

OUR TEAM

Our reconstructive team is led by Dr. Mark Urken who performs over 100 free flaps for head and neck reconstruction annually. The fellowship has been in existence for over 20 years, training some of the foremost head and neck reconstructive surgeons.

NAME	SPECIALTY
Daniel Buchbinder, DMD, MD	Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
Raymond Chai, MD	Otolaryngology–Head & Neck Surgery
Jean-Marc Cohen, MD	Pathology
Bruce Culliney, MD	Medical Oncology
Cindy Ganz, MS	Speech & Swallow Therapy
Alina Gouller, MD	Endocrinology
Manju Harshan, MD	Pathology
Roy Holliday, MD	Radiology
Azita S. Khorsandi, MD	Radiology
Cathy Lazarus, PhD	Speech & Swallow Therapy
Neil Leapman, MD	Otolaryngology–Head & Neck Surgery
Valerie Maccarrone, MD	Radiology
Devin Okay, DDS	Maxillofacial Prosthodontics
Raj Shrivastava, MD	Neurosurgery
Mark L. Urken, MD	Otolaryngology–Head & Neck Surgery
Michael Via, MD	Endocrinology
Bruce Wenig, MD	Pathology



Mark L. Urken, MD, FACS is the Founder and Medical Advisor of the THANC Foundation.

Dr. Mark L. Urken received his medical degree from the University of Virginia School of Medicine in Charlottesville and then completed two years of general surgery training on the Tufts Surgical Service in Boston and three years of surgical specialty training in

Otolaryngology–Head & Neck Surgery at Mount Sinai Medical Center. Following his graduation in 1986, he began his fellowship at Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh, where he trained in microvascular reconstructive surgery of the head and neck.

Following his training, Dr. Urken served as the Chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology at the Mount Sinai Medical Center from 1995-2004. In 2004, he was recruited to join the Continuum Cancer Centers of New York as the Director of Head and Neck Surgical Oncology of the Department of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery of Mount Sinai Beth Israel.

In addition to publishing over 220 articles in peer-reviewed journals and over 30 chapters on a variety of topics in head and neck and thyroid surgery, Dr. Urken's 3 textbooks and his video series on head and neck reconstruction are definitive resources on this subject.



HEAD & NECK ONCOLOGIC AND MICROVASCULAR RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY, AND THYROID/PARATHYROID SURGERY FELLOWSHIP

THE THANC FOUNDATION

is committed to supporting research and education in the early detection and treatment of thyroid and head and neck cancer; to advancing new therapeutic approaches; and to alleviating the suffering and functional impairment of patients who undergo treatment.



THE INSTITUTE FOR HEAD, NECK, AND THYROID CANCER

The Institute for Head, Neck, and Thyroid Cancer is a team comprised of world renowned specialists who have integrated their respective expertise into a multidisciplinary collaboration to approach cancers of the head and neck. The group, in excess of 20 doctors and healthcare professionals, includes:

Otolaryngologists

Radiation Oncologists

Medical Oncologists

Head & Neck Radiologists

Oral–Maxillofacial Surgeons

Maxillofacial Prosthodontists

General Surgeons

Thoracic Surgeons

Neurosurgeons

Plastic & Reconstructive Surgeons

Endocrinologists

Oculoplastic Surgeons

Dentists

Head & Neck Pathologists

Psychiatrists

Nutritionists

Pain Management Professionals

Speech & Swallow Therapists

These individuals meet weekly for a multidisciplinary head and neck tumor board conference to discuss each patient who presents to Mount Sinai Beth Israel—Institute for Head, Neck and Thyroid Cancer for management of a malignancy of the head and neck. Quarterly, the team meets in conjunction with the New York Eye & Ear Infirmary, Department of Otolaryngology–Head & Neck Surgery to discuss complicated head and neck reconstructive surgeries in a case presentation format.



THNRC (THYROID HEAD & NECK RESEARCH CENTER)

In 2009, we opened our functional outcomes clinical research center at Beth Israel Medical Center which is the sole US site of the Head and Neck Research Network (HNRN). This network of research centers was developed in 2008 to create a global network of research centers with the intent of performing critical assessments of patients before and after treatment for head and neck and thyroid cancers. The current centers in the network located in Edmonton, Canada and Turku, Finland conduct research in a wide range of areas looking at outcomes following head and neck cancer treatment. This laboratory studies the impact of various treatments including surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, and prosthetic rehabilitation on patient function and quality of life. The research center will assess outcomes with statistical significance to guide the future of patient care in head and neck and thyroid cancer. The fellow will play an essential part in ongoing research performed at the new clinical outcomes research center and write manuscripts for publication. They also collect data to advance ongoing research initiatives.

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THE FELLOW'S ROLE

The fellow plays an integral role on both our oncologic and reconstructive teams. With a group of 6 residents, 2 full-time nurse practitioners and full-time physician's assistant, the fellow can take the lead role in managing head and neck oncology and reconstruction patients, as well as thyroid and parathyroid surgical patients. The institute performs over 100 free flaps annually with the fellow acting as first surgeon on all reconstructive cases. The fellow's experience graduates throughout the year from assistant to taking the lead on harvesting, inseting, and performing the microvascular anastomosis. On a biweekly basis, the fellow confers with the head and neck reconstruction team where a collaboration on difficult upcoming and past cases takes place. Additionally, the fellow plays a key role in our weekly head and neck tumor board where we discuss upcoming cases and determine treatment plans for patients.

Research is encouraged and expected to be an important part of the fellow's growth throughout the training period. The Thyroid, Head and Neck Research Center provides the fellow with a unique opportunity to investigate functional outcomes. Attendance and presentations at national meetings are encouraged.