

RESEARCH DAY

MAY 7, 2025

Cross River Campus at 3 Times Square
12:00 - 4:00 PM

Plasticity in Research:
AI & Beyond





Message from the **PRESIDENT**

For more than half a century, Touro has continued to set ambitious goals for our university, for our faculty and for our students. One of our great milestone achievements this past decade has been a notable increase in our institution's commitment to research. Our research accomplishments are a great source of pride to all of us.

Touro's deep and talented pool of faculty gives our professors and students increasing opportunities for collaborative research. This year's Research Day addresses "Plasticity in Research: AI & Beyond," with two special speakers. We will hear from Sarah Eskreis-Winkler, M.D., Ph.D., a Diagnostic Radiologist who specializes in breast imaging. Dr. Eskreis-Winkler is an Assistant Attending Radiologist at the Department of Radiology/Breast Service at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York. Also joining us is Fawaz Al-Mufti, M.D., a Neuroendovascular Surgeon and Neurocritical Care Attending Physician at the Department of Neurosurgery, Westchester Medical Center, and an Associate Professor of Neurology, Neurosurgery, and Radiology at NYMC. I look forward to hearing their perspectives on developing new techniques and AI tools to improve diagnosis and treatment.

Held at our beautiful Cross River Campus, Touro's all-inclusive Research Day allows the entire Touro family of campuses to participate. Organized and implemented by an intercampus Planning Committee led by Dr. Salomon Amar, Senior Vice President for Research Affairs, both our program and the posters being presented embody our institution's commitment to intellectual curiosity and scientific advancement. The varied and impressive work of our faculty and students allow us to showcase the impressive scope of Touro's research activities and academic offerings.

Excellence in scholarly publication has long been a hallmark of the research enterprise. We are pleased to highlight the importance of our faculty's contributions to knowledge in general, and to Touro's reputation in particular, within the academic community and beyond. The student and faculty research projects exhibited span the gamut from medicine and pharmacy to social work, humanities and more. Touro's reach—both in terms of academic offerings and experiential, community-based learning opportunities—is unparalleled, and we are determined to explore and further develop a wide array of applied and theoretical knowledge.

Research Day is but a small window into the world of change that we effect. Touro schools from across the country are well represented today, providing clear evidence of our growing enterprise as an important academic research institution, particularly in medicine and the allied health sciences. After the formal program, I urge you to participate in our Poster Session. You will enjoy engaging with Touro's faculty and students, and speaking with them about the research initiatives that fuel their professional and educational passions. I hope today's presentations and poster exhibition stimulate in you the same kind of excitement I feel about research and inspire more collaboration and synergy across our entire University.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Alan Kadish".

Alan Kadish, M.D.

President | Touro University



A Researcher's Welcome

It gives me great pleasure as a scientist to welcome our community to this year's Research Day for Touro University. As the vice president for research, I am inspired each year as we continuously witness the growing prowess of Touro, especially now, on our fourth year of honoring research day on an institution-wide scale.

In the last few years, we have proudly welcomed new affiliations, new intramural awards, and of course, novel endeavors amongst our diverse scientists' projects. Each year, I am enthralled by the passion I see in our esteemed community and the tenacity in both our established and budding scientists as they too make strides towards achieving the milestones they have set in their individual careers, no matter what hurdles or changes may come throughout their process. This is especially important of late, as we have witnessed numerous changes for the scientific community, from the accelerated progress in artificial intelligence to federal funding and health focuses.

As such, it is poignant and timely, that this year's research day be dedicated to that very nature of malleability in research and the scientists that conduct it through this year's theme of Plasticity in Research: AI & Beyond.

So, whether you tune in online or are among us at 3 Times Square, join me in celebrating our faculty and students as we reward them for their diligent pursuit of excellence and knowledge and in welcoming our Keynote Speaker from Memorial Sloan-Kettering Breast Cancer Center, Dr. Sarah Eskreis-Winkler, and our own TU Distinguished Researcher, Dr. Fawaz Al-Mufti of New York Medical College.

Finally, I would also like to thank everyone presenting on-site and online, as well as those who have collaborated with these innovators in research, and to commend those who submitted their work for consideration. I hope to see each of you thrive and succeed in your future endeavors. I ask that you keep in mind that we are strongest when working in tandem towards our goals and a brighter future as a community. Continue honing your skills with the same veracity that you show in your projects today.

Salomon Amar, D.D.S., Ph.D.

Senior Vice President for Research Affairs | Touro University



Welcome to TOURO UNIVERSITY'S RESEARCH DAY 2025

Dear Colleagues,

Research Day is a unique annual pivot point for our faculty and students to be drawn into a “one-University” mindset, melding us together from across our geographically dispersed campuses through a day of shared new knowledge and the excitement of witnessing the results of our robust research enterprise.

We continue to benefit from additions to the University that expand Dr. Kadish’s formative vision for Touro—building upon our core instructional capacities by marshalling resources and continuously encouraging research and scholarship to be a further centerpiece of our academic excellence and reputation in the higher education community. New opportunities abound for collaboration as well, as the Touro family has expanded with the integration of the New York College of Podiatric Medicine and the Weissman Hood Institute (formerly the McLaughlin Research Institute) in Montana.

The boundaries of science and education are expanding as well, with Artificial Intelligence offering extraordinary new tools to advance achievements at a potentially astonishing pace. Recognizing this set of synergies, Dr. Amar has invited to Dr. Eskreis-Winkler to speak to us today who will provide insights into how AI is improving diagnosis and interventions in the treatment of breast cancer, a disease that will impact 1 of 8 women in their lifetimes. Similarly, he has invited Dr. Al-Mufti—who works within that most incredible biological computer, the human brain, as a neuroendovascular surgeon—to share how AI is informing and changing the ways in which his highly skilled field of medicine is practiced.

Once again, the Innovation Forum provides a terrific venue for information sharing and establishing relationships across our many disciplines and programs. Having five of the top-scoring poster presenters speaking to us about their research gives us a more in-depth first-hand look at the great research being conducted by our faculty and students, complimenting the broader poster presentation component of the program.

The academic leadership across our campuses cannot be prouder of what our students and faculty seek to achieve, accomplish, and disseminate, as new knowledge is the lifeblood of a university, and indeed society. We thank them, both individually and collectively, for all of the demanding work required to be successful and congratulate them the outcomes we feature today..

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat E Salkin". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Patricia E. Salkin, JD, Ph.D.

Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs | Provost, Graduate and Professional Divisions,
Touro University



Research Day 2025

Welcome All

With deep appreciation for the tremendous effort involved, I thank all of those who have contributed to this year's Research Day program—both participants and organizers.

We are living through a period in this country during which academic research is facing many challenges. Touro, in its role as a university dedicated to research, particularly in Bio-Medicine and Health Sciences but also in the Humanities and Social Sciences, is well aware of these new challenges, but also to the continuing opportunities to make a contribution to the betterment of society.

Research Day reminds us of the importance of research to the academic enterprise. We also have an opportunity to display the excellent products of our undergraduate schools and the University's abiding commitment to the Jewish intellectual experience. Touro was founded with about three dozen undergraduate students and an outstanding faculty deeply steeped in the traditions of research and scholarship. Under the leadership of President Alan Kadish, the institution, its faculty and their intellectual contributions have grown exponentially both in New York and across the entire University system, exhibiting a vitality that is amazing and most gratifying to witness.

Traditionally focused on excellence in instruction, it is important to realize that scholarship and research always have held a valued place at Touro. Dr. Kadish's challenge to us all to expand our research focus has been incredibly invigorating. Research Day provides clear evidence of the enrichment brought to instruction by the resultant synergy. Research Day now includes all of our campuses using live broadcast webinars and other virtual presentations.

We are one "University" community. I would like to congratulate the student researchers who are presenting. We are very proud of them as well as the research contributions made by Touro graduates over the past years—truly a testimony to the excellence of the Touro University educational experience.

Stanley L. Boylan, Ph.D.

Vice President of Undergraduate Education and Dean of Faculties | Touro University

ON PLASTICITY IN RESEARCH: AI & BEYOND

Meet the **SPEAKERS**

In biology, one of researchers' topics of fascination is an organism's plasticity. That is, their ability to develop certain traits depending on the environmental factors with which they are presented. In research at large, a scientist must often likewise acclimate themselves to new developments in technology, funding, communication, and therapeutics, in order to continue making progress in their respective fields. As a token to the numerous changes in research and research-adjacent topics, this year's Research Day theme will be "Plasticity in Research: AI & Beyond."

The research community across our many institutions at Touro University is undoubtedly comprised of innovators and trailblazers. Regardless of field or affiliation, there is a sense of pride and unity as each of our faculty, students, and staff, progress in their respective fields of expertise. It is our privilege to honor their remarkable persistence in meeting their objectives and more importantly, their ability to think critically and analyze their best options when presented with challenges or changes throughout the research process. One such change that has progressively impacted us is the vast acceleration and prevalence of artificial intelligence in research, healthcare and society at large. With this in mind, please join us in welcoming our speakers as they highlight the importance of Research Day's theme of Plasticity in Research: AI & Beyond.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



"Artificial Intelligence and the Transformation of Medicine and Biomedical Research"

Sarah Eskreis-Winkler, M.D., Ph.D. | Head of Artificial Intelligence Research & Diagnostic Radiologist, Department of Radiology, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

Dr. Eskreis-Winkler's research focuses on developing new MRI techniques and artificial intelligence tools to improve the diagnosis and management of breast cancer patients. Dr. Eskreis-Winkler has dedicated her life to creating new cutting-edge imaging analysis tools that will improve outcomes for breast cancer patients.

DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH SPEAKER



"At the Core of Collaboration: AI and the Future of Research Networks"

Fawaz Al-Mufti, M.D. | Associate Chair of Research & Associate Professor, Department of Neurology, Neurosurgery & Radiology, School of Medicine, New York Medical College

Dr. Al-Mufti is a highly accomplished neurologist, neurointensivist, and neuroendovascular surgeon. Specializing in cutting-edge techniques for the minimally invasive management of cerebrovascular conditions, his commitment to patient care and education stems from working in war-torn regions with Doctors Without Borders.

Program SCHEDULE

12:00-12:30 p.m.	Reception
12:30-12:35 p.m.	Introductory Remarks Alan Kadish , M.D. President, Touro University
12:35-12:40 p.m.	Welcome to Research Day Salomon Amar , D.D.S., Ph.D. Senior Vice President for Research Affairs, Chief Biomedical Officer, Touro University
12:40-12:45 p.m.	Opening Remarks on Behalf of the RD Planning Committee Carrie DiMatteo , Ph.D. Assistant Professor and Deputy Chair of Psychology, NYSCAS, Clinical Assistant Professor, PsyD Program in Clinical Psychology Touro University in New York
12:45-1:15 p.m.	Keynote Speaker <i>"Artificial Intelligence and the Transformation of Medicine and Biomedical Research"</i> Sarah Eskreis-Winkler , M.D., Ph.D. Head of Artificial Intelligence Research & Diagnostic Radiologist, Department of Radiology, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
1:15-1:30 p.m.	Q & A Session Moderated by Salomon Amar , D.D.S., Ph.D. Senior Vice President for Research Affairs, Chief Biomedical Officer, Touro University
1:30-2:00 p.m.	Touro University Distinguished Speaker <i>"At the Core of Collaboration: AI and the Future of Research Networks"</i> Fawaz Al-Mufti , M.D. Associate Chair of Research & Associate Professor Department of Neurology, Neurosurgery & Radiology, School of Medicine, New York Medical College
2:00-2:15 p.m.	Q & A Session Moderated by Salomon Amar , D.D.S., Ph.D. Senior Vice President for Research Affairs, Chief Biomedical Officer, Touro University
2:15-2:45 p.m.	Outstanding Posters from Touro University Research Day 2025 Poster Competition Moderated by Salomon Amar , D.D.S., Ph.D. Senior Vice President for Research Affairs, Chief Biomedical Officer, Touro University
2:45-2:50 p.m.	Award Introductions: Research Day 2025 Student Poster Competition Recipients Salomon Amar , D.D.S., Ph.D. Senior Vice President for Research Affairs, Chief Biomedical Officer, Touro University
2:50-2:55 p.m.	Closing Remarks Salomon Amar , D.D.S., Ph.D. Senior Vice President for Research Affairs, Chief Biomedical Officer, Touro University
2:15-2:30 p.m.	Intermission
3:10-4:00 p.m.	Live Poster Session & Innovation Forum

A Special Thank You to **OUR SPONSOR**



Notes

