



# **General Surgery Residency Program**

**The Mount Sinai School of Medicine**

# WELCOME

Thank you for your interest in the Mount Sinai General Surgery Residency Program. The Mount Sinai Hospital and its School of Medicine offer a long, proud history of excellence and innovation, not only in clinical practice, but also in research and education. Many of the men and women who built this institution have advanced the practice of medicine in general—and surgery in particular. As you get to know us and our program, we look forward to getting to know you, the medical pioneers of the next generation.

A 1,171-bed tertiary-care center on Manhattan's Upper East Side, The Mount Sinai Hospital is one of the nation's oldest and largest voluntary teaching hospitals. Our educational process and training program have evolved throughout our history. In recent years, we have managed the challenges of reduced work hours and increased specialization by incorporating Web-based learning and simulation technology. Residents graduate with special expertise in cutting-edge medicine, such as laparoscopy and use of endovascular stents.

Our program emphasizes mentoring. We believe that positive role models are critical to ensuring residents' long-term success. We foster mentoring not only from attending physicians to residents, but also from residents to residents. This process lays the foundation for sound decision-making, while building a strong support system.

We encourage resident participation in our numerous, ongoing basic and clinical translational projects, many of which are conducted in collaboration with other departments. Our residents are prolific and publish extensively in various peer-reviewed journals.

Our program is only as successful as our alumni. All of our graduates pass their medical boards on the first try. Our residents go on to fellowships and academic appointments at some of the nation's most prestigious institutions.

We also offer an optional clinical rotation at a rural hospital in the Dominican Republic. Senior residents gain surgical experience in an underserved socioeconomic environment. Working with limited resources, they learn to observe, appreciate and ultimately incorporate valuable skills and lessons into patient care.

This brochure provides an overview of our residency program. For additional information, visit our website at [www.mssurg.net](http://www.mssurg.net). You can also contact me by email at [celia.divino@mountsinai.org](mailto:celia.divino@mountsinai.org).

Cordially,

**Celia M. Divino, M.D., F.A.C.S.**

Director, General Surgery Residency Program  
The Mount Sinai School of Medicine

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# ABOUT THE PROGRAM

## History

The Mount Sinai Hospital admitted Patient No. 1 on June 8, 1855, three days after opening its doors. Dr. Israel Moses operated on L.S., a 42-year-old male with a fistula in-ano, who went home five days later in good condition.

The Department of Surgery has played a key role in the evolution and success of the institution ever since. Excellence in patient care and physician education have likewise remained hallmarks of Mount Sinai throughout its 150-plus-year history, long before the Mount Sinai School of Medicine received its state charter in 1963.

From its original 45-bed building, the Mount Sinai Hospital served the city during the Civil War years and the Orangemen Riots of 1871. In 1872 the move to larger quarters on Lexington Avenue coincided with the formation of the Medical Board. One of that body's first acts was to recommend the creation of a House Staff, which required appointment by competitive examination.

In 1877 the hospital formally divided the House Staff into Medical and Surgical Divisions, each with a Senior and a Junior Resident. Surgical volume continued to increase, and in 1899 the caseload exceeded 2,000 operations. By 1904, when the hospital moved to its current site, four House Surgeons completed their training every year.

Today, the department's resident training program has 72 residents. The Department of Surgery includes 10 divisions, with 203 full-time faculty members. All of these men and women are dedicated to patient care, teaching and research at The Mount Sinai Hospital and at our affiliates: the Bronx Veterans Administration Medical Center, Elmhurst Hospital Center and Englewood Hospital and Medical Center.



The Mount Sinai Medical Center  
New York, New York

## PROGRAM LEADERS

### **Michael L. Marin, M.D.**

Henry Kaufmann Professor and  
Chairman, Department of Surgery



Dr. Michael Marin has revolutionized modern vascular surgery. In 1992 Dr. Marin teamed up with an Argentine surgeon to repair an abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) using minimally invasive techniques—the first operation of its type in North America. Since then, he has patented one dozen devices and techniques related to AAA repair.

An active clinician and teacher, Dr. Marin has also contributed extensively to medical literature, including almost 200 original communications in reviewed journals and more than 60 book chapters. To date, he has made nearly 300 presentations at scientific meetings in the United States and abroad.

Dr. Marin holds memberships in many regional, national and international professional societies. His achievements have garnered numerous awards from such groups as the American Society of Gastroenterology, The Society for Vascular Surgery and The Peripheral Vascular Surgery Society.

A graduate of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Dr. Marin completed an internship and residency at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York. He accepted a fellowship in vascular surgery at Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine, also in New York. He remained on the faculty at Albert Einstein until 1996, when he launched the endovascular surgery program at Mount Sinai.

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**Celia M. Divino, M.D.**

Chief, Division of General Surgery  
Associate Professor, Surgery  
Program Director, General  
Surgery Residency Program



Board-certified in general surgery, Dr. Celia Divino has extensive experience in advanced minimally invasive techniques. She is a member of the Faculty of the American College of Surgeons, and she contributes to several other professional societies.

In addition to clinical work and teaching activities, Dr. Divino conducts medical research, for which she has received several prestigious grants. She has published dozens of articles in leading medical journals and regularly presents her work at national conferences. She has received several awards for her work as a clinician, researcher and educator.

Dr. Divino earned her doctorate at the State University of New York in Brooklyn, graduating *cum laude*, with Distinction in Research. She completed her residency and fellowship in general surgery at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

## AFFILIATES

The Mount Sinai General Surgery Residency Program has affiliations with several premiere healthcare institutions in the New York metropolitan area. Each partner excels in distinct specialties, creating a unique program that offers broad-based experience in a VA facility, a city hospital and a community hospital. These different environments complement the tertiary-care experience gained at Mount Sinai.

### **Bronx Veterans Administration Medical Center**

The oldest VA facility in New York, the Bronx VA Medical Center has served U.S. veterans for more than 75 years. Today, the Bronx VA Medical Center is a multilevel healthcare Center of Excellence, accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. The institution also holds distinction as a Veterans Health Administration Designated Comprehensive Cancer Center. The outpatient service includes 10 separate practices encompassing dozens of specialties and sub-specialties. Inpatient wards support 311 beds and a 120-bed nursing home care unit.



### **Elmhurst Hospital Center**

Elmhurst Hospital Center (EHC) serves as the major tertiary-care provider in the borough of Queens. The 525-bed hospital is a Level I Trauma Center. In 2004, EHC received 178,437 emergency room visits, making it one of New York City's busiest ERs. Designated as an American Cancer Society (ACS) teaching hospital, the center serves an ethnically diverse community of approximately one million people and offers a range of multicultural services. EHC has translation capabilities in 140 languages.



### **Englewood Hospital and Medical Center**

Englewood Hospital and Medical Center is a 520-bed acute-care community teaching hospital located in Englewood, New Jersey. A leader in innovative services, Englewood Hospital and Medical Center offers a broad range of state-of-the-art clinical programs that have gained national and international recognition. These include the Breast Care Center, The New Jersey Institute for the Advancement of Bloodless Medicine and Surgery, and The Heart and Vascular Institute of New Jersey. The medical center has received the Magnet Award for nursing excellence.



## RESIDENT WORK HOURS

Mount Sinai strictly adheres to the resident work hour guidelines mandated by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and New York State law. Specific limitations on resident work hours can be found at [www.acgme.org](http://www.acgme.org) under “resident duty hours.”

In general, the following guidelines apply to residents’ schedules:

- Residents will not be at the hospital more than 80 hours per week.
- All residents will receive one day off per week.
- Call periods will not exceed 24 hours.
- Residents will have call no more than once per 72-hour period.

These guidelines apply to all resident levels.

During the first year, call schedules vary by affiliate site and surgical service. Call typically varies from once every three days to once every six, with post-call days always off. Some specialty services—Urology and Plastic Surgery—do not require in-house call, but first-year residents will take call from home and report to the hospital if necessary.

At Mount Sinai, Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners assist first- and second-year residents with routine care, which maximizes operating and learning opportunities for residents.





# ROTATIONS

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## Junior Surgical Residency (PGY1 & PGY2)

The first two years offer a broad introduction to the art and science of surgery. Residents learn to diagnose a wide range of surgical problems within General Surgery and the surgical sub-specialties. While the curriculum emphasizes pre- and post-operative management of surgical problems, residents also gain surgical experience under the direct guidance of an attending surgeon.

All rotations are at Mount Sinai Hospital, unless otherwise noted.

### First-year Rotation:

- Three months on General Surgery
- Two months on General Surgery and Trauma Service at Elmhurst Hospital Center (EHC)
- Two months in Surgical ICU
- One month on Plastic Surgery
- One month on Vascular Surgery
- One month on Orthopedic Surgery
- One month on Urology

### Second-year Rotation:

- Two months on General and Breast Surgery Service
- Two months on General Surgery at Englewood Hospital
- One month on Cardiac Surgery
- One month on Thoracic Surgery
- One month on Renal Transplant Surgery
- One month on Endoscopy
- One month in the Burn Unit
- One month on Vascular Surgery
- One month on Emergency Medicine



## Senior Surgical Residency (PGY3 & PGY4)

Residents assume increasing responsibility in all aspects of patient care. Third- and fourth-year residents either act as the senior on a large General Surgery Service (supervised by a Chief Resident and attending surgeons) or as the Chief Resident on a smaller specialty (*i.e.*, Hepatobiliary, Thoracic, Cardiac or at an affiliate hospital).

### Third-year Rotation:

- Two months on Laparoscopy
- Two months on Head and Neck Surgery
- Two months on General Surgery and Trauma Service at Elmhurst
- Two months on General Surgery at Bronx Veterans Administration
- Two months as Chief Resident on Pediatric Surgery Service
- One month on overseas rotation in the Dominican Republic

### Fourth-year Rotation:

- Three months on General Surgery Service
- Two months as Chief Resident on General Surgery and Trauma Service at Elmhurst
- Two months as Chief Resident at Bronx VA
- Two months on Hepatobiliary/Surgical Oncology Service
- Two months as Chief Resident on Vascular Surgery

## Chief Residency (PGY5)

During the Chief Resident year, residents supervise a General Surgery Service, charged with the responsibility for patient care and for supervising the junior and senior residents below them. Chief Residents perform a wide range of surgical procedures under the supervision of an Attending Surgeon.

### Fifth-year Rotation:

- Six months at Mount Sinai
- Four months at Elmhurst
- Two months at Bronx VA

Mount Sinai offers an optional overseas rotation in the Dominican Republic, where surgery residents can improve their skills and contribute to the global humanitarian effort.



## EDUCATION

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The Mount Sinai Department of Surgery offers a wide range of resources to support residents' academic pursuits and professional development. The department encourages resident participation and presentation in national meetings and finances travel expenses. Fourth-year residents attend the spring meeting of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), and all Chief Residents have the opportunity to attend the ACS fall meeting.

Residents receive access to the Gustave L. and Janet W. Levy Library. Online resources include 89 databases, such as Medline/PubMed and AccessMedicine, and more than 11,000 full-text e-journals.

### Resident Library

Residents have 24-hour access to the Resident Library, conveniently located near the operating rooms. The library offers:

- Audio-visual equipment
- Computer terminals with high-speed Internet access
- Journals
- Laparoscopic trainers for honing minimally invasive surgical skills
- Textbooks



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## Conferences

The ***Morbidity and Mortality*** conference offers near-time review and discussion of relevant and interesting cases. Senior residents present each case in the context of its complications and applicable current literature.

A ***Grand Rounds*** lecture features experts from across the nation, who discuss and present state-of-the-art developments in their respective fields. The series enables residents to stay abreast of cutting-edge medical science.

***Team Conferences*** consist of case presentations, followed by an in-depth discussion of current literature. Residents lead the didactic sessions, while faculty members serve as facilitators. Some conferences—such as Vascular Surgery and Surgical Oncology—involve other disciplines, including Radiology, Medical Oncology, G.I. and Pathology.

The ***Basic Science*** conference covers a variety of topics. Similar to the Team Conferences, residents present and lead discussion, and faculty members assist as facilitators. These weekly sessions are teleconferenced to affiliate hospitals, enabling all residents to participate.

Run by residents, the ***Cover-to-Cover Club*** discusses one chapter of the *Sabiston Textbook of Surgery* every week.

The ***G.I./Tumor Board*** is a weekly multidisciplinary conference where residents discuss pre- and post-operative management of oncological cases.

Unique to Mount Sinai, the ***Surgical Skills Laboratory*** is a monthly series of practical or technical sessions, teaching residents basic operative skills with both inanimate and animal models. This lab will increasingly incorporate surgical simulation technology.

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## RESEARCH

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The Mount Sinai School of Medicine has received international recognition for producing ground-breaking clinical and basic-science research. Consistent with the institutional mission to advance medical science, the Mount Sinai Department of Surgery pursues a variety of research projects on an ongoing basis.

Residents who want to participate in such projects may request faculty approval. If accepted, they can take up to a two-year hiatus for research. Interested residents should contact Dr. Celia Divino, Director of the General Surgery Residency Program, at [celia.divino@mountsinai.org](mailto:celia.divino@mountsinai.org).

Surgical residents from 2004 – 2005 have published more than 40 scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals across multiple disciplines. They have presented their work at numerous national meetings.





### Salary and Benefits

The Mount Sinai General Surgery Residency Program offers a competitive salary and benefits package, which includes medical and dental insurance, malpractice coverage, and paid vacation. For more information on current pay scales and benefits, call the Human Resources Department at **(212) 731-7727**.

The Recreation Office also offers additional fringe benefits, such as discounts on sporting events, theater tickets, movies and health-club memberships.

### Housing

Most surgical residents live in Mount Sinai-owned apartments on Manhattan's Upper East Side, within walking distance of the hospital. They can choose from several different buildings with a range of layouts and amenities—from studios to two-bedroom apartments, some with doormen, balconies and on-site parking.

Residents also have access to subsidized housing in the Jane B. Aron Residence Hall, located across the street from the Medical Center. Amenities include a 24-hour doorman, a fitness room, an entertainment lounge and on-site laundry facilities. For more information, residents should contact the Mount Sinai Real Estate Office at **(212) 659-9630**.

A small percentage of residents live in other areas of Manhattan, the outer boroughs or in New Jersey. The Medical Center is just blocks away from the 96th Street subway station, and the local bus system is extensive, making public transportation convenient. Residents who drive can take advantage of discounted garage parking near the facility.

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Grand Central Terminal



Statue of Liberty



Recent surgical residents have gone on to hospital appointments and fellowships in the following specialties:

## **Cardiothoracic Surgery**

- Montefiore Medical Center, New York, N.Y.
- The Mount Sinai Medical Center, New York, N.Y.
- New York University Medical Center, New York, N.Y.

## **Colorectal Surgery**

- The Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio
- The Cleveland Clinic, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
- Lahey Clinic, Burlington, Mass.
- The Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn.
- Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, Calif.
- University of Minnesota, Fairview, Minn.
- The Ferguson Clinic, Grand Rapids, Mich.
- The Mount Sinai Medical Center, New York, N.Y.
- St. Luke's – Roosevelt Hospital, New York, N.Y.

## **Endocrine Surgery**

- Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, Ill.

## **Laparoscopic Surgery**

- Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, Calif.
- The Mount Sinai Medical Center, New York, N.Y.
- University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, Pa.
- Weill Medical College of Cornell University, New York, N.Y.

## **Pediatric Surgery**

- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pa.
- Children's National Medical Center, Washington, D.C.
- Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, New York, N.Y.

## **Pediatric Surgery (cont.)**

- SUNY Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn, N.Y.
- SUNY University at Buffalo, Buffalo, N.Y.

## **Plastic Surgery**

- New York University Medical Center, New York, N.Y.
- UCLA Medical Center, Los Angeles, Calif.
- Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Mass.
- Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas
- Yale University Medical Center, New Haven, Conn.
- The Mount Sinai Medical Center, New York, N.Y.

## **Surgical Oncology**

- M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas
- Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, N.Y.
- Fox Chase Cancer Center, Trenton, N.J.

## **Transplant Surgery**

- University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, Pa.

## **Vascular Surgery**

- Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas
- The Mount Sinai Medical Center, New York, N.Y.
- New York University Medical Center, New York, N.Y.
- Tufts – New England Medical Center, Boston, Mass.
- Yale University Medical Center, New Haven, Conn.

Brooklyn Bridge



New York Public Library, Main Branch



## TO LEARN MORE

Reading and hearing about a residency program can provide important information. However, to decide whether the program is a good fit for you, the best way to learn about our program is to meet with the residents and house officers.

### Meet a Resident

We encourage prospective applicants to schedule a meeting with one of our residents. These men and women—who were in your shoes just a year or two ago—can offer invaluable insight into the program, including the factors that led to their selection of Mount Sinai and how their experiences have matched up to their expectations. This one-to-one encounter provides an excellent opportunity to learn about life as a Mount Sinai surgical resident.

### Second-Look Visit

After the interview process, we invite interested applicants to return to our campus for a Second-Look Visit. Applicants spend one day with a house officer. The day starts with the weekly Morbidity and Mortality Conference, followed by Grand Rounds and concluding in the operating room or on the surgical floor.

To schedule either a meeting with a resident or a Second-Look Visit, please contact the Residency Manager at [surgeryresidency@mountsinai.org](mailto:surgeryresidency@mountsinai.org).





## Contact Information

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### **Mount Sinai School of Medicine**

One Gustave L. Levy Place  
New York, New York 10029  
Dean's Office  
(212) 659-9003  
[www.mssm.edu](http://www.mssm.edu)

### **Chairman, Department of Surgery**

Michael L. Marin, M.D.  
[michael.marin@mountsinai.org](mailto:michael.marin@mountsinai.org)

### **Director of the General Surgery Residency Program**

Celia M. Divino, M.D.  
[celia.divino@mountsinai.org](mailto:celia.divino@mountsinai.org)

### **Residency Manager**

Carmine Novembre  
[carmine.novembre@mountsinai.org](mailto:carmine.novembre@mountsinai.org)

### **MSSM Surgery Residency Page**

[www.mssurg.net](http://www.mssurg.net)

### **Information on Resident Work Hours**

Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education  
[www.acgme.org](http://www.acgme.org)

### **Human Resources Department**

(212) 731-7727

### **Mount Sinai Real Estate Office**

(212) 659-9630