Elisabet Pujadas, MD, PHD
Resident (PGY2), Pathology
Mount Sinai Hospital

Educational efforts or scholarly performance: “I have never met such a dedicated person for teaching and investigating the science of medicine and cancerogenesis.” Back in March 2020, she started working in the Biosafety Level 2 lab in molecular pathology to run a lab-based real-time PCR test that had the ability to calculate viral load on SARS-CoV-2 positive samples. She then compared this method to the current in-house testing platform and published it to open the important difference to all researchers and doctors. To further expand our knowledge, Elisabet joined forces with the Mount Sinai COVID-19 Informatics Center to show that higher viral loads in patients admitted to the hospital led to a higher mortality, which was recently published in Lancet Respiratory Medicine and has received a lot of press. At the same time, our autopsy division started performing COVID-19 autopsies. She was trusted to step in and help coordinate a subset of the administrative and a large part of the research aspects of our COVID autopsy service. This led to a newly published paper summarizing important COVID-19 autopsy findings.”

Justin Poon, MD
Fellow (PGY5), Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine
Mount Sinai Morningside and West

Service to Peers: “Justin was our fellow in the ICU at MSW for the past two weeks and was an incredible team leader during a busy rotation. Each day, he showed up with positivity, enthusiasm and a big smile beaming through his mask, that all remained throughout his very long days in the ICU! He always gave us the opportunity to come up with plans for our patients, but also offered his ideas when he could tell we were stuck. He patiently reviewed procedures with our team before we set out to do them and then patiently supported us through them. Various people on the team agreed that they felt particularly calm while doing procedures with Justin by their side because he kept them relaxed and patiently offered help, guidance and trouble-shooting along the way. He was always approachable, and no question was ever too dumb or task was too large or small for him. He was quick to help out the team in any way that he could. He was an amazing liaison between the house-staff, attendings, nursing staff and respiratory therapists and created a wonderfully collaborative and pleasant environment in the ICU.”