



NYCPM
New York College of Podiatric Medicine

Dr. Reidenberg Wins First Years' Student Choice Award With 'Unique and Envable' Anatomy Instruction



Joy Reidenberg, PhD, does not take anatomy lightly, especially when she's hoisting a heavy-looking humpback whale vertebra to compare it to its relatively diminutive human counterpart. As an adjunct professor of pre-clinical sciences at NYCPM, she teaches gross anatomy and clinical anatomy (except of the lower extremity) to freshmen, and works to make it memorable.

To show the functions of and differences between dermatomes and sensory fields, for example, she gave out latex gloves and markers and asked the students to color the gloves to demonstrate each. "That's as good as hands-on gets!" Dr. Reidenberg said. To give a living demonstration of the crowded relationships among parts of female anatomy, she draped three students in sheets and positioned them very close together. "As podiatrists, they [her students] may be on the front lines of care. That's why they need to know if [what they're seeing] is in their specialty or if it's something for another specialist. There's a natural overlap," she said. Many clinical problems have symptoms in the foot, she noted.

At the Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai, Dr. Reidenberg is a Professor of Anatomy, teaching general medical students gross anatomy, histology, embryology and imaging, including the lower extremity. She started at Mt. Sinai in 1983 as a graduate student, received a PhD in Biomedical Sciences (Anatomy) and has been there ever since.

She loves it here, she says; NYCPM students are very focused and genuinely understand that they have to have a holistic view of what the body is doing. Though by March she had only taught at NYCPM for half of a semester, first-year students returned the love, awarding Dr. Reidenberg "The 2015 Student Choice Award for First Years' Professor of the Year" at the 2015 Football at Chelsea Piers.

"We knew that Dr. Reidenberg would be good, but had no idea that she would be as enthusiastically received as she has been," said Michael J. Trepal, DPM ('81), FACFAS, VP of Academic Affairs and Dean. "We are absolutely delighted that she is teaching the course in her own unique and enviable fashion."