



Department of Radiation Oncology

A Message from the Chair

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

In this issue of the Mount Sinai Department of Radiation Oncology's newsletter, you will learn about the expansion of our clinical services to Mount Sinai Queens. We're excited to be able to offer the same high-quality treatment to our cancer patients there, our first outer borough location run by the Department. It will be a great benefit to the community and the hospital. Special thanks goes out to the team that implemented this, especially IT, Administrative Services, radiation therapy and physics. The fact that this occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic only made their job more challenging. Elsewhere in this issue, we report our Department's efforts to combat systemic racism and the creation of our Equity and Inclusion committee. The members of our Department continue to do amazing things. Two of the physicians in the Department won prestigious awards, and many other staff members have been acknowledged for their exceptional care. As always, we have had a significant presence at national meetings and continue to receive competitive grants. This has been a strange and difficult year, but we have worked through it and never lagged in our commitment to our patients, our research pursuits, and our community. I wish all of you a Happy and Healthy New Year and Holiday Season.



Mount Sinai Radiation Oncology staff at Mount Sinai Queens go-live

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Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Radiation Oncology Anti-Racism Town Hall

In August 2020, the Department of Radiation Oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai held an Establishing an Anti-Racist Culture town hall. Pamela Abner, MPA, CPXO, Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion hosted the event. Radiation Oncology staff discussed diversity, equity, and inclusion as key drivers for excellence and innovation for unrivaled health care delivery, medical and health education, and research. The purpose of the town hall was to clarify the meanings of bias, racism, and white privilege; discuss how racism manifests in organizations; provide a guide for departments to talk about and promote an anti-racist culture; and learn to create a brave space for team and staff. The town hall served as a first step in committing to an anti-racist culture focused on equity and inclusion.

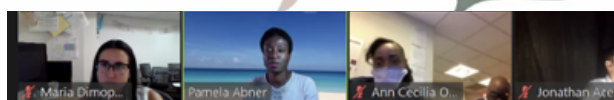


Equity & Inclusion Committee

In an effort to continue the conversation to dismantle racism in society and in the workplace, and in order to foster a community of equity and inclusion, in October 2020, the Department of Radiation Oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai founded an Equity and Inclusion Committee. Led by Mount Sinai Hospital Assistant Chief of Radiation Therapy, Keith Edwards, RT(T), Senior Radiation Therapist Rodney Michel, RT(T), Senior Radiation Therapist Abby Baruwa, MS, RT(T) and Radiation Oncology Resident Carlos Rodriguez-Russo, MD, the Equity and Inclusion Committee includes radiation oncology staff from across the Mount Sinai Health System. An initial goal of the group defined a True North statement: **“Yes you belong, we are one!”**

The Equity and Inclusion committee plans to meet regularly and develop initiatives, system wide, to combat racial healthcare disparities through training, research and education. Staff members interested in joining the committee can reach out to Keith Edwards at keith.edwards@mounsinai.org.

Mindset Shift



Resources



Celebrating Our Diversity

Our Department is composed of a team of employees who speak more than 20 languages and is from more than 18 countries. In an effort to celebrate our diversity, a key strength in our Department, we highlight various cultures and staff in our newsletters. We look forward to engaging with our colleagues in new ways, learning from each other and growing as a department.

Cultural Highlight with Abby Baruwa, MS, RT(T), Senior Radiation Therapist at Mount Sinai Hospital

I was born in the United States. Both of my parents immigrated to this country in the '80s from Lagos, Nigeria. Nigeria is located in the Western part of Africa. There are 18 different tribes in Nigeria, with the largest tribes being Yoruba, Hausa and Igbo. Each tribe speaks a different language and has different customs that they abide by. These customs are also based on religion as well with most Nigerians being either Muslim or Christian. My family is Muslim and are from the Yoruba tribe, speaking a language that is also called Yoruba.

Are there traditions, celebrations or rituals your family participates in?

Nigerian culture is very extravagant. We typically have two to three weddings, depending on the tribe and the religion. The first wedding is called an "engagement" or a "traditional" in which the two families come together and celebrate for 8+ hours. Typically, at an engagement, the groom's family will offer gifts to the bride's family ranging from livestock, food and houseware. The bride and groom will change outfits two to three times during the traditional. The men wear elaborate outfits with hats called "Agbadas" while the brides wear ornate and jewelry-embroidered fabrics called "Aso Ebi". Typically, the women will also wear colorful headwear called "Gele". Moreover, couples will call or announce a specific, colorful pattern of fabric called "Ankara" to be worn by their wedding guests. Each wedding guest will purchase a couple of yards of ankara and then go to a seamstress or tailor to have outfits designed for the engagement. Rather than gifts or money in envelopes, at traditionals – it is expected for the couple to dance for hours and hours, with wedding guests "spraying" or placing money on the couple as they dance. Muslim families will also have a smaller, more intimate ceremony called a "Nikkah". Additionally, most Nigerian-American couples will also have the customary American or "white" wedding.

What is your favorite cultural celebration or something that makes your culture unique?

When babies are born, it is customary in Nigerian culture to have a naming ceremony seven days after their birth. The ceremony begins with a small prayer and an introduction of the baby. Then, prayers and songs of praise welcome the new addition to the family. The presiding elder will then officiate the event with 7 symbolic items that are traditionally used to express the hope or path of a successful life. Traditionally, the elder rubs the items on the child's lips. The items are: water, salt, honey and/or sugar, palm oil, kola nut, bitter kola, pepper and dried fish. Afterwards, he announces the baby's names and a celebratory party begins!



Abby Baruwa, MS, RT(T) wearing ankara and gele

Faculty Updates

Cullman Family Award for Excellence in Physician Communication

Paul Gliedman, MD, Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, is a recipient of the 2020 Cullman Family Award for Excellence in Physician Communication. Working together and communication are considered key drivers in influencing how patients perceive their quality of care. Dr. Gliedman was ranked in the top one percent nationally in provider communication for 2019 as measured by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' Clinician and Group Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CGCAHPS) patient experience survey.



Paul Gliedman, MD

Michael Buckstein, MD, PhD, Appointed Associate Professor

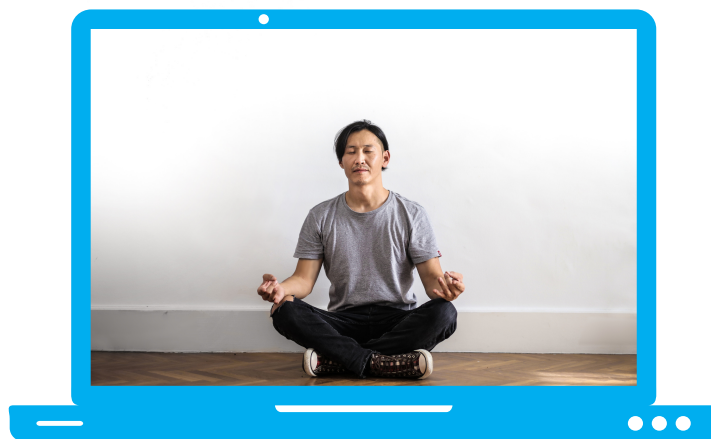
Michael Buckstein, MD, PhD, has been promoted to Associate Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Dr. Buckstein earned his undergraduate degree from Yale College and his MD and PhD degrees from the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. He completed his residency in radiation oncology at Mount Sinai and has been on the faculty since 2013. He is currently the Residency Program Director and has overseen its growth and rise in national prominence to become one of the largest and most well respected programs in the country. Dr. Buckstein specializes in treating GI malignancies with a particular interest in primary liver cancers, including hepatocellular carcinoma and cholangiocarcinoma. He is the Principal Investigator of an investigator-initiated trial using TACE + SBRT for large, unresectable HCC. He is an author of dozens of research articles. He is also on the editorial board as a GI specialist for the *International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics*.



Michael Buckstein, MD, PhD

Cancer Support Services

Members of the Cancer Support Services team are available to help patients manage the physical symptoms, emotional concerns, and spiritual issues they may experience during treatment. Mount Sinai social workers, dietitians, chaplains, peer-support specialists, pain and palliative experts, music therapists, integrative therapists, artists in residence, and psychiatrists form a dedicated group of clinicians specialized in supportive care. Due to COVID-19, Cancer Support Services have gone virtual, offering free support and wellness programs through Zoom. Zoom is an online platform which is accessible via phone, laptop, desktop, and tablet. Staff remains committed to providing patients with safe support. Cancer support programming includes: weekly yoga, meditation, knitting and journaling/writing workshops, and more. Cancer Support Services brochures are available across our departments. In addition, visit www.mountsinai.org/care/cancer/about/support for updates on upcoming programs or search the handle @mshscancersupportservices on Instagram.



National Presentations

The Mount Sinai Department of Radiation Oncology had a significant presence at the virtual 2020 Society of Radiation Oncology Administrators annual meeting and the American Society for Radiation Oncology convention. Our oral and poster presenters reflected the dedication, creativity, and drive our staff. We congratulate our staff on their achievements:

Society for Radiation Oncology Administrators (SROA)

- Irene Braccia, RN; Melissa Brito RN; Clodagh Starrs, BSc, RT(T): Skin Care Management for Breast Cancer Patients Receiving Hypofractionated Radiation Treatment

American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO)

Oral Presentations:

- Kenneth Rosenzweig, MD: Lung Cancer Difficult Cases: Thoracic Retreatment
- Kenneth Rosenzweig, MD: Clinical Practice Guideline Highlight Session: Implementing New Recommendations
- Kenneth Rosenzweig, MD: ACGME – Review Committee Update and Accreditation Info You Need for Your Program
- Richard Stock, MD: Faculty for Radiopharmaceutical Therapy Master Class

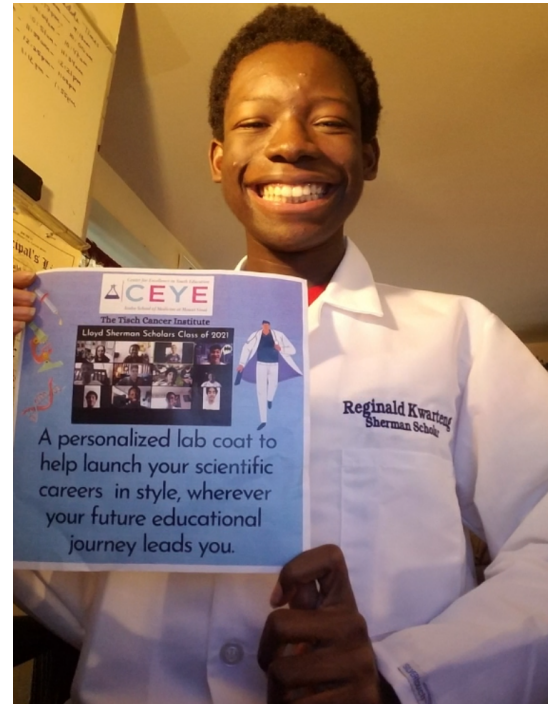
Poster Presentations:

- Vishruta Dumane, PhD: Low Dose Exposure to the Ipsilateral Lung While Sparing the Heart in Deep Inspiration Breath Hold
- Brianna Jones, MD: Pathologic Features and Outcomes for Oral Tongue Squamous Cell Carcinoma in Young, Non-Smoker, and Non-Drinker Population
- Eric Lehrer, MD: The Development of Rib Fractures After Stereotactic Body Radiation therapy to the Liver
- Deborah Marshall, MD, MAS; Clodagh Starrs, BSc, RT(T); Kevin Minassian, BS, RT(T): A Trauma-Informed Sensitive Practice Tool to Enhance Quality of Care for Breast Radiotherapy Patients
- Deborah Marshall, MD, MAS: Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy vs. Standard IMRT for Treatment of Female Patients with Anal Cancer
- Elsa Parr, BS: Radiomics-Based Survival and Recurrence Prediction for Pancreatic Cancer Following Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy
- Anthony Nehlson, MD: Comparison of Functional Larynx Preservation in Patients with Locally Advanced Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Larynx and Hypopharynx Treated with Induction Chemotherapy vs Concurrent Chemoradiation Alone
- Carlos Rodriguez-Russo, MD: Patterns of Treatment and Predictors of Survival for Patients with Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma of the Tongue
- Jared Rowley, MD: First Author Publications of US Radiation Oncology Residents Graduating Between 2015 and 2019
- Kunal Sindhu, MD: Identifying Existing Knowledge Gaps in Palliative Radiation Oncology
- Andrew Smith, MD: Impact of Adding Induction Chemotherapy to Chemoradiotherapy in the Management of Locally Advanced Squamous Cell Cancers of the Head and Neck Presenting with Radiographic Extranodal Extension
- William Smith, MD: Salvage Low Dose Rate Brachytherapy for Intraprostatic Local Prostate Cancer Recurrence following Definitive External Beam Radiation Therapy

Education Updates

CEYE Lloyd Sherman Scholar's Program

The Lloyd Sherman Scholar's Program is a two-year biomedical research program for young men of color offered through the Icahn School of Medicine's Center for Excellence in Youth Education (CEYE). As rising high school juniors, students participate in a lab skill-building summer course with foundational curriculum from CEYE's biotechnology course. As rising seniors, students are placed in laboratory internships at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. The program includes library research, logbook maintenance, and involvement in a weekly seminar. In the summer of 2020, The Tisch Cancer Institute teamed up with Radiation Oncologist Richard Bakst, MD, Radiation Therapy Program Director, Maria Dimopoulos, MBA, RT(T), and medical physics resident, Thomas Wolken, MS, to offer seminars on cancer biology, the clinical applications of radiation therapy, and physics in cancer medicine. Upon completion of the program, the Lloyd Sherman Scholars received individual monogrammed lab coats to launch their future scientific careers.



CEYE Lloyd Sherman Scholar Reginald Kwarteng

Radiation Therapy Leadership Forms RTANYS

Mount Sinai Radiation Therapy Leadership Elected to form RTANYS

Maria Dimopoulos, MBA, RT(T), Radiation Therapy Program Director, and Samantha Skubish, MS, RT(R)(T), Chief Technical Director for Radiation Oncology, have been elected President and President-Elect for the Radiation Therapy Association of New York State (RTANYS).

As founding members of the Society, Dimopoulos and Skubish formed the organization in an effort to advance the profession, advocate for high-quality safe patient care, promote the development of radiation therapy students and provide networking and CE opportunities for radiation therapists across the state. Now elected by their peers, the pair will lead this group along with three other board members from across the city and state, affiliated under the American Society of Radiologic Technologists and New York State Society of Radiologic Sciences. Read more here: www.RTANYS.org



Maria Dimopoulos, MBA, RT(T)
RTANYS President



Radiation Therapy Association of New York State



Samantha Skubish, MS, RT(R)(T)
RTANYS President-Elect

Professional Development and Achievement



Cliff Temple, RT(T)

Cliff Temple, RT(T) Recognized in Messages of Hope and Support

Cliff Temple, RT(T), Lead Radiation Therapist, has been recognized by Mount Sinai Downtown-Union Square in Messages of Hope and Support for always going above and beyond for his patients and leading the Downtown team with focus, dedication, calmness and compassion.

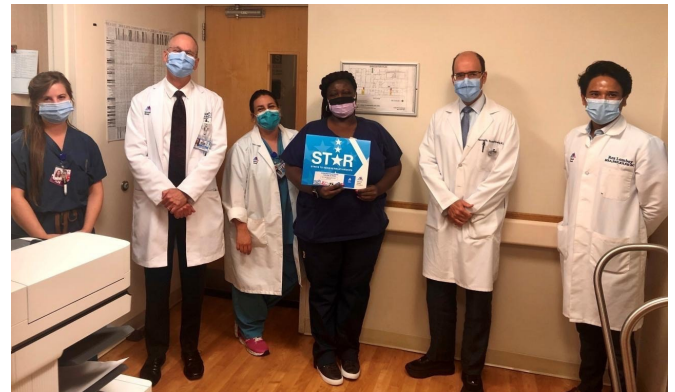
Congratulations to Our Staff on Their Anniversary Milestones

- Luis Barreiro: 15 years
- Margarita Gonzalez: 20 years
- Jeanette Luke: 10 years
- Omar Morales: 5 years
- Lorena Pesantez-Mihov: 15 years
- Frances Peru: 15 years
- Clodagh Starrs: 15 years
- Ryan Whirley: 20 years

Congratulations

Lakisha Salley Receives Catch A STAR

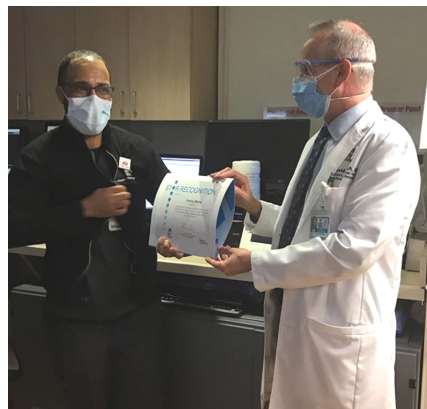
Lakisha Salley, Patient Care Associate at The Mount Sinai Hospital, has been recognized by her colleagues for exhibiting our values of empathy, teamwork, creativity, agility, and safety as well as service behaviors, welcoming and wayfinding. Mount Sinai's Catch a STAR (Strive to Achieve Relationships) recognition program provides faculty and staff with a meaningful way to recognize and celebrate colleagues outside their departments and disciplines who embody the Mount Sinai Health System's values and service behaviors.



Lakisha Salley receives Catch A STAR award from David Reich, MD, President of MSH



Rodney Michel, RT(T) Receives Catch A STAR



Rodney Michel, RT(T) receives Catch A STAR award from David Reich, MD, President of MSH

Rodney Michel, RT(T), Senior Radiation Therapist at The Mount Sinai Hospital, has been recognized by his colleagues for exhibiting our values of empathy, teamwork, creativity, agility, and safety as well as service behaviors, welcoming and wayfinding. Mr. Michel has been recognized numerous times this year for his exceptional patient care, and for always going above and beyond to comfort patients and support his team. Mount Sinai's Catch a STAR recognition program thanks staff for their continued commitment, demonstrating that we are truly Better Together.

Toby Bressler, PhD, RN, OCN, Inducted into the American Academy of Nursing

Toby Bressler, PhD, RN, OCN, Senior Director of Nursing for Oncology and Clinical Quality, has been selected to be inducted into the American Academy of Nursing. The Academy is currently comprised of more than 2,700 nursing leaders who are experts in policy, research, administration, practice, and academia who champion health and wellness, locally and globally. Through a competitive, rigorous application process, a committee of elected fellows review hundreds of applications and select new fellows based on their contributions to advance the public's health. Induction into the Academy is a significant milestone in a nurse leader's career in which their accomplishments are honored by their colleagues within the profession.



Toby Bressler, PhD, RN, OCN

Recent Publications

Anthony Nehlsen, MD, Published in *Advances in Radiation Oncology*

In June 2020, Anthony Nehlsen, MD, published an article in *Advances in Radiation Oncology* titled "Triple Negative Breast Cancer in a Male to Female Transgender Patient: A Case Report and Literature Review." The article, prepared in collaboration with Sheryl Green, MBBCh, discusses the growing number of transgender patients seeking medical care in the United States, barriers to care, and a case study of a transgender female patient who developed triple negative carcinoma of the left breast who was treated with neoadjuvant chemotherapy followed by lumpectomy with sentinel lymph node biopsy and adjuvant radiation therapy. Find the entire article here: [www.advancesradonc.org/article/S2452-1094\(20\)30175-5/fulltext](http://www.advancesradonc.org/article/S2452-1094(20)30175-5/fulltext)



Anthony Nehlsen, MD

Deborah Marshall, MD, MAS, Published in the *Red Journal*

In August 2020, Deborah Marshall, MD, MAS, published an article in the *International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics* titled "Trends in Financial Relationships Between Industry and Radiation Oncologists Versus Other Physicians in the United States from 2014 to 2018." The article, prepared with support from Kenneth Rosenzweig, MD, discusses a retrospective, population-based cohort study of practicing United States radiation oncologists (ROs) versus medical oncologists (MOs) and hospital-based physicians (HBPs) in 2014 matched to general (nonresearch) payments between 2014 and 2018. It concluded that industry payments to ROs have become more common since Open Payment inception, while becoming less common for MOs and HBPs. Payments to ROs and MOs have become more frequent and of modestly increasing value compared with other HBPs, for whom the value is decreasing. No large changes in the nature of relationships were seen in ROs. Find the entire article here: [https://www.redjournal.org/article/S0360-3016\(20\)34138-9/fulltext](https://www.redjournal.org/article/S0360-3016(20)34138-9/fulltext)



Deborah Marshall, MD, MAS

Jared Rowley, MD, and Kunal Sindhu, MD, Published in the *Red Journal*

In October 2020, Jared Rowley, MD, and Kunal Sindhu, MD, published an article in the *International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics* titled "Radiation Oncology Resident Research Productivity in the United States: 2015-2019." The article, prepared in collaboration with Michael Buckstein, MD, PhD, Stanislav Lazarev, MD, and fellow residents, discusses how multiple efforts have been made in recent years to establish national benchmarks for research productivity among U.S. radiation oncology residents. The article concluded that U.S. radiation oncology resident research productivity has increased compared to historical data, however, substantial variability exists in resident research productivity nationwide. Find the entire article here: [www.redjournal.org/article/S0360-3016\(20\)34408-4/fulltext](http://www.redjournal.org/article/S0360-3016(20)34408-4/fulltext).

Kunal Sindhu, MD, Published in *Cancer Treatment and Research Communications*



Kunal Sindhu, MD

Kunal Sindhu, MD, published an article in *Cancer Treatment and Research Communications* titled “Durable Disease Control with local treatment for Oligoprogression of Metastatic Solid Tumors Treated with Immune Checkpoint Blockade.” The article, prepared with the support of Michael Buckstein, MD, PhD, and Richard Stock, MD, highlights patients on immune checkpoint inhibitors (CPI) may experience oligoprogression; in the cohort of patients on CPI, oligoprogression occurred in 4.1 percent of patients. Patients who received local therapy experienced durable disease control, however further study of optimal treatment strategies in this population is warranted. Find the entire article here:

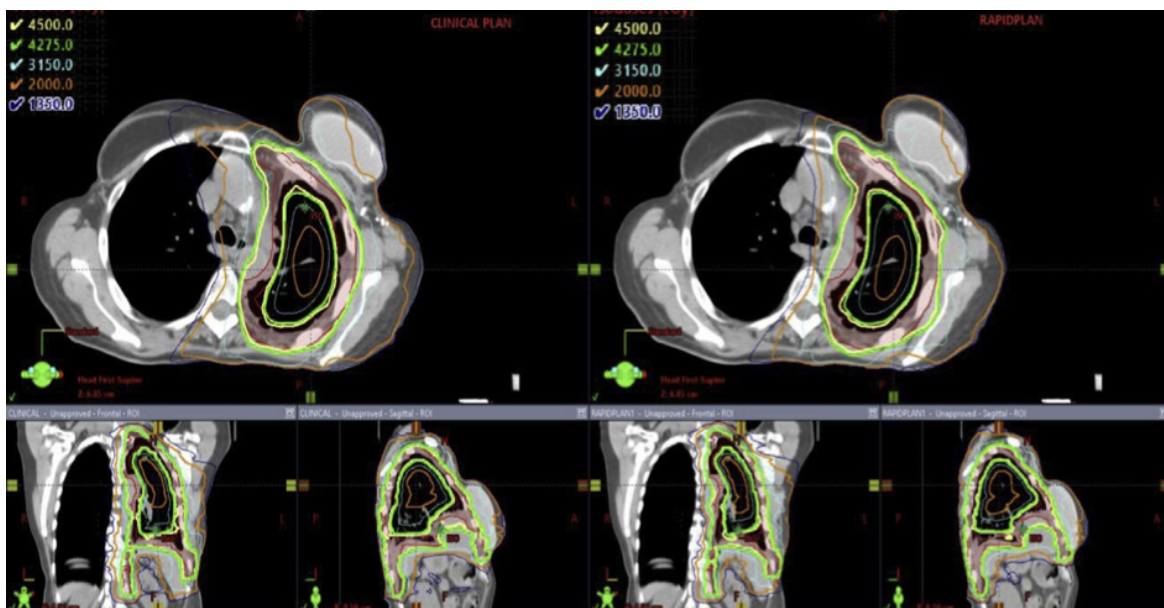
www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2468294220300526

Kunal Sindhu, MD, Shares Perspective on Internal Medicine Redeployment during COVID-19

Kunal Sindhu, MD, published a perspective article in *Academic Medicine* titled “Schrodinger’s Resident: Redeployment in the Age of COVID-19.” The article shares Dr. Sindhu’s profound respect and gratitude for fellow physicians who helped him navigate his redeployment to an internal medicine ward in the age of COVID-19. Find the entire article here: <https://t.co/5dFoFbiWP0?amp=1>

Mount Sinai Radiation Oncology Trailblazes RapidPlan® for Malignant Pleural Mesothelioma

Malignant pleural mesothelioma is one of the most challenging sites for radiotherapy treatment planning. The target is annular shaped engulfing the underlying lung and is almost twice its size rendering it difficult to be spared adequately. The role of radiotherapy as well as treatment at an academic facility are linked to an improved survival. The Department of Radiation Oncology at Mount Sinai has extensive experience treating these cases with VMAT and was the first to publish on the development and testing of RapidPlan®, a knowledge-based treatment planning software available from Varian Medical Systems to improve efficiency, spare critical organs and increase prescription dose. Mesothelioma plans developed with RapidPlan can provide guidance to other institutions with less experience treating this site on the achievable plan quality. The article, co-authored by Vishruta Dumane, PhD, James Tam, BS, CMD, Yeh-Chi Lo, PhD, and Kenneth Rosenzweig, MD, was published June 2020, in *Practical Radiation Oncology*. Find the entire article here: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32562788/>



Research by Vishruta Dumane, PhD, Featured on Breast DIBH

Undergoing a mastectomy can have a significant impact on a patient's quality of life and body image. Immediate reconstruction of the breast using a tissue expander or a permanent implant can present technically challenging anatomies that make standard 3D conformal treatment planning techniques non-viable to use. Although advanced radiotherapy techniques such as Volumetric Modulated Arc Therapy (VMAT) provide improved target coverage as well as heart and lung sparing, they do so at the expense of increased low-dose exposure. Although not necessary for all patients, Deep Inspiration Breath Hold (DIBH) is a technique that can help lower this exposure and therefore should be considered when breast cancer patients with implant reconstructions requiring regional nodal radiation are being treated with VMAT due to complex anatomies. This work was done in collaboration with Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, with the article published in *Radiation Oncology*. Find the entire article here: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30249274/>

The Research Outreach article was published in July 2020: <https://researchoutreach.org/articles/breath-hold-techniques-during-volumetric-modulated-arc-therapy-breast-cancer-patients/>

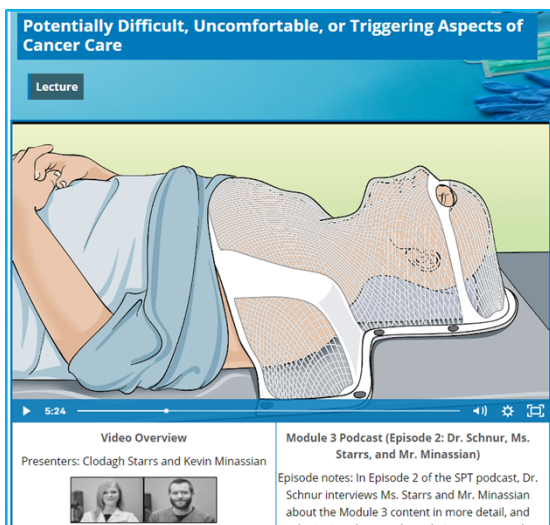
The podcast is available on Spotify, Apple iTunes and Google Podcasts searching the term "ResearchPod" as well as <https://researchpod.org/biology/Breast-cancer-breathing-and-controlled-radiotherapy>



Vishruta Dumane, PhD



Sensitive Practice Screening Tool Approved for CE Credits



We are proud to announce that an online Sensitive Practice Training Program (SPT), developed by a multidisciplinary group of Mount Sinai Behavioral Oncology and Radiation Oncology staff, and funded by an R25E award from the National Cancer Institute, is now approved by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) for continuing education credits. The course was inspired by one of our breast radiotherapy patients sharing her experience, and is now offered to providers nationwide. The course is free of charge and is designed to train providers in how to work sensitively with sexual violence survivors undergoing cancer care. Research shows that for sexual violence survivors, cancer care procedures can be triggering and retraumatizing due to perceived similarities to the original abuse (e.g., both involve features like undressing and touch). This program will provide health care professionals with the practical knowledge and skills they need to help sexual violence survivors to feel as safe

and comfortable as possible during cancer care. Cancer care providers (or those training to become cancer care providers) may apply for the training program online at: www.sensitivepractice.com. The course is online and self-paced, and can be done at any time. No previous experience with trauma is needed. Thank you Julie Schnur, PhD, Sheryl Green, MBBCh, Clodagh Starrs, PgC, RT(T), Kevin Minassian, BS, RT(T), Guy Montgomery, PhD, and James Force, MA, for your dedication to this project.

William Smith, MD, Published in *Radiotherapy & Oncology*

In October 2020, William Smith, MD, published an article in *Radiotherapy & Oncology* titled "Salvage Low Dose Rate (LDR) Brachytherapy for Prostate Cancer Recurrence Following Definitive External Beam Radiation Therapy." The article, prepared in collaboration with Richard Stock, MD, describes the safety and efficacy of salvage low dose rate brachytherapy for local prostate cancer recurrence following definitive radiation therapy. It concluded that salvage LDR is safe and efficacious, with acceptable grade 3+ toxicity and good biochemical control on long-term follow-up. Patients with higher grade group and higher prostate specific antigen at initial diagnosis may be at increased risk for biochemical failure. Find the entire article here: [www.thegreenjournal.com/article/S0167-8140\(20\)30857-4/fulltext](http://www.thegreenjournal.com/article/S0167-8140(20)30857-4/fulltext)



William Smith, MD

Research Corner

Robert Samstein, MD, PhD, Awarded Schneider-Lesser Fellowship by the Committee on Special Awards

Robert Samstein, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, received the Schneider-Lesser Fellowship by the Committee on Special Awards (CoSA). The fellowship is intended to advance the long-term success for promising junior faculty in the Investigator or Clinician-Educator Tracks at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Dr. Samstein's research interests are focused on understanding the interaction between the patient's immune system and cancer cells in the tumor, elucidating the role of the DNA damage repair and response pathway in altering the tumor's ability to be recognized and attacked by the immune system. His laboratory will work to identify new strategies to harness the immune anti-tumor response and expand the therapeutic window of traditional immunotherapies.



Robert Samstein, MD, PhD

Junyi Xia, PhD, Selected as Senior Member of National Academy of Inventors



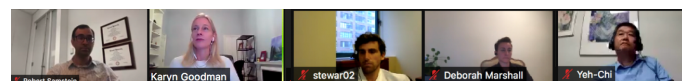
Junyi Xia, PhD

The National Academy of Inventor was founded in 2010 to recognize and encourage inventors with patents issued from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, enhance the visibility of academic technology and innovation, encourage the disclosure of intellectual property, educate and mentor innovative students, and translate the inventions of its members to benefit society. Junyi Xia, PhD, Senior Faculty Physicist, Department of Radiation Oncology at Mount Sinai, has been selected as a Senior Member of National Academy of Inventors for his success in patents, licensing, and commercialization and for producing technologies that have brought, or aspire to bring, real impact on the welfare of society.

Radiation Oncology Autumn 2020 Research Retreat

In October 2020, the Department of Radiation Oncology at Mount Sinai gathered for an Autumn Research Retreat. The virtual event was hosted by Karyn Aalami Goodman, MD, MS, Professor and Vice Chair for Research and Quality in the Department of Radiation Oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, and Associate Director for Clinical Research at The Tisch Cancer Institute. The retreat was attended by radiation oncologists, physicists, residents, radiation therapists, and dosimetrists among others. Dr. Goodman is responsible for developing the infrastructure and resources to support cancer clinical trials across the Health System. With support from Lynda Rath, BFA, the event focused on summarizing current research while providing a platform for future research collaboration. Clinical research updates from across the Department were shared:

- Richard Stock, MD: Update on radiation oncology prostate cancer research
- Robert Samstein, MD, PhD: Harnessing the immunogenicity of DNA damage defects
- Junyi Xia, PhD: No more boring checks: automating our routine work to safeguard patient treatments
- Robert Stewart, MD: Yttrium-90 brachytherapy for refractory macular degeneration
- Sonam Sharma, MD, PhD: A phase I trial of radiation, Temozolomide, and concomitant and adjuvant Onc201 after surgical resection for newly diagnosed glioblastoma
- Andrew Smith, MD: Using the REQUITE database to develop an arm lymphedema screening program for breast cancer patients
- William Smith, MD: Potentially avoidable hospitalizations among Medicare patients with prostate cancer: analysis of oncology care model (OCM) data



Fall 2020 Research Retreat

Department of Radiation Oncology

Wednesday, October 14



We are proud to share protocols opened at the Mount Sinai Department of Radiation Oncology

PI/Sponsor/GCO#	Clinical Trial
PI: Karyn Goodman Sponsor: ECOG-ACRIN (NRG) GCO#: 14-0715-02182	<i>A Randomized Phase II Study of De-Intensified Chemoradiation for Early-Stage Anal Squamous Cell Carcinoma (DECREASE)</i>
PI: Sheryl Green Sponsor: CCTG GCO#: 14-0715-00003	<i>Tailor RT: A Randomized Trial of Regional Radiotherapy in Biomarker Low Risk Node Positive Breast Cancer</i>
PI: Sheryl Green Sponsor: ISMMS GCO#: 18-0899	<i>Prospective monitoring of early stage breast cancer patients treated with breast-conserving surgery (BCS) followed by Intra-operative Radiation Therapy (IORT) with low energy x-rays</i>
PI: Kenneth Rosenzweig Sponsor: NRG Oncology GCO#: 14-0715-00200	<i>NRG-LU002-Maintenance Systemic Therapy Versus Consolidative Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT) Plus Maintenance Systemic Therapy for Limited Metastatic Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC): A Randomized Phase II/III Trial</i>
PI: Richard Bakst Sponsor: NRG Oncology GCO# 09-0762-01008	<i>RTOG 1008 - A Randomized Phase II/III Study of Adjuvant Concurrent Radiation and Chemotherapy versus Radiation Alone in Resected High-Risk Malignant Salivary Gland Tumors</i>
PI: Richard Bakst Sponsor: ISMMS GCO# 19-0499	<i>Definitive and Adjuvant Hypofractionated Radiotherapy in Elderly Patients with Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma (HNSCC)</i>
PI: Richard Bakst Sponsor: USC/ISMMS GCO# 19-1045	<i>Phase II Multi-Institutional Study of Low-Dose (2Gy x 2) Palliative Radiotherapy in the Treatment of Symptomatic Bone metastases from Multiple Myeloma</i>
PI: Michael Buckstein Sponsor: Sheba Israel/ISMMS GCO# 19-1075	<i>Celiac Plexus Radio-Surgery for Pain Management in Advanced Cancer Patients: A Phase II Trial</i>
PI: Michael Buckstein Sponsor: ISMMS GCO# 14-1671	<i>TACE/SBRT - Assessment of Response of Unresectable Hepatocellular Carcinoma to Combination Chemoembolization and Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy</i>

Departmental Updates

Mount Sinai Queens - Astoria

On August 4, 2020 the Mount Sinai Department of Radiation Oncology expanded its clinical services to Mount Sinai Queens. Located in Astoria, the ProHealth Mount Sinai Radiation Oncology department will offer high-quality radiation therapy treatment for cancer patients. The department welcomes the Astoria location to the Mount Sinai Radiation Oncology team.



Mount Sinai Radiation Oncology staff at Mount Sinai Queens go-live

The Blavatnik Family – Chelsea Medical Center Treats Skin HDR

In October 2020, the Blavatnik Family - Chelsea Medical Center treated its first skin high-dose rate brachytherapy patient. Brachytherapy is a form of radiotherapy where a sealed radiation source is placed inside or next to the area requiring treatment. Although not all treatment areas are best served with brachytherapy, it is in an effective treatment modality for specific lesions. Vishal Gupta, MD, Associate Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, led the treatment. He highlighted the hard work from the entire department. "It was certainly a team effort that treatment went very smoothly. Nina Kalach, MS, MCCPM, and the rest of the physics team did a great job of QA to get the program underway, and then came up with an effective treatment plan. Denise Kraemer, RT(T), and the radiation therapists were very helpful in determining a reproducible setup at simulation for treatment. Most importantly, it seems to have been well tolerated by the patient who was very cooperative," Dr. Gupta said. With electrons, the patient would have needed 4-6 weeks of daily treatment, but with brachytherapy, only eight treatments were necessary, prescribed over four weeks.



Skin high-dose rate brachytherapy setup

Keith Edwards, RT(T), Promoted to Assistant Chief – Radiation Therapy at The Mount Sinai Hospital



Keith Edwards, RT(T)

Keith Edwards, RT(T), has been promoted to Assistant Chief - Radiation Therapy at The Mount Sinai Hospital. Mr. Edwards joined the Mount Sinai team in 2013. He was promoted to Senior Therapist in 2014 and Lead Therapist in 2017. He obtained his Certificate in Radiation Therapy Technology from Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, where he also worked as a staff therapist for several years prior to joining the Mount Sinai team. His contributions to the Department have been vast—he provides guidance to our therapy team in the sim and on the treatment floor, is a clinical preceptor and mentor to our radiation therapy students, and has recently taken the role of leading the departmental Equity and Inclusion committee.

Radiation Therapy Lead Spotlight: Andrea Cepeda and Cynthia Vavasis

Andrea Cepeda, RT(T), has been promoted to Lead Radiation Therapist at Mount Sinai West. Ms. Cepeda has integrated into a leadership role, supporting staff, patients and supervisors. She also serves as a clinical preceptor for the Mount Sinai Center for Radiation Therapy Education where she is currently developing a Stereotactic Radiosurgery (SRS) Brain Treatment lecture series, highlighting the history and workflow of framed and frameless SRS cases.



Andrea Cepeda, RT(T)

Cindy Vavasis, RT(T), has been promoted to Lead Radiation Therapist at The Mount Sinai Hospital. Previously a Senior Radiation Therapist at Mount Sinai Downtown - Union Square, Ms. Vavasis joins her team at The Mount Sinai Hospital with experience in the Mount Sinai Emerging Leaders program and with faculty experience at the American Society of Radiologic Technologists Radiation Therapy Conference. Ms. Vavasis also serves as a clinical preceptor and mentor to our radiation therapy students in the classroom and the clinic.



Cindy Vavasis, RT(T)

Patient Highlights Sheryl Green, MBBCh, on the Today Show



From left: Sheryl Green, MBBCh with Beverly Lipscomb and Dubin Breast Center team

When Beverly Lipscomb, a transgender woman, learned she had breast cancer, she was worried. The Today Show shared Beverly's story and experience through cancer treatment. She explained staff worked with her to make sure she felt comfortable with all the decisions, including stopping her hormones. During the segment, Sheryl Green, MBBCh, Associate Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai explained, "The vast majority of women who did develop breast cancer in the transgender population had estrogen receptor positive breast cancers." Dr. Green later wrote a case study about her care to help other providers offer better treatment to transgender women with breast cancer. Ms. Lipscomb finished radiation without any complications, and since then her scans have been clear. On the Today Show, Ms. Lipscomb credited the Mount Sinai staff with making a difference in her outcome. Find the full story here: www.today.com/health/trans-women-breast-cancer-woman-shares-rare-diagnosis-t193360.

Mount Sinai Radiation Oncology Social Media

Interested in joining our social media committee? Take a picture we should post? Contact Samantha Skubish at samantha.skubish@moutnsinai.org



Follow us on Instagram searching the handles:

[@MountSinaiRadOnc](https://www.instagram.com/MountSinaiRadOnc)
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To learn more about the radiation oncology simulation and treatment process, view our educational video playlist on YouTube by searching [Mount Sinai Radiation Oncology](#)



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