Department of Radiation Oncology Newsletter

Spring 2026

Feature Article

Dr. Kenneth Rosenzweig Honored with Jacobi Medallion

The Department of Radiation Oncology takes great pride in announcing that Dr. Kenneth Rosenzweig has been awarded the Jacobi Medallion, one of the highest honors bestowed by the Mount Sinai Health System. “The Jacobi Medallion represents Mount Sinai’s long and rich tradition of excellence,” says Evan Flatow, MD, Executive Vice President for Clinical Affairs, Mount Sinai Health System, and Dean for Clinical Affairs, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. “For over seven decades, Mount Sinai has awarded the medallion each year to honor colleagues for their distinguished achievements. These Jacobi recipients are exceptional physicians and visionary researchers. They embody the aspirations of Mount Sinai to advance science and medicine in the name of better and more effective healthcare.”

(continued)

Dr. Kenneth Rosenzweig Honored with Jacobi Medallion (continued)

Dr. Rosenzweig and fellow honorees received the Jacobi Medallion at a ceremony on March 18, 2026, hosted by the Icahn School of Medicine's Office of Alumni Relations and Development. This honor is a testament to Dr. Rosenzweig's distinguished career as a clinician, researcher, educator, and leader in the field of radiation oncology.

Dr. Rosenzweig joined the Department of Radiation Oncology in 2010 as Chair, guiding the department through a period of tremendous growth and technological advancements. Among these are the utilization of novel techniques, including intensity modulated radiation therapy, stereotactic body radiotherapy, and tumor motion control in the radiation treatment planning and delivery process. He was also a leader in the construction of the New York Proton Center, the world's premiere center for this important technology. During his career, his research has focused on increasing the effectiveness and dose of radiation while maintaining patient safety in the treatment of thoracic malignancies.

Dr. Rosenzweig currently serves as Scientific Chair of ASTRO, the world's largest radiation oncology meeting, and is a Trustee of the American Board of Radiology.

"Ken Rosenzweig is really deserving of the Mount Sinai Jacobi award," says I. Michael Leitman, MD, Professor of Surgery and Medical Education, Dean for Graduate Medical Education. "Ken is a great physician. He's an incredible clinical investigator and educator helping to develop the next generation of radiation therapists."

"I'm very proud that I'm the first radiation oncologist to be awarded the Jacobi Medallion," says Dr. Rosenzweig. "To receive this recognition from Mount Sinai is a real badge of honor for the department. Mount Sinai is where I've spent the best years of my life devoting my career to caring for patients."

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Rosenzweig on this well-deserved recognition!

Watch a video featuring Dr. Rosenzweig produced for the Jacobi Medallion Ceremony at https://youtu.be/vvNb69Uu5po

Message from the Chair

I am pleased to share a number of professional, clinical, and educational achievements of our department over the past several months. In September 2025, our physicians, physicists, and radiation therapists were front and center at the ASTRO and ASRT annual conferences participating in more than 30 plenary, oral, and poster presentations.

Several members of the department have earned distinction as well. Karyn Goodman, MD, MS, FASTRO, FACR, FASCO, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) as the Designated Radiation Oncologist. ASCO is the world's largest society dedicated to the study and treatment of cancer. Drishti Panse, MD, received an ASTRO EAGL award to support her role in advocacy for the specialty. Maria Dimopoulos, PhD, MBA, and Samantha Skubish, MS, RT(R)(T), were awarded a major international grant to look at further integrating advanced practice radiation therapists into departments of radiation oncology.

In March 2026, we were honored to host a visit by Dr. Wendell Lutz, a renowned medical physicist who received the ASTRO Gold Medal in 2022 recognizing his outstanding contributions to radiation oncology that continue to influence the field today.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has congratulated me on receiving the 2026 Jacobi Medallion from Mount Sinai. Although it is an individual honor, it truly reflects the dedication and commitment of the entire Department of Radiation Oncology as we have become a world leader in patient care, research, and education.

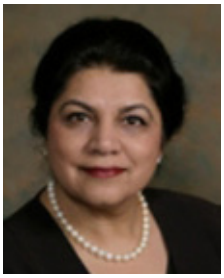
Kenneth Rosenzweig, MD
Professor and Chair, Department of Radiation Oncology

Faculty Updates

Dr. Karyn Goodman

Karyn A. Goodman, MD, MS, FASTRO, FACR, FASCO, Professor and Vice Chair of Research and Quality in the Department of Radiation Oncology with a dual appointment as Professor of Medicine in the Division of Hematology and Oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, has been elected to the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Board of Directors as the Designated Radiation Oncologist. Dr. Goodman's commitment to ASCO is reflected in her membership in multiple ASCO volunteer groups. These include the Gastrointestinal (GI) Guideline Advisory Group, the GI Cancers Symposium Steering Committee, where she served as Meeting Chair in 2018, the Annual Meeting Scientific Program Committee, and the ASCO/AACR Methods in Clinical Cancer Research Workshop.

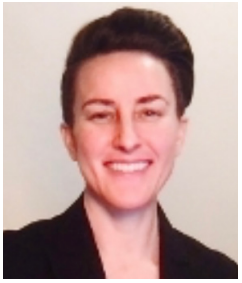
Dr. Manjeet Chadha



For the eighth consecutive year, **Manjeet Chadha, MD, MHA, FACR, FASTRO**, Professor of Radiation Oncology and Director of Radiation Oncology at Mount Sinai-Union Square, has been named among Castle Connelly's 2026 Exceptional Women in Medicine. The annual award is based on peer nominations and recognizes the outstanding accomplishments and dedication of women to the advancement of medicine through clinical care, research, community service, education, and/or leadership. Dr. Chadha is a renowned expert in the treatment of women's cancers, conducting research that has included strategies to reduce patients' burden of treatment while achieving excellent clinical outcomes and quality of life.

Featured Research

Researchers Advance Understanding of Female Sexual Anatomy to Improve Pelvic Cancer Radiotherapy Treatment



Mount Sinai researchers, in collaboration with colleagues at other leading institutions, have published an innovative study that provides radiation oncologists with practical guidance to identify and protect female sexual organs during pelvic cancer treatment. Published in the January 2026 issue of *Practical Radiation Oncology*, their study, "Getting c-literate: Bulboclitoris functional anatomy and its implications for radiotherapy," addresses a longstanding gap in cancer care by bringing key female sexual anatomy into consideration during routine radiotherapy planning and survivorship research. "Pelvic radiotherapy can be life-saving, but it can also affect sexual function quality of life," says **Deborah Marshall, MD, MAS**, senior author of the study. "Compared to male sexual anatomy, female erectile structures have been largely invisible in standard radiation workflows. Our goal was to provide clinicians with a practical anatomy-grounded way to change that."

Reference

Greenwald LM, Williams A, Downes MH, Reidenberg JS, Collins V, Bane O, Bowen S, Okorom A, Dickstein DR, Garcia-Barros M, Brody R, Hannan JL, Thor M, Lymberis S, Hindman N, Chubak B, Marshall DC. Getting c-literate: Bulboclitoris functional anatomy and its implications for radiotherapy. *Practical Radiation Oncology*. 2026 Jan 22:S1879-8500(25)00324-8. Epub ahead of print. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.prro.2025.11.013

Dr. Deborah Marshall's study addresses a longstanding gap in cancer care by bringing key female sexual anatomy into consideration during routine radiotherapy planning and survivorship research.

The Impact of Avoidance Sectors on Knowledge-Based Planning for Esophageal Cancer Treatment

Vishruta Dumane, PhD, DABR, and her co-authors conducted research to create a knowledge-based treatment planning model using RapidPlan for esophageal cancer in the upper, mid, and lower thoracic sites while comparing the performance of the model with and without the use of avoidance sectors. The team showed that using RapidPlan with avoidance sectors best spared the lung with respect to the low dose, but at the cost of increased volume of high dose regions to the target. The RapidPlan model configured without the use of avoidance sectors significantly reduced volumes of the higher doses in the target and therefore increased the potential likelihood of esophageal toxicity without excessively increasing lung dose.

"Since immediate acute esophageal toxicity has been a concern at Mount Sinai, the RapidPlan model without avoidance sectors was the preferred choice," notes Dr. Dumane. "This study demonstrated that, regardless of thoracic sites, not using avoidance sectors significantly reduced volumes of the higher doses in the target and therefore the potential likelihood of esophageal toxicity."

Reference

Dumane V, Olsen V, Jiang T, Hwang T, Yu R, Dimopoulos MP. The impact of avoidance sectors on knowledge-based planning for esophageal cancer treatment. *Medical Dosimetry*. 2026 Spring;51(1):103-116. Epub 2025 Oct 11. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.meddos.2025.09.004

Research Review

ASRT International Research Grant

Maria Dimopoulos, PhD, MBA, RT(T), Associate Director, Center for Radiation Sciences Education; **Samantha Skubish, MS, RT(R)(T)**, Chief Technical Director; and Canadian collaborators were awarded an ASRT International Research Grant for their project titled, "Laying the Groundwork for System-Level APRT Integration: An International Needs Assessment to Inform Resource Development." APRT's International Collaborative Research Grant supports medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals who aspire to partner internationally in conducting scientific research projects in radiologic technology. The goal of the grant is to enhance the profession's body of knowledge and promote international research collaboration.

Distinguished Author Award

The *Radiation Therapist* journal recognized a Mount Sinai research team with its Distinguished Author Award in Honor of Harold Silverman. **Danielle McDonagh, DHSc, MS, RT(T)**, Program Director, Radiation Therapy Research and Education; **Clodagh Starrs, MSc, PgC, RT(T)**, Advanced Practice Radiation Therapist; **Samantha Skubish, MS, RT(R)(T)**; **Kavita Dharmarajan, MD, MSc**, Quality Director of Radiation Oncology, Mount Sinai Health System; **Hulya Kocyigit, PhD**; **Marcio Diniz, PhD**; and **Maria Dimopoulos, PhD, MBA, RT(T)**, received the honor for their article, "Effect of APRT Intervention on Inpatient Radiation Therapy Throughput."

Their study focused on the effect of an advanced practice radiation therapist (APRT) intervention on throughput challenges in a large academic radiation oncology department. The retrospective cohort study of 451 patients compared inpatients receiving standard care (radiation oncologist only) to those with APRT-supported care evaluating inpatient throughput metrics before and after implementation. Their results demonstrated that APRT intervention enhanced patient care processes and outcomes by reducing delays and improving treatment efficiency.

Reference

Kocyigit H, McDonagh D, Starrs, C, Skubish, S, Dharmarajan, K, Diniz, M, Dimopoulos, M. (2025). Effect of APRT Intervention on Inpatient Radiation Therapy Throughput. *Radiologic Technology*, Vol 34, p14. https://apps.asrt.org/rtt/Content/34/1/14.abstract

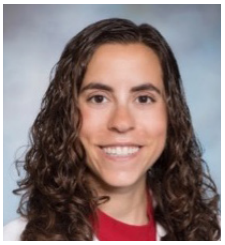
Education Highlights

ASTRO EAGL Award

Congratulations to **Drishti Panse, MD**, PGY-4, on receiving a 2026 ASTRO EAGL (Emerging Advocacy Grassroots Leadership) Award recognizing her leadership potential and engagement in health policy. The award acknowledges that radiation oncology residents and nurses are a crucial component of the specialty and its future. It funds their attendance at the annual ASTRO Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C., held this year in April, where they are able to engage with policymakers, senators, and representatives regarding policy issues crucial to radiation oncology.

Welcome to the Class of 2030 Radiation Oncology Residents

Sifan "Grace" Lu



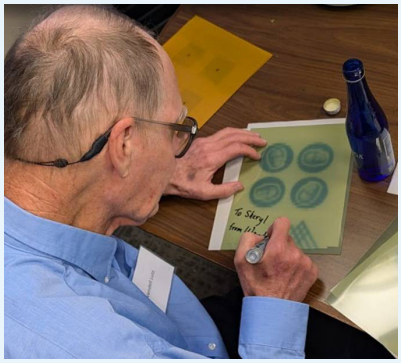
Niki Tseledpidakis, MD

Sifan "Grace" Lu and **Niki Tselepidakis, MD**, will officially join the Department of Radiation Oncology on July 1, 2026, as the Class of 2030. Ms. Lu will graduate with her degree in medicine from SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University in May. Dr. Tseledpidakis earned her medical degree from the University of Virginia School of Medicine and is currently completing a transitional year residency at Mary Washington Healthcare in Fredericksburg, VA.

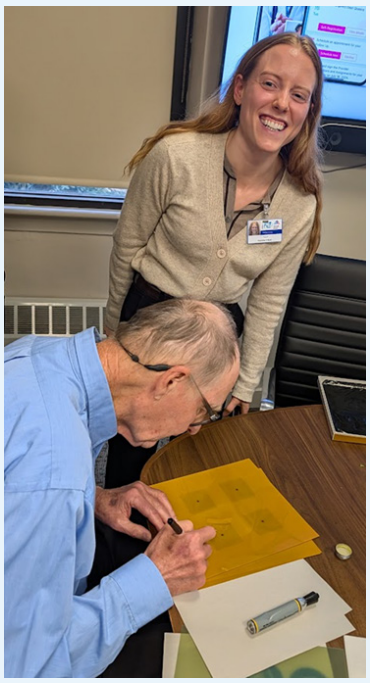
Pioneering Physicist Provides Inspiration to Our Residents

Wendell Lutz, PhD, a legendary medical physicist, engineer, inventor, and educator recently met with Mount Sinai physics residents and junior faculty during a special lunch gathering, providing a rare opportunity for trainees to engage directly with one of the field's most influential figures. Dr. Lutz, who visited Mount Sinai at the invitation of Michael Lovelock, PhD, Department of Radiation Oncology, was in town to be honored by the Radiological and Medical Physics Society (RAMPS) of NY and deliver the RAMPS 2026 Failla Memorial Lecture.

Dr. Lutz has made significant contributions to advancing the field of radiation oncology, including his pioneering work with Ken Winston, MD, a neurosurgeon at Harvard, that laid the foundation for the modern linear accelerator-based stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS) system. They came to be known as the "fathers of linac-radiosurgery," ushering in a remarkable era of progress in technology. Their development of the Winston-Lutz test continues to be used universally for ensuring the accurate implementation of SRS and stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT).



Dr. Wendell Lutz autographs a mock Winston-Lutz test for Sheryl Green, MBBCh, Radiation Oncologist, and (at right) a film for Charlotte Read, MS, Medical Physicist.



Dr. Lutz with (from left) Hao Kuo, Charlotte Read, MS, Andrew Lukban, MSc, DABR, and Rendi Sheu, PhD

Mount Sinai Center for Radiation Sciences Education

Award of Distinction for Danielle McDonagh, DHSc, MS, RT(T)

The 2026 ASRT Marilyn Sackett Leadership Scholarship Award has been presented to **Danielle McDonagh, DHSc, MS, RT(T)**, Program Director, Radiation Therapy Research and Education, in recognition of her commitment to advancing leadership within the radiation therapy profession.

The award supports Dr. McDonagh's continued leadership and professional development through education and research mentorship that will help shape the future of patient care and practice.

Notable Achievement for RT Student Michael Mazza

Congratulations to our radiation therapy student, **Michael Mazza**, who has been selected for the American Society of Radiologic Technologists Student Leadership Development Program Class of 2028. This accomplishment reflects Mr. Mazza's strong work ethic, commitment to lifelong learning, and dedication to professional excellence within the radiation sciences. The ASRT Student Leadership Development Program prepares future radiation therapy and medical imaging professionals by developing leadership skills, promoting professional engagement, and supporting advocacy within the field. The three-year program offers participants an opportunity to get to know the ASRT, attend educational sessions, and network with medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals.

Clinical Coordinator Appointed to the Radiation Therapy Education Team

Matias Prando, BS, RT(T), a graduate of the Mount Sinai Center for Radiation Sciences Education at Stony Brook University and a radiation therapist at Mount Sinai Downtown Union Square, has been appointed as Clinical Coordinator for Radiation Therapy Education and Research. In this role, Mr. Prando leads educational initiatives, supports research efforts, and mentors students through their clinical training. He has authored several publications on clinical concepts and student preparedness, reflecting his dedication to bridging the gap between academic learning and professional practice.

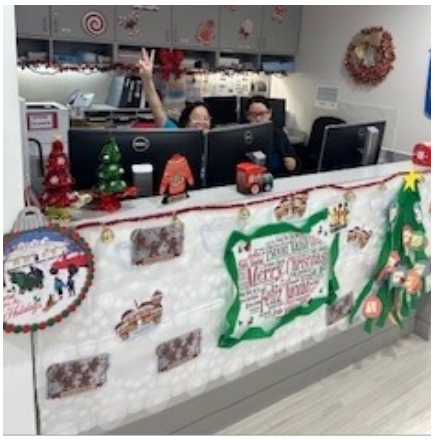
Exemplifying Excellence

Denise Kraemer, RT(T), Assistant Chief Radiation Therapist, Mount Sinai Chelsea, has received Mount Sinai's C2C STAR Recognition Award. The award is presented to individuals who have consistently excelled in exemplifying attributes and behaviors in line with standards of the Mount Sinai Health System. Ms. Kraemer demonstrates exceptional agility and compassion as she works with her team to ensure the highest quality care and best patient experience.

Ms. Kraemer recently retired after decades of service to Mount Sinai and her patients. Throughout her career she demonstrated exceptional agility and compassion as she worked with her team to ensure the highest quality care and best patient experience.

Halloween Heroes

Season's Greetings



2025 Conference Presentations

ASTRO: American Society for Radiation Oncology

During the 2025 ASTRO and APRT conferences, our faculty and residents contributed their research and clinical expertise through more than 30 plenary, oral, and poster presentations. These include:

Re-Irradiation in Gastrointestinal Malignancies
Michael Buckstein, MD, PhD, Director, Radiation Oncology Residency Program

Hypofractionated Radiotherapy with Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma
Daniel Dickstein, MD

Dosimetric Correlates of Acute Toxicities for Hypofractionated Whole-Breast Irradiation
Vishruta Dumane, PhD, DABR, Medical Director, Dosimetry Program, Center for Radiation Sciences Education

Radiation and Cancer Physics Innovations in Planning Algorithm and Quality Assessment
Jiahan Zhang, PhD, Medical Physicist

Artificial Intelligence in Radiation Oncology Residency Applications
Danielle Arons, MD, PGY 3

PD-L1 Status and Outcomes in Patients with Anal Squamous Cell Carcinoma
Daniel Cherry, MD, MAS, PGY 5

Perspectives on APRT Education and Implementation by Radiation Oncologists and Administrators
Maria Dimopoulos, PhD, MBA, RT(T), Associate Director, Center for Radiation Sciences Education

Brachytherapy for the Treatment of Ocular Melanoma: Comparing Y90 to Pd-103 and Iodine I-125
Lauren Jacobs, MD, PGY 3

The Role of an Advanced Practice Radiation Therapist for Patients Needing Urgent Palliative Radiation
Danielle McDonagh, DHSc, MS, RT(T), Program Director, Radiation Therapy Research and Education, and Clodagh Starrs, MSc, PgC, RT(T), Advanced Practice Radiation Therapist

Proton Therapy for Hemithoracic Pleural Irradiation
Drishti Panse, MD, PGY 4

Acute Toxicity in Patients with Skin of Color Treated with Hypofractionated Whole Breast Irradiation
Juliana Runnels, MD, PGY 5

Radiation Therapy Practice: An Analysis of a Professional Workforce Survey
Samantha Skubish, MS, RT(R)(T), Chief Technical Director

Measuring Large Language Model Performance in Evaluating NSCLC Treatment Plans
Junyi Xia, PhD, Medical Physicist

ASRT: American Society of Radiologic Technologists

Adaptive Therapy: Empowering Radiation Therapists and Enhancing Patient Outcomes; Charting a New Course in Radiation Therapy
Samantha Skubish, MS, RT(R)(T), Chief Technical Director

A Blueprint for APRT Preparation in North America
Maria Dimopoulos, PhD, MBA, RT(T), Associate Director, Center for Radiation Sciences Education

Effective Huddles in Radiation Therapy
Katherine Gelpi Arana, RT(T), Lead Radiation Therapist

Acute Dyspnea in Patients Undergoing Radiation Therapy for Head and Neck Malignancies
Ezra Movsas, BA, RT(R)(T), Radiation Therapist

Mount Sinai Radiation Oncology Social Media

Interested in joining the social media committee?
Have a photo you would like to post?
Please reach out on our social platforms below.

Follow Us on Instagram
@MountSinaiRadOnc
@MountSinaiRTTedu

Watch Educational Programs on YouTube
To learn more about the radiation oncology simulation and treatment process, view our educational video playlist on **YouTube.com** by searching Mount Sinai Radiation Oncology.

Reach Residents on X
Follow our Mount Sinai Radiation Oncology residents on X searching the handle **@MSROResidents**

Share Your News
Email us at **radoncnews@mountsinai.org**