FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 2021, 12 PM

A VIRTUAL PRODUCTION
Opening Remarks

Brian J. Nickerson, PhD, JD

Senior Associate Dean, Master’s Programs
Director, Master of Science in Health Care Delivery Leadership and Master of Health Administration Programs
Professor, Department of Population Health Science and Policy
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Marta Filizola, PhD

Dean, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
Sharon & Frederick A. Klingenstein-Nathan G. Kase, MD Professor,
Department of Pharmacological Sciences
Nash Family Department of Neuroscience
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
STUDENT HONORS RECOGNITION

DELTA OMEGA HONORARY SOCIETY IN PUBLIC HEALTH, BETA OMICRON CHAPTER

Kayla Yaneth Collado
Luz Brielle Dojer
Paulette Margherite Ericksen
Rabeea Feroz Khan
Elizabeth Rose Kolod
Katherine Dorrien Maguire
Aisosa Rhema Omorogbe
Neha B. Pannuri
Kate Rose Pawloski
Meghan Elizabeth Lee Smith
Ann Rose Stillman
ICAHN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT MOUNT SINAI
STUDENT AWARDS PRESENTATION
(In alphabetical order by recipient’s last name)
Abdul Bais Ahmed

Abdul Bais came to the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai from CUNY Hebert H. Lehman College where he earned a Bachelor of Art in Biology. Before attending Icahn, Abdul Bais was a Teaching Assistant at the Lehman College’s Science Learning Center and a Research Assistant at the CUNY Research Foundation. He entered the Master of Public Health program in 2018.

While at Icahn, Abdul Bais attended a number of symposia. He volunteered as Community Ambassador at the Mentoring in Medicine, Inc. His Applied Practice Experience was featured in the Spring 2021 issue of The Scoop Graduate Program in Public Health Newsletter. He also published an article while an Intern at the Access Challenge.

Abdul Bais would like to thank his family, friends and all faculty members at Mount Sinai, particularly his Capstone Advisor, Dr. Alexander Preker, for the valuable contribution and guidance he made to his success at Icahn. He also recognizes Jennifer Valdivia Espino and Christine Cortalano for their patience in guiding him through the School. Lastly, he’s grateful to Asad Lilani and teams at Access Challenge.

Abdul Bais will subsequently graduate with his Doctor of Podiatric Medicine degree, and continue to serve and impact his community immensely. He hopes to have combined roles in clinical practice and lecturing in future.
Briana came to the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai from Emory University, where she majored in Psychology. She entered the Master of Public Health program immediately following her graduation from Emory in 2019.

While at Icahn, Briana participated in the Sinai Medical Students Making Impacts Group, helping to develop health-screening fairs for community health centers in Nogales, AZ. She also served as the group's co-treasurer. She completed a part-time internship with the Global Psychiatric Epidemiology Group at Columbia University, and was accepted to conduct a research project in conjunction with the MINDS Foundation under the Mount Sinai Global Health Education Program. She currently works full-time for NYC Health and Hospitals, is a student member of the American Public Health Association, a NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Team Epi Student Responder, a co-lead for ContraCOVID NYC, and a part-time Sinai Sitter.

Briana would like to thank her family, friends, and the many faculty members at Sinai who have helped her throughout her graduate education.

Briana will graduate with her MPH degree and continue her public health career working with the nonprofit organization ContraCOVID and as a Research Coordinator at NYU.
OUTSTANDING THESIS AWARD IN THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CLINICAL RESEARCH

Matthew James Brown

Matt came to the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai from Rutgers University, where he majored in Cell Biology and Neuroscience. He entered the Master of Science in Clinical Research program in 2019.

At Sinai, Matt has served as teaching assistant, a peer mentor, and has published four review articles in high-impact journals. His thesis research, conducted at the Tisch Cancer Institute and Precision Immunology Institute, was focused in finding new ways to better understand how the immune system recognizes viruses and cancer cells in order to enhance vaccine development. He took an active leadership role in COVID-19 research by analyzing the adaptive immune response in convalescent patients and vaccine recipients.

After receiving his Master’s degree, Matt plans to continue to pursue his research interest in developing new immunotherapies as a student in the PhD in Biomedical Sciences program at Mount Sinai. He is incredibly grateful for the support of his family, friends, and mentors.
Alanna Cera

Alanna came to the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai from William Paterson University of New Jersey, where she obtained a Bachelor and a Master of Science in Biology. Before attending Icahn, Alanna worked as a gene synthesis project manager and researched gene coregulation in yeast that culminated in a publication, “Functionally Related Genes Cluster into Genomic Regions That Coordinate Transcription at a Distance in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.”

She entered the Master of Science in Genetic Counseling program in 2019. While at Icahn, Alanna co-led Prenatal Partners and was the co-leader of the Genetic Counseling Book Club. Alanna served as a teaching assistant in the genetic counseling course Structures of Embryology as well as a teaching assistant in the medical school course Molecular, Cellular, and Genomic Foundations. While taking the Nexus course Medicina en Español, she was inspired to create a Genetic Counseling Spanish club to enhance student communication and vocabulary essential to conveying genetic concepts to Spanish speaking patients.

Alanna’s thesis was entitled “Pharmacogenomic Information Preferences Among Clinical Providers.” She will start her career at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, specializing in cardiogenetics. She would like to thank her thesis advisors Stuart Scott and Hetanshi Naik, for their encouragement, her classmates, family, and friends for providing unimaginable support, and program leadership, who never failed to find solutions during an unprecedented time.
Agathe Marie de Pins

Agathe came to the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai from McGill University, where she majored in Anatomy and Cell Biology. Before attending Icahn, Agathe worked at the Sherkow Center for Child Development and Autism Spectrum Disorder as the co-director of the Spark social skills group. She entered the Master of Science in Biomedical Science program in 2019.

While at Icahn, Agathe participated in the Trainee Health and Wellness student organization as the communications chair where she created the “Wellness Podcast” and kick started the development of a PEERS resilience curriculum for MSBS students. She volunteered in the East Harlem Health Outreach Partnership Mental Health free clinic as a clinic manager and then psychotherapy program manager. She also volunteered as an advocate for the Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention program at Mount Sinai. Finally, she presented her thesis work during the World Congress of Psychiatric Genetics in October 2020.

Agathe would like to thank her family and friends as well as her principal investigator Alexander Charney, all her lab members and Basil Hanss for their continuous support and guidance.

Agathe will graduate with her Master’s degree and work as a bioinformatician in Dr. Charney and Dr. Huckins’ labs. She hopes to attend medical school in 2022.
Maria M. Emerson, MD

Maria came to the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai to earn her Master of Science in Health Care Delivery Leadership. She received her Medical Doctorate with distinction in women’s health from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Before attending Icahn, Maria worked at BronxCare Health where she held the position of Assistant Director of the Ob/Gyn residency and was, most recently, the Director of the Women’s Health Center and Health and Wellness Gynecology. She entered the MS in Health Care Delivery Leadership program in 2019.

While working on earning her MS degree at Icahn, Maria, a board-certified Ob/Gyn, has been practicing full time. She was offered the Director of Obstetrics and Gynecology position at Montefiore Nyack Hospital and started this new leadership role in February 2021.

Maria would like to thank Jason, her husband of 26 years and her three sons (Jonas, Avery, and Zachary) for all their encouragement, Dr. Mikhail of BronxCare for his support, and all of her incredible professors at the Icahn who have made this journey so interesting.

Maria will graduate with her Master of Science in Health Care Delivery Leadership degree and will be more fully prepared to lead her Department at Montefiore Nyack Hospital.
Lissette Giraud, MD

Lissette came to the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai from University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez, where she majored in Pre-Medical Sciences, and from the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus where she earned a Doctorate in Medicine with high honors. Before working at Mount Sinai, Lisette was a practicing Otolaryngologist in private practice for 16 years. In 2018, she joined New York Eye and Ear of Mount Sinai Otolaryngology Department as Assistant Professor and recently joined the faculty at Mount Sinai Doctors. She has held leadership positions both in private practice and at Mount Sinai.

She entered the MS program in Health Care Delivery Leadership in September 2019 after receiving the Mount Sinai Doctors Faculty Practice Executive Scholarship.

Lisette would like to thank her husband, Charles, and her children, Sofia and Alexander, for their support and understanding while she balanced her clinical work, classes and family life.

Lisette will graduate having earned the Master of Science in Health Care Delivery Leadership and continue her clinical work at Mount Sinai Doctors.
EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE AWARD
IN THE CLINICAL RESEARCH EDUCATION PROGRAM

Sara Malin Hovstadius

Malin came to the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai from Purdue University, where she earned her degree in Biological Engineering. She entered the Master of Science in Clinical Research program in 2019, shortly after completing her undergraduate degree.

While at Icahn, Malin coauthored three publications on the treatment of early-stage breast cancer in women with intermediate Oncotype recurrence scores. She volunteered at the main hospital as an inpatient CARE worker, providing bedside comfort and support for patients. Malin is also a clinical research coordinator for Retina Technologies, a startup company founded by Mount Sinai medical students to expand access to vision care using virtual reality.

After graduating, Malin will attend medical school at the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University.
Mellesia Anjali Jeetoo

Mellesia came to the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai from The University at Buffalo, where she majored in Biotechnology. Before attending Icahn, Mellesia served as a campus health educator aimed to raise awareness on the significance of blood and organ donation while attending the University at Buffalo, which inspired her to pursue her Master of Public Health. She entered the Master of Public Health program in 2019.

While at Icahn, Mellesia participated in the Community Engagement Core at The Mount Sinai Transdisciplinary Center on Early Environmental Exposures in training communities and students on environmental justice and health, as well as community science. She also interned at the United Nations Mental Health and Well-Being Strategy team.

Mellesia would like to especially thank Dr. Stephanie H. Factor for her encouragement and mentorship. She would also like to thank the many faculty members at Sinai, her team at the United Nations, and family and friends, who have made her public health education a remarkable and rewarding experience.

Mellesia will graduate with her Master of Public Health degree and aims to continue her career in infectious disease epidemiology.
Migi Lee

Migi came to the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai from Boston University, where she majored in Cell Biology and minored in Deaf Studies. She entered the Master of Science in Biomedical Science (MSBS) program in 2019.

While at Icahn, Migi performed research under the mentorship of Dr. David Dominguez-Sola in the Department of Oncological Sciences where she designed and performed functional validations of novel mouse models of human Burkitt lymphoma. Migi was a co-director for the MSBS Peer Mentorship program and an MSBS student ambassador.

Migi would like to thank David, who believed in her and inspired her to pursue a physician-scientist career, and her lab members for helping her get to this point. She would also like to thank her parents, her sister, loved ones, and her dog best friend, Faith, for their unwavering support during her academic journey.

Migi will graduate with her Master of Science in Biomedical Science, and will pursue her MD/PhD in New York this fall.
GENETIC COUNSELING PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR STUDENT EXCELLENCE

Julia M. Martinez

Julia came to the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai from UCLA, where she majored in Human Biology and Society. Before attending Icahn, Julia worked as a clinical trial coordinator for a medical device company and volunteered as an EMT. She entered the Master of Science in Genetic Counseling Program in 2019.

While at Icahn, Julia dove into her interest in teaching by taking on roles such as Teaching Assistant for Structures (the first year anatomy course), and co-leader of the Genetic Counseling student mentorship program. Beyond the required coursework, she participated in many optional Nexus courses and became a Course Director for the Deconstructing Race in Medicine and Health course. She is currently working to publish her thesis research on the use of telehealth in genetics clinics during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Julia would like to thank her family, friends, and classmates for their support throughout this program. She would also like to thank her program directors, rotation supervisors, and the Medical Genetics faculty and staff for their instruction, mentorship, advice and adaptability during a challenging year.

Julia will graduate with her Master’s degree in Genetic Counseling and is interested in specializing in Cancer genetics or Lysosomal Storage Diseases.
Chantelle Tamika McLeish

Chantelle came to the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai from the University of Georgia, where she majored in Biology. Before attending Icahn, Chantelle worked as an Administrative Assistant at Comprehensive Nephrology Center. She entered the Graduate Program in Public Health in 2019.

While at Icahn, Chantelle participated in the East Harlem Health Outreach Partnership, the ISMMS student-run free clinic as an Access to Care Team Case Manager. She also worked as a student intern with the Mount Sinai Health System Department of Health Education’s Public Health and Racial Justice Program. Chantelle is the student editor for The Scoop, the Graduate Program in Public Health newsletter.

Chantelle would like to thank her family and friends for their never-ending support. She would also like to thank all of the faculty members at Sinai who have made her public health education a truly rewarding experience.

Chantelle will graduate with her Master of Public Health degree and continue to pursue public health opportunities.
Aleta Murphy

Aleta came to the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai from Rutgers University, where she majored in Cell Biology/Neuroscience and Psychology, and minored in Art History. Before attending Icahn, Aleta worked as a laboratory technician at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in the Junn Lab, studying the role of microRNAs in Parkinson’s disease and Spinal Cord Injury. She entered the Master of Science in Biomedical Science (MSBS) program in 2019.

While at Icahn, Aleta participated on the executive board of Out in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (oSTEM), and was named an author on the 2021 article “Common Genetic Variation in Humans Impacts In Vitro Susceptibility to SARS-CoV-2 Infection.”

Aleta would like to thank her friends and family for their encouragement throughout a year of many uncertainties. She would also like to thank her fellow lab members for their dedication to science, mentorship, and overall support, especially her mentor Michael B. Fernando, lab volunteers Adriana Pero and Ryan Onatzevich, master’s student Esther Cheng, the members of her thesis committee, and her principal investigator, Kristen Brennand.

Aleta will graduate with her Master’s degree and continue her graduate education at Mount Sinai in the Neuroscience PhD program.
Oksana Pylypiv, MD

Oksana enrolled at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai to earn her MS in Health Care Delivery Leadership while working at BronxCare Health System where she is an OB/GYN attending. She is originally from Ukraine. For Oksana, there are two levels of professional achievement in her field: 1. Becoming a successful physician and 2. Becoming a leading physician in healthcare. She believes that through her hard work both in Ukraine and in the U.S., she has accomplished the first goal, but she is not yet done and is working on goal number two. She wants to add the second level in caring for her patients and in understanding the U.S. healthcare system overall. In the critical care environment, she was disadvantaged due to lack of knowledge in training to be a leader and guide her team; Mount Sinai’s Master of Science in Health Care Delivery Leadership Program provided her the resources to add skills to her toolkit and make Oksana a better and more experienced team player.

There is a quote that says, “The pessimist complains about the wind, the optimist expects it to change, but the leader adjusts the sails.” Oksana has the desire and strong willpower to bring change to healthcare and this Master’s program has helped to mold her into an effective physician-leader. Oksana would like the chance to become not only an effective leader, but to be able to bring about change in the healthcare business including a focus on safety improvements.

Oksana would like to thank her parents, family, and all of the professors and mentors for their shared knowledge, advice and support. She graduates having earned the Master of Science in Health Care Delivery Leadership.
Rajesh U. Shenoy, MD

Rajesh is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and serves as the director of the fellowship program in Pediatric Cardiology at Mount Sinai Kravis Children’s Hospital. Prior to Icahn, Rajesh served as the director of the Fetal Heart Program at the Children’s Hospital at Montefiore-Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He entered the Master of Science in Healthcare Delivery Leadership Program in 2019.

While at Icahn, Rajesh served as faculty mentor to medical students in the InterACT program. His mentees have presented their research at national meetings and published in indexed medical journals.

Rajesh would like to thank his wife and children for their unstinting support. He is grateful to the Mount Sinai Doctors’ Faculty Practice for their sponsorship, and the department of Pediatrics for their vision.

Rajesh will graduate having earned his Master of Science in Health Care Delivery Leadership degree and looks forward to using his newfound skills in his current position.
EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE IN THE MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Meghan Elizabeth Lee Smith

Meghan came to the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (ISMMS) from Penn State University, where she majored in Biological Sciences. Before attending Icahn, Meghan lived and worked in Honduras for an international non-profit and supported sustainable development in rural communities. She entered the Master of Public Health program in September 2019.

While at Icahn, Meghan participated in the student council, acting as a class representative and the at-large masters representative on the 2020-2021 Steering Committee. She also volunteered with the East Harlem Health Outreach partnership, the ISMMS student-run free clinic, as Benefits Manager. Meghan was also a teaching assistant for the Humanitarian Aid and Complex Emergencies course and received the Student Council Appreciation award at the Spring 2021 Awards Gala.

Meghan would like to thank her family and friends for their endless support, the many faculty members at Sinai who made her experience in the MPH program fulfilling and rewarding, and specifically Dr. Alex Leader and Dr. Annie Sparrow for their invaluable mentorship, advice, and encouragement.

Meghan has graduated with her Master in Public Health degree and will continue her public health career with The Fund for Public Health in NYC.
Apeksha came to the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai from Stony Brook University, where she majored in Health Sciences. Before attending Icahn, Apeksha was a medical scribe and she conducted qualitative research focused on healthcare received by individuals diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. She entered the MPH program in 2019.

While at Icahn, Apeksha participated in research and peer mentoring. She and fellow peers and competed and won a research competition, receiving a grant to follow through with research on assessing gaps in COVID19 communication among underserved populations. She also conducted research with Playing Forward and Latrobe University on motion applications that can be used to provide motor therapy for both typically and atypically developing children. During her studies, Apeksha worked as a health care consultant at Deloitte, and now works as a Community Support Specialist for the New York State Contact tracing initiative. In this role she assists families affected with COVID-19 in Long Island, NY, receive the help they need, including medical care, long-term services, and food assistance.

Apeksha would like to thank her loved ones for the unconditional support and encouragement, and the entire Sinai community for an impeccable graduate education. Apeksha will graduate with her MPH degree and start a Doctor of Chiropractic degree program this fall at University of Bridgeport.
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Melissa Yao

Melissa came to the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai from SUNY Stony Brook, where she majored in Biochemistry. Before attending Icahn, Melissa worked with mouse models of pancreatic cancer at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in the laboratory of Dr. David Tuveson. She entered the Master of Science in Biomedical Science (MSBS) program in 2019.

While at Icahn, Melissa participated in the East Harlem Health Outreach Partnership student-run free clinic as a clinic manager and was an active volunteer in the COVID student workforce. She worked in the laboratory of Dr. Amaia Lujambio studying mouse models of hepatocellular carcinoma and published her work in *Gastroenterology*. She is also the co-director of the Peer Mentorship Program and is involved in the recruitment of master’s students through the student ambassador program.

Melissa would like to thank her friends, lab-mates, Dr. Lujambio, and all the faculty members who have contributed to her education at Icahn. She would also like to thank the MSBS administrative team for being so accessible and helpful. Finally, she would like to thank her family for their support and encouragement.

Melissa will graduate with her master’s degree and continue her research training in cancer biology at the Gerstner Sloan Kettering graduate program in biomedical sciences at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.
Closing Remarks

Brian J. Nickerson, PhD, JD

Senior Associate Dean, Master’s Programs
Director, Master of Science in Health Care Delivery Leadership and Master of Health Administration Programs
Professor, Department of Population Health Science and Policy
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
2021 CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOMEDICAL DATA SCIENCE

Helena Belloff
Chloe Ling
Shaun Porwal
Adriana Sistig

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOSTATISTICS

Jane Carol Brennan
Parker King
James Landefeld
Gabrielle Legaspi

MASTER OF HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

Arkadiy Rakhman

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH CARE DELIVERY LEADERSHIP

Maria M. Emerson  Oksana Pylypiv
Judah M. Fierstein  Meira Rosenthal
Lissette Giraud  Rajesh U. Shenoy
Long Jie Gu
Chelsea Johnson-Samuel
Alireza Mehdizadeh
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN GENETIC COUNSELING

Meghan N. Bartos
Jennifer G. Black
Alanna Cera
Colleen Donnelly
Shay M. Guetz
Laura Hamm
Erika Levine
Madison L. Maertens
Julia M. Martinez
Jamie A. Phan
Kaylynn Shuleski

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CLINICAL RESEARCH

Ethan Abbott
Sheeba Abraham Jeyaraj
Omojolaade Doyinsola Akintade
Noor Almakabi
Kelly L. Andrien
Taing Nandi Aung
Matthew James Brown
Caroline Fischer Dugan
Michael Anthony Duncan
John R. Durbin
Edward II Ezenwafor
Jordyn Heather Feingold^ 
Chloe Getrajdman^ 
Corey Michael Gill^ 
Sara Malin Hovstadius
Ahmed Hamdy Hussein
Raveena Hemant Kelkar
Fareedah Lawal
Deep Sanjay Mehta
Jeannys F. Nnemnbeng
Devondra A. Pitt
Tonya Kiana, Cheryce Robin
Krupa Ann Samuel
Kevin Robert Sprotte
Kristell Michelle Taylor
Shameeke Taylor
Claire N. Thant
Victoria Vallejo
Yinan Zhang

* Doctor of Medicine/Master of Public Health Program
^ Doctor of Medicine/Master of Clinical Research Program
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

Christopher Matthew Anderson
Poromendro Burman
Concetta Theresa Brusco
Jonathan Michael Chien
Liam Goodman Cotter
Agathe Marie de Pins
Shaheen Ensanyat
Madeline Anne Floodstrand
Trinisia Fortune
Alyssa Gontzes
Tiara Hills
SooYeong In
Niyati Jain
Tanvi Sanjay Joshi
Migi Lee
Zelong Liu
Jiahua Lu
Stephen Edward McCroskery
Anthony Mendoza
Aleta Murphy
Roosheel Sandeep Patel
Emilio Tomás Maria Peñate
Yosef Dov Roth
Keshav Sharma
Khalifa Sausary Nina Stafford
Catherine Swarts

Andrew B. Tieu
Maris Wilkins
Melissa Yao

27
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH


* Doctor of Medicine/Master of Public Health Program
^ Doctor of Medicine/Master of Clinical Research Program
To all the graduates,

On behalf of the Department of Medical Education and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, we wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

Congratulations on all your accomplishments and on completing this momentous milestone.