

**August 10, 2023**

**How Mount Sinai is Illustrating Change in Medical Education**

Regular readers of the *Bulletin* know that we often write about the importance of diverse representation across the health care and medical education landscape. While we often focus on representation among members of the health care workforce and medical students, it's also critical that diversity shines through in the tools and resources used by health care professionals.

Medical imagery—like textbook illustrations and scientific models that are used to educate medical students, patients, and researchers—is one area where there has been a startling lack of representation of people of color.

In 2018, a [study](#) found that across more than 4,100 medical textbook images, just 4.5 percent showed dark skin tones. Similarly, only 18 percent of medical images in *The New England Journal of Medicine* depicted non-white skin, according to a [2021 analysis](#). This lack of representation can result in [incorrect](#) and [missed diagnoses](#) that have profound impacts on quality of life.

But there is good news—Johnson & Johnson and the Association of Medical Illustrators recently launched [Illustrate Change](#), an initiative to increase diversity and representation in medical illustrations and serve as the world's largest online library of medical illustrations featuring Black, Indigenous, and other people of color.

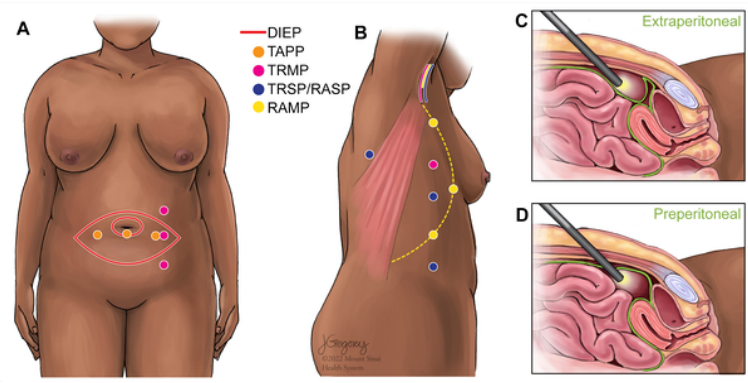
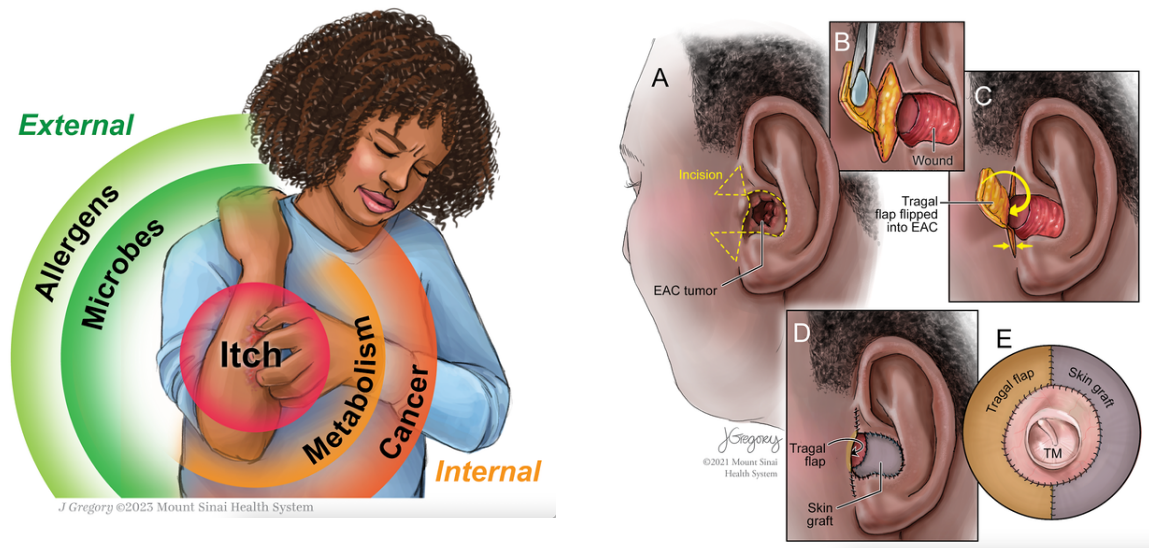
Mount Sinai's **Jill Gregory, MFA, CMI, Associate Director of the Instructional Technology Group and Former President of the Association of Medical Illustrators (AMI)**, has been deeply involved in this effort as both President of AMI and in her new position as chair of the Advisory Council for the AMI's Diversity Fellowship program.



“The Illustrate Change initiative goes beyond just depicting individuals from diverse backgrounds; it also sheds light on health conditions that disproportionately impact these communities,” Jill said. “By focusing on growing a library of diverse medical illustrations and supporting the future of medical illustrators of color, we’re bringing lasting change to the health care system and helping to create a more inclusive future for patients of color.”

Here at Mount Sinai, Jill is part of Icahn School of Medicine's Instructional Technology Group (ITG)—a dynamic and collaborative team with extensive experience in instructional design, health equity, and scientific visualization, working to advance equity and diversity through visual imagery.

Jill added, "We create illustrations for faculty and staff at the School, as well as for clinicians across the Health System. Our work appears in peer-reviewed medical and research journals; textbooks; online and in-classroom lectures; and academic presentations, so it's really important that we take an accurate approach to represent all races and conditions in our work."



We're deeply appreciative of Mount Sinai's medical illustrators, Jill and Lily Armstrong-Davies, and the entire ITG team, and encourage everyone to check out the resources available through Illustrate Change.

To learn more about working with Mount Sinai's medical illustrators to visualize your research or clinical work, please visit: <https://libguides.mssm.edu/itg>.

**Note:** Next week, the *Bulletin* will appear in a slightly different format as Mount Sinai Marketing and Communications continues to improve emails and integrate with Mount Sinai Daily. We also have a [new Road Map topic](#) in the Daily you can follow to get *Bulletins* pushed right to your phone or desktop.

To suggest a topic, highlight a coworker, or provide feedback on the Bulletins, send us an email at [RoadMap@mountsinai.org](mailto:RoadMap@mountsinai.org).

All the best,

Shawn and Angela

## Join Us for an Upcoming Event

A full list of events can be found on [Mount Sinai Daily](#)

**Chats for Change: Examining Bio-essentialism** — Chats for Change is a production of the Icahn School of Medicine’s Racism and Bias Initiative. Join Kayla Townsley (PhD Candidate, 4th year student) and Carina Seah (MD/PhD Candidate, 4th year student) on **August 15, from 12-1 pm** to explore bioessentialism and foster a deeper understanding of the complex and multifaceted nature of human identities and capabilities. Register on [Zoom](#)

**Join us this year for the 54th Annual African American Day Parade!** — On Sunday, September 17, the 54th Annual African American Day Parade will honor those who have contributed to African American Culture with the theme “Celebrating African American Culture.” Register [here](#) to Save the Date!

**Save the Date: Mount Sinai Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Summit**— Members of the entire Mount Sinai community are invited to join us to celebrate our history of “Taking Action for Equity and Justice.” Register [here](#). Click [here](#) for more information and flyer on Mount Sinai Daily. **Monday, October 23.**

[Road Map for Action](#)

[Past Bulletins](#)