



**February 3, 2022**

## **Road Map Bulletin: Recognizing Holocaust Remembrance Day and Celebrating the Lunar New Year and Black History Month**

This week, we're highlighting three important observances: Holocaust Remembrance Day (Thursday, January 27) and Lunar New Year and Black History Month (both of which started on Tuesday, February 1).

### **Holocaust Remembrance Day**

Every year, on January 27—the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp—we honor the six million Jews who were killed because of an ideology of racial superiority during the Holocaust and the millions of other victims of Nazism. This year, organizations around the country and across the globe, including the [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#) in Washington, DC, hosted virtual events to remember those who were lost in this unthinkable tragedy.

As we continue our work to ensure Mount Sinai is an anti-racist institution, we encourage everyone to examine how hate motivated by an individual's background can cause such horrible, lasting harm. Not leaving this difficult history of antisemitism in the past and understanding the background behind this racism will help us continue to fight forces of hate every day. Resources in New York City include the [Museum of Jewish Heritage — A Living Memorial to the Holocaust](#).

### **Lunar New Year at Mount Sinai**

This year, for the first time, Lunar New Year—an international holiday celebrated in many Asian countries and Asian American communities—was recognized with systemwide events hosted at all eight hospitals and Mount Sinai's 42<sup>nd</sup> Street offices. **Vida Jong**, MPA, Senior Manager for Operations and Strategic Partnerships, Mount Sinai Employee Health Services and a member of the

Committee to Address Anti-Asian Bias and Racism, explained that this systemwide celebration brings awareness to an important holiday and helps to spread peace, health, joy, and prosperity.

“This is an important step and a welcome opportunity for Mount Sinai to uplift and embrace the Asian community,” Vida said. “By inviting everyone to engage in this celebration, we hope to not only educate, but also normalize the acceptance of different cultures which are not part of the dominant culture in the U.S., especially for a group who are often thought of as perpetual foreigners in their own country.”

Click below to watch a video with new year greetings from around Mount Sinai.



To celebrate the Lunar New Year, tables were set up at many Health System locations with gift bags full of symbolic snacks and well-wishes as a token of appreciation for Mount Sinai employees. In addition, some Health System cafeterias created special menus featuring a variety of Asian foods to help celebrate the holiday.

**Amanda Rhee**, MD, MS, Medical Director of Patient Safety, told us that “Mount Sinai community members from all backgrounds, races, cultures, and colors contributed to this week’s events, which were designed to be a positive, educational, and unifying experience as we stand together to fight racism and any discrimination towards someone’s identity.”

### **February Is Black History Month**

February 1 also marked the start of Black History Month, which recognizes the achievements Black Americans have made and their central role in the history of our nation. We have used Black History Month to connect staff with the stories of revered Black figures and invite them to events that start conversations about the history of race in America. But we’d like to remind everyone that Black history—like the history of all cultures—isn’t just a monthly celebration. It is a lifetime celebration.



Mount  
Sinai

Office for Diversity  
and Inclusion

To Our Faculty, Staff, Students, and Community Members,  
We Recognize

# Black History Month

We honor the resilience of Black Americans who have been trailblazers in the fight for freedom and equity. We also recognize those who have made significant contributions in science and medicine to address health disparities and the unique challenges faced by the Black community.

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The COVID-19 pandemic has [highlighted](#) that health care is often inextricably linked to racial and social justice. That's why this month, we're recognizing those who have made significant contributions in science and medicine to address health disparities and the unique challenges faced by the Black community.

**It is also a time to thank and celebrate all of you**, who are united in the efforts to create an inclusive, equitable, and anti-racist health care, work, and learning environment for all.

Earlier this week, we shared a number of Mount Sinai and community events in a systemwide [broadcast message](#) (on the intranet). We want to thank the **Black Leaders Advocating for Change and Community (BLACC) Employee Resource Group** who helped plan these events, which is no easy feat during a pandemic.

[New Diversity Website](#)

Finally, we'd like to highlight a [new landing page](#) that has been developed to catalogue and organize diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts across Mount Sinai and the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. This new site makes it easier to find information about this critical work, which aligns with the Road Map for Action.

**Gary Butts**, MD, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer and Dean for Diversity Programs, Policy, and Community affairs shared that “the goal was to provide the full 360-degree view of Mount Sinai’s commitment to DEI in an easy-to-digest way.”

The new landing page, created in collaboration with members from Mount Sinai’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion programs, Office for Diversity and Inclusion, Central Marketing team, and the Icahn Mount Sinai community, among many others, will serve as a hub for all diversity, equity, and inclusion work and our efforts to become an anti-racist institution.

“The diversity, equity, and inclusion work happening across the Health System is extensive, transformative, and continually developing,” said **David Feinberg**, Senior Vice President, Chief Marketing and Communications Officer and Dean for Marketing and Communications. “This new website gives an all-encompassing and accessible view of these incredible efforts to help our community stay informed.”

Please consider joining an event this week:

## Join Us for an Upcoming Event

**Chats for Change: Exploring the Context of Intergenerational Medicine**—The decision to enter into the medical profession is nuanced and multifactorial, and familial exposure can be an important factor in one’s ability to envision success in the field. Coming from generations of medical professionals lends itself to different experiences throughout a career in medicine that can play into power and privilege dynamics. Join **Tuesday, February 8, at noon** as we explore and unpack the meaning of intergenerational medicine. [Register via Zoom.](#)

**Black History Family Feud featuring the MSHS Employee Resource Groups**—On **Wednesday, February 16, at noon**, root for your favorite team to win in this popular game with a historical and educational twist. [Register here.](#)

**Paint Night Social Event**—Join your colleagues on **Thursday, February 17, at 5:30 pm** for an evening of art in recognition of Black History. [Register here.](#)

[Road Map for Action](#)

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