The 6-year Integrated Cardiothoracic Surgery Residency Program at Mount Sinai was among the first programs of its kind to be accredited in the United States. Starting in 2011 at Mount Sinai, the I6 Program was implemented to train a new generation of specialized cardiovascular and thoracic surgeons. Under the direction of Dr. David H. Adams, Cardiac Surgeon-in-Chief and the Chairman of the Department of Cardiovascular Surgery, and Dr. Raja Flores, the Chairman of the Department of Thoracic Surgery, the program has been a great success. The program currently has residents in every year of the program and runs concurrently with a 2-year ACGME fellowship program as well as a non-ACGME super fellowship program. The I6 program currently matches 1 applicant each year, as does the 2-year ACGME fellowship and both positions are eligible to sit for The American Board of Thoracic Surgery certification.

The goal of our I6 program is to enable residents the opportunity to develop into both academic and clinical surgeons while simultaneously being exposed to and gaining expertise in the latest advances in the field of cardiovascular and thoracic surgical care. We provide a comprehensive, specialized outpatient and inpatient training experience to enable our house staff to graduate with the real world experience necessary to embark on a successful career.

“This residency program is without equal. We are one of the highest volume programs in the US, with a world class faculty and case mix that ensures every resident graduates with outstanding experience in the most important areas of cardiovascular surgery – including mitral valve repair, aortic reconstruction, transcatheter valve techniques, coronary bypass and heart failure.”

- David H. Adams, MD
SYSTEM OVERVIEW

The Mount Sinai Health System combines the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and 7 nearby hospital campuses in the greater New York metropolitan area, as well as a large, regional ambulatory footprint. Mount Sinai Hospital is the main campus – situated in the Upper East Side of Manhattan between Central Park and Park Avenue, and serves the diverse populations of the Upper East Side, Upper West Side, Harlem and Queens.

Led by Dr. David Adams, the Department of Cardiovascular Surgery, is among the most experienced and highest volume centers in the country, totaling over 2,000 cardiac surgery cases annually with particularly established specialized programs in valve repair, aortic root reconstruction, coronary bypass, heart failure, and transcatheter aortic and mitral valve procedures. The attending staff has multiple experts in their respective fields that prioritize training residents on their services.

Led by Dr. Raja Flores, the Department of Thoracic Surgery is one of the most dynamic and progressive thoracic surgery programs in New York City. The department prioritizes a multidisciplinary approach to thoracic disease that incorporates open and minimally invasive techniques as well as a comprehensive oncological program integrated with the oncology and interventional radiology services.

ABOUT MOUNT SINAI HEALTH SYSTEM

I6 PROGRAM

The I6 program at Mount Sinai prioritizes training the next generation of cardiothoracic surgeons. This means that immediately upon beginning your PGY-1 year, you will be exposed to the care of complex cardiovascular and thoracic surgery patients setting the educational foundation for the years to come. The program utilizes the maximum amount of time allotted by the ACGME that can be spent on rotations that are centered on cardiothoracic care. Additionally, our residents spend a dedicated year performing general surgery for which all of our residents have far exceeded the minimum case requirements.

CLINICAL SKILLS

Residents spend dedicated time on each of the individual 7 services ( congenital, thoracic, aortic I, aortic II, CABG, mitral, and heart failure) in order to completely immerse themselves in each specialty. This experience provides an unparalleled education in each of the major clinical specialties of cardiac and thoracic surgery.

Our program prioritizes hands on experience both in and out of the operating room beginning early in residency. One such example is the picture to the right which captures one of our residents, Dr. Aaron Weiss, as a PGY-2, being taken through his first skin-to-skin aortic valve procedure by the PGY-4 at the time Dr. Amit Pawale, as the attending Dr. Paul Stelzer looks on and provides guidance. As the knowledge and skillset of the trainee improves with time, more responsibility and opportunity is provided to continue and improve upon the education throughout the residency.

HOW TO APPLY

Please refer to the ERAS website beginning in September. Education Manager, LaVerne Powell can answer any inquiries and our residents are happy to answer questions as well.

Annually, the I-6 residency receives approximately 150 applications and interviews approximately 10-20 candidates each January for the 1 spot.

CONTACT US

- 212 - 659 - 6800
- laverne.powell@mountsinai.org
The teaching and conference schedule includes weekly resident teaching followed by Grand Rounds and monthly M&Ms, as well as weekly thoracic tumor board, weekly heart failure meetings, and daily teaching in the CTICU for residents on those respective services.

Conference & Education

Our I6 Surgical Residency program provides a competitive salary and benefits, including:

- Subsidized housing allowance
- Textbook and equipment grant (including operating loupes and headlight)
- Educational funding to attend one specialty focused meeting: STS or AATS, surgery boot camp, or a board review course every year (Preapproval required by Program Director)

Housing & Benefits

The vast majority of thoracic surgery at Mount Sinai focuses on oncology: lung cancer, esophageal cancer, mesothelioma, thymoma, carcinoid, and sarcoma. Our staff specializes in complex multidisciplinary and “unresectable” cancer cases. Residents learn to balance aggressiveness in resecting cancer with caution to maximize patient outcomes. Cases are performed with the latest minimally invasive techniques including benign esophageal cases focusing on reflux, benign tumors, and diverticula.”

- RAJA FLORES, MD

Block Schedule

**6-Year Program Overview**

All residents exceed ABTS case requirements, both in case numbers and complexity. Mount Sinai residents start early and adapt the I6 block schedule to meet individual training needs.

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Meet the Residents

Maroun Yammine, MD  **Why did you choose Mount Sinai?**

“I chose the I6 program at Mount Sinai because it offers exposure to all the cardiac and thoracic sub-specialties including advanced valve and aortic surgeries, heart failure, TAVR, and minimally invasive thoracic surgery, as well as providing various research opportunities.”

Ana Claudia Costa, MD  **Why did you choose Mount Sinai?**

“Mount Sinai’s I6 Program is a top-level academic training program that provides full exposure to all areas of cardiac surgery, mentoring by world-renown faculty and extensive hands on opportunities in a diverse patient population. A program committed to providing the best patient care through a multidisciplinary team approach and expand knowledge in the field through clinical and laboratory research.”

Bert Williams, MD  **What aspects of the I6 program are most valuable?**

“I think the amount of responsibility that we are given from early on helps you grow and develop at a faster rate than most other training programs. As an intern, I was already first assisting and doing components of major cardiac and thoracic cases. In my first month of cardiac surgery I went from learning to open the sternum to cannulating for bypass. Here, if you’re involved and willing to work, the attendings are willing to teach.”

Shinobu Itagaki, MD  **Why did you choose Mount Sinai?**

“Because the quality of surgery and patient care Mount Sinai provides is exactly what I would want for myself and my family.”

Stephen Spindel, MD  **What aspects of the I6 program are most valuable?**

“Whether it is in the operating room or in the intensive care unit or the floor, the attendings at Mount Sinai always focus on training the residents. Every one of them is set on teaching us all how to become better physicians and surgeons.”

Aaron J. Weiss, MD  **Why did you choose Mount Sinai?**

“I saw in Mount Sinai, a program that is a true powerhouse in the field of cardiovascular and thoracic surgery and I wanted to be a part of it. Mount Sinai would enable me the opportunity to train at a top-flight institution under expert surgeons at the forefront of their respective fields.”
RESIDENT RESEARCH

Research is encouraged and there is the option to spend 12-24 months dedicated in full-time research between PGY4 and PGY5. Dr. Itagaki completed an integrated masters in Clinical Research during his PGY-1 through PGY-3 years and Dr. Weiss is in the middle of completing a PhD in Clinical Research. If dedicated time off is not of interest, there exist many opportunities to conduct clinical research with any of the attendings at any time.


