

To: MTA Directors

[Hayit Greenspan, PhD](#), Artificial Intelligence and Emergent Technologies in Medicine

[Alan Seifert, PhD](#), Artificial Intelligence and Emergent Technologies in Medicine

[Doris Germain, PhD](#), Cancer Biology

[James Manfredi, PhD](#), Cancer Biology

[Robert S. Krauss, PhD](#), Development, Regeneration, and Stem Cells

[Florence Marlow, PhD](#), Development, Regeneration, and Stem Cells

[Anne Bowcock, PhD](#), Genetics and Genomic Sciences

[Sander Houten, PhD](#), Genetics and Genomic Sciences

[Jeremiah Faith, PhD](#), Immunology

[Konstantina Alexandropoulos, PhD](#), Immunology

[Domenico Tortorella, PhD](#), Microbiology

[Jean K. Lim, PhD](#), Microbiology

[George W. Huntley, PhD](#), Neuroscience

[Avner Schlessinger, PhD](#), Pharmacology and Therapeutics Discovery

[Michael Lazarus, PhD](#), Pharmacology and Therapeutics Discovery

We, the undersigned graduate students, ask for you to **not** interfere with our right to form a union for graduate student workers - Sinai Student Workers-UAW. **An overwhelming 80% of student workers at Sinai signed authorization cards supporting the formation of a union.** In June, we petitioned the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) for a union election. We are joining student workers who bargain collectively at more than 60 higher education campuses across the nation, including schools like Columbia and NYU.

Disappointingly, Mount Sinai administration is contesting our right to unionize by claiming that we are not employees. Sinai is seeking to reduce the power of our union by challenging the inclusion of teaching assistants, students on fellowships, and first year students.

As MTA directors and PIs, we know you are keenly aware of the critical contribution that graduate student workers make in labs and classrooms across Mount Sinai. Graduate student workers perform key experiments toward grants and provide substantial contributions to publications well-beyond the scope of our dissertation work. We also facilitate incoming student orientation, help teach courses, and sustain the wellness of student workers through organizations like THAW, PEERS and Student Council.

We ask that you advocate for our right to unionize to the Mount Sinai administration. You can do this by affirming our status as employees regardless of if we have independent fellowships, are teaching assistants, or are first year students.

Thank you for your consideration.

Signed,

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Songhee Back, Cancer, PhD Y7
Austin Baggetta, Neuro, PhD Y2
Sarah Banker, Neuro, PhD Y5
Erika Barrall, Micro, PhD Y2
Eva Bednarski, Micro, PhD Y2
Jacqueline Beltran, Neuro, PhD Y2
Abhijith Biji, GGS, PhD Y1
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Brittany Hemmer, Neuro, PhD Y4
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Philip Hwang, Neuro, PhD Y5
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DeAnalisa Jones, Pharmacology, MD/PhD MD3
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Annie Khamhoung, Immuno, PhD Y1
Umais Khan, Neuro, PhD Y2
Michelle Kim, Neuro, PhD Y4
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