

March 24, 2017

To: East Harlem Preservation  
From: Barbara Brenner, DrPH, MSW

I am writing to support your efforts to pressure the New York City Department of Parks to remove the Dr. J. Marion Sims statue from its location on Fifth Avenue and 103<sup>rd</sup> Street.

I am a faculty member at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (an Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Medicine and Public Health, and also a Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine, located across the street from the statue.

For many years, Mount Sinai medical students and faculty have expressed outrage about locating this man's statue in East Harlem, a majority black and Latino community.

Its location reflects racial and ethnic sensitivity. His use of black females in experimental treatments is considered unethical, by today's medical and health standards, and reflects racist attitudes and beliefs that are now an anathema.

The statue must be removed and perhaps kept in storage until such time as there is an historical event that educates the public about the use and abuse of black women and other persons of color by the medical profession.

I believe that New York City Department of Parks has an obligation to the public to resolve this ethical challenge.