

MOUNT SINAI SELIKOFF CENTERS

# Excellence

in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment  
of work-related injury and illness.



**Mount  
Sinai**

*Selikoff Centers for  
Occupational Health*

# Letter From the Director



The Mount Sinai Selikoff Centers for Occupational Health have a long and proud history of caring for workers and finding ways to keep workplaces safer. The Center's founder, Dr. Irving J. Selikoff, was an extraordinary individual, a physician, researcher, and advocate who stood up for working people. Dr. Selikoff established and directed Mount Sinai's first environmental medicine laboratory, which, during Dr. Selikoff's 25-year tenure, helped establish the health hazards of working with asbestos.

In 1987, a report on occupational disease in New York, led by the Selikoff Centers physicians and with strong union support, influenced the New York State legislature's authorization of the New York State Occupational Health Clinic Network. New York State is unique in having the only state-funded occupational health clinic network in the United States. Today, the Mount Sinai Selikoff Centers for Occupational Health are proud to serve the occupational health needs of the Mid-Hudson Valley and the five boroughs of New York City. Our interdisciplinary team of occupational medicine physicians, ergonomists, industrial hygienists, and education and outreach specialists is committed to providing specialized care and preventive services for workers. Individuals who get hurt or sick as a result of their work require specialized care. Selikoff physicians develop comprehensive care plans to guide workers while maintaining sensitivity to workers' need for prompt return to work and making recommendations for job modifications where appropriate.

Advocacy, education, and treatment by an occupational medicine specialist can reduce the very significant economic burden of injury on the worker and their family. Each year, there are more than 200 work-related fatalities and almost 190,000 occupational diseases and injuries reported across New York State. These numbers represent only a fraction of the problem because work-related health conditions are underreported. These conditions lead to significant pain and suffering, disrupt careers, and devastate families. They result in a substantial economic burden due to both direct medical costs and indirect costs related to lost production, foregone opportunities, and diminished investment.

The efforts of the Selikoff Centers' personnel in clinical care, research, teaching, and advocacy in support of working people continue today just as they did 60 years ago under Dr. Selikoff.

Thank you for your support and partnership.

Sincerely,  
Michael A. Crane, MD, MPH  
Medical Director

# Leadership

**Robert O. Wright, MD, MPH**

Ethel H. Wise Professor and Chair,  
Department of Environmental Medicine and  
Public Health

**John D. Meyer, MD, MPH**

Director, Division of Occupational Medicine  
Director, NIOSH Region II Education and  
Research Center for New York and  
New Jersey

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Medical Director, Selikoff Centers for  
Occupational Health  
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Center of Excellence at Mount Sinai

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Deputy Medical Director, Selikoff Centers for  
Occupational Health  
World Trade Center Health Program Clinical  
Center of Excellence at Mount Sinai

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Medical Director, Selikoff Centers for  
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Medical Director, Selikoff Centers for  
Occupational Health – Staten Island Clinic

**Sharon Lee, MD, MPH**

Medical Director, Selikoff Centers for  
Occupational Health – Manhattan Clinic

**Candice Tannis, MD, MPH**

Deputy Director, Occupational Medicine  
Residency Program

**Julia Nicolaou Burns, MPH**

Administrative Director, Selikoff Centers for  
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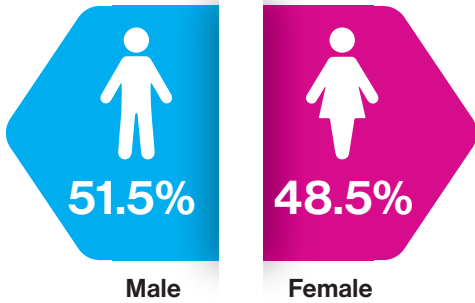
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# WHO WE ARE

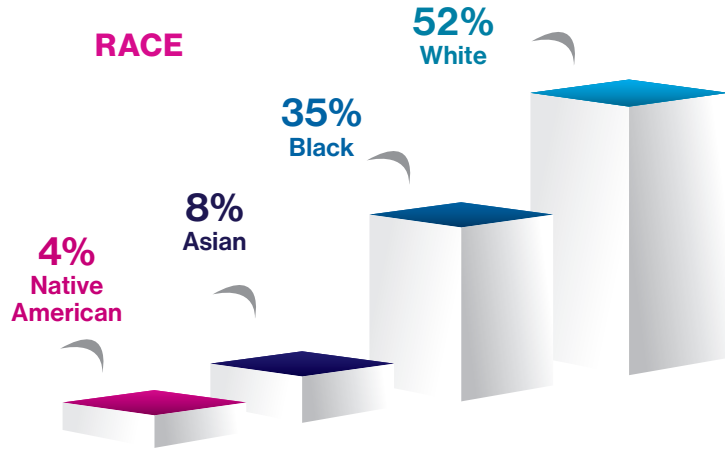
What sets the Selikoff Centers apart is our 360-degree approach to injured workers. As a part of the nation's only state-based **Occupational Health Clinic Network**, we provide the entire range of workplace health and safety-related services—beginning with education and consultation aimed at injury and illness prevention. We diagnose and treat ill and injured workers and our goal is to safely return them to work. Our doctors are experts in workers' compensation who can establish the link between work and illness and can connect patients with other treating specialists who accept workers' compensation insurance. All of this is provided with guidance and support from staff with expertise in ergonomics, industrial hygiene, social work, and vocational counseling. Within the Department of Environmental Medicine and Public Health, the Division of Occupational Medicine is a leader in interdisciplinary research and has made groundbreaking discoveries about occupational-related illnesses during the last 60 years.

## OUR PATIENTS

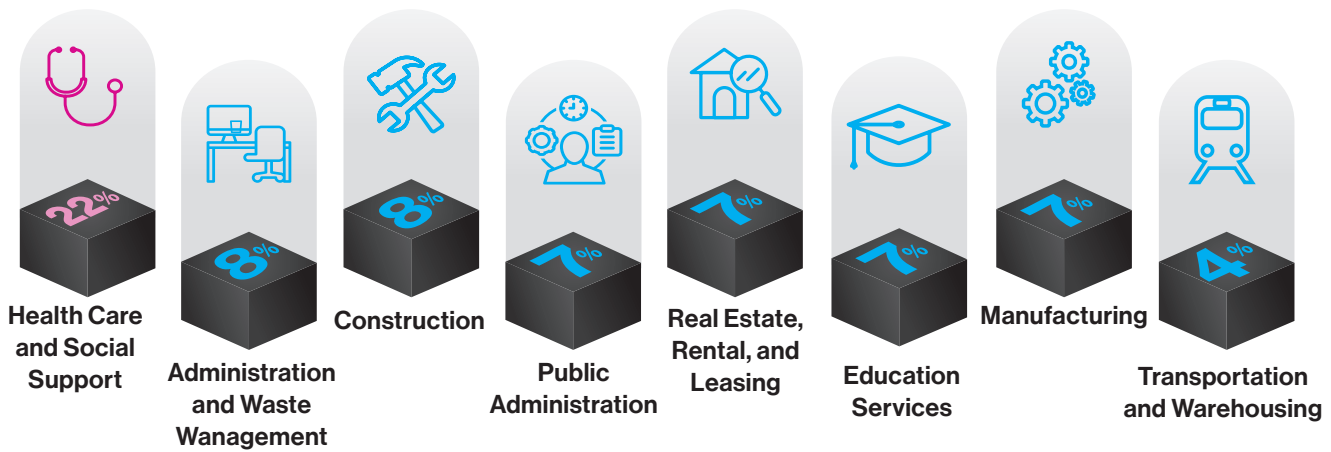
### GENDER



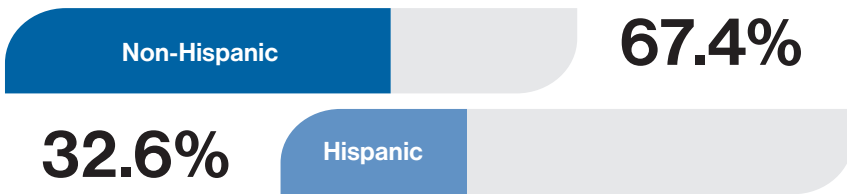
### RACE



### OCCUPATIONAL INDUSTRY



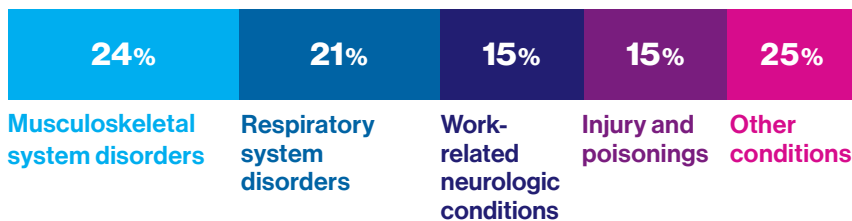
### ETHNICITY



### WORK STATUS



### MAJOR DIAGNOSES



# COVID-19

Through our telehealth services, the Selikoff Centers continued to care for the needs of the workers in the New York City and Mid-Hudson Valley regions throughout the pandemic. Our team members were instrumental early on in establishing safe workplace protocols and procedures for all workers. Occupational medicine providers joined with infectious disease specialists and other collaborators, creating innovative safety processes for health care and other industries. These initiatives worked to reduce exposure to patients and providers by characterizing aerosol transmission of COVID as well as by educating workers in respectful and safe handling of those lost due to the virus. Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, occupational medicine physicians at the Selikoff Centers recognized that

COVID was often contracted in the workplace. We led the way in providing acute- and long-COVID medical care to workers under the NYS Workers' Compensation system.

As the pandemic progresses, the Selikoff Centers continue to support employers, unions, and community-based organizations in facing new and ongoing health and safety challenges arising from COVID-19. We have helped organizations develop and refine plans to mitigate risk for coronavirus exposure and assisted employers in setting up programs to continue protecting workers. Our team of occupational health physicians and health and safety professionals has developed a general guide for diverse organizations and industries to assist with safe operations.



For more information, please visit:

<https://www.mountsinai.org/covid19workplacesafety>



The Selikoff Centers were the first clinics to provide care to workers under NYS Workers' Compensation for work-related COVID, including acute and long COVID.

# INITIATIVES

## **Cleaning and Disinfecting Products Health and Safety:**

Exposure to cleaning chemicals and disinfectants may lead workers to develop respiratory diseases such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Our initiative is designed to evaluate the ingredients used in cleaning and disinfecting products and their potential health effects. In our Occupational and Environmental Hygiene Laboratory, we evaluate inhalation and dermal exposure to household and industrial cleaning chemicals and disinfectants. The Selikoff Clinic is a research partner of the NIEHS-funded project Safe and Just Cleaners ([www.safeandjustcleaners.org](http://www.safeandjustcleaners.org)), a community-based participatory research project to assess exposure to cleaning chemicals and disinfectants in Latinx domestic cleaners in NYC. The project is in partnership with Make the Road New York and the Barry Commoner Center for Health and the Environment at Queens College, CUNY.

## **Disaster Preparedness Program:**

On September 20, 2017, Hurricane Maria, a Category 4 storm, directly hit Puerto Rico. The hurricane's effect was catastrophic, nearly wiping out the island's entire infrastructure. The Selikoff medical and mental health teams responded with an all-hands-on-deck approach to provide pre-deployment screenings to New York City's agency staff being deployed to Puerto Rico. Responders were evaluated for fitness to perform the hazardous and stressful work safely while deployed, provided with work restrictions if needed, and armed with healthy coping strategies they can utilize during and after deployment.

This experience has reinforced the need for a comprehensive pre- and post-deployment disaster preparedness program in the broader community for local agencies, employers, organizations, and unions who are deploying their staff to respond to disasters. In response to this need, our team developed a program that now includes a comprehensive training session by occupational health providers as well as a medical and mental health screening. Through our program, non-first responders will be prepared to respond to the call of duty, but more importantly, can return safely home.







### **Advisory to the Workers' Compensation Board:**

The director of our Mid-Hudson Valley clinic, **Dr. Winston Kwa**, is a member of the Medical Advisory Council for the NYS Workers' Compensation Board. Part of this work has been to review and update the current medical treatment guidelines for work-related conditions with other providers and specialists to ensure current treatment guidelines are up to date. In addition, Dr. Kwa is part of the Business Council, the WCB Independent Medical Examiner (IME) Committee, and provides support as an impartial specialist.

### **Health Communication Hub:**

In 2022, the Selikoff Centers piloted the Health Literacy Hub for the Mount Sinai Health System. The purpose of the Health Literacy Hub is to provide a streamlined, standardized process for requesting, creating, reviewing, implementing, and overseeing high-quality patient-facing health education content. The Hub also provides professional development to improve staff knowledge and skills around best practices in patient education and communication. This is especially important in improving the civic literacy required of workers to navigate the workers' compensation process, as well as boosting health literacy associated with worker health and safety trainings. As a part of the Health Literacy Hub project, a needs assessment of the population was conducted, and resources continue to be developed and revised.

### **Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Worker Injury Reduction and Prevention:**

In response to high occupational injury rates among emergency medical technicians and paramedics, we have developed and implemented an EMS injury prevention program consisting of didactic and hands-on education. The program consists of workshops and collaborative discussions with EMS workers to increase awareness, competency, and sustainable best practices in safe patient and equipment handling techniques. The curriculum helps to foster EMS workers' understanding of practical strategies to enhance fitness for work tasks and can greatly reduce the likelihood and severity of work-related injuries.

# EDUCATION

## Outreach and Community Partnerships

We are committed to building community awareness about occupational health issues and promoting safe and healthy practices in the workplace. Our medical experts and health and safety specialists visit local community organizations, unions, and employers to bring quality training and education programs to the communities served by our clinical centers. Topics include ergonomics, asbestos exposure, occupational hazards in manufacturing, construction, transportation, and workers' rights under OSHA and NYS Workers' Compensation Law, to name a few.

## Residency Program

The Occupational Medicine Residency Program at Mount Sinai is an ACGME-accredited training program supported by NIOSH to train up to two residents each year. This two-year residency program trains graduate physicians via a comprehensive clinical and practical experience, preparing them to address complex problems in occupational medicine, and to implement programs to promote worker health and prevent occupational disease and injury. This unique graduate medical education program is the only occupational medicine residency program in New York State.



For more information, please visit:

<https://icahn.mssm.edu/education/residencies-fellowships/list/msh-occupational-environmental-residency>

# SERVICES

## Patient Services

- Evaluation and treatment of work-related conditions
- Ergonomics and injury prevention consultations
- Workers' compensation and social work counseling
- Career and vocational counseling
- Interpreter and translation services
- Industrial hygiene assessments
- World Trade Center Responder Health Program

## COVID-19 Services

- COVID-19 testing coordination at various Mount Sinai practice locations
- Ergonomics and injury prevention while working remotely
- One-on-one consultations to provide tailored guidance
- Virtual site visits to evaluate workplace safety, layout, and flow
- **COVID medical evaluations:**
  - post-exposure assessment
  - quarantine and isolation guidance
  - return-to-work clearance
  - functional capacity assessment
- **COVID education sessions focused on:**
  - long COVID
  - workers' rights
  - vaccine safety
  - infection prevention

## Labor, Industry, and Community Partnerships

- Asbestos, lead, silica, and other workplace hazard medical surveillance
- Laboratory animal exposure surveillance programs
- Ergonomic and occupational exposure assessments
- Hearing conservation programs
- Respirator fit testing and medical clearance examinations
- Fitness-for-duty evaluations and return-to-work assessments
- Education modules in ergonomics, stress reduction and mindfulness, and the health effects of workplace hazards and protection strategies
- Pre- and post-disaster deployment services (addressing physical and mental health)

## Clinical Expertise

- Occupational injuries and illnesses
- Clinical preventive medicine
- Medical surveillance for hazardous exposures
- Disability evaluations
- Causality evaluations
- World Trade Center-related adverse health effects

## New York City

### Manhattan Clinical Center

1468 Madison Avenue  
Annenberg Building  
Third Floor  
Manhattan, NY 10029

### Staten Island Clinical Center

2052 Richmond Road  
Suite 2a  
Staten Island, NY 10306

## Mid-Hudson Valley

### Suffern Clinical Center

222 Route 59  
Suite 106  
Suffern, NY 10901

### Yonkers Clinical Center

1020 Warburton Avenue  
Suite 1  
Yonkers, NY 10701



**Mount  
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For an appointment or more information:

[www.mountsinai.org/selikoff](http://www.mountsinai.org/selikoff)

**888-702-0630**



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