Mount Sinai Health System

Raising Disability Awareness

Employee Reflections

Jenny Lieberman, Ph.D., OTR/L, ATP
Senior Clinical Specialist, Department of Rehabilitation and Human Performance, The Mount Sinai Hospital

Dr. Jenny Lieberman works closely with patients with disabilities, providing mobility services that allow patients to return to their lives while living with a spinal cord injury. Dr. Lieberman advocates for patients by educating physicians and staff on the needs of patients with disabilities, speaking with legislators regarding accessibility in healthcare, and through community involvement. She is passionate about giving people with disabilities access to new possibilities in life after injury. Dr. Lieberman wishes to see a healthcare environment with more job opportunities for people with disabilities, accessibility, advocacy and education that will encourage others to engage in experiences that will change the way they look at disabilities and the world.

Yi-Ting Chiang, MPH
Epic Clinical Transformation Group, Information Technology, Mount Sinai Health System

Yi-Ting Chiang is a technology specialist helping to lead population health-related initiatives. Yi-Ting identifies as a person with a disability, which brings a unique perspective to her work. She believes that raising awareness will promote inclusion, especially in workplace environments where barriers and accessibility can become challenges on a daily basis. Yi-Ting wishes for a more inclusive world where people with disabilities are widely recognized for their individual contributions and where barriers based on a person’s ability do not exist. Her hope is that Mount Sinai will include more people with disabilities in policy-making and program design around the health system.

Andres Moreira, MHA
Senior Director, Patient Experience & Patient Relations, Mount Sinai West

Andres Moreira works with teams across the health system to provide the best experience possible for all patients, including those with disabilities. In his role, patient advocacy and raising awareness are crucial; he strives to provide equitable healthcare to all. Ensuring patients have equitable access to care, particularly patients with disabilities who may require special accommodations, is the most rewarding and impactful part of his daily responsibilities. According to Andres, it is always important to be empathetic and to cultivate a supportive and inclusive environment. He is hopeful that in the future, more conversations will focus on an individual’s abilities rather than their disabilities.

Ashley Michelle Fowler, M.Ed.
Administrative Program Manager, Patricia S. Levinson Center for Multicultural and Community Affairs, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Office for Diversity and Inclusion, Mount Sinai Health System

Ashley Michelle Fowler raises disability awareness by keeping disabilities at the forefront of various conversations and decisions being made around the Mount Sinai community. As a person who lives with a non-apparent disability, Ashley Michelle advocates for people with disabilities by sharing her own experiences and invites everyone to think about the implications of disabilities as well as the importance of de-stigmatization. She believes that there needs to be more focus on disabilities, accessibility, and strategizing ways to change attitudinal barriers, including more education and advocacy in the workplace. According to Ashley Michelle, relationships and alliances with the disability community can lead to a more inclusive, equitable, and diverse environment for all.

Rosa Collelli-Olucha, PT
Director, Rehabilitation Services, Rehabilitation Department, Mount Sinai Queens

Rosa Collelli-Olucha provides rehabilitation services for patients with disabilities where the highlight of her day is interacting with patients and hearing her personal stories. Her goal is to provide equitable access to services for people with disabilities and above all, she believes that empathy towards patients and their families is key to understanding their needs. Advocating for people with disabilities is a large part of both Rosal’s career and personal life. She supports her staff to ensure that they are able to care for patients to the best of their ability and believes continuous advocacy and awareness will lead to positive change for people with disabilities.

Angela Riccobono, Ph.D.
Senior Psychologist, Department of Rehabilitation and Human Performance, Mount Sinai Health System

Dr. Angela Riccobono who works with patients who have experienced spinal cord injuries, finds that the most rewarding part of her job is the privilege of being part of a person’s journey. Her goal is to provide a space in healthcare where people with disabilities do not feel defined by their disability or limitations, but more by their possibilities. Most importantly, Dr. Riccobono wants patients to know that they are being seen, heard, and supported at all times. She believes that breaking down barriers for people with disabilities by providing a more inviting space for accessibility and inclusion is important and that if we all work together, we will soon see a more equitable and inclusive world.

Melissa Stryker
Quality Assurance & Training Manager, Access Center, Mount Sinai Doctors Faculty Practice

Melissa Stryker advocates for patients and people with disabilities across the Health System by striving for optimal patient experience in her role. Her goal is to ensure that patient needs are met and dialogue is always possible in support of patients and accessibility. She is especially passionate about raising awareness around non-apparent disabilities due to her personal experience as a caregiver to her daughter, who is living with an apparent disability. Melissa believes that connecting with patients and ensuring that patients feel understood, heard, and seen is the most important part of her day. She hopes to soon see a world with less judgement and more conversation to remove social injustices and stigmatization of the disability community.