, MSH ’00, is Associate Director of the Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) of Southeast Wisconsin and Director of the Clinical & Translational Research Center. He is also Professor and Vice-Chair of Otolaryngology and Communication Sciences, Chief of the Division of Research, and immediate past Chief of Otology and Neuro-otologic Skull Base Surgery at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) in Milwaukee.

Dr. Friedland has expertise in translational and clinical research with a particular focus on using big data, machine learning, and predictive modeling for improving clinical care. He has clinical expertise in neuro-otologic pathology and has specialized training in surgery for hearing restoration, including placement of cochlear implants and bone-anchored hearing aids. Dr. Friedland also has expertise in skull base tumors, and both surgical and Gamma Knife treatments. His clinical interests focus primarily on cochlear implantation, chronic ear disease, and cholesteatoma.

In his current role with the CTSI, Dr. Friedland runs the MCW Clinical Trials Office and Adult Translational Research Unit, which provides clinical trials and research services to investigators at MCW and partner institutions. His focus is on growing the clinical trial infrastructure and integrating CTSI services into the MCW departments, centers, institutes, and partner institutions. The aim is to raise awareness, provide access, foster collaborations, and coordinate services. Additional efforts include building strategic relationships with industry and key partners.

Dr. Friedland has a strong collaborative relationship with investigators at Marquette University and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, which are CTSI partner institutions. This experience led him to become the principal investigator on a department-wide outcomes research platform, OTO Clinomics, which is funded through the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin endowment. Dr. Friedland has served on the MCW Research Affairs Committee, chaired the MCW Professionalism Enrichment Committee, and served as Medical Director of the otolaryngology clinics.

He has lectured and presented internationally and nationally on cochlear implant outcomes, cholesteatoma, vestibular disorders, artificial intelligence and machine learning, otologic surgery, and clinical efficiencies. A well-regarded educator, Dr. Friedland has received the Department of Otolaryngology Faculty Teaching Award and has been recognized as MCW’s Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher. He has also been named MCW’s Outstanding Medical Student Teacher three times.

Dr. Friedland earned a PhD in Philosophy from City University of New York and an MD from Mount Sinai School of Medicine (MSSM). He completed his residency in Otolaryngology at MSSM and a fellowship in Otology-Neuro-Otology & Cranial Base Surgery at Johns Hopkins University Hospital in Baltimore.

Use These Resources to Keep In Touch with the Alumni Association

Alumni Gmail Accounts
Sign up for a Mount Sinai Alumni Gmail account—a great way to stay connected with Mount Sinai and your fellow graduates. Please email alumni@mssm.edu for setup instructions.

Become an Alumni Advisor
Please take a moment to register on our new alumni advising platform, Alumni Connect. Stay in touch with fellow alumni, offer mentoring to current students, and stay up-to-date about the latest alumni events and information. Register here: https://mountsinialumni.xinspire.com

Register for Doximity
Doximity.com is the largest online social network in the country for health professionals. If you have not yet registered with Doximity.com, please follow the steps below to create an account. This will allow you to vote in U.S. News & World Report’s “Best Hospitals” and “Best Children’s Hospitals” rankings, as well as residency rankings. Register here: www.doximity.com

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Tune in to the first-of-its-kind Alumni podcast featuring three remarkable alumni from the graduating class of 1972, the first class to complete all four years of their education at Mount Sinai.

Hear firsthand from those who laid the foundation 50 years ago and how this pioneering group helped shape the evolution of the Mount Sinai community and medicine at large in their respective disciplines.

To listen to the podcast, open the camera on your phone, scan the code below and tap the notification banner that appears at the top.