Profiles in Pride 2020
Mount Sinai Health System salutes and thanks these employees for their leadership and dedication to LGBTQI health equality.

Michael Cruz, MS (they/theirs/he/his)
Program Manager, Institute for Advanced Medicine
Bringing HIV Prevention and Health Education to Diverse Communities
Michael is a first generation, Latinx American, born and raised in Miami, Florida. They joined the HIV outreach team at Mount Sinai’s Institute for Advanced Medicine in 2014 and as Program Manager have used their role to conduct HIV and STI outreach to women, transgender and non-binary, incarcerated, and immigrant communities. As an active leader in Mount Sinai’s LGBTQI Employee Resource Group, Michael coordinates the MSRI’s outreach program every year of Pride Month, the annual Pride month street fair on Houston this year due to COVID-19.

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Leona Hess, PhD (she, her, hers)
Director of Developing and Equity Education Programs
Transforming Medical Education to Undo Racism and Bias
Leona brings her interdisciplinary and intersectional lens and expertise as an educator and a researcher for social justice to the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai’s HS and Equity Education Programs, where she leads a structured process to support complex change with a focus on the people side of change related to the School’s Racial and Equity Initiative.

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John Henry Pang, MD (he, him, his)
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
Leading Research in Transgender Medicine and Surgery
John is a 2019 Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Transgender Surgery Program Graduate and has been a specialist in the care of transgender and gender non-conforming people. A native of Hawaii and a longtime LGBTQ activist, he has a special interest in studies that address the needs of his community. He has published research and lectured extensively on both plastic surgery and transgender care. He is the Research Group leader for the Center for Transgender Medicine and Surgery at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, an active member of the World Professional Association of Transgender Health, and has received multiple awards for his leadership and research in this area.

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Julio C. Ramos (he, him, his)
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
Engaging Student Activism for LGBTQI Equity and Inclusion
Julio is an active member of the Broward Alliance and CS/TEN, the two LGBTQ student organizations at the Icahn School of Medicine. His participation in raising over $17,000 during the Second Annual Mount Sinai Cholly Dog Race and appearance in the video for this fundraiser, "Pawri." During these efforts, he led the PPE distribution task at The Mount Sinai Hospital and Mount Sinai West.

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Patti Cuartas, PA-C, MBA, PMP (she, her, hers)
Executive Director, Information Technology, Population Health and Primary System
Mentoring and Supporting LGBTQI Employees and Allies
Patti Cuartas is responsible for leading the development and implementation of business alignment IT services to support Population Health initiatives for all populations, including commercially insured, Medicare, and Medicaid patients. She has been a thought leader for the implementation of racial and ethnic minority and gender identity data across much of Mount Sinai’s patient data collection. As co-architect of the Corporate Employee Resource Group, she has also established and managed an "In-Up" program to Mount Sinai’s corporate employee mentoring program in her spare time. Patti and her wife-volunteer for Sugar Muffin Rescue, a SIBRAS90 dog rescue and home sanctuary organization in Pennsylvania.