# Otolaryngology Fellowship Program



Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai



The safety of our community is our highest priority; some images herein were taken prior to February 2020.

## Message from the Chair

For nearly a century, the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai has led the way in training the next generation of otolaryngologists. Consistently ranked among the top programs in the country by *U.S. News & World Report*, the Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery upholds a longstanding tradition of excellence in all facets of clinical care, education, and research. This includes housing one of the largest fellowship programs in the nation, dedicated to treating the full spectrum of the ear, nose, and throat conditions.

As a fellow, you will have access to world-class research, cutting-edge technology, and prominent faculty mentors who continue to redefine what is possible in the operating room. Our pioneering surgeons have performed various firsts in the field, including the first TransOral Robotic Surgery (TORS) in New York and the revolutionary donor tracheal transplant. As a Mount Sinai fellow, you will be a part of groundbreaking advancements that push the boundaries of science and elevate your career in medicine.

Mount Sinai offers five fellowships in various disciplines: Facial Plastics and Reconstructive Surgery, Head and Neck Oncology and Microvascular Surgery, Laryngology, Otology-Neurotology, and Rhinology and Skull Base Surgery. Each comprehensive program includes extensive surgical experience, service to the community through clinics and on-call hours, and educational programming, including conferences and highly-specialized training.

In addition to the surgical fellowships, we offer four Otolaryngology Research Fellowships that focus on translating basic discoveries in the laboratory into clinical care. With access to nearly 30 different institutes at Mount Sinai, fellows can take part in a wide variety of clinical or basic science research programs.

Through innovative approaches to education, research, and patient care, we have produced dynamic leaders who thrive in their careers as physicians, researchers, department Chairs, and health care executives, and are rising to the challenges and needs of our evolving society. We look forward to working with the next set of minds and hands that will continue to shape the landscape of Otolaryngology in the future.



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Eric M. Genden, MD, MHA Dr. Isidore Friesner Professor and System Chairman Senior Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs Senior Vice President for Ambulatory Surgery Development Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

## Why Choose Icahn Mount Sinai?



The Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery is internationally recognized for its breakthroughs and innovations, particularly with minimally invasive approaches in the management of head, neck, and skull base tumors. We consistently seek to turn impossibilities into possibilities in Otolaryngology.

#### Some of our most notable accomplishments include:

- Pioneering the world's first donor tracheal transplant, which offers a new option for thousands of previously untreatable patients.
- Performing the first TORS in the State of New York for oropharyngeal cancers.
- Housing the largest Robotic Surgery Program for head and neck cancers in the country.
- Leading several HPV-related oropharyngeal cancer vaccine trials nationwide.
- Discovering the 'master switch' gene that can program cancer cells to remain dormant.
- Employing the cranial nerve 5 to 7 transfer surgical approach for Bell's palsy patients.
- Adopting the Inspire Therapy implant device for patients with obstructive sleep apnea who are unable to comply with the CPAP regimen.
- Forging the technological frontier for skull base surgery, incorporating intraoperative neurophysiological monitoring, Surgical Theater 3-D navigation, and BrainLab's IPlan software into patient care.
- Implementing CT/MRI fusion, a diagnostic technique for cerebrospinal fluid leaks, which averts the need for invasive localization studies.

## Fellowship Benefits at Icahn Mount Sinai

- Incomparable opportunity to live and work in one of the most diverse and culturally rich cities in the world.
- Rotations through public and private hospital settings, treating a high volume of patients of with broad-ranging backgrounds and diagnoses.
- Exposure to the most advanced technology and surgical techniques throughout the course of their training.
- Access to world renowned institutions of art, music, culture, sports, and dining, and discounts offered by the Mount Sinai Recreation Office.
- Housing assistance.
- Annual funding for travel to regional or national meetings with vast networking opportunities at the conferences of their choice.
- Annual Educational Allowance provided to all trainees by the Graduate Medical Education Office to offset the cost of textbooks, personal technology (phones, computers, IPads, cameras), exam fees, etc.
- Mount Sinai Health System culture that values diversity and prioritizes physician wellness.

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## Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship

During this year-long program, fellows are fully immersed in every area of facial plastic and reconstructive surgery. Led by renowned facial plastic and head and neck microvascular surgeons, fellows become experts in rhinoplasty, facial reanimation, skin cancer management and reconstruction, aging face/facial rejuvenation surgery, office-based injectables and lasers, and facial feminization. With the resources of a tertiary care facility, fellows have regular interactions with a variety of faculty members including Moh's surgeons, dermatologists, oculoplastic surgeons, and oral and maxillofacial surgeons.



#### Specific surgical scope includes:

- Aesthetic, functional, and reconstructive rhinoplasty.
- Reconstructive surgery for management of non-melanoma and melanoma skin cancers, including local, regional, and free tissue transfer.
- Management of facial paralysis, from office treatment to selective denervation to local and free muscle transfers.
- Extensive experience with office-based injectables and lasers.
- Broad exposure to both office-based and operative facial aging treatments and surgery.
- Comprehensive surgical management of facial gender affirmation.

Fellows participate in a variety of conferences including the monthly facial plastic and reconstructive surgery research conference, multidisciplinary skin cancer conference, Grand Rounds, and educational rounds, as well as facial plastic marketing meetings. They also participate in an annual cadaver dissection course and multidisciplinary facial rejuvenation and reconstruction course.

"Fellowship at Mount Sinai was the ultimate year of my training and nothing could have prepared me better for the next phase of my career. I am so grateful for the mentors and experiences during my time here."

- Malika Atmakuri, MD

## Laryngology Fellowship

"In the Laryngology Fellowship, I learned the art of office-based laryngeal procedures, acquired the finesse of a microlaryngeal surgeon, and honed my ability to tend to the sickest of airway patients. Drs. Mark Courey and Peak Woo helped craft me into the surgeon I am today. There is truly no substitute to learning from the masters."

– Matthew Naunheim, MD

The Division of Laryngology offers one year of advanced training and research opportunities in the management of patients with voice, airway, and swallowing disorders. Each fellow at the Grabscheid Voice and Swallowing Center treats approximately 1,500 to 2,000 patients in the clinic and performs 250 operative procedures. The laryngological fellow participates in all interdisciplinary office-based surgeries and major surgical cases, using both endoscopic and open techniques. They also work with speech-language pathologists to understand the full spectrum of therapeutic options for laryngeal diseases.



Specific surgical scope includes:

- Diagnostic procedures such as laryngeal stroboscopy, instrumental evaluation of swallowing, and modified barium swallow testing.
- Injectables such as laryngoplasty, KTP laser ablation, laryngeal electromyography, percutaneous steroids, and botulinum toxin.
- Operative experiences such as endoscopic resection of cancer, microflap excision of lesions, gender-affirmation voice surgeries, laryngeal framework surgeries, tracheal resections, Zenker's diverticulum, and cricopharyngeal myotomy.
- Endoscopic and open techniques for benign laryngeal lesions, respiratory papillomatosis, vocal fold motion impairment, airway stenosis, and laryngeal cancer.
- Performance of awake, unsedated procedures, including vocal fold injection (augmentation and therapeutic), laryngeal biopsy, and laser ablation of lesions.

Fellows participate in a variety of conferences and are responsible for preparing presentations and literature reviews for the laryngology education curriculum, extramural laryngology rounds, and multi-institutional case presentation rounds. In partnership with the director, the fellow also plans a bimonthly laryngology didactic program.

## Head and Neck Oncology - Microvascular Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship

"The opportunity to train with the Head and Neck Division at Mount Sinai is one that I could not speak of more highly. Dr. Genden's experience in academic and technical development is evident, and the progression of supervision to autonomy provided me with an amazing fellowship experience. Different perspectives from the faculty enabled me to have a well-rounded education, and instilled confidence in me to embark on my career as a Head and Neck surgical oncologist."

– Eric Lee, MD

Surgeons in this fellowship receive an unprecedented opportunity to become experts in the management of patients undergoing head and neck surgery for malignant and advanced benign disease. This concentrated year of experience covers all aspects of surgical care, including diagnosis, treatment planning, ablative and reconstructive surgery, and post-operative surveillance.



Specific surgical scope includes:

- Full scope of ablative head and neck oncologic surgery, including mucosal disease, paranasal-skull base surgery, salivary tumors, sialendoscopy, and cutaneous malignancies.
- Reconstructive surgery, including local, regional, and free tissue transfer for complex ablative defects of the head and neck.
- Transoral robotic and laser surgery for head and neck malignancies, including oropharyngeal, tongue, and larynx.
- Extensive endocrine experience, including management of thyroid and parathyroid malignancies.
- Management of advanced benign lesions of the head and neck, including salivary and neurogenic tumors.
- Comprehensive surgical management for functional enhancement of the head and neck oncology patient, including airway reconstruction, voice restoration, and facial nerve reanimation.

Fellows participate in and present at a variety of conferences, including the multidisciplinary tumor board, Grand Rounds, educational rounds, and research conferences. To further their multidisciplinary knowledge, they are afforded opportunities to shadow both medical and radiation oncology.

## Mount Sinai Beth Israel Head and Neck Oncology Fellowship

The Mount Sinai Beth Israel Head and Neck Oncology fellow plays an integral role in both oncologic and reconstructive surgery and takes the lead in perioperative management of patients on the head and neck service. This includes oncologic, reconstructive and complex thyroid and parathyroid surgical procedures. More than 80 free flaps and an equal number of regional flaps are performed annually, with the fellow acting as first surgeon on all reconstructive cases.

"The head and neck surgeons who trained me during residency often referred to "Urken's textbook." The opportunity to train with the person who wrote the book on head and neck microvascular reconstruction was one I had to seize. During my fellowship with Dr. Urken, I witnessed his finesse and efficiency in the operating room, an unwavering, highintensity work ethic, and the profound sense of responsibility and compassion to his patients that have established Dr. Urken as one of the most important head and neck surgeons of our time. It was an honor to be trained by him."

- Ansley Roche, MD



The experience advances throughout the year from assistant to taking the lead on harvesting, insetting, and performing the microvascular anastomoses. The fellow plays a key role in all aspects of surgical care from diagnosis, treatment planning, surgery and aftercare, The fellow also participates in the weekly multidisciplinary head and neck tumor board and leads the monthly reconstruction conference in which difficult cases are presented for discussion. Finally, the fellow presents at the quarterly head and neck journal club, as well as the monthly multidisciplinary thyroid tumor board.

The program is designed to provide advanced clinical training in head and neck oncologic and microvascular reconstructive surgery, as well as thyroid and parathyroid surgery. The fellow is exposed to a significant number of advanced and recurrent thyroid cancer patients for surgical management. The fellowship also includes extensive training in Transoral Robotic Surgery (TORS). There are extensive clinical research opportunities to support the development of fellows planning to pursue a career in academic medicine.

### Otology-Neurotology Fellowship

Composed of key faculty from the Departments of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery and Neurosurgery, this comprehensive, two-year training program produces skilled, well-rounded leaders in the field of otologyneurotology. Through exposure to the most advanced technology and surgical techniques available, the fellow will perform a variety of neurotologic cases, including skull base surgical approaches and tumor resection cases. The fellow will interact closely with all members of the lateral skull base team and other subspecialty fellows during multidisciplinary cases, pre-and post-operative patient care, decision-making, and conferences/didactics.



#### Specific surgical scope includes:

- Translabyrinthine, retrosigmoid, and middle fossa approaches to the skull base, internal auditory canal, and cerebellopontine angle.
- Resection of skull base tumors, including vestibular schwannoma, meningioma, paraganglioma, facial schwannoma, squamous cell carcinoma, and cholesteatoma.
- Temporal bone resection.
- Repair of cerebral spinal fluid leak.
- Rehabilitative surgery, including cochlear implantation, bone anchored implantation, atresia surgery, ossicular reconstruction, and stapedectomy.
- Facial nerve decompression.
- Middle ear and mastoid surgery.

Fellows participate in and present at a variety of conferences, including the neurotology fellow conference, interdisciplinary clinical skull base conference, vestibular case conference, and cochlear implant conference. They also participate in resident didactic education, including the temporal bone dissection course and the international, annual endoscopic middle ear dissection course.

"The Otology-Neurotology Fellowship provides both attending-level decision making and autonomy with mentorship from the best in the field. The variety of cases is impressive and we're one of the biggest endoscopic ear programs in the country. All of that in the greatest city in the world!"

- Zachary Schwam, MD

### Rhinology and Skull Base Surgery Fellowship

Consisting of faculty from Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery and Neurosurgery, this one-year intensive program is dedicated to the training and education of advanced rhinology and skull base techniques. Fellows will be exposed to a comprehensive surgical case load consisting of inflammatory and neoplastic pathology involving the paranasal sinuses, skull base, and orbit. They will learn multiple approaches to surgical management and be proficient in primary and revision sinus cases, as well as endoscopic and open approaches to the skull base.



#### Specific surgical scope and office-based rhinology procedures include:

- Extended approaches to the frontal, maxillary, and sphenoid sinus.
- Benign and malignant tumor resections.
- Surgical repair of cerebrospinal fluid leaks, encephaloceles, benign skull base tumors such as pituitary lesions, craniopharyngiomas, meningiomas, and malignant lesions involving the skull base.
- Skull base surgery repair, including orbital tumors, surgical management of the lacrimal system, and transorbital approach to the skull base.
- Paranasal sinus balloon sinuplasty.
- Eustachian tube dilation.
- Cryoablation.
- Radiofrequency.
- Office sinus surgery.

The fellow participates in weekly rhinology and skull base research meetings as well as a monthly skull base tumor board. They also serve as an active mentor and clinical instructor for residents. As part of the program, the fellow has the opportunity to lecture and serve as a proctor in at least three advanced rhinology and sinus surgery courses.

"The Rhinology and Skull Base Fellowship at Mount Sinai is a truly immersive educational experience guided by the foremost endoscopic surgeons and mentors. The collaborative research opportunities with neurosurgery, ophthalmology and bioengineering were critical to my career development." – Todd Spock, MD

## Otolaryngology Research Fellowships

Students in the third year of medical school have the opportunity to engage in a year-long research project with a faculty mentor in the Department of Otolaryngology — Head and Neck Surgery. They shadow clinical activities and are expected to take part in all departmental educational activities, such as the head and neck cancer tumor board and Grand Rounds. Fellowships can be tailored to meet the interests of the candidate. Each student will receive a stipend of \$28,000 for the year to support room and board, with additional funding provided for health benefits.



#### The Ronald Hoffman, MD, Research Fellowship

The goal of this fellowship is to establish the foundation for a career focused on excellence in clinical research.

#### The Eugen Grabscheid, MD, Research Fellowship

This competitive program is designed to encourage medical students to consider a career in Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery.

#### The William Lawson, MD, DDS, Research Fellowship

Designed to encourage young scholars to pursue careers as physicianscientists, this year-long program focuses on either clinical or basic science research.

#### The Carole and Steven Sacks, MD, Research Fellowship

Established more than 10 years ago, this fellowship has been instrumental in furthering the careers of many medical students who wish to pursue a career in otolaryngology.

"This fellowship was an incredible opportunity to delve into a variety of research projects from start to finish. I gained invaluable skills, both as a researcher and clinically, all while working closely with exceptional faculty and residents in the department. My favorite part was working on projects that were so clinically relevant, I was able to see the impact the work had on patients I was seeing in the office and the OR in real time."

– Katherine Garvey, MD

### **Research Highlights**



#### **Neoadjuvant Cemiplimab Study for Head and Neck Cancers**

Immunotherapy has proven to be successful in some patients, but better biomarkers are needed. At the Tisch Cancer Institute's Novel Therapeutics Unit, researchers are examining the clinical activity and safety of the preoperative treatment, cemiplimab (Libtayo), in patients with a subset of head and neck cancers.

#### The Role of Environmental Exposures in Thyroid Health

Thyroid cancer incidence continues to steadily increase. Investigators are using the Mount Sinai Thyroid Research Database to explore the role of environmental exposure on the worldwide thyroid cancer burden.

#### **The Microbiome Role in Head and Neck Cancers**

Investigators at the Head and Neck Cancer Research Program are trying to understand why certain individuals suppress human papillomavirus (HPV) infection and others develop a persistent infection that leads to throat cancer. The answer may be found by examining the oral microbiome and its bacterial construct.

#### **Post-COVID-19 Laryngeal Complications**

Physicians within the Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery have formed a COVID-19 Airway Collaborative to assess the incidence of glottic stenosis, tracheal stenosis, and chronic cough in patients after COVID-19 infection. They will educate providers about their findings and make recommendations for changes in treatment protocols.

#### **Omega-3 Fatty Acid and Anosmia**

Nearly one-third of patients with COVID-19 experience some degree of anosmia. Rhinology researchers are assessing if daily omega-3 fatty acid supplementation has an impact on recovering the sense of smell.

#### Long-Term Voice Outcomes in Transgender Voice

Investigators at the Grabscheid Voice and Swallowing Center of Mount Sinai are comparing the long-term outcomes of voice therapy with voice therapy and surgery combined. Patient satisfaction and pitch elevation are being evaluated.

#### **Meniere's Disease Clinical Trial**

Researchers at the Ear Institute at New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai and in the Division of Otonomy are investigating the efficacy of a new injectable product aimed at minimizing debilitating attacks of vertigo in patients with Meniere's disease.

## Meet the Leaders



#### Eric M. Genden, MD, MHCA, FACS

Isidore Friesner Professor and Chair of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery; Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs; Executive Vice President of Ambulatory Surgery; Director of the Head and Neck Institute at the Mount Sinai Health System. Dr. Genden is a renowned leader and innovator in the management of oropharyngeal

cancers, microvascular reconstruction of the head and neck, and thyroid and parathyroid surgery. After 30 years of research, he completed the first successful tracheal transplant in the world, providing a new option for thousands of patients. Dr. Genden is co-investigator on more than a dozen clinical trials, a prolific author, and a sought-after lecturer. He is a founding fellow of the International Academy of Oral Oncology, and past president of the New York Head and Neck Society.



#### Maura Cosetti, MD

Associate Professor of Otolaryngology. Director, Ear Institute at New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai Fellowship trained in neurotology and skull base surgery, Dr. Cosetti's clinical expertise spans the gamut of all pediatric and adult hearing disorders, with an

emphasis on complex cases. This includes cochlear implantation, cholesteatoma, acoustic neuroma, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) leak, chronic ear disease and infections, aural atresia, lateral skull base surgery and endoscopic ear surgery. Her research focuses on outcomes in cochlear implantation and the use of virtual reality to understand how hearing loss affects posture, falls and balance. She has received funding from the National linstitutes of Health, Hearing Health Foundation, and Department of Defense.



#### Mark S. Courey, MD

Professor and Chief of Laryngology; Director of the Grabscheid Voice and Swallowing Center at Mount Sinai As the first otolaryngologist in the country to complete formal fellowship training in laryngology, Dr. Courey has been managing patients with voice and swallowing

difficulties since 1992. He is internationally recognized for his leadership in developing laryngology as a subspecialty and has been instrumental in training more than 50 laryngologists worldwide. In addition to pioneering new microsurgery techniques, Dr. Courey is known for his promotion of the interdisciplinary team management of patients.



#### Satish Govindaraj, MD

Associate Professor, Chief of the Division of Rhinology and Skull Base Surgery; Vice Chair of Clinical Affairs

A leading expert in endoscopic sinus and skull base surgery and the treatment of of sinus disease, Dr. Govindaraj's clinical interests include cerebrospinal fluid leaks,

paranasal sinus and skull base tumors, balloon sinuplasty, chronic rhinosinusitis, and nasal polyps. Dr. Govindaraj leads multiple clinical trials and research studies, focused on refractory sinus disease, endoscopic surgery, the mucosal immunity in chronic sinusitis, and quality of life after minimally invasive sinus and skull base procedures.

## Meet the Leaders

#### Diana N. Kirke, MD, MPhil

Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery; Laryngologist; Head and Neck Surgeon; Director of Research Fellowships, Division of Laryngology Dr. Kirke's extensive training includes both a Laryngology Fellowship and a Head and Neck Microvascular Fellowship. She specializes in the treatment of voice,

airway, and swallowing disorders, as well as head and neck cancers. A forerunner in research activities, she leads numerous studies including post-COVID-19 upper airway complications, 3D medialization laryngoplasty, and outcomes in laryngeal malignancy.



#### William Lawson, MD, DDS

Professor of Otolaryngology, Co-Chief of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

For more than 20 years, Dr. Lawson has served as the director of internationally attended courses on Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Mount Sinai.

Dr. Lawson also served as Chief of Otolaryngology at the Veterans Administration Medical Center for three decades. An otolaryngologist and maxillofacial surgeon, Dr. Lawson has authored more than 300 publications and has received numerous awards, including the Presidential Citation of the Triological Society.



#### Joshua D. Rosenberg, MD

Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology, Co-Chief of the Division of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

With a practice encompassing facial paralysis, facial gender affirmation surgery, facial aesthetic surgery, and skin cancer, Dr. Rosenberg is a nationally recognized

expert in facial plastic and reconstructive surgery. He leads several research projects evaluating novel techniques in facial plastic surgery and the utilization of cutting edge technology in telehealth to expand the scope and quality of patient care. In his role as Fellowship Director, he has grown the program to encompass the broadest possible clinical experience.



#### Mark Urken, MD

Professor, Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery Director of Head and Neck Oncology, Mount Sinai Beth Israel Co-Director of the Head, Neck and Thyroid Institute at Mount Sinai Dr. Urken has directed one of the most successful head and neck surgical fellowship

programs in the country. He has trained more than 30 fellows, many of whom have become leaders in Otolaryngology, Dr. Urken has published more than 250 articles in peer-reviewed journals and multiple textbooks. He has performed more than 3,000 microvascular free flaps, and lectures extensively on head and neck cancer, reconstruction, and thyroid and parathyroid disease. In 2003, Dr. Urken founded the THANC (Thyroid Head and Neck Cancer) Foundation, which has raised millions of dollars to support educational, research and clinical care initiatives. Fellowship Hospital Sites at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

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