Mount Sinai’s Global Surgical Health Program was established to emphasize the importance of surgical service and expand the clinical knowledge of our surgeons. The program oversees clinical activities in multiple foreign countries including Haiti, Indonesia, Nigeria, Peru, and Vietnam. In 2005, we established a surgical residency rotation in the Dominican Republic. This life-changing experience gives young surgeons the opportunity to provide surgical care to rural communities and to share knowledge and expertise with physicians in the countries they visit. Working with limited resources and without the comforts of most modern technology, they gain valuable skills assisting in the diagnosis and treatment of patients, and providing much needed care to underserved populations.

In Indonesia, our focus is on education, where we host the largest critical care symposium in Southeast Asia. In 2010, 800 participants from 15 different countries participated in workshops run by members of The Mount Sinai Department of Surgery. We also enjoy a strong relationship with the University of Indonesia, where we have been delivering onsite lectures and from where physicians and medical students have come to observe our work at Mount Sinai since 1994.

The Department of Surgery has long fostered a strong relationship with the Israeli surgical community, providing superior surgical training opportunities to Israeli residents in our educational and clinical environment for the last 30 years. Third year residents from top hospitals such as Hadassah Ein-Karem (affiliated with Hebrew University), Tel-Hahomer/Sheba Hospital, Meir Hospital, Belinson Hospital (affiliated with Tel-Aviv University) and Carmel Hospital (affiliated with Technion University), spend one year working in our program as house officers.

For more information about The Mount Sinai Surgical Residency Program, please contact us at 212-241-5871 Jennifer.sena@mountsinai.org, or visit our website at www.mssm.edu/surgery

Global Surgical Health Program

Since the inception of The Mount Sinai Medical Center’s Surgical Training Program at the turn of the 20th century, our directors and faculty have been deeply committed to producing the finest surgeons through a dynamic didactic curriculum and a teaching philosophy rooted in mentorship.

The surgical residents at Mount Sinai work as a team, employing the latest technology in surgical simulation and utilizing web-based clinical modules that complement a robust skills laboratory. Faculty members encourage and support residents’ participation in clinical and basic science research. A joint Master of Public Health Program provides opportunities for outcomes-based projects, and our residents have received training grants from the National Institutes of Health, the National Cancer Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program.

Mount Sinai surgical residents have a 100 percent first pass rate on the qualifying examination for surgery board certification and have been accepted to some of the country’s most competitive fellowships programs. Approximately 80 percent of our residents continue in academic medicine and become clinical leaders in their specialty.

Our growth has incorporated talented individuals from around the globe, with underrepresented minorities now comprising 50 percent of our residents.
Advanced Training

ACGME ACCREDITED FELLOWSHIPS

Colon and Rectal: The Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery offers one single-year fellowship to a highly qualified individual each academic year. Accredited in 1998, the program provides fellows with well-rounded training in all aspects of colon and rectal surgery. Mount Sinai maintains one of the most active centers for inflammatory bowel disease in the Northeast. High surgical volume exposes fellows to a wide range of cases and procedures, working with experienced surgeons who take an active interest in their education. Participants perform a variety of procedures using different techniques—from traditional open surgery to minimally invasive approaches.

Critical Care: The mission of the Critical Care Medicine Fellowship Program is to train intensivists who possess the academic, clinical, and research skills necessary to become leaders in the field of critical care medicine. The program emphasizes the multidisciplinary nature of critical care medicine, and it provides an extensive experience in a variety of critical care settings. All faculty members are board certified in critical care medicine and come from various subspecialties including internal medicine, anesthesiology, pulmonary medicine, nephrology, and surgery. In addition, faculty from the fields of neurology, neurosurgery, and obstetrics-gynecology actively participate in the education of the fellows. Through this addition, faculty from the fields of neurology, neurosurgery, and obstetrics-gynecology actively participate in the education of the fellows. Through this process, fellows acquire extensive experience in invasive and non-invasive monitoring and in all ICU-related procedures.

SOCIETY APPROVED FELLOWSHIPS

Vascular Surgery: Mount Sinai offers advanced training in vascular surgery to fellows who have completed their residency in general surgery. The Mount Sinai program was initiated over 30 years ago by Dr. Julius Jacobson, and it continues to train the highest caliber of vascular surgeons in the country.

Laparoscopic: Founded in 1993, The Mount Sinai Clinical Fellowship in Laparoscopic Surgery was one of the first formal training programs for laparoscopy established in the United States. With the formation of the Division of Laparoscopic Surgery in 1992, Mount Sinai was one of the first medical schools in the United States to recognize the field as a distinct specialty within general surgery. Mount Sinai now boasts one of the nation's most clinically active laparoscopic programs. This provides our laparoscopic fellows with an unparalleled exposure to a remarkable spectrum of minimally invasive procedures and techniques.

INTEGRATED FELLOWSHIPS

Vascular Surgery Integrated Fellowship: Trainees enroll in our vascular surgery residency program right out of medical school. This dedicated training offers residents the benefit of an increased focus and exposure to all the different vascular illnesses and treatments early in their careers. Mount Sinai’s Vascular Surgery Residency Program was among the first of its kind in the United States, and it continues to rank as one of our country’s premier programs. Inception of this program initiated a trend amongst other surgical subspecialties establishing similar programs in disciplines such as cardiothoracic surgery. In addition to training at Mount Sinai, vascular surgery residents train at the Veterans Administration Hospital in the Bronx, at one of the New York City hospitals located in Elmhurst, Queens, and at a busy community-based hospital in Englewood, New Jersey.

Plastic Surgery Integrated Fellowship: Plastic Surgery residents receive a broad, balanced experience by completing a three-year rotation through medical centers aligned with Mount Sinai School of Medicine, including four separate and diverse affiliate hospitals in one of the dominant health care systems of the city. We provide a solid foundation of core plastic and reconstructive surgery as well as specialized cases in cosmetic surgery, craniofacial surgery, hand surgery and microvascular surgery. We encourage residents to participate in our numerous, ongoing basic and clinical translation projects and publish extensively in various peer-reviewed journals.

ADDITIONAL FELLOWSHIPS

Surgical Oncology: Mount Sinai’s Surgical Oncology Fellowship provides qualified candidates the opportunity to gain in-depth exposure to the surgically based interdisciplinary management of patients with a wide range of cancer-related illnesses. The program also offers the opportunity to participate in surgical oncology research in a clinically busy and academically rigorous unit. The division places emphasis on the treatment of hepatobiliary and pancreatic malignancies, both areas of special strength.

Metabolic and Endocrine: With the development of the Division of Metabolic, Endocrine and Minimally Invasive Surgery, Mount Sinai has launched an integrated Metabolic and Endocrine Surgery Fellowship. Our program, staffed by fellowship-trained endocrine and laparoscopic surgeons, focuses on endocrine and metabolic surgery, including minimally invasive/video-endoscopic thyroid and parathyroid procedures, laparoscopic adrenalectomy, pancreas endocrine surgical oncology, office-based procedures, head and neck surgical oncology, and gastrointestinal metabolic surgery. Our fellows are involved with studies that investigate the effects of gastrointestinal surgery on the remission of type-2 diabetes and metabolism.
There is consensus among our residents that the breadth of learning opportunities Mount Sinai offers is unparalleled.

“The residency structure offers a balanced way to learn,” Dr. Alero Nanna (PGY3) explains. “It’s the perfect mix of independence, supervision, teaching, and mentoring.” The recipient of the Medical Student Teaching Award, Dr. Nanna is involved in creating a residency manual for different rotations. “It makes me a better candidate because I’m participating in this academic process, and it gives me a chance to absorb the information from a different perspective.” Given her interest in international medicine, Nigerian born Dr. Nanna is also looking forward to working at Mount Sinai’s hospital in the Dominican Republic.

Dr. John Byrn, a former surgical resident, recently returned to his home state of Iowa after six years at Mount Sinai. Dr. Byrn had developed a strong interest in colorectal surgery, and ultimately won a prestigious colorectal fellowship at Cleveland Clinic. “Mount Sinai set me on the trajectory that led me to my current position as a clinical assistant professor at the University Of Iowa Carver School Of Medicine with a practice at the university hospitals and clinics,” he reports. “I’m happy because I get to do all the things I love: teach, contribute to the surgical literature in a way that helps us do what we do better, and move minimally invasive surgery forward here in Iowa.”

Both agree that mentorship is one of the surgical program’s greatest assets: “Dr. Divino takes a personal interest in my development,” says Dr. Nanna.

Dr. Byrn adds that Mount Sinai mentors tend to stay in touch long after the residency ends: “The Chair Emeritus, Dr. Aufses, Jr., wrote recommendations for me—seven years after we met,” he recalls. “And we continue to exchange emails today.”

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Surgical Simulation Program

As a prelude to the operating room and complementary to the skills curriculum, is the implementation of simulation technology. Mount Sinai School of Medicine requires its residents to master their skills in a state-of-the-art surgical simulation center. Our simulation center, a Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery (FLS) Certified Testing Center, is well equipped to help young surgeons learn the latest in surgical techniques. With its laparoscopic and endoscopic simulators, inanimate models, and web-based learning modules, the Surgical Simulation Center offers our surgical residents a multitude of enhanced learning opportunities.

A group of residents gather in the simulation lab for a demonstration.