Research Associates

The Research Associate program began in June of 2011 as a means to carry out the education aspect of the Foundation's mission. From the start, the associates who joined our team left a lasting impression. With their fresh perspective and enthusiasm, they have profoundly enhanced our initiatives. Successful applicants of this program have demonstrated their ability to flourish in a team environment.

Research

Research Associates work with an interdisciplinary team of doctors to write and publish scientific papers and posters. THANC Research Associates have presented their work at a variety of head & neck and thyroid related conferences and have submitted manuscripts to peer-reviewed journals, including Laryngoscope, Thyroid, and Archives of Otolaryngology. They also independently obtain institutional review board protocol approval and are involved in consenting patients for participation in research. Research Associates follow patients throughout their entire clinical course and collect data for clinical studies.

Collaboration

Research Associates work together on many levels and gain professional team experience by leading the development of patient education initiatives. The THANC Foundation is continuing development of the Thyroid Care Collaborative (thyroidccc.org) which is now providing education for doctors and patients, research data for the scientific community and record portability and security for patients. THANC has recently launched the Head & Neck Cancer Guide (headandneckcancerguide.org) an educational website for head and neck cancer patients, their caregivers, and their families.

Immersion

Research Associates spend one day per week observing thyroid and head and neck surgery in the operating room. They develop an understanding of the role of surgery in the treatment of thyroid and head and neck cancer patients, as well as how medical professionals from different specialties collaborate on patient care from diagnosis, treatment, and ultimately to rehabilitation.

Current Associates

Laura Dos Reis
Laura grew up in New Paltz, New York and graduated from Williams College in 2012, where she majored in mathematics.

Grace Haser
Grace grew up in New York City and graduated magna cum laude from Brown University in 2014 with a degree in history.

Meghan Rowe
Meghan graduated magna cum laude from Williams College in 2014, where she earned a degree in sociology and global health. She is originally from Bangor, Maine.

Rosalie Machado
Rosalie graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, where she majored in Health and Societies. She is from Lawrenceville, NJ.

Marcela Osorio
Marcela graduated from Williams College with a degree in American Studies. She plans to pursue a career in medicine and public health.

Past Associates

Will Karle
Resident in Otolaryngology–Head & Neck Surgery at The New York Eye and Ear Infirmary

Jason Clain
Tufts University School of Medicine, Class of 2017

Sophie Scherl
Albany Medical College, Class of 2017

Erin Alpert
Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University, Class of 2018

Eliza Dewey
Eliza accepted a permanent position at THANC assisting to develop the TCC.

Henry Su
Harvard Medical School, Class of 2019

History of the Program

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THE THANC FOUNDATION
is a non-profit whose three-pronged mission funds research, provides education, and supports patients who suffer from cancers of the thyroid and head & neck.

Under the direction of Dr. Mark Urken, Chief of Head & Neck Surgical Oncology, the THANC Foundation funds research that evaluates the impact of thyroid, head and neck cancer on patient function, disease progression, and long term survival. In addition to research, THANC sponsors patient education, community awareness, and family support programs. The THANC Foundation is based in New York City's Union Square at the Institute for Head & Neck and Thyroid Cancer at Mount Sinai Beth Israel.

Program Directors

Research Associates work closely with Mark Urken, MD, Erika Rauscher, and Cathy Lazarus, PhD in research and other capacities. Dr. Urken is an otolaryngologist / head and neck surgeon at Mount Sinai Beth Israel. Erika Rauscher is the Executive Director of the THANC Foundation. Dr. Lazarus is a speech and language pathologist at Mount Sinai Beth Israel.

Mark L. Urken, MD
Otolaryngologist – Head & Neck Surgeon, Mount Sinai Beth Israel

Erika Rauscher
Executive Director, THANC Foundation

Cathy Lazarus, PhD
Research Director, THNRC

Join the THANC Team

Please contact Erika Rauscher, THANC’s Executive Director for more information. erauscher@thancfoundation.org

Recent Publications


For a full listing of publications, please visit our website. www.thancfoundation.org/research