



**Mount
Sinai**

*Office for Diversity
and Inclusion*

Mount Sinai Health System

Profiles in PRIDE

Recognizing Champions in LGBT Health at Mount Sinai and Beyond



Profiles in Pride 2018

Mount Sinai Health System salutes and thanks these employees for their leadership and dedication to LGBT health equity.



David A. Conner, MA, RN

Promoting LGBT Health Awareness at Mount Sinai St. Luke's

David is the Clinical Nurse Manager of the Orthopedic and Surgical Step-down unit at Mount Sinai St. Luke's (MSSL), where he leads the LGBT employee resource group. He has ensured LGBT visibility and affirmative care throughout the hospital through LGBT health events, promoting training, and ensuring that MSSL is well represented in systemswide activities and events in support of the LGBT communities it serves.



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Don Nguyen

Mount Sinai Undergraduate Health Scholar at Mount Sinai Student Leader for LGBT Health Equity and Inclusion

As a first-generation queer Vietnamese-American man, Don strives to improve LGBTQ+ visibility in medicine and science. He is currently co-chairing the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai's LGBTQ+ affinity group, Stonewall Alliance. In that capacity he leads the LGBTQ+ YOUTH Pipeline Program, which engages LGBTQ+ identifying youth from community-based organizations in medical student-led activity workshops designed to increase interest in careers in medicine and science.



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Mister Cris Benjamin

President of the National Champion for Access to Transgender-Expatriate Healthcare

Mister Cris is the procedural billing specialist for the Mount Sinai Transgender Surgery Program and trains employees in transgender-affirmative billing and coding. He works tirelessly to make sure surgery is approved for transgender and gender-nonconforming patients. He is Executive Director and co-founder of Community Kinship Life (CK Life), a transgender community empowerment organization. He is committed to helping individuals of transgender experience—with extra focus on the black trans community—achieve their goals before, during, and after transition.



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Brijen J. Shah, MD

Supporting LGBT Health Services at Mount Sinai Queens

Brijen is a board certified internist, gastroenterologist, and geriatrician who is an associate professor at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and the Chief Medical Officer and Vice President of Medical Affairs for Mount Sinai Queens (MSQ). Formerly, Brijen served as the director of Graduate Medical Education for faculty development, quality, and patient safety, where he worked with the MSIS Office for Diversity and Inclusion to expand LGBT content within the residency training program. At Mount Sinai Queens, he is spearheading the development of enhanced LGBT primary and hospital-based care.



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Miguel Arenas, MS, CPXP, BCQA

Promoting Leader for LGBT Equity at Mount Sinai (West/MSH)

Miguel is Senior Associate Director of Patient Representatives, Language Services, and Grievances Management for Mount Sinai Downtown and Mount Sinai Brooklyn. He came from Puerto Rico in 1981 to pursue a career that has included developing and implementing disease prevention programs for the New York City Department of Health and the former Continuum hospitals. Miguel, a founding member of the MSBI LGBT Committee, was actively involved in making MSBI the first hospital in New York City to achieve Leadership Status from the Human Rights Campaign national LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equality Index.



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Kristen Giordano, BSN, RNC-MNN

Promoter and Ally in Transgender Inclusive Obstetrics Services at Mount Sinai West

Kristen is the Nurse Manager at Mount Sinai West's Obstetric Services, where she provides leadership and education in best practices for transgender and gender-nonconforming (TGNC) families. In addition to caring for transgender parents giving birth at Mount Sinai West, she has provided training to providers, nurses, and front-line staff to ensure transgender-affirmative health care at the hospital and provide community education to prospective TGNC parents.



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Nicole Saylor, MS, CPXP

Educator and Ally in Enhancing the Transgender Patient Experience at Mount Sinai Hospital

Nicole is the Director of Service Excellence for The Mount Sinai Hospital and leads the Patient Service Center. Nicole has been working to expand the staff's knowledge about how to care for transgender patients, by providing and facilitating training across the campus and practices. She has helped to improve the transgender patient experience by advocating for education, and was a partner to the Center for Transgender Medicine and Surgery at Mount Sinai in staging its first live training course in transgender surgery.

For updated information on events
contact the OD at
diversity@mountsinai.org.