

Division of Hand & Upper Extremity Surgery  
Department of Orthopedic Surgery  
Columbia University Irving Medical Center  
NewYork-Presbyterian

ROBERT E. CARROLL

# Hand & Upper Extremity Fellowship

2021 Fellowship Interviews



## Welcome to Columbia Orthopedics

The Department of Orthopedic Surgery at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons has earned a reputation as one of the leading academic orthopedic departments in the nation. Our rich tradition in orthopedic surgery dates back to 1866 when the New York Orthopaedic Dispensary—later named the New York Orthopaedic Hospital—opened its doors. Since that time, the department has grown into a preeminent center for quality patient care, research, and education.

Founded in 1958 by Dr. Robert E. Carroll, the New York Orthopaedic Hospital Hand Surgery Service is the oldest and most prestigious hand and upper extremity sub-specialty service at both the national and international level. Established alongside the clinical service, our fellowship has produced world renowned hand surgeons for more than 50 years.

Today, the Division of Hand and Upper Extremity Surgery at Columbia Orthopedics continues to be one of the finest training programs in the United States. Emphasis is always on resident/fellow education and training. New and cutting edge techniques are introduced to teach fellows the latest procedures. Both basic science and clinical research opportunities are part of the fellowship year. We believe that the training received here at the Columbia program prepares the fellows for all the demands of orthopedic practice.

While public health and safety necessitates virtual interviews this year, we hope you enjoy your visit with us and look forward to answering all of your questions regarding our program.



### **Melvin P. Rosenwasser, MD**

*Robert E. Carroll Professor of Orthopedic Surgery  
Chief, Hand & Upper Extremity Service, and Trauma  
Director, Hand & Upper Extremity Fellowship  
Department of Orthopedic Surgery  
Columbia University Irving Medical Center*



### **William N. Levine, MD**

*Frank E. Stinchfield Professor & Chair,  
Department of Orthopedic Surgery  
Chief, Shoulder Service  
Co-Director, Center for Shoulder, Elbow & Sports Medicine  
Head Team Physician, Columbia University Athletics  
Editor-in-Chief, Journal of the American Academy of  
Orthopedic Surgeons (JAAOS)  
Past-President, American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons*

## Schedule & Agenda

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### Group A

7:00 – 7:50 am	<b>Introduction</b>
8:00 – 10:00 am	<b>Interviews</b>
10:00 – 10:10 am	<b>Closing Remarks / Adjourn</b>

*Our virtual interviews will be conducted via the Thalamus GME platform and Zoom.*

*Visit **[columbiaortho.org/hand-fellowship](https://columbiaortho.org/hand-fellowship)** for more information.*

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### Group B

10:30 – 11:50 am	<b>Interviews</b>
11:50 – 12:00 pm	<b>Closing Remarks / Adjourn</b>

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### Group C

12:45 – 1:15 pm	<b>Introduction</b>
1:15 – 3:55	<b>Interviews</b>
3:55 – 4:05	<b>Closing Remarks / Adjourn</b>



## A Brief History of Our Program



Dr. Robert E. Carroll, at right, with clinical team, c. 1960



The Department of Orthopedic Surgery at Columbia University Irving Medical Center originally began in 1866 as the New York Orthopaedic Dispensary, later renamed as New York Orthopaedic Hospital (NYOH). One of the oldest orthopedic training programs in the country, NYOH was established to treat needy children afflicted by diseases of the musculoskeletal system. George Fayette Taylor founded the Dispensary with help from Theodore Roosevelt's grateful father. Anna Roosevelt, the future president's sister, was a victim of Potts Disease and wore a customized spinal brace fabricated for her by Dr. Taylor. Throughout its history, NYOH has played an important role in developing and refining new techniques in the diagnosis and treatment of orthopedic disease and disorders.

Dr. Robert E. Carroll established the New York Orthopaedic Hospital Hand Surgery Service and since 1958, the fellowship has forged internationally acclaimed careers in hand and upper extremity surgery. A veteran of WWII, Dr. Carroll enjoyed a prominent position amongst the world's leading hand surgeons for more than four decades. He remained a strong presence in our program until his passing in August, 2009



*"I had the pleasure of serving as the Carroll hand fellow from 2013-14. It was a phenomenal year which exposed me to the full breadth of hand surgery. Drs. Rosenwasser, Strauch, and Kadiyala worked together to provide an exceptional environment with a combination of guidance and independence that fostered my transition into independent practice. Under one roof I had exposure to trauma, chronic conditions, pediatric and congenital hand surgery, and microsurgery. The diverse population of New York provides an unmatched variety in hand pathology that created an ideal educational experience. My fellowship experience extended far beyond the walls of the clinics and ORs at Columbia to include relief missions to Haiti, serving as junior faculty at wrist and elbow arthroscopy course at the Orthopaedic Learning Center in Chicago, and engagement with the vast hand surgery expertise in New York through the New York Hand Society. Since finishing fellowship and entering practice, the friendships I made with the faculty and residents at Columbia and the network of past Carroll Fellows have become an invaluable resource to draw upon. It was an unmatched experience for which I am very grateful."*

**James A. Wilkerson, MD** 2013-2014  
Maine Orthopedic Center, Portland, ME



## Fellowship Program Overview

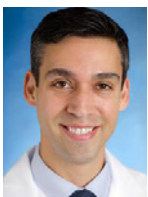
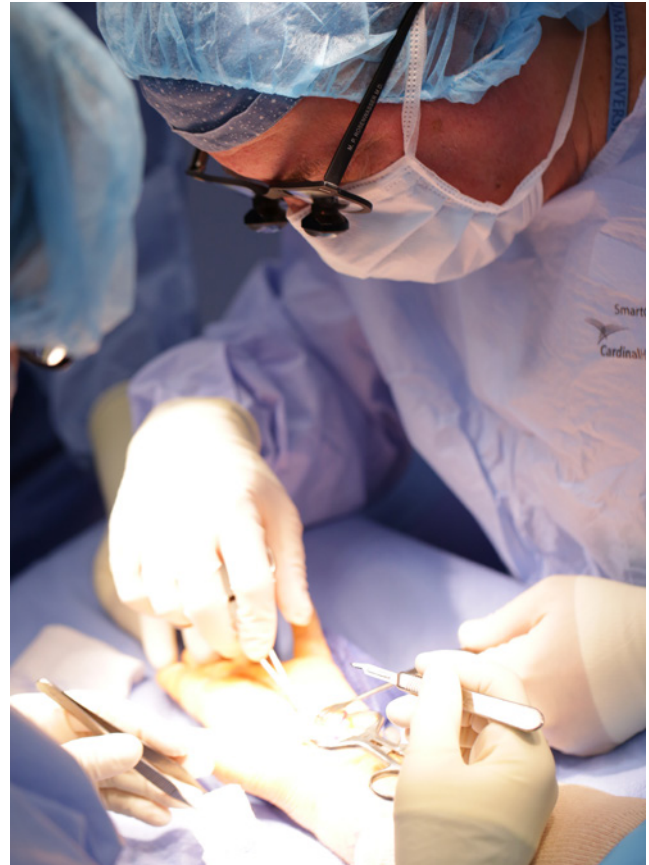
Each year one fellow is accepted to the Hand & Upper Extremity Fellowship under the direction of Dr. Melvin Rosenwasser.

Fellowship training offers extensive exposure to the hand, wrist, and elbow – including arthroscopy, nerve reconstruction, trauma and congenital anomalies. Our fellows are continually exposed to complex and interesting cases and benefit from working with renowned faculty. The educational opportunities include hand conference, journal club, grand rounds, and clinic, to list a few.

The fellowship is enhanced by the resources of NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia University Irving Medical Center, which was recently ranked as a top five hospital in the nation by U.S. News & World Report and continues to be recognized as the best hospital in New York City.

The Russell A. Hibbs Memorial Library is a dedicated orthopedic surgery library with computer lab, archival materials as well as current volumes and journals, and rare books.

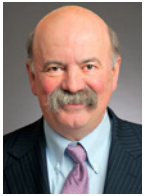
The Arthroscopy Laboratory, opened in 1998, offers state of the art instruments to perform arthroscopic and open procedures. We hold cadaver labs sponsored by various industry of interest to the hand and upper extremity trainee throughout the academic year.



*"My fellowship year at Columbia was by far my most valuable year in training. Several years in practice, I still hear the wise voices of Drs. Rosenwasser, Strauch, and Kadiyala as I try to counsel patients in the office or during difficult cases. We saw complex adult and pediatric cases from the greater NYC area and internationally. I valued the opportunity to care for the local underserved community in weekly clinics. On the non-clinical side, the microsurgery lab offered a great opportunity to practice a difficult skill set. In the wet lab, we had access to cadavers for surgical dissections, research, arthroscopy practice, and trialing new implants. Overall it was a fantastic year focused on the nuances of hand surgery and patient management. This fellowship provided me with the tools I needed to enter practice, get through boards, and feel confident about providing high level hand surgical care to my patients."*

**David W. Zeltser, MD** 2014-2015  
The Permanente Medical Group, San Francisco, CA

## Hand & Upper Extremity Faculty



### Melvin P. Rosenwasser, MD

Dr. Melvin Rosenwasser, Robert E. Carroll Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, is the Chief of the Hand & Upper Extremity Service at NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia University Irving Medical Center. Dr. Rosenwasser was a pupil of Dr. Carroll and has continued to train national and international post graduate hand fellows as the director of the nation's first hand fellowship. Dr. Rosenwasser's research interests have been focused on osteoarthritis as a disease and he has investigated both fundamental causes and specific treatments. He has served as the hand surgeon consultant to the New York Yankees since 1989.



### Robert J. Strauch, MD

Dr. Robert Strauch, Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, completed his orthopedic residency at the New York Orthopaedic Hospital – now Columbia Orthopedics – and completed his Hand and Upper Extremity Fellowship at The Indiana Hand Center. Dr. Strauch is a Past President of the New York Society for Surgery of the Hand and has been the recipient of many awards including New York Magazine, Best Doctors in New York City consecutively since 2001.



### R. Kumar Kadiyala, MD, PhD

Dr. Kumar Kadiyala, Assistant Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, completed his orthopedic residency at the Harvard Combined Orthopaedic Program and fellowships in orthopedic trauma and hand/upper extremity at Massachusetts General Hospital, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Boston Children's Hospital. He also completed a fellowship in adult reconstruction (hip and knee replacement) at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston. He co-directed the shoulder and elbow service at the University of Iowa and conducted research on the molecular biology of peripheral nerve injuries before starting his own practice in Miami. Dr. Kadiyala serves as the chief of orthopedic surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital.



### Susanne M. Roberts, MD

Dr. Susanne Roberts, Assistant Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, received her undergraduate degree in molecular biology and biochemistry from Middlebury College, and completed her medical education at Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine. After medical school, Dr. Roberts completed her residency training at the Harvard Combined Orthopaedic Residency Program, serving as Chief Resident at Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women's Faulkner Hospital during her final year. Her residency training was followed by a fellowship in hand surgery at the Hospital for Special Surgery. Dr. Roberts' practice is focused on the treatment of chronic conditions as well as complex reconstruction of acute injuries affecting the bones and soft tissues of the hand, wrist, and elbow. She is also trained in microsurgery and has a special interest in nerve injury of the upper extremity.

## Fellow Case Log 2018 - 2019

Hand & Wrist Surgery	926
Wound I&D fasciotomy/wound preparation	56
Wound closure and graft	4
Wound reconstruction with flap	22
Amputation	25
Tendon/muscle	75
Nerve injury	29
Hand fractures/dislocation/ligament injury	74
Wrist fracture/dislocation	56
Forearm & proximal fracture/dislocation	85
Hand reconstruction, releases, etc.	72
Wrist reconstruction, releases, arthrodesis, etc.	55
Forearm/elbow/shoulder reconstruction, releases	23
Dupuytren's	25
Nerve decompression	118
Decompression of tendon sheath/synovectomy/ganglions	106
Vascular repair/reconstruction/replantation/microvascular	16
Congenital	27
Tumor/osteomyelitis	58
Arthroscopy	39
Elbow	7
Wrist	32
Other	21
Miscellaneous insertion or removal of devices	19
Closed treatment of fractures and dislocations	2
Non-Tracked Codes	34
Total Procedures	1020

## Goals & Objectives - Hand & Upper Extremity Service

The resident on the hand service should acquire basic knowledge of hand anatomy, proper physical examination technique, and should understand the diagnosis and treatment of congenital and acquired hand and elbow problems.

In addition, the goals of the rotation are to:

- Help the fellow develop interpersonal skills needed to effectively engage patients and family members to enhance communication and education.
- Develop competency in management of the orthopedic inpatients including administration, quality improvement and leadership through the use of effective verbal and written communications skills.
- Acquire medical knowledge about established and evolving biomedical, clinical, cognitive sciences and demonstrate the competent application of this knowledge to patient care.
- Demonstrate practice-based learning and improvement that involves investigation and evaluation of patient care, appraisal, and assimilation of scientific evidence and improvements in patient care.
- Demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in effective information exchange and teaming with patients, their families, and other health professionals.
- Demonstrate professional as manifested through a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities, adherence to ethical principles, and sensitivity to a diverse patient population.

## Reading Material

Basic knowledge: The Hand, by the American Society for Surgery of the Hand. Covers basic evaluation and treatment of common hand disorders.

Further reading for cases: Green's Textbook of Hand Surgery. Read appropriate chapters for cases seen in OR and/or clinic.

## Responsibilities of all residents on the service

- Knowing the status of all patients admitted to the hand service for the assigned attending.
- Reading pre-operatively about cases that residents scrub on.
- Clinic attendance every Wednesday afternoon.
- DPO clinic attendance with the assigned attending
- Attendance at weekly indications conference on Wednesday.

## Evaluation of Residents

Evaluations will be based on performance in all areas and successful achievement of the goals and objectives. There will be an oral examination at the conclusion of the rotation for each resident.



## Goals & Objectives - Hand & Upper Extremity Service

### PGY2 on Hand Service

Specific responsibilities include:

- Round on all the patients of Rosenwasser, Strauch and Kadiyala early every morning. Touch base with Senior Resident and Hand Fellow about status of patients throughout the day.
- Scrub on OR cases with Strauch on Monday, Rosenwasser on Tuesday, and Kadiyala one Friday per month.
- Attend Hand Conference and Hand Clinic Wednesday afternoons.

### PGY4 and PGY5 on Hand Service (with Drs. Strauch or Rosenwasser respectively)

Specific responsibilities include:

- Round on our attending's patients daily and know their status
- Dr. Rosenwasser: private office on Monday; OR Tuesday; Hand Conference and Clinic Wednesday, OR on Friday
- Dr. Strauch: OR on Monday; private office on Tuesday; Hand Conference and Clinic Wednesday, Friday OR.

### Fellows

Specific Responsibilities include:

- Seeing all patients in house daily and coordinating patient care with residents on the service.
- Attendance (required) all hand surgeries: Strauch on Monday, Rosenwasser on Tuesday, Kadiyala on Friday and as needed.
- Organizing the annual hand grand rounds, hand conference, and monthly journal club with the residents.
- Give at least one core curriculum presentation to resident staff per year.
- Producing (mandatory) at least one paper of publication quality during the fellowship year.
- Rotating in the DPO with Rosenwasser, Strauch, and Kadiyala on Thursday and Friday as scheduled on a rotating basis.
- Attending (mandatory) clinic Wednesday afternoon, and responsible for helping to coordinate the pre and post op care of clinic patients in conjunction with the attending.

The fellow will also evaluate the program, both in writing and orally on a regular basis.

### Evaluation of Fellows

Evaluation will be based on performance in all areas and successful achievement of goals and objectives.

## The Robert E. Carroll Hand Fellows - 1958 to Present



1958-1959 **James M. Hunter, MD**  
(deceased, January 2013)

1959-1960 **George C. Raszus, MD**  
(deceased August 1968)

1960-1961 **James H. Dobyns, MD**  
(deceased, July 2011)

1961-1962 **Avrum I. Froimson, MD**  
Cleveland, OH

1962-1963 **Norman A. Hill, MD**  
(deceased, April 1993)

1963-1964 **Lawrence H. Schneider, MD**  
Philadelphia, PA

1964-1965 **Charles L. McDowell, MD**  
(deceased, October 2020)

1965-1966 **James R. Doyle, MD**  
Saint Helena, CA

1967-1968 **Harold M. Dick, MD**  
(deceased, May 2011)

1967-1969 **Alexander C. Angelides, MD**  
(deceased, May 2003)

1968-1969 **Norman J. Cowan, MD**  
Bowie, MD

1969-1970 **David P. Green, MD**  
San Antonio, TX

1970-1971 **Dean S. Louis, MD**  
Ann Arbor, MI

1971-1972 **Richard L. Petzoldt, MD**  
(deceased March, 1985)

1972-1973 **William H. Bowers, MD**  
Richmond, VA

1973-1974 **William R.J. Rennie, MD**  
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

1974-1975 **David C. Bush, MD**  
Danville, PA

1975-1976 **Joseph E. Imbriglia, MD**  
Pittsburgh, PA

1976-1977 **Michael P. Coyle, MD**  
New Brunswick, NJ

1977-1978 **William B. Kleinman, MD**  
Indianapolis, IN

1978-1979 **Lawrence C. Hurst, MD**  
Stony Brook, NY

1979-1980 **Steven M. Wenner, MD**  
Springfield, MA

1980-1981 **Thomas I. VonGillern, MD**  
Moline, IL

1981-1982 **Edward V. Craig, MD**  
New York, NY

1982-1983 **Melvin P. Rosenwasser, MD**  
New York, NY

**Thomas A. Rago, MD**  
Bridgeport, CT

1983-1984 **David M. Boland, MD**  
Fall River, MA,

**Leigh Ende, MD**  
Randolph, NJ

**Enrique H. Monsanto, MD**  
Brooklyn, new York

1984-1985 **Matthew D. Putnam, MD**  
Minneapolis, MN

**William H. Seitz, MD**  
Cleveland, OH

## The Robert E. Carroll Hand Fellows - 1958 to Present

1985-1986	<b>Sandy M. Gonzalez, MD</b> Santura, Puerto Rico,	2003-2004	<b>Ryan Beekman, MD</b> Detroit, MI
	<b>Mark J. McBride, MD</b> Morristown, NJ	2003-2004	<b>Nathan L. Taylor, MD</b> Niceville, FL
1986-1987	<b>Eric C. Carlson, MD</b> Canon City, CO,	2004-2005	<b>Michael W. Grafe, MD</b> Santa Rosa, CA
	<b>Seth B. Paul, MD</b> Cedarhurst, NY	2005-2006	<b>Steven J. Goldberg, MD</b> Geisinger, Danville, PA
1987-1988	<b>Leo Rozmaryn, MD</b> Rockville, MD	2006-2007	<b>Richard Y. Kim, MD</b> Hackensack University Medical Center
1988-1989	<b>Donald H. Lee, MD</b> Birmingham, AL	2007-2008	<b>Steven Shamash, DO</b> Garden State Orthopaedics, Fairlawn, NJ
1989-1990	<b>Scott Wolfe, MD</b> New York, NY	2008-2009	<b>Christopher Katcherian, MD</b> Downey, CA
1990-1991	<b>Brian Cushin, MD</b> Bronx, NY	2009-2010	<b>Neil J. White, MD</b> Calgary, Canada
1991-1992	<b>Jeffrey Lakin, MD</b> Wayne, NJ	2010-2011	<b>Michael Birman, MD</b> Chicago, IL
1992-1993	<b>John Lunt, MD</b> Danbury, CT	2011-2012	<b>Patrick Olson, MD</b> Park City, UT
1993-1994	<b>Haik Kavookjian, MD</b> Stamford, CT	2012-2013	<b>Rudy Rodriguez, MD</b> Sikeston, MO
1994-1995	<b>Robert H. Wilson, MD</b> Washington, DC	2013-2014	<b>James Wilkerson, MD</b> Portland, ME
1995-1996	<b>Gina C. DelSalvio, MD</b> Fishkill, NY	2014-2015	<b>David Zeltser, MD</b> San Francisco, CA
1996-1997	<b>Kenji Miyasaka, MD</b> Bronx, NY	2015-2016	<b>Andrew Schannen</b> Albuquerque, NM
1997-1998	<b>Michael L. Lee, MD</b> Las Vegas, NV	2016-2017	<b>Valdet Nikci, MD</b> Brookfield, CT
1998-1999	<b>Sasha Ristic, MD</b> Poughkeepsie, NY	2017-2018	<b>Samuel E. Galle, MD</b> Proliance Hand, Wrist, & Elbow, Kirkland, WA
1998-2000	<b>Roderick J. Bruno, MD</b> Exeter, NH	2018-2019	<b>Chia Wu, MD</b> Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX
2000-2001	<b>H. Matthew Quitkin, MD</b> Exeter, NH	2019-2020	<b>Kelly Esposito, MD</b> EmergeOrtho, Wilmington, NC
2001-2002	<b>Vishal Sarwahi, MD</b> Bronx, NY	2020-2021	<b>George Cibulas, MD</b> US Air Force
2002-2003	<b>Jerome D. Chao, MD</b> Albany, New York	2021-2022	<b>Kiran Agarwal-Harding, MD</b> Incoming Fellow

## Welcome to “The Big Apple”



NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia University Irving Medical Center is located on the eastern shore of the Hudson River at the foot of the George Washington Bridge in northern Manhattan. Many housing options exist in New York City and many fellows live on the upper west side. There are housing options available through the NYP GME office.

New York is the financial and cultural capital of the world. One can easily reach the Midtown Manhattan via a 20-minute subway ride that reveals a world of art, theater, and shopping. The Museum of Modern Art, the Museum of Natural History, the Metropolitan Museum, and the Hayden Planetarium are but a few of the many city museums. Radio City Music Hall, Carnegie Hall, and the four theaters of Lincoln Center are replete with music, ballet, opera, and other live entertainment. You can enjoy the latest Broadway musical, play, or revival after dining in the world's finest restaurants.

New York never sleeps! Easily accessible from three airports by car or public transportation, the location will allow you to go to the beach for the day or to the Catskill Mountains for the weekend. If sports are in your blood, Yankee Stadium and Citi Field are a subway ride away, Madison Square Garden is a couple stops away, and the Meadowlands Sports Complex is located just across the river in New Jersey.



*“It is difficult to put into words how special my experience was at Columbia. Yes, I worked hard and yes, there were long days in the operating room but it is a year that I would not trade for anything. It was a driven year, some 800 cases in total, over 1100 CPT codes, an international experience with pediatric cases rare here in the U.S., a complete microvascular laboratory, surgical dissection courses, attendance at a national meeting and plenty of research opportunities. Most valuable to me by far are the mentors I gained and the lasting, collaborative relationships forged during my fellowship training.”*

**Samuel Galle, MD** 2017-2018  
Proliance Hand, Wrist and Elbow, Kirkland, WA

## Graduate Staff Salaries 2020 – 2021

Graduate Staff Level 1	\$73,489
Graduate Staff Level 2	\$79,359
Graduate Staff Level 3	\$85,864
Graduate Staff Level 4	\$88,277
Graduate Staff Level 5	\$91,276
Graduate Staff Level 6	\$92,915
Graduate Staff Level 7	\$95,713

NewYork-Presbyterian  
Office of Graduate Medical Education

**Columbia University Irving Medical Center**

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*"I am forever grateful for the education and skills I gained during my fellowship year at the Columbia Hand and Upper Extremity program. The hands on experience and over one thousand procedures that I participated in, allowed me to transition into a solo practice immediately after my fellowship. During this year I participated in the treatment a wide variety of upper extremity conditions, from elbow arthroplasty, digit replantation, to ligament reconstruction to name a few. After my experience at Columbia, I felt well prepared to be able to work in an independent fashion. The faculty at Columbia are invested in the growth and education of the residents and fellows. The atmosphere between the faculty, residents and fellows is collegial. You become part of the Columbia family. I frequently communicate with Dr. Rosenwasser and Dr. Strauch seven years out from my fellowship. They have been a dependable and expert source of information when I have encountered challenging cases in my practice."*

**Rudy Rodriguez MD** 2012-2013  
Missouri Delta Medical Center, Sikeston, MO





## Hand & Upper Extremity **Fellowship**

*Fellowship Interviews 2021*



 **NewYork-Presbyterian**

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