



May 12, 2022

Happy Thursday, Mount Sinai Community –

In honor of [Asian American and Pacific Islander \(AAPI\) Heritage Month](#), Mount Sinai is hosting a series of events and celebrations to bring people together to learn more and commemorate the community's rich cultural heritage. In that spirit, a group of team members with AAPI backgrounds created this [welcome video](#) for the Health System:



Several Mount Sinai organizations, including

- Committee Against Anti-Bias and Racism (CAABR)
- Asian Resource Network (ARN)
- Asian Pacific American Medical Students Association (APAMSA)
- South Asian Medical Student Association (SAMSA)

collaborated to create a first-of-its-kind celebration of AAPI cultures for the month of May.

As we applaud the vast and vital contributions of the AAPI community, it is equally important to understand the deep challenges currently impacting this group. In recent months, [AAPI communities have continued to experience](#) an increase in stigma, hate, and assaults both here in New York and across the country. Additionally, as recently as 2020, [nearly one in four Asian adults in New York City was reported to be living in poverty](#).

Broadening our appreciation and understanding of AAPI history, customs, and culture is key to shedding our assumptions about AAPI colleagues, friends, and neighbors and recognizing the challenges their communities face.



CAABR member Vida Jong, MPA, reflects, “Since the AAPI community is an integral part of Mount Sinai’s and the country’s cultural mosaic, we encourage the Health System community to become Asian American and Pacific Islander allies this month by participating in related events and celebrations. This is a terrific way to learn about the

history of AAPI groups in America and uplift the Asian community, especially in the wake of increasing community harm and bias over the past two years.”

Throughout the month, cafeterias across the Health System will offer dining options inspired by Asian American and Pacific Islander cultures and provide space for distribution of educational materials focused on personal safety and AAPI culture. Please see the schedule below for details:

- Mount Sinai Morningside – Friday, May 13
- The Mount Sinai Hospital – Friday, May 13
- Mount Sinai Brooklyn – Wednesday, May 18
- Mount Sinai West – Thursday, May 19

If you are interested in getting involved with Mount Sinai’s AAPI groups, click through to learn more about [CAABR](#) and [Employee Resource Groups](#). Speaking of ERGs, we invite you to join us next week for our ERG Virtual Kickoff events.

And if you have a few minutes, please consider this [inspiring tribute](#) by **Robert Wright, MD, MPH**, written to honor his mother who left a life of poverty in Okinawa to give her family a better life. It is a story of strength and perseverance representative of the AAPI heritage we celebrate this month.

All the best,

Angela and Shawn

Upcoming Events

ERG Showcase Virtual Kickoff—The Office for Diversity and Inclusion and the Mount Sinai Health System Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) invite you to the ERG Virtual Showcase! Join us at a virtual session on **Tuesday, May 17**, **Wednesday, May 18**, or **Thursday, May 19** to learn more and get involved in diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts! [Register here](#).

Chats for Change: Equity Lens—How Does It Work?—Join Chats for Change on **Tuesday, May 17, from noon to 1 pm** to discuss how, why, and when to use an equity lens—a tool designed to help decision makers and teams focus on equity in both their processes and outcomes. [Register on Zoom](#).

[Road Map for Action](#)

[Past Bulletins](#)