

ICAHN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT MOUNT SINAI

# 2025 COMMENCEMENT

THURSDAY, MAY 8

2025



Icahn School  
of Medicine at  
**Mount  
Sinai**



ICAHN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT MOUNT SINAI

# COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

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THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025

10 AM

**DAVID GEFFEN HALL**

**LINCOLN CENTER**

**NEW YORK CITY**

# COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

## ACADEMIC PROCESSION

### **GRAND MARSHAL**

#### **Lauren Linkowski, EdD**

Director of Programs and Resources for Academic Excellence  
Leni and Peter W. May Department of Medical Education  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

### **PROCESSION MARSHALS**

#### **Jessica Correa, MA**

Program Coordinator, SURP4US, MSBS and PhD Programs  
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

#### **Arjana Habili**

Program Coordinator, Curricular Affairs & Program Administration  
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

#### **Staci Leisman, MD, FASN**

Director, PreClerkship Curriculum  
Professor, Samuel Bronfman Department of Medicine and  
Leni and Peter W. May Department of Medical Education  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

#### **Jessica Maysonet**

Associate Director for Admissions  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

#### **Roland Pinzon**

Program Manager  
MS in Biomedical Data Science and AI & MS in Biomedical Science  
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

#### **Cristian Rosario**

Program Manager  
PhD Programs in Biomedical Sciences and Neuroscience  
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

#### **Vasundhara Singh, MD, FACP**

Director of Medical Student Electives  
Associate Professor, Samuel Bronfman Department of Medicine and  
Leni and Peter W. May Department of Medical Education  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

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**Christopher Strother, MD**

Director of Clinical Competency

Associate Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, Jack and Lucy Clark  
Department of Pediatrics, and Leni and Peter W. May Department of Medical Education  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

System Director, Emergency Department Simulation Division  
Mount Sinai Health System

**ORDER OF PROCESSION**

Candidates for Degrees

Faculty

Platform Party

Guests are asked to remain seated during the Processional.

**PRESIDING**

**Dennis S. Charney, MD**

Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Dean

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

President for Academic Affairs

Mount Sinai Health System

**Eric J. Nestler, MD, PhD**

Nash Family Professor of Neuroscience

Director, Friedman Brain Institute

Dean for Academic Affairs

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Chief Scientific Officer

Mount Sinai Health System

**GREETINGS**

**Brendan Carr, MD, MA, MS**

Chief Executive Officer

Mount Sinai Health System

**James S. Tisch**

Co-Chairman, Boards of Trustees

Mount Sinai Health System

# COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

## COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

### **Eric Topol, MD**

EVP and Professor, Scripps Research  
Director & Founder, Scripps Research Translational Institute  
The Gary and Mary West Chair of Innovative Medicine

## PhD STUDENT SPEAKER

### **Anina Nicole Lund**

## MD STUDENT SPEAKER

### **Dorothy Oye Adu-Amankwah**

## AWARDING OF HONORARY DEGREES

### DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS

#### **Mary Woolley**

President, Research!America

*Citation by*

#### **Eric J. Nestler, MD, PhD**

Nash Family Professor of Neuroscience

Director, Friedman Brain Institute

Dean for Academic Affairs

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Chief Scientific Officer

Mount Sinai Health System

Mary Woolley is the president and CEO of Research!America, a nonprofit medical and health research alliance. The organization is renowned for its work to advocate for science, discovery, and innovation to achieve better health for all. Under Woolley's leadership, Research!America has been recognized for innovation in advocacy for research by researchers in the public, private, and academic sectors, media, elected and appointed officials, and community leaders.

A native of Chicago, Woolley received a Bachelor of Science from Stanford University and a Master of Arts from San Francisco State University. In her early career, Woolley served as San Francisco project director for the then largest-ever NIH-funded clinical trial, the Multiple Risk Factor Intervention Trial (MRFIT). In 1981, she became administrator of the Medical Research Institute of San Francisco, and in 1986 was named the Institute's executive director and CEO, before becoming CEO of Research!America in 1990.

Woolley is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine and served two terms on its Governing Council. She is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She has served on the National Academy of Sciences Board on Higher Education and the Workforce and the Board on Life Sciences. She is a Founding Member of the Board of Associates of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research and served as a member of the University of Chicago Medical Center's Division of the Biological Sciences and the Pritzker School of Medicine Council. She is co-chair of the Science and Technology Action Committee.

Woolley is the recipient of many awards and honors and holds honorary doctoral degrees from Wayne State University and the Northeast Ohio Medical University. Woolley has also served as president of the Association of Independent Research Institutes, as a reviewer for the National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation, and as a consultant to several research organizations. She has a 35-year publication history on science advocacy and research-related topics and is a sought-after speaker, often interviewed by science, news, and policy journalists.

# AWARDING OF HONORARY DEGREES

## DOCTOR OF SCIENCE

### **Dennis S. Charney, MD**

Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Dean  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai  
President for Academic Affairs  
Mount Sinai Health System

*Citation by*

### **Kenneth L. Davis, MD**

Executive Vice Chairman  
Mount Sinai Health System Boards of Trustees

*Hooded by*

### **Alexander Charney, MD, PhD**

Associate Professor, Departments of Psychiatry and Genetics and Genomic Sciences  
Co-Director, Charles Bronfman Institute for Personalized Medicine  
Executive Director of the Blau Center  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Dennis S. Charney, MD, is Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Dean of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and President for Academic Affairs for the Mount Sinai Health System. He is also a preeminent expert in neurobiology who has made fundamental contributions to the understanding of human anxiety, fear, depression, and resilience and in the discovery of new treatments for mood and anxiety disorders. A champion of rigorous, translational scientific efforts to improve patient care, Dr. Charney is stepping down from his role as Dean in 2025 after a 21-year tenure at Mount Sinai.

Recruited to Icahn Mount Sinai as Dean of Research in 2004, Dr. Charney became Dean of the Medical School and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs of the Mount Sinai Medical Center in 2007. In 2013, Dr. Charney was also named President for Academic Affairs for the newly integrated Mount Sinai Health System, which includes eight hospitals throughout New York City. As the sole medical school partner within the Mount Sinai Health System, Icahn Mount Sinai now has one of the most expansive training and research footprints in the nation and is consistently one of the nation's top recipients of National Institutes of Health research funding.

Dr. Charney is renowned for cultivating a supercharged, Silicon Valley-style environment for biomedicine at Mount Sinai, and his tenure was defined by the recruitment of exceptional faculty—who are also innovative researchers and educators—across the biomedical sciences and by transformational investment in computational biology, genetics, artificial intelligence, information technology, and entrepreneurship. Dr. Charney placed an emphasis on challenging the limits of science and medicine, facilitating the development of effective therapies, and engineering precision medicine.



He also played a lead role in the creation of an institutional roadmap for dismantling racism and bias in biomedicine and medical education that now serves as a national model.

After completing his undergraduate degree at Rutgers University and his medical degree at Pennsylvania State University, Dr. Charney began his career in 1981 at Yale, where he was professor of psychiatry for ten years and chaired the National Institute of Mental Health's (NIMH) Board of Scientific Counselors. In 2000, NIMH recruited Dr. Charney to head its Mood and Anxiety Disorder Research Program—one of the largest programs of its kind—and the Experimental Therapeutics and Pathophysiology Branch before joining Mount Sinai in 2004. A prolific and innovative researcher, his research has led to more rapid treatments for treatment-resistant depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, opioid withdrawal, panic disorder, and Rejoyn the first FDA-approved digital treatment for depression. His work establishing ketamine as a rapidly acting antidepressant has been hailed as one of the most exciting developments in depression treatment in the last 50 years.

Dr. Charney is a member of the National Academy of Medicine since 2000 and is the recipient of many prestigious awards, honors, and recognitions in his field. He is among the most highly cited medical researchers in the world, and is the highest-ranked biological psychiatrist in citations. A prolific author, Dr. Charney has written or co-authored more than 800 publications, including five books considered seminal texts in psychiatry and mental illness.

## AWARDING OF HONORARY DEGREES

### DOCTOR OF SCIENCE

#### **Luigi Naldini, MD, PhD**

Director, SR-Tiget

San Raffaele Telethon Institute for Gene Therapy

Professor of Tissue Biology and Gene Therapy

Vita - Salute San Raffaele University Medical School

*Citation by*

#### **Brian D. Brown, PhD**

Vice-Chair, Department of Immunology and Immunotherapy

Mount Sinai Professor in Genetic Engineering

Director, Icahn Genomics Institute

Associate Director, Precision Immunology Institute (PRIISM)

Professor, Department of Genetics and Genomic Sciences and

Department of Dermatology

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Luigi Naldini, MD, PhD, is professor of cell and tissue biology and of gene and cell therapy at the San Raffaele University School of Medicine. He is also scientific director of the San Raffaele Telethon Institute for Gene Therapy in Milan, Italy. For the past 30 years, Dr. Naldini has dedicated his career to pioneering the development and application of lentiviral vectors for gene therapy, and is often considered "the father of lentivirus gene therapy." Lentiviral vectors for gene transfer have become one of the most widely used tools in biomedical research, enabling gene therapy treatment of several genetic diseases, and showing promise in the development of cures for several other deadly human diseases.

In parallel, Dr. Naldini investigates strategies to overcome major hurdles to safe and effective gene therapy. His work has resulted in the development of innovative solutions being translated into new therapeutic strategies for genetic diseases and cancer and has also provided novel insights into hematopoietic stem cell function and tumor angiogenesis. Dr. Naldini also contributed to pioneering and advancing the use of artificial nucleases for targeted genome editing in cell and gene therapy.

Dr. Naldini received his medical degree from the University of Turin and his PhD from “La Sapienza,” the University of Rome. He has published more than 300 scientific papers and is the recipient of many prestigious academic awards and honors, including nomination as “Grande Ufficiale dell’Ordine Al Merito della Repubblica Italiana,” one of the highest-ranking honors in Italy, and election to “Accademia dei Lincei,” Italy’s oldest and most prestigious national academic society. Dr. Naldini has also been elected to and has served in leadership positions for gene and cell therapy organizations and academic academies worldwide and is the recipient of several honorary degrees. He also co-founded three innovative biotech start-up companies: Genenta (recently listed on Nasdaq), Epsilen Bio (now acquired by nChroma Bio), and Genespire.

## AWARDING OF HONORARY DEGREES

### DOCTOR OF SCIENCE

#### **George D. Yancopoulos, MD, PhD**

Co-Founder, Co-Chairman, President and Chief Scientific Officer  
Regeneron

*Citation by*

#### **Emma Guttman-Yassky, MD, PhD**

Waldman Chair of Dermatology and  
System Chair, The Kimberly and Eric J. Waldman Department of Dermatology  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

George Damis Yancopoulos, MD, PhD, is a biochemist and molecular biophysicist who is widely recognized as one of the most successful entrepreneurs, scientists, and drug discoverers/inventors in biotech history. He is Co-Founder, Co-Chairman, President, and Chief Scientific Officer of Regeneron, one of the world's premier biotech companies, routinely named among "America's Best Companies" by *Forbes* magazine and a "Top Employer" by *Science* magazine.

Dr. Yancopoulos co-founded Regeneron alongside long-time partner Leonard S. Schleifer, MD, PhD, where they built the company into a global corporation and brought important new life-transforming medicines from discovery into clinical application. Dr. Yancopoulos is principal investigator and inventor of two of the world's top ten leading medicines, EYLEA® and Dupixent®. These and other drug therapies developed and brought into clinical application by Dr. Yancopoulos and his team have collectively helped millions of people fight conditions ranging from blindness and high cholesterol to diseases like asthma, atopic dermatitis, eosinophilic esophagitis, heart disease, skin cancer, COVID-19, Ebola, and many others. He and his team also invented multiple industry-leading technologies, including a genetically humanized immune system animal model that efficiently generates human antibody drug candidates, and have established one of biotech's most innovative pipelines.

Dr. Yancopoulos is a first-generation Greek American who grew up in New York City, where he attended public schools and where, as a high school student, he was inspired by and was a winner of the Westinghouse Science Talent Search. He graduated as valedictorian of both the Bronx High School of Science and Columbia University, where he received his MD and PhD in biochemistry and molecular biophysics. Dr. Yancopoulos was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 2004 and has won numerous prestigious awards for his work as a scientist, drug discoverer, and biotech entrepreneur.

Recognizing the importance of engaging the next generation of scientists from his own lived experience, Dr. Yancopoulos heads Regeneron's STEM efforts. Regeneron has become primary sponsor of the world's leading high school science competitions, investing more than \$100 million in STEM competitions, including the one Dr. Yancopoulos won in high school. More than half of the students participating in STEM competitions sponsored by Regeneron are from immigrant families.

## AWARDING OF HONORARY DEGREES

### DOCTOR OF SCIENCE

#### **Eric Topol, MD**

EVP and Professor, Scripps Research  
Director & Founder, Scripps Research Translational Institute  
The Gary and Mary West Chair of Innovative Medicine

*Citation by*

#### **Zahi A. Fayad, PhD, FAHA, FACC, FISMRM**

Director, BioMedical Engineering and Imaging Institute  
Director, Cardiovascular Imaging Research  
Lucy G. Moses Professor in Medical Imaging and Bioengineering  
Vice-Chair for Research, Department of Diagnostic, Molecular, and  
Interventional Radiology  
Professor, Samuel Bronfman Department of Medicine and  
Department of AI & Human Health  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Eric Topol, MD, is a renowned cardiologist, scientist, and author who serves as executive vice president of Scripps Research, the largest non-profit biomedical research institute in the United States. Dr. Topol also founded and serves as director of the Scripps Research Translational Institute, is a professor of molecular medicine, and is an active cardiologist in the Division of Cardiovascular Diseases at Scripps Clinic in La Jolla, California.

Dr. Topol's principal scientific focus has been on genomic and digital tools and the use of artificial intelligence analytics to individualize medicine. He also pioneered the development of many medications that are routinely used in medical practice, including Plavix, Angiomax, and ReoPro, and has led clinical trials in more than 40 countries that involved more than 200,000 patients.

Dr. Topol earned his medical degree at the University of Rochester. He completed his residency in internal medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, and his fellowship in cardiovascular medicine at Johns Hopkins University. Prior to his role at Scripps Research, Dr. Topol was a tenured professor at the University of Michigan and then served as chairman of the Department of Cardiovascular Medicine at the Cleveland Clinic for 13 years, where he is widely credited for leading its already long-outstanding cardiovascular program to being ranked #1 by *U.S. News & World Report* for more than a decade. In 2002, he founded the Cleveland Clinic's Lerner College of Medicine, the first new medical school in the United States in 20 years and served as its provost and chief academic officer. In 2003, he became a professor of genetics at Case Western Reserve University while maintaining his primary appointment at Cleveland Clinic before accepting his role at Scripps Research in 2006.

Dr. Topol has published more than 1,300 peer-reviewed articles, with more than 370,000 citations, was elected to the National Academy of Medicine, and is one of the top 10 most-cited researchers in medicine. He authored three bestseller books on the future of medicine: *The Creative Destruction of Medicine*, *The Patient Will See You Now*, and *Deep Medicine: How Artificial Intelligence Can Make Healthcare Human Again*, and recently published *Super Agers: An Evidence-Based Approach to Longevity*.

Dr. Topol is the principal investigator to two large NIH grants, the All of Us Research Program, which supports precision medicine, and a Clinical and Translational Science (CTSA) Award, which promotes innovation in medicine and was commissioned by the United Kingdom to lead a review of their National Health Service. He publishes *Ground Truths*, a weekly newsletter and podcast on cutting-edge biomedical advances.

# AWARDING OF DEGREES

## OATH FOR DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

### **Aya Osman, PhD**

Assistant Professor, Nash Family Department of Neuroscience  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

## PRESENTATION OF DEGREE CANDIDATES

### **Paul A. Slesinger, PhD**

Senior Associate Dean for Student and Postdoctoral Affairs  
Vice Chair for Nash Department of Neuroscience  
Lillian and Henry M. Stratton Professor of Neuroscience  
Director, Center for Neurotechnology and Behavior  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

## HOODING OF DEGREE CANDIDATES

### **DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES AND NEUROSCIENCE**

#### **Matthew J. O'Connell, PhD**

Senior Associate Dean for PhD Programs  
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences  
Professor, Department of Oncological Sciences  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

### **DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN CLINICAL RESEARCH**

#### **Janice L. Gabrilove, MD, FACP**

James F. Holland Professor of Medicine  
Associate Director, Education and Training  
The Tisch Cancer Institute  
Director, Clinical Research Education Program  
Co-Director, Patient Oriented Research Training and Leadership Program  
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

### **DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**

#### **Dissertation Advisors**



## **OATH FOR MEDICAL DEGREE CANDIDATES**

### **Michael Herscher, MD**

Co-Director, Art and Science of Medicine Course

Co-Director, Practice of Medicine

Associate Professor, Samuel Bronfman Department of Medicine and

Leni and Peter W. May Department of Medical Education

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

## **PRESENTATION OF DEGREE CANDIDATES**

### **Ann-Gel S. Palermo, DrPH, MPH, TIPC, ACC**

Associate Professor, Leni and Peter W. May Department of Medical Education

Senior Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer for Education and Research

Mount Sinai Health System

## **HOODING OF DEGREE CANDIDATES**

### **DUAL DEGREE: DOCTOR OF MEDICINE AND DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (MD/PhD)**

#### **Talia H. Swartz, MD, PhD**

Senior Associate Dean for MD-PhD Education

Director, Medical Scientist Training Program

Associate Professor, Samuel Bronfman Department of Medicine and

Leni and Peter W. May Department of Medical Education

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

### **DUAL DEGREE: DOCTOR OF MEDICINE AND MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (MD/MPH)**

#### **Dania Valvi, MD, MPH, PhD**

Director of Graduate Education in Public Health

Vice Chair and Associate Professor

Department of Public Health

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

### **DUAL DEGREE: DOCTOR OF MEDICINE AND MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CLINICAL RESEARCH (MD/MSCR)**

#### **Janice L. Gabrilove, MD, FACP**

James F. Holland Professor of Medicine

Associate Director, Education and Training

The Tisch Cancer Institute

Director, Clinical Research Education Program

Co-Director, Patient Oriented Research Training and Leadership Program

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

## AWARDING OF DEGREES

### **DOCTOR OF MEDICINE**

#### **Valerie Parkas, MD**

Senior Associate Dean of Admissions and Recruitment  
Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs (Interim)  
Professor, Samuel Bronfman Department of Medicine and  
Leni and Peter W. May Department of Medical Education  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

#### **Rainier P. Soriano, MD**

Senior Associate Dean for Curricular Affairs  
Professor, Leni and Peter W. May Department of Medical Education and  
Brookdale Department of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

### **PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS**

#### **Marta Filizola, PhD**

Dean, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences  
Sharon & Frederick A. Klingenstein-Nathan G. Kase, MD Professor  
Departments of Pharmacological Sciences, Artificial Intelligence and Human Health and  
Nash Family Department of Neuroscience  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

#### **David C. Thomas, MD, MHPE**

Dean for Medical Education  
Chair, Leni and Peter W. May Department of Medical Education  
Professor, Samuel Bronfman Department of Medicine,  
Leni and Peter W. May Department of Medical Education and  
Department of Rehabilitation and Human Performance  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

*Assisted by*

#### **Alexis Colvin, MD**

Senior Associate Dean for Alumni Affairs  
Professor, Department of Orthopedics  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

### **RECESSIONAL**

Guests are asked to remain seated until the Recessional is completed.

## CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES AND NEUROSCIENCE

#### *Dissertation Advisors*

**Kristina Elizabeth Atanasoff**

Characterization and evaluation of anti-HCMV biologics targeting entry as novel therapeutics and potential components of a multifaceted treatment strategy

**Matthew Brown**

Neoantigen-specific surveillance intercepts precancerous mismatch repair deficient cells and governs immunotherapy

**Lauren Anntine Chang**

Ally, adversary, or arbitrator? Defining the role of lung eosinophils during breakthrough influenza infection

**Alice Yulan Chen Liaw<sup>^</sup>**

Gut microbiota bacterial strain richness is species specific and limits therapeutic engraftment

**Yiyang Chen**

Targeting the BAX actuating funnel potentiates membrane permeabilization and apoptosis

**Giulia Crosio**

The role of T cells and the IL-33 cytokine in tendon healing

**Sinead Frances Cullina**

Optimized Strategies for Translational Genomics in Diverse Populations

**Domenico Tortorella, PhD**

Department of Microbiology

**Nina Bhardwaj, MD, PhD**

Samuel Bronfman Department of Medicine

**Michael Schotsaert, PhD**

Department of Microbiology

**Jeremiah Faith, PhD**

Department of Genetics and Genomic Sciences

**Jerry Chipuk, PhD**

Department of Oncological Sciences

**Alice Huang, PhD**

Department of Bioengineering  
Columbia University

**Dirk Hubmacher, PhD**

Department of Orthopedics

**Eimear Kenny, PhD**

Institute for Genomic Health

<sup>^</sup> MD/PhD

## CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES AND NEUROSCIENCE

#### *Dissertation Advisors*

**Emma DeGrace**

The human immune response to yellow fever virus vaccination at single-cell resolution

**Brad Rosenberg, MD, PhD**

Department of Microbiology

**Pamela del Valle Pereznegrón**

The Impact of LRRK2 Kinase Activity on Melanoma and Parkinson's

**Deanna Benson, PhD**

Nash Family Department of Neuroscience

**Donald Vi Doanman<sup>^</sup>**

Single Cell Analysis of Acute and Latent HIV Infection using Novel Reporter Systems

**Benjamin Chen, MD, PhD**

Samuel Bronfman Department of Medicine

**Áine Duffy**

Using Human Genetics to Inform Drug Discovery

**Ron Do, PhD**

Department of Genetics and Genomic Sciences

**Tasneem Abdulkarim Mustafa Ebrahim**

Sequential CRISPRi screens reveal cardiomyocyte development abnormalities associated with congenital heart disease risk genes

**Nicole Dubois, PhD**

Department of Cell, Developmental and Regenerative Biology

**Alba Escalera Merino**

Characterization of the SARS-CoV-2 S glycoprotein: Emerging mutations and host antibody responses

**Adolfo García-Sastre, PhD**

Global Health and Emerging Pathogens Institute

**Teresa Aydillo-Gomez, PhD**

Department of Microbiology

**Dania Maray Figueroa Acosta**

Endocytic recycling modifies the post-translational modifications of two Clade B transmitted/founder envelope glycoproteins involved in cell-free and cell-to-cell HIV-1 infection

**Benjamin Chen, MD, PhD**

Samuel Bronfman Department of Medicine

<sup>^</sup> MD/PhD

*Dissertation Advisors*

**Alexandra Fink Skular**

Computational Modeling of Human Intracranial Neurophysiology to Identify Symptom-Specific Neuromodulatory Targets for Brain-Computer Interface Technologies

**Iain San Hoi Forrest<sup>^</sup>**

Integration of large-scale genetic and clinical data in population-based biobanks for precision medicine

**Jacob William Glickman**

Deciphering Immune Dysregulation in Inflammatory Skin Diseases through Multi-omics for Therapeutic Innovation

**Marisa A. Goff**

Combined viral outgrowth and neutralization assay to quantify bNAb sensitivity in the HIV-1 latent reservoir

**Camille Goldman**

Cholesterol Dysregulation in APOE4/4 Astrocytes Mediates  $\alpha$ -Synuclein Pathology in an iPSC-Derived Model of Human Brain Tissue

**David Matthew Gonzalez<sup>^</sup>**

Applied Developmental Biology of the Heart: Studying Early Cardiac Lineage Heterogeneity and Developing a Pluripotent Stem Cell Platform for Generation of Cardiac Purkinje Fibers

**Griffin David Haas**

From Sequence to Pathogen: Utilizing Reverse Genetics Systems to Advance our Understanding of Emerging, Bat-Borne Paramyxoviruses

<sup>^</sup>MD/PhD

**Ignacio Saez, PhD**

Nash Family Department of Neuroscience

**Xiaosi Gu, PhD**

Nash Family Department of Neuroscience

**Ron Do, PhD**

Department of Genetics and Genomic Sciences

**Emma Guttman, MD, PhD**

The Kimberly and Eric J. Waldman Department of Dermatology

**Benjamin Chen, MD, PhD**

Samuel Bronfman Department of Medicine

**Joel Blanchard, PhD**

Department of Neuroscience

**Alison Goate, DPhil**

Department of Genetics and Genomic Sciences

**Nicole Dubois, PhD**

Department of Cell, Developmental and Regenerative Biology

**Benhur Lee, MD**

Department of Microbiology

## CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES AND NEUROSCIENCE

#### *Dissertation Advisors*

**Jonathan Haydak**

Pharmaceutical Interrogation of Podocyte Biomechanics Through Kinome Screening

**Evren Azeloglu, PhD**

Samuel Bronfman Department of Medicine

**Brittany M. Hemmer**

The impact of youth-associated protein TIMP2 on microglia biology in aging and Alzheimer's disease

**Joseph Castellano, PhD**

Nash Family Department of Neuroscience

**Mackenzie Theresa Herb**

Identification of neural correlates of epilepsy: an Ultra-High Field MRI study

**Priti Balchandani, PhD**

Department of Diagnostic, Molecular and Interventional Radiology

**Emily Megumi Hicks**

Impacts of trauma from comorbid conditions to brain transcriptional encoding

**Eric Nestler, MD, PhD**

Nash Family Department of Neuroscience

**Laura Huckins, PhD**

Department of Psychiatry  
Yale School of Medicine

**Michael Espino Horesh<sup>^</sup>**

Gain-of-Function Variants in JAK1 cause Autoimmunity, Atopy, Colitis, and/or Dermatitis (JAACD Syndrome)

**Dusan Bogunovic, PhD**

Department of Pediatrics  
Columbia University

**Philip Hwang**

Microglia modulation of neuronal network thresholds

**Anne Schaefer, MD, PhD**

Nash Family Department of Neuroscience

**Pushkala Jayaraman**

Intelligent, Multi-modal Critical care: Molecular Profiling and Reinforcement Learning

**Girish Nadkarni, MD**

Department of Nephrology

**Ankit Sakhuja, MBBS, MS**

Samuel Bronfman Department of Medicine

<sup>^</sup> MD/PhD

*Dissertation Advisors*

**DeAnalisa Jones<sup>^</sup>**

Modeling the ultrastructural features of ventricular cardiomyocytes: Implications for Ca<sup>2+</sup> signaling in heart failure

**Joel Kim<sup>^</sup>**

Dissection of Macrophage Diversity in Hepatocellular Carcinoma Elucidates Molecular Correlates to aPD-1 Response

**Michelle Kim**

Investigating the long-term impact of juvenile social isolation on social behavior and dopamine neuron activity

**Sarah Elizabeth Gilbert King**

Translational Approaches to the Study of Neurocognitive Dynamics in Substance Use Disorders

**Kaustubh R. Kulkarni<sup>^</sup>**

A Computational Psychiatry Approach Toward Momentary Craving

**Lauren Lepow**

Approaching Big Data to Capture Clinical Nuances in Psychiat

**Rachel Maria Levantovsky<sup>^</sup>**

Advances in understanding IBD pathogenesis across populations via multimodal data integration

**Eric Sobie, PhD**

Department of Pharmacological Sciences

**Miriam Merad, MD, PhD**

Department of Immunology & Immunotherapy

**Jeremiah Faith, PhD**

Department of Genetics and Genomic Sciences

**Hala Harony-Nicolas, PhD**

Department of Psychiatry

**Rita Goldstein, PhD**

Department of Psychiatry

**Xiaosi Gu, PhD**

Nash Family Department of Neuroscience

**Daniella Schiller, PhD**

Department of Psychiatry

**Alexander Charney, MD, PhD**

Department of Psychiatry

**Judy Cho, MD**

Department of Pathology, Molecular and Cell Based Medicine

<sup>^</sup> MD/PhD

## CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES AND NEUROSCIENCE

#### *Dissertation Advisors*

**Anina Nicole Lund**

It's Not Nothing: A Multimodal Approach to Understanding Human Brain Structure

**Alexander Charney, MD, PhD**

Department of Psychiatry

**Noam Beckmann, PhD**

Samuel Bronfman Department of Medicine

**Yixuan Ma**

Sex Differences in Brain Cell-type Specific Gene Expression and Chromatin Accessibility in Schizophrenia

**Panos Roussos, MD, PhD**

Department of Genetics and Genomic Sciences

**Thelma N. Mashaka**

Maternal Ancestry Reveals Cyclical Aging of the Mammary Gland: Implications for Breast Cancer Risk

**Doris Germain, PhD**

Samuel Bronfman Department of Medicine

**Jaime Mateus-Tique**

Anti-macrophage CAR T cells remodel the tumor microenvironment and control metastatic tumor growth

**Brian Brown, PhD**

Icahn Genomics Institute

**Hong Ha Nguyen**

Elucidating the PIP2-Regulated Gating Mechanism of GIRK2 Channels

**Paul Slesinger, PhD**

Nash Family Department of Neuroscience

**Mehk Ningoo**

Interferon- $\beta$  promotes Regulatory T cells through a Novel Trans-Signaling Mechanism

**Miguel Fribourg-Casajuana, PhD**

Samuel Bronfman Department of Medicine

**Dmitry Pokushalov**

Expanding Targeted Protein Degradation into the Mitochondria and Extracellular Space

**Doris Germain, PhD**

Samuel Bronfman Department of Medicine

**Jian Jin, PhD**

Department of Oncological Sciences

^ MD/PhD



*Dissertation Advisors*

**Ashley Katherine Reid Cahn**

Harnessing Transposable Elements to Enhance Cancer Vaccination

**Nina Bhardwaj, MD, PhD**

Samuel Bronfman Department of Medicine

**Nicolas Vabret, PhD**

Department of Immunology & Immunotherapy

**Christos Sazeides**

Human ISG15 Deficiency Unveils Impaired Wound Healing and Fibrosis via Chronic Inflammation

**Jean Lim, PhD**

Department of Microbiology

**Dusan Bogunovic, PhD**

Department of Pediatrics  
Columbia University

**Bo Shao**

Suppression of MHC-I by AR signaling in metastatic castration resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC)

**Carlos Cordon-Cardo, MD, PhD**

Department of Pathology

**Bhavana Shewale**

Mechanisms of de novo sarcomerogenesis

**Nicole Dubois, PhD**

Department of Cell, Developmental and Regenerative Biology

**Rebecca Hughes Signer**

Moving beyond GWAS: How Metabolic Physiology Interacts with the Genome in the Context of Eating and Psychiatric Disorders

**Eric Nestler, MD, PhD**

Nash Family Department of Neuroscience

**Laura Huckins, PhD**

Yale School of Medicine

**Lauren Anne Stalbow<sup>^</sup>**

A genotype first approach to diabetes

**Ruth Loos, PhD**

Department of Environmental Medicine

**Bruce Gelb, MD**

Mindich Child Health and Development Institute

<sup>^</sup> MD/PhD

## CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES AND NEUROSCIENCE

#### *Dissertation Advisors*

**David Francis Stein**

Inferring the functional effects of human genetic variation

**Yuval Itan, PhD**

Department of Genetics and Genomic Sciences

**Avner Schlessinger, PhD**

Department of Pharmacological Sciences

**Christian Stevens<sup>^</sup>**

Viruses are the Best Cell Biologists: Viral Engineering to Deliver Gene Editing Tools and Interrogate SARS-CoV-2 Entry

**Benhur Lee, MD**

Department of Microbiology

**Alissa Andrea Valentine**

Investigating Bias Related to Schizophrenia Diagnoses in the Mount Sinai Health System

**Lili Chan, MD**

Samuel Bronfman Department of Medicine

**Girish Nadkarni, MD**

Department of Nephrology

**Sanan Venkatesh**

Single-nucleus transcriptome-wide association study of human brain disorders

**Panos Roussos, MD, PhD**

Department of Genetics and Genomic Sciences

**Georgios Voloudakis, MD, PhD**

Department of Psychiatry

**Lauren Vetere**

Entorhinal-Hippocampal Desynchronization in a Mouse Model of Alzheimer's Disease Pathology

**Tristan Shuman, PhD**

Department of Neuroscience

**James M. Vicari Jr.**

Establishing a High Throughput CRISPR Screening Pipeline for Functional Investigation of Alzheimer's Disease-associated Microglial Genes

**Panos Roussos, MD, PhD**

Department of Genetics and Genomic Sciences

**Christopher Kellner, MD**

Department of Neurosurgery

<sup>^</sup> MD/PhD

*Dissertation Advisors*

**Audrey Warren**

Structural Evaluation of Mechanisms  
Underlying Serotonin Receptor Function

**Madison Rain Weber**

Initiation and intervention in mouse  
models of Merkel cell carcinoma

**Megan Lisa Wojciechowicz**

Predicting missense variant effects on  
protein stability and functionality by  
leveraging multiplexed assays of variant  
effect

**Jie (Janice) Yang**

Creating virtual twins of stem cell-derived  
cardiomyocytes to model variability in  
electrophysiology and drug response

**Nicole Zatorski<sup>^</sup>**

Integrating machine learning and protein  
structural features to predict drug toxicity

**William Zhao<sup>^</sup>**

Cellular and spatial map of lung  
adenocarcinoma reveals TP53-  
associated tissue remodeling

**Yue Zhong**

Bridged Proteolysis Targeting Chimera  
(PROTAC) Enables Degradation of the  
Cyclin D Undruggable Target

**Daniel Wacker, PhD**

Department of Pharmacological Sciences

**Elena Ezhkova, PhD**

Department of Cell, Developmental &  
Regenerative Biology

**Kuan-lin Huang, PhD**

Department of Genetics and Genomic  
Sciences

**Eric Sobie, PhD**

Department of Pharmacological Sciences

**Avner Schlessinger, PhD**

Department of Pharmacological Sciences

**Alexander Tsankov, PhD**

Department of Genetic and Genomic  
Sciences

**Jian Jin, PhD**

Department of Oncological Sciences

<sup>^</sup> MD/PhD

## CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN CLINICAL RESEARCH

#### *Dissertation Advisors*

**Luca Fierro**

Characterization of laboratory findings and quality of life in a pediatric cohort of patients with erythropoietic protoporphyria (EPP)

**Manisha Balwani, MD, MS**

Department of Genetics and Genomic Sciences

**Bat-ami Sonya Katzman Gordon**

Heralding in the era of biomarker defined oncology: Real world utilization of the first tumor-type agnostic FDA approval in the clinic

**Matthew Galsky, MD**

Samuel Bronfman Department of Medicine

**Yuanhui Huang**

Assessing the Risk of Second Primary Lung Cancer Among Cancer Survivors and Estimating Life Expectancy

**Keith Sigel, MD, PhD**

Samuel Bronfman Department of Medicine

**Vibhor Mahajan**

Strengthening the Clinical Research Ecosystem: Conceptual Framework to Evaluate the Effectiveness of a Clinical Trials Network

**Emilia Bagiella, PhD**

Department of Population Health Science and Policy

**Michelle Lucia Mendiola**

Development and Validation of a Disease-Specific Resilience Scale for Inflammatory Bowel Disease: The RISE-IBD Instrument

**Laurie Keefer, PhD**

Samuel Bronfman Department of Medicine

**Hana Mobasser**

Exploring the Role of L-Acetylcarnitine, Inflammation, and Neuroplasticity in Depression: A Pathway to Personalized Treatment

**James Murrough, MD, PhD**

Department of Psychiatry

^ MD/PhD

## CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

### DOCTOR OF MEDICINE

Dorothy Oye Adu-Amankwah  
Aneesh Agarwal  
Husni Alasadi  
Katherine Elizabeth Aliano Ruiz  
Lauren Alpert  
Uchechukwu Obialom-Ezenwa  
Amakiri  
Diego Arevalo  
Zerubabbel Ketema Asfaw\*  
Kelsey Auyeung  
Masih A. Babagoli  
Daniel Davidnan Baboolal  
Abdul Salam Bah  
Halbert Bai  
Isabelle Caroline Band  
Olivia Ashley Blanchard  
James Stuart Brooks\*\*  
Peter Murphy Campbell  
Alice Yulan Chen Liaw^  
Christopher Peng Cheng  
Sumanth Chennareddy\*  
Susmita Chennareddy  
Lily Eve Cohen  
Eden David  
Navindra David  
Christopher Michael De Vita  
Jennifer Melissa Ines Dias  
Jared An-Lan Doan  
Donald Vi Doanman^  
Bethany N. Dubois\*  
Akiro Duey  
Samuel Paul Eitenbichler  
Monica Marie Feeley  
Iain Forrest^  
Hannah Emily Freid  
Xanthe Tanja Gallate  
Zachary Jacob Gallin  
William Henry Gansa  
Jack Albert Gomberg

David Matthew Gonzalez^  
Mikayla Bryn Gordon Wexler  
Brianna Jolie Gordon  
Evelyn Golda Gotlieb  
Lucy Michelle Greenwald  
Faris Faried Gulamali  
Celestine Joy He  
Michael Joseph Hill-Oliva  
Michael Espino Horesh^  
Nnamdi Igwe  
Sushruta Krishna Iruvanti  
Nikita Sanjay Israni  
Vladislav Izda  
DeAnalisa Jones^  
Matina Elektra Kakalis  
Roshini Kalagara  
Carly Anne Kaplan  
Joel Kim^  
Jagdeesh Satya Kottapalli  
Kaustubh Rajesh Kulkarni^  
Anish Kumar  
Leore Chana Lavin  
Jasmine Lee-aphon Leahy  
Tomasina Marie Leska  
Rachel Maria Levantovsky^  
Gavin Li  
Troy S. Li  
Elizabeth Burns Magill\*\*  
Nikhil Maheshwari  
Simran Malhotra\*  
Kartikeya Menon  
Rutvij Merchant  
Zahava Presser Michaelson  
Mackenzie Augusta Mitchell  
Abhishek Reddy Mogili\*\*  
Nicole Muehleisen  
Byron Junior Wen Huei Mui  
Daniella Rose Nevid  
Kaothar Oladoja

\* MD/MSCR

\*\*MD/MPH

^ MD/PhD

## CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

### DOCTOR OF MEDICINE

Gi Jong Paik  
Sungjae Park  
Colby Bradford Parsons  
Krishna Hitendra Patel  
Adriana Elizabeth Pero\*  
Michael Peruggia  
Hannah Posner  
Amit Pujari  
Daniel X. Qian  
Hayley Elise Raymond  
Jennifer Ren  
Jeanette Rios  
Lukas Ritzer  
Benjamin Rodriguez  
Horacio Marconi Romero Castillo\*  
Ashley Mackenzie Rosenberg  
Lucy Claire Schultz  
Salonee Samir Shah  
Jacob D. Sherman  
Zachary Charles Spiera  
Lauren Anne Stalbow^

Christian Stephens  
Christian Stevens^  
Andrew Brandon Tieu  
Rachel Irene Todd  
Adam Matthew Ushpol  
Vikram S. Vasan  
Ruben Dario Vega Perez  
Dragan Vujovic  
Jacqueline Grace Wallace  
Marcus Depree Weeks  
Sara Rachel Wetzler\*\*  
Catherine Wu  
Sai Kaushik Yeturu  
Bashar Zaidat  
Nicole Zatorski^  
Evelyn Shindee Zhang  
Jack Yin Zhang  
William Zhao^  
Rebecca Zhuang Zhou  
Jerry Zhu

\* MD/MSCR

\*\*MD/MPH

^ MD/PhD

We lovingly remember those members of the Class of 2025 who are no longer with us. Their presence enriched our community, and their contributions to our academic community will forever remain part of our story. We celebrate their lives, their dreams, and the mark they left on all of us.

**DOCTOR OF MEDICINE**

**Jacob L. Dexter-Meldrum**  
**Alli Conte Morgan**

# GRADUATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

## MEDICAL SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

**DR. ALAN F. GUTTMACHER OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY PRIZE**

**Jeanette Rios**

**DR. BARRY COLLER AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CLINICAL MEDICINE**

**Nnamdi Egbichi-Ragland Igwe**

**DR. BARRY STIMMEL AWARD FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION**

**Jack Albert Gomberg**

**DR. DAVID K. MCDONOGH AWARD FOR DIVERSITY IN MEDICAL EDUCATION**

**Michael Espino Horesh**

**DR. HAROLD LAMPORT BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH PRIZE**

**Lily Eve Cohen**

**DR. HOWARD RAPPAPORT PEDIATRIC AWARD**

**Adam Matthew Ushpol**

**DR. JOSEPH R. JAGUST ANESTHESIOLOGY AWARD**

**Christopher Peng Cheng**

**Daniel Xiong Qian**

**DR. M. RALPH KAUFMAN PSYCHIATRY PRIZE**

**Elizabeth Burns Magill**

**DR. MORRIS B. BENDER AWARD IN CLINICAL NEUROLOGY**

**Evelyn Golda Gotlieb**

**EXCELLENCE IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE**

**Abhishek Reddy Mogili**

**EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH**

**James Stuart Brooks**

**Abhishek Reddy Mogili**

**HAROLD ELSTER MEMORIAL PRIZE FOR CLINICAL ACUMEN**

**Colby Bradford Parsons**

**JAMES FELT AWARD FOR THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL AND RACIAL JUSTICE**

**Jennifer Melissa Ines Dias**



**JUDITH AND NATHAN G. KASE, M.D. PRIZES FOR OUTSTANDING GRADUATING  
FLEXMED STUDENTS IN BIOMEDICAL AND COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCES**

**Dorothy Oye Adu-Amankwah  
Krishna Hitendra Patel**

**LEONARD TOW HUMANISM IN MEDICINE STUDENT AWARD**

**Cecilia Katzenstein**

**MILTON C. ENGEL, MD, AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN GERIATRIC MEDICINE**

**Mikayla Bryn Gordon Wexler  
Colby Bradford Parsons**

**MRS. DAVID A. DREILING SURGERY PRIZE IN MEMORY  
OF HER MOTHER, FLORENCE L. OPPENHEIMER**

**Simran Malhotra**

**PATRICIA LEVINSON AWARD FOR THE ADVANCEMENT  
AND INCLUSION OF WOMEN IN MEDICINE**

**Lauren Anne Stalbow**

**PORTAL THESIS AWARD IN CLINICAL RESEARCH**

**Sumanth Chennareddy**

**STEVEN B. TAMARIN, MD, MEMORIAL AWARD FOR  
EXCELLENCE IN FAMILY MEDICINE**

**Jacob D. Sherman**

# GRADUATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

## GRADUATE SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

**AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING RESEARCH IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE**

**David Francis Stein**

**AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING RESEARCH IN NEUROSCIENCE**

**Sanan Venkatesh**

**AWARD FOR SCIENCE ADVOCACY**

**Ashley Katherine Reid Cahn**

**THE MEDICAL SCIENTIST TRAINING PROGRAM (MSTP) SERVICE AWARD**

**Jake Herb**

**SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD**

**DeAnalisa Jones**

**THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN IN SCIENCE AWARD**

**Dania Maray Figueroa**

**THE ARTHUR CEDERBAUM MENTORING BY A GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD**

**DeAnalisa Jones**

**THE MIKI RIFKIN GRADUATE SCHOOL SERVICE AWARD**

**Alexandra Fink Skular**

**THE TERRY ANN KRULWICH DOCTORAL DISSERTATION PRIZE**

**Áine Duffy**

# MD CLASS OF 2025 DISTINCTIONS

## GOLD HUMANISM HONOR SOCIETY

Dorothy Oye Adu-Amankwah  
Masih A. Babagoli  
Isabelle Caroline Band  
Ashley Brown  
Lily Eve Cohen  
Rebecca Cohen  
Mikayla Bryn Gordon Wexler  
Jason Jo  
Cecilia Katzenstein  
Regina Longley

Alli Conte Morgan  
Daniella Rose Nevid  
Kaothar Oladoja  
Colby Bradford Parsons  
Michael Peruggia  
Edward Sarfo  
Lucy Claire Schultz  
Salonee Samir Shah  
Tsion Tmariam  
Adam Matthew Ushpol

## DISTINCTION IN COMMUNITY SERVICE-GLOBAL HEALTH

Dorothy Oye Adu-Amankwah  
Zerubabel Ketema Asfaw  
Masih A. Babagoli  
James Stuart Brooks  
Lily Eve Cohen  
Zachary Jacob Gallin  
Mikayla Bryn Gordon Wexler  
DeAnalisa Jones  
Matina Elektra Kakalis

Leore Chana Lavin  
Gavin Li  
Elizabeth Burns Magill  
Rutvij Merchant  
Adriana Elizabeth Pero  
Jeanette Rios  
Lucy Claire Schultz  
Salonee Samir Shah

## DISTINCTION IN RESEARCH

Dorothy Oye Adu-Amankwah  
Aneesh Agarwal  
Uchechukwu Obialom-Ezenwa  
Amakiri  
Zerubabel Ketema Asfaw  
Kelsey Auyeung  
Masih A. Babagoli  
Isabelle Caroline Band  
Peter Murphy Campbell  
Alice Yulan Chen Liaw  
Christopher Peng Cheng  
Sumanth Chennareddy  
Susmita Chennareddy  
Lily Eve Cohen  
Eden David  
Jennifer Melissa Ines Dias  
Bethany N. Dubois  
Akiri Duey

Iain Forrest  
William Henry Gansa  
Jack Albert Gomberg  
David Matthew Gonzalez  
Mikayla Bryn Gordon Wexler  
Evelyn Golda Gotlieb  
Lucy Michelle Greenwald  
Faris Faried Gulamali  
Celestine Joy He  
Michael Joseph Hill-Oliva  
Michael Espino Horesh  
Roshini Kalagara  
Carly Anne Kaplan  
Kaustubh Rajesh Kulkarni  
Anish Kumar  
Leore Chana Lavin  
Jasmine Lee-aphon Leahy  
Rachel Maria Levantovsky

## MD CLASS OF 2025 DISTINCTIONS

**Halbert Bai  
Gavin Li  
Elizabeth Burns Magill  
Kartikeya Menon  
Rutvij Merchant  
Abhishek Reddy Mogili  
Colby Bradford Parsons  
Adriana Elizabeth Pero  
Hannah Posner  
Daniel X Qjian  
Hayley Elise Raymond  
Jennifer Ren**

**Lukas Ritzer  
Ashley Mackenzie Rosenberg  
Zachary Charles Spiera  
Jason Chan Tiao  
Adam Matthew Ushpol  
Vikram S. Vasan  
Dragan Vujovic  
Jacqueline Grace Wallace  
Sara Rachel Wetzler  
Nicole Zatorski  
Evelyn Shindee Zhang  
Jerry Zhu**

### DISTINCTION IN MEDICAL EDUCATION

**Halbert Bai  
James Stuart Brooks  
Mackenzie Augusta Mitchell**

**Abhishek Reddy Mogili  
Vikram S. Vasan**

# GRADUATE SCHOOL LIST OF AWARDS AND PRIZES

## DISTINCTION IN RESEARCH

Sinead Frances Cullina  
Jacob William Glickman  
Philip Hwang  
Sarah Elizabeth Gilbert King

## RESEARCH AWARDS

### RUTH L. KIRSCHSTEIN NATIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE AWARD (NRSA/NIH)

Matthew James Brown, 2022-2023  
Donald Vi Doanman, 2022-2023  
Marisa A. Goff, 2021-2024  
Camille Goldman, 2023-2025  
David Matthew Gonzalez, 2020-2022  
Brittany M. Hemmer, 2023-2025  
Philip Hwang, 2021-2024  
DeAnalisa Jones, 2022-2025  
Rachel Maria Levantovsky, 2021 -2025  
Alice Yulan Chen Liaw, 2021-2025  
Lauren Anne Stalbow, 2020-2025  
Pamela Del Valle, 2022-2023  
Lauren Vetere, 2020-2023  
Audrey Warren, 2022-2025  
Madison Rain Weber, 2023-2025  
Nicole Zatorski, 2021-2025

### NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF)

Griffin David Haas, 2021-2025  
Alexandra Fink Skular, 2022-2025

### AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION (AHA)

Tasneem Abdulkarim Mustafa Ebrahim, 2022-2023  
Bhavana Shewale, 2024-2025

### SEAEVER FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP

Michelle Kim, 2023-2024

### PARKER INSTITUTE FOR CANCER IMMUNOTHERAPY AWARD (PICI)

Matthew James Brown, 2023-2025

## TRAVEL AWARDS

### KEYSTONE SYMPOSIA

Dania Maray Figueroa, 2023, 2024

## GRADUATE SCHOOL LIST OF AWARDS AND PRIZES

### **COLD SPRING HARBOR CONFERENCE**

**Madison Rain Weber, 2023**

### **GORDON RESEARCH CONFERENCE**

**Hong Ha Nguyen, 2022, 2024**

### **SOCIETY FOR NEUROSCIENCE (SFN)**

**Michelle Kim, 2022**

**Sanan Venkatesh, 2020**

### **AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR VIROLOGY CONFERENCE**

**Griffin David Haas, 2025**

### **WORLD CONGRESS OF PSYCHIATRIC GENETICS**

**Sanan Venkatesh, 2022**

### **AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR HUMAN GENETICS CONFERENCE**

**Iain San Hoi Forrest, 2021, 2022**

**Anina Nicole Lund, 2023, 2024**

**Yixuan Ma, 2022, 2024**

**Sanan Venkatesh, 2023, 2024**

### **EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF HUMAN GENETICS CONFERENCE**

**Anina Nicole Lund, 2024**

### **IASLC 2024 WORLD CONFERENCE ON LUNG CANCER**

**Yuanhui Huang, 2024**

### **WEINSTEIN CARDIOVASCULAR DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION CONFERENCE**

**Tasneem Abdulkarim Mustafa Ebrahim, 2023, 2024**

### **ANNUAL BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE FOR MINORITIZED SCIENTISTS (ABRCMS)**

**Michelle Lucia Mendiolaza, 2023**

### **CROHN'S AND COLITIS CONGRESS**

**Michelle Lucia Mendiolaza, 2025**

### **AMERICAN MEDICAL INFORMATICS ASSOCIATION**

**Pushkala Jayaraman, 2024**

### **AMERICAN PHYSICIAN SCIENTISTS ASSOCIATION (APSA) CONFERENCE**

**Rachel Maria Levantovsky, 2023**

**SOCIETY FOR IMMUNOTHERAPY OF CANCER (SITC) ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Matthew James Brown, 2023**

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF IMMUNOLOGISTS**  
**Lauren Anntine Chang, 2022**

**ANNUAL HOST-PATHOGEN INTERACTIONS SYMPOSIUM**  
**Lauren Anntine Chang, 2022**

**AMERICAN GASTROENTEROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**  
**Rachel Maria Levantovsky, 2021**

**AMERICAN MEDICAL INFORMATICS ASSOCIATION**  
**Pushkala Jayaraman, 2024**

**ADVANCES IN GENOME BIOLOGY & TECHNOLOGY**  
**- PRECISION HEALTH MEETING**  
**Iain San Hoi Forrest, 2021**

**AMERICAN AGING ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Thelma Nyasha Mashaka, 2024**

**OKLAHOMA GEROSCIENCE SYMPOSIUM**  
**Thelma Nyasha Mashaka, 2024**

**ACADEMY HEALTH CONFERENCE ON THE SCIENCE OF**  
**DISSEMINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION**  
**Vibhor Mahajan, 2024**

**AMERICAN TRANSPLANT CONGRESS**  
**Mehek Ningoo, 2024**

**NIH ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION WORKSHOP**  
**Mehek Ningoo, 2023**

**SOCIETY OF INVESTIGATIVE DERMATOLOGY**  
**Jacob William Glickman, 2024, 2025**

**STUDENT COUNCIL AWARDS**

**AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE**  
**DeAnalisa Jones, 2023**  
**Dania Maray Figueroa, 2021**  
**Alissa Andrea Valentine, 2024**

# ICAHN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT MOUNT SINAI

## DEPARTMENT CHAIRS

### **Benjamin S. Abella, MD, MPhil**

Mount Sinai Professor & System Chair  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

### **David H. Adams, MD**

Marie-Josée and Henry R. Kravis Professor and  
System Chair, Department of Cardiovascular Surgery  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

### **Joshua B. Bederson, MD**

Leonard I. Malis, MD/Corinne and Joseph Graber Professor of Neurosurgery and  
System Chair, Department of Neurosurgery  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

### **Jonathan A. Cohen, DVM, MS, DACLAM**

Associate Professor and Director  
Center for Comparative Medicine and Surgery  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

### **Carlos Cordon-Cardo, MD, PhD**

Irene Heinz Given and John LaPorte Given Professor of Pathology and  
System Chair, Lillian and Henry M. Stratton-Hans Popper Department of Pathology,  
Molecular and Cell-Based Medicine  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

### **Ana Fernandez-Sesma, PhD**

Professor and Chair, Department of Microbiology  
Mount Sinai Professor of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

### **Raja M. Flores, MD**

Steven and Ann Ames Professor in Thoracic Surgery and  
System Chair, Department of Thoracic Surgery  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

### **Leesa Galatz, MD**

Mount Sinai Professor in Orthopaedics and  
System Chair, Leni and Peter W. May Department of Orthopaedic Surgery  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

### **Annetine C. Gelijns, PhD**

Edmond A. Guggenheim Professor of Health Policy and  
Chair, Department of Population Health Science and Policy  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai



**Eric M. Genden, MD, MHA, FACS**

Isidore Friesner Professor and System Chairman  
Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery  
Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs  
Clinical Co-Director, Institute for Airway Sciences  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

**Alison Goate, D.Phil**

Jean C. and James W. Crystal Professor and  
Chair, Department of Genetics and Genomic Sciences  
Director, Ronald M. Loeb Center for Alzheimer's Disease  
Professor of Neuroscience  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

**Emma Guttman-Yassky, MD, PhD**

Waldman Chair of Dermatology and  
System Chair, The Kimberly and Eric J. Waldman Department of Dermatology  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

**Joseph Herrera, DO**

Dr. Lucy G. Moses Professorship in Rehabilitation Medicine and  
System Chair, Department of Rehabilitation and Human Performance  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

**René Kahn, MD, PhD**

Esther and Joseph Klingenstein Professor and  
System Chair, Department of Psychiatry  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

**Paul J. Kenny, PhD**

Chair, Nash Family Department of Neuroscience  
Director, Drug Discovery Institute  
Ward-Coleman Chair in Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

**Monica Kraft, MD**

System Chair, Department of Medicine  
Murray M. Rosenberg Professor of Medicine  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

**Andrew Leibowitz, MD**

Mount Sinai Professor in Perioperative Care and  
System Chair, Department of Anesthesiology, Perioperative, and Pain Medicine  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

# ICAHN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT MOUNT SINAI

## DEPARTMENT CHAIRS

### **Michael L. Marin, MD**

The Julius H. Jacobson, II, MD Chair in Vascular Surgery and System Chair, The Ruth J. & Maxwell Hauser and Harriet & Arthur H. Aufses, Jr., MD Department of Surgery  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai  
Surgeon-In-Chief  
Mount Sinai Health System

### **Miriam Merad, MD, PhD**

Chair, Department of Immunology and Immunotherapy  
Mount Sinai Professor in Cancer Immunology  
Director, Precision Immunology Institute  
Dean for Translational Research and Therapeutic Innovation  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

### **Marek Mlodzik, PhD**

Lillian and Henry M. Stratton Professor and Chair, Department of Cell, Developmental and Regenerative Biology  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

### **R. Sean Morrison, MD**

Ellen and Howard C. Katz Chair in Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine and System Chair, Brookdale Department of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine  
Director, The Lillian and Benjamin Hertzberg Palliative Care Institute  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

### **Judy Lee Moy, DMD**

Assistant Professor and Chair, Department of Dentistry  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

### **Girish N. Nadkarni, MD, MPH**

Chair, The Windreich Department of Artificial Intelligence and Human Health  
Director, The Hasso Plattner Institute for Digital Health at Mount Sinai  
The Irene and Dr. Arthur Fishberg Endowed Professor of Medicine  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

### **Ramon E. Parsons, MD, PhD**

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## ACADEMIC REGALIA

The caps and gowns worn by the participants in today's Commencement exercises are patterned after the attire of scholars in the Middle Ages, when a warm gown and hood were needed for study in unheated buildings. While European institutions continue to show great diversity in their academic costume, an Intercollegiate Commission met in 1895 to standardize the style and color for robes and hoods to be worn at colleges and universities of the United States. Since then the costume code has been revised and clarified several times by the American Council on Education, most recently in 1986. The governing force, however, is tradition tracing back to the academic symbols of the Middle Ages.

Black gowns were originally recommended for all degrees at all institutions, with the style of the gown denoting the degree: pointed sleeves for Bachelor's, long closed sleeves for Master's, and full, round sleeves for the Doctor's degrees. In addition, the Doctor's gown was to be faced in black velvet down the front and with three bars of the same velvet across the sleeves. Some universities have begun to adopt more colorful robes. The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai robe is blue; other colors currently in use are violet for New York University, slate gray for Columbia, crimson for Harvard, blue for Yale.

Much information is represented by the colors of hoods worn by holders of doctoral and master's degrees. The colors of the interior lining of the hood are those of the institution from which the degree was earned. The hood is bordered in velvet in a color that signifies the discipline of the degree: In the case of the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree, the dark blue color is used to represent the mastery of the discipline of learning and scholarship in any field and is not intended to solely represent the field of philosophy.

Members of the Board of Trustees at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai wear a specially designed costume..

Arts, Letters, Humanities	White
Business	Light Brown
Dentistry	Lilac
Education	Light Blue
Law	Purple
Library Science	Lemon Yellow
Medicine	Green
Nursing	Apricot
Philosophy	Dark Blue
Public Administration	Peacock Blue
Public Health	Salmon Pink
Science	Golden Yellow
Social Work	Citron Yellow
Veterinary Science	Gray

## OATH FOR DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

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With my Doctor of Philosophy, I willingly pledge to uphold the highest levels of integrity, professionalism, scholarship and honor.

I will conduct my research and professional endeavors with honesty and objectivity.

I will apply the highest standards of rigor and respect for the generation and application of knowledge, and fully acknowledge the contributions of others.

I will not allow financial gain or ambition to cloud my judgment or decision-making nor cause harm to society or subjects of research.

I will embark on the furthering of knowledge through respectful interaction and collaboration with my colleagues and community, without prejudice or exclusion.

I will be a role model, and use my skills to inspire, mentor and empower future generations, instilling in them the highest principles of ethical behavior.

As witnessed by all present today, and in the tradition of Graduates before me, I do affirm to uphold these guiding principles.

## OATH FOR MEDICAL DEGREE CANDIDTES

### **HIPPOCRATIC OATH, MODERN VERSION (MODIFIED)**

We, the graduates of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Class of 2025, stand together in community as we begin our journey as new physicians. During this present moment, when the integrity of medicine is being threatened, and we witness the continued oppression of systemically marginalized groups, we embrace the privilege and responsibility of upholding scientifically accurate and equitable care. With this in mind, and our unrelenting hope, we each pledge the following:

I WILL RESPECT the autonomy, privacy and dignity of my patient.

I WILL ABANDON my ego and listen to my patients with compassion and respect.

I WILL MAINTAIN the utmost respect for the human before me and their quality of life.

I WILL PROVIDE equitable care to people of all identities including: ability, age, class, education, ethnicity, gender, language, legal status, immigration status, nationality, race, religion, and sexuality or any other factor related to their personhood.

I WILL COMMIT to my learning, teaching, and research by honoring the best practices of current medicine and courageously rethinking traditions.

I WILL CHALLENGE the status quo and advocate for my patients in disrupting the systems that perpetuate inequities arising from segregated care and biases, known and unknown.

I WILL NOT USE my medical knowledge to violate human rights and civil liberties, even under threat.

I WILL ATTEND TO my own health, well-being, and abilities in order to provide care of the highest standard as well as recognize the limitations of myself and the profession.

I WILL BRING MY authentic self to every interaction with patients and colleagues, while honoring our unique lived experiences and shared humanity.

Altogether, we promise to ourselves, our colleagues, and our future patients to do all within our power to turn these words into action.

*Written in 1964 by Louis Lasagna, Academic Dean of the School of Medicine at Tufts University and adapted by the Learning Community of Dr. Alli Gault*



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# HONOR YOUR GRADUATE

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Lauren,  
We are so incredibly proud of you and  
all that you have accomplished!

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LOVE,  
DAD, MOM, EVAN

Congratulations Lucy!  
We are so proud of you and are looking  
forward to seeing all the good you will do  
in this world. Our hearts are full!

---

LOVE,  
MOM, DAD, MAGGY AND DRUM

Congratulations Leore! We are so proud of your accomplishments & your commitment to patient care, research, and community service. We know you will contribute greatly in the coming years and we love and cherish you always.

---

LOVE,  
GILA LEITER, JAMES LAVIN AND FAMILY

Congrats Zack!  
With your compassion and wisdom  
you will be an incredible physician!

---

Congratulations EHHOP 2025!  
Thank you for your advocacy and support  
for our patients.

---

So proud of you Sam!  
You'll be an amazing neurologist!

---

From White Coat to MD!  
We love you Lucy!

---

FROM  
MOM, DAD & FAMILY

The world is blessed to have you.  
Congrats on your hard work.

---

Congrats Dr. Tomasina Leska, MD

---

LOVE,  
DAD, MOM, & NICOLE

You inspire and amaze us!

---

LOVE,  
MOM, DAD, V, AND JASON

Congrats, Dr. Nevid!  
You are a shining star!

---

“Go confidently in the direction of your  
dreams,” Dr Ushpol.

---

Marcus, you’re amazing!

---

LOVE,  
MOM, DAD, KATIE, AND THE GIRLS

Catherine,  
Love, love, love you!

---

WU FAMILY

Kaothar,  
There is no room that you haven't earned  
the right to be in.

---

THE TIJANI AND OLADOJA FAMILY

Congratulations MSHRP Graduates!  
You make us so proud.

---

The Leni and Peter May Department of Medical Education  
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