Ramon Parsons MD PhD '92

Professor Ramon Parsons grew up in Washington, DC, and graduated from Columbia College, Columbia University in 1983. Dr. Parsons then attended the State University of New York at Stony Brook where he received his M.D. and Ph.D. degrees in 1992. Dr. Parsons continued his education at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine as a postdoctoral fellow with Bert Vogelstein. There, he and his colleagues discovered that inactivation of DNA mismatch repair genes cause hereditary colorectal cancer. At Columbia University Medical Center, his research laboratory identified the PTEN tumor suppressor gene, which he showed is inactivated in a wide variety of cancers and cancer predisposition syndromes. He has been a leader in establishing the importance of PTEN and the PI3K pathway for cancer using a combination of genetic, biochemical, human tissue, metabolic, and systems biology approaches. In 2013, he joined the faculty at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai as Ward-Coleman Professor in Cancer Research, Chairman of the Department of Oncological Sciences and co-Leader of the Cancer Mechanisms Program of the Tisch Cancer Institute. In 2016, he was selected as an Icahn Scholar and as the Deputy Director of the Tisch Cancer Institute. Recently, Dr. Parsons was appointed Director of the Tisch Cancer Institute, ISMMS and Director of Mount Sinai Cancer, MSHS. Prior to joining the faculty at ISMMS, Dr. Parsons was the Avon Professor of Pathology and Medicine and Leader of the Breast Cancer Program of the Herbert Irving Cancer Center at Columbia University Medical Center. Dr. Parsons is a member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation and the American Association of Physicians. He is also a recipient of the 2011 American Association for Cancer Research Outstanding Investigator Award for Breast Cancer Research. He served as Chair of the Special Conferences Committee at the AACR from 2011-2017. Dr. Parsons was inducted into the Johns Hopkins University Society of Scholars in 2015 and, elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2017. In addition, Dr. Parsons was the recipient of an NCI Outstanding Investigator Award in 2017.