



# Psychiatry Residency at Mount Sinai: Research Tracks

Training academic  
leaders in psychiatry  
and neuroscience.



Icahn School  
of Medicine at  
**Mount  
Sinai**





## A flexible program. Unique and pioneering research tracks. Dedicated time to pursue your research passions.

Realize your goals with a psychiatry residency at the  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

Mount Sinai's unique culture of flexibility and innovation offers you an exceptional place to learn how to become a twenty-first century psychiatrist and scientist. Our top-notch faculty is in the vanguard of the ever-expanding field of psychiatry, including neuroscience, clinical research, and psychotherapy. The outstanding researchers in these disciplines regularly exchange ideas, working to transcend the conceptual barriers that often separate biological models of mental illness from "the mind." We encourage new ideas, and strive to provide an open, stimulating, and supportive environment. At Mount Sinai, you will find a wealth of raw materials from which to create your own distinctive educational, academic, and professional journey.

While we excel in teaching the cores of clinical psychiatry, our research tracks are particularly attractive to residents seeking a personalized and supportive program that balances clinical training and research. PhD-level training has become critical for translational research and for obtaining research funding, and we designed our research tracks to prepare you for success. Residents have the flexibility to develop programs and exercise independent thinking at an early stage. Beyond core requirements, we help you build

your own experiences so that you can become a true specialist as a physician-scientist while you master the skills to provide the most effective treatments in your domain of expertise. You'll be nurtured by your mentor as well as a multidisciplinary advisory committee, with structured oversight on the grant submission process, furthering your chances of success.

Residency training is hard work, but we are dedicated to helping you make these years professionally productive and personally fulfilling. Welcome to Mount Sinai!



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## Physician-Scientist Research Track

“Mount Sinai had one of the largest amounts of protected research time of any program that I visited, and the amount has only increased. Importantly, the administration worked to ensure that this time truly was protected.”

–Drew Kiraly, MD, PhD, Associate Professor (class of 2017)

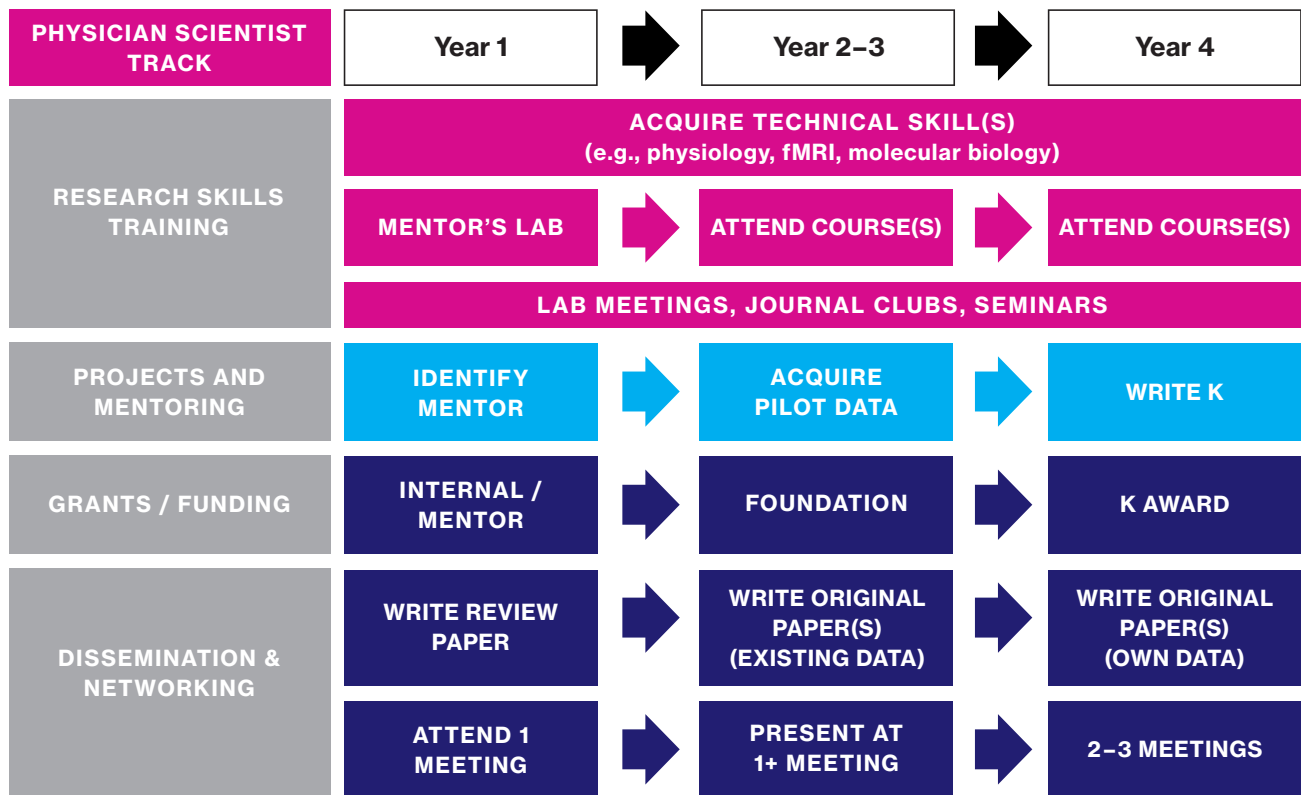
Our Physician-Scientist Research Track, which has a separate match number in the National Residency Matching Program (1490400C2), is designed for applicants who have a demonstrated interest in and aptitude for psychiatric research. While this track is not formally limited to applicants with an MD/PhD, priority is generally given to those who have participated in substantial research activities prior to residency. We anticipate two positions in each entering class.

### Program Structure

The purpose of this track is to provide substantial protected time for research throughout residency training. Residents have two to three full-time research months in the PGY-2. When residents treat outpatients longitudinally, a block research assignment is replaced by a longitudinal allocation of protected time, to which we dedicate 33 percent of the program’s time throughout the latter half of PGY-2 and continuing throughout PGY-3. The fourth year allows even more protected time for research (75 percent) and is meant to provide for the execution of projects that could be continued following graduation from residency (e.g., obtaining preliminary data and writing a K-award).

PGY-2			
Inpatient + Nightfloat	C/L	Research 100%	Outpatient
			Research 33.3%
PGY-3			
Outpatient psychiatry + research clinics			
Research 50%			
PGY-4			
Outpatient psychiatry + research clinics			
Research 75%			

## Expectations by PGY Level



## Support for Your Research

Mercedes Perez-Rodriguez, MD, PhD, is our Associate Training Director for Research. She graduated from our Physician-Scientist track in 2012, then completed a Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center (MIRECC) research fellowship before accepting a faculty position in 2014. She is currently Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Director of the Medical Student Clerkship. She is also the Medical Director of Critical Connections, the Psychosis Research Program at Mount Sinai. Her research in psychosis spectrum and trauma-related disorders has been funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Brain and Behavior Science Foundation, and the Veterans Affairs (VA) MIRECC.

Dr. Perez-Rodriguez works closely with the training directors, as well as with Rene Kahn, MD, PhD, and Eric Nestler, MD, PhD, to advise and oversee the professional and scientific development of residents throughout the research tracks, with a focus on successful mentorship relationships and planning for grant submissions.

Given the substantial protected time we've created, Physician-Scientist track residents are expected to intensively pursue their research, translating their scientific interests into demonstrable products. This requires time and energy, and we expect that when such residents are not engaged in clinical responsibilities, they will be involved in research-related pursuits.

## Support for Your Research

As supplemental compensation, we've sought (through an R25 grant and other departmental sources) additional research funding and salary stipends, including the following:

- Augmented salaries
- Funding for research needs (travel costs, equipment, etc.)
- Mount Sinai housing
- Opportunity to apply for NIH Loan Repayment Program (up to \$50,000 annually, must engage in qualified research for an average of at least 20 hours per week)

*Applicants should note that this level of financial support is not guaranteed and is dependent on supplementary evaluations and evidence of ongoing progress in research.*

## Faculty

Per the most recent NIH funding ranking data available (from 2022), our Department of Neuroscience is No. 4 in the country as ranked by federal funding, and our Department of Psychiatry is No. 7, with individual investigators listed among the top-funded Principal Investigators (PI).

The Friedman Brain Institute represents the large-scale multidisciplinary nature of our work, involving numerous basic science and clinical departments, including the Icahn Institute for Genomics and Multiscale Biology as well as other laboratories at Mount Sinai.

## How to Apply

Applicants to the Physician-Scientist Track should indicate their interest to the training directors and select it as one of their chosen Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) tracks. Given the specialty nature of this track and the expectation that applicants will have considerable prior research experience, we will ask for additional information to supplement their ERAS portfolios, including a scientific biography, a statement of research interest, and two letters from research mentors specifically commenting on the applicant's research accomplishments and potential (if not included as one of the ERAS letters of recommendation) before releasing invitations to interview. If you are selected to interview, you will attend our usual interview process as well as additional meetings that could occur on the day before or after your interview day. Based on the material you provide, we will select some investigators who we believe share interests with you, and likewise we would like to know which scientists on our faculty you may be particularly interested in meeting.







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[bit.ly/ms-psych-research](https://bit.ly/ms-psych-research)

[icahn.mssm.edu/psychiatry](https://icahn.mssm.edu/psychiatry)



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