

Alumni Association Newsletter



Mass General Brigham Alumni Network

The [Mass General Brigham Alumni Network](#) is a social platform, that will help you remain engaged with your respective training program(s). A range of benefits include knowledge of upcoming networking and social gatherings, continuing education resources, mentorship opportunities, and a directory.

Start by creating your account [here](#).

Dear Alumni,

It is with immense pride and gratitude that I write to you as the newly appointed Vice President of Education for Mass General Brigham, as well as the inaugural President of the [Mass General Brigham Alumni Association](#) (MGBAA). As my time both as a trainee and as faculty here has shaped my own journey as a clinician, teacher, and leader, I am humbled and honored to serve our community in these roles.

I am committed to advancing the excellence of our educational programs while strengthening the lifelong bond we share as alumni.

Presently, my vision for the MGBAA is to build a vibrant, engaged, and impactful alumni community centered around fostering a culture of academic excellence, belonging, and innovation in support of the professional development of our trainees, faculty and alumni communities. We would love to hear your ideas as we build the MGBAA to meet these goals.

As background, I've been a member of the Mass General Brigham community for more than 25 years. I served as the Designated Institutional Official (DIO) for Mass General Hospital and Brigham & Women's Hospital, providing leadership and oversight for all Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs before assuming the DIO role for MGB in 2023. Having been a part of the MGB GME Office since 2006, I want to continue this work through collaboration with our academic department leadership teams.

Our alumni community is one of our greatest strengths. We are a diverse and accomplished network bound by shared purpose and rigorous training. I intend to harness that collective power and guide a more interconnected, visible, and engaged alumni system that not only reflects the caliber of this institution, but actively shapes its future. I look forward to hearing from you!

Warm Regards,

John Patrick T. Co
Vice President, Education, Mass General Brigham
President, Mass General Brigham Alumni Association



**2,500 residents
and fellows**



**320 Graduate Medical Education
programs at any given time**

Stay informed with [Alumni website](#)
and [MGB Alumni Network](#): your social
alumni community

Mass General Brigham

Breakthrough innovation wins 2025 MESH Disruptive Innovation Prize



Mass General Brigham MESH Incubator awards \$5,000 to bold solution improving patient care

The MESH Incubator at Mass General Brigham has awarded the 2025

MESH Disruptive Innovation Prize to Sofia Paschenti for her work with Microvitality, a company developing a non-invasive diagnostic capsule designed to improve analysis of the small intestine microbiome. [Read more here.](#)

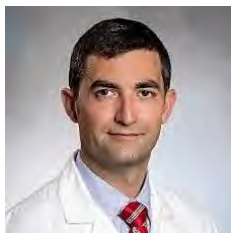
Inaugural President of Mass General Brigham Cancer Institute named



Mass General Brigham has announced [David Ryan, MD](#), as the inaugural President of the Mass General Brigham Cancer Institute. In this role, Dr. Ryan will lead efforts to build the Mass General Brigham Cancer Institute, overseeing its

clinical care, research, education and community-based missions, as teams work together to enhance quality outcomes for every patient and continue to drive leading-edge discovery and research-infused care. [Read more here.](#)

Brigham and Women's Hospital



Research Spotlight: How much does patient travel for healthcare contribute to carbon emissions?

[Hanna Zurl, MD](#), a research fellow in the Department of Urology at Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH), and the Center for Surgery and Public Health at BWH, is the lead author of a paper published in JAMA Network Open, "[Carbon Emissions from Patient Travel for Healthcare: Insights from a National Transportation Survey.](#)"

[Alexander Putnam Cole, MD](#), an associate surgeon in the Department of Urology at BWH, an assistant professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School and junior core faculty at the Center for Surgery and Public Health, is the senior author of the paper. [Read more here.](#)

Research Spotlight: A generalized epilepsy network derived from brain abnormalities and deep brain stimulation

[Frederic L.W.V.J. Schaper, MD, PhD](#), director of Epilepsy Network Mapping at the Center for Brain Circuit Therapeutics at Brigham and Women's Hospital and an instructor of neurology at Harvard Medical School, is the senior author of a paper published in Nature Communications, "[A generalized epilepsy network derived from brain abnormalities and deep brain stimulation.](#)" [Read more here.](#)

Research Spotlight: uncovering the mechanisms behind T cell differentiation

Vijay K. Kuchroo, PhD, DVM, of the [Gene Lay Institute of Immunology and Inflammation](#) of Brigham and Women's Hospital, Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School and the [Ann Romney Center for Neurologic Diseases](#) at Brigham and Women's Hospital, is the co-corresponding author of a paper published in Nature, "[Neuropeptide signaling orchestrates T cell differentiation.](#)" [Read more.](#)

Brigham Bulletin

The Brigham Bulletin is Brigham and Women's Hospital's weekly print and online news publication, written for and about the Brigham's 17,000+ employees and highlighting stories from the hospital's mission areas of patient care, research, education and community outreach. Keep up with the latest happenings in the Brigham Bulletin [here.](#)

Brigham Clinical and Research News

Monthly online publication for and about Brigham clinicians and researchers. [Read the latest here.](#)

Heart & Science

Monthly publication covering the work of nurses and Patient Care Services staff. [Read the latest here.](#)

Continuing Professional Development

Select Grand Rounds are now accessible to alumni of Mass General Brigham training programs!

The Office of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is collaborating with the Mass General Brigham Alumni Association to offer educational opportunities to alumni of Mass General Brigham training programs.

Alumni can view and sign up for upcoming sessions on the [Alumni Association Network](#). You will need to create an account. Once your account is approved, you will have access to the site and upcoming sessions. [Click here](#) for instructions to claim credit.

Courses

Our courses are led by experts in the field from Mass General Brigham. Find a course that meets your educational needs through our [catalogue](#).

June 9-12, 2025

[Neurology for the Non-Neurologist](#)

June 12-13, 2025

[Lifestyle Medicine Course](#)

Save the date

On Monday, September 15 at 10:00 a.m., before the start of [World Innovation Forum 2025](#), the Mass General Brigham Alumni Association will host a free CPD session for credit. Join [Rebecca G. Mishuris, MD, MPH, MS](#), Chief Medical Information Officer and VP, Digital; [Adam Landman, MD, MS, MIS, MHS](#), Chief Information Officer and Senior Vice President, Digital; and [Shawn Murphy, MD, PhD](#), Chief Research Information Officer and Associate Director, Lab of Computer Science as they discuss the future of medicine; from the grounding realities of patient care to the intersection of technology.

Mass Eye and Ear

Ophthalmology Visionary Joan W. Miller, MD, elected to prestigious American Academy of Arts and Sciences



[Joan W. Miller, MD](#), chair of Ophthalmology at Mass Eye and Ear and Mass General Brigham, is a world-renowned retina expert who helped discover and pioneer new treatments for age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

Last month, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences announced nearly 250 new members to its prestigious honorary society, with Miller among the list of honorees whose work has had a transformative impact on the United States. [Read more here.](#)

New “hidden in plain sight” facial and eye biomarkers for tinnitus severity could unlock path to testing treatments



Researchers at Mass General Brigham have identified new biomarkers for tinnitus by measuring pupil dilation and subtle facial movements that correlate with the level of distress caused by the disorder. [Published in Science Translational Medicine](#), the findings could lead to placebo-controlled treatment studies that have largely been not feasible due to lack of objective measures. [Read more here.](#)

Studying tiny messenger molecules released from eye cells could one day benefit care of patients with inherited retinal degenerations



Scientists at the [Ocular Genomics Institute](#) of Mass Eye and Ear and Harvard Medical School are reporting an exciting discovery about the role of tiny particles called extracellular vesicles (EVs) in inherited retinal degenerations (IRDs)—a leading cause of vision loss. The researchers hope their

discovery can enable EVs to serve as biomarkers that enable clinicians to better manage and treat patients with the inherited disorders. [Read more here.](#)

Bridging the gap between eye health and mental health



Mass Eye and Ear offers a unique service that provides psychotherapy support to patients with vision loss and eye trauma and diseases. The service's director, [Ethan Lester, PhD](#), a clinical psychologist at Mass General Brigham, explains. [Read more here.](#)

eye Insights clinical newsletter

eye Insights is a premier clinical practice newsletter for ophthalmologists published by [Massachusetts Eye and Ear](#) and [Massachusetts General Hospital](#). Distributed twice a year, *eye Insights* offers busy physicians practical and relevant best practice information from Mass Eye and Ear specialists. Each issue covers a different ophthalmic disease or condition and is available in both print and digital form. [Read the latest and past issues here](#)

Eye Witness

Eye Witness shares Harvard Ophthalmology key accomplishments with faculty, trainees, staff, alumni, affiliates, partners, and friends. The newsletter is published three times a year and is available in both print and digital form [Read the latest issue here.](#)

Focus

Focus, a health blog that shares stories and insights related to Mass Eye & Ear areas of expertise — otolaryngology (ear, nose, and throat) and ophthalmology (eye) — from the perspective of the author. [Read the latest posts here.](#)

Mass General Hospital

Sean M. Healey & AMG Center for ALS announces 2025 ALS Young Investigator Awards

Two new scholars, Yuyu Song, MD, PhD (Selective Vulnerability in ALS and FTD: from cells to molecules) and Seung Hun Park, PhD (Development of Mitochondria-Targeted Probes for Non-Invasive Monitoring and Therapeutic Intervention in ALS) will pursue their ALS research projects from 2025-2027.

Adel Boudi, PhD is the recipient of the 2025-2026 Byrne Family Endowed Fellowship and Judith & Jean Pape Adams Charitable Foundation Early Career Research Award,

Investigating gene fusion-driven impairments in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. [Read more here.](#)

Novel nasal brushing technique from the lab of Dr. Mark Albers

An innovative nasal brushing technique spearheaded by Mark Albers, MD, PhD, is sparking excitement in ALS research. Dr. Albers of Mass General, along with Dr. Eric Holbrook of Mass Eye & Ear, are collaborating on the study, which focuses on TDP-43 pathology. [Read more here.](#)

Bench Press

Bench Press, blog on science news and discoveries from the Mass General Research Institute, tapped into the (very clever) minds of Massachusetts General Hospital researchers and clinicians, asking them about the breakthroughs in medicine they anticipate happening in the coming year. [Read the latest posts here.](#)

Caring issue

Under the leadership of senior vice president, Debbie Burke, RN, *Caring Headlines*, the newsletter for Nursing and Patient Care Services, highlights the accomplishments of clinicians and support staff in Nursing; Physical and Occupational Therapy; Social Service; Respiratory Care; Speech, Language and Swallowing Disorders; Spiritual Care; Orthotics; and Volunteer, Information Ambassador and Interpreter Services. *Caring* shares stories of interest to healthcare professionals throughout the MGH community. [Read current and past issues here.](#)

McLean Hospital

Supporting providers with free, expert-led online courses on OCD, anxiety, and borderline personality disorder

McLean Hospital has expanded its education offerings with two new online courses that are free and accessible to all. These on-demand resources—Anxiety and OCD in Kids and Teens and *Myth, Interrupted: The Truth About BPD and Self-Harm*—are designed to educate and empower health care providers, families, educators, and individuals living with mental health conditions. [Read more here.](#)

In Memoriam: Philip G. Levendusky, PhD, ABPP



It is with deep respect and heartfelt sorrow that we announce the passing of Philip G. Levendusky, PhD, ABPP—an icon of modern psychology, beloved mentor, and enduring force of

innovation in mental health care. Levendusky passed away on Thursday, April 17, 2025, after a lifetime of dedicated service to others, leaving behind a profound legacy that spans continents, generations, and disciplines. [Read more here.](#)

Groundbreaking PTSD study by McLean researchers among NIH director's top science highlights of 2024

In a landmark recognition, a study led by [Nikolaos P. Daskalakis, MD, PhD](#), and [Kerry J. Ressler, MD, PhD](#), of McLean Hospital was recently featured in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director's Top Science Highlights of 2024.

The study, which delves into the biological underpinnings of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), represents a significant leap forward in understanding and addressing this complex mental health condition. [Read more here.](#)

Research Spotlight: Meeting the treatment needs of individuals with borderline personality disorder



[Lois W. Choi-Kain, MEd, MD](#), director of the Gunderson Personality Disorders Institute and its research program, is the guest editor of a new issue of the [American Journal of Psychotherapy](#), titled "Good Psychiatric Management of Borderline Personality Disorder."

The journal issue, published March 15, contains original research studies, including several from Mass General Brigham researchers. [Read more here.](#)

Horizons

[Horizons](#) is a publication for friends and supporters of McLean Hospital. [Read the latest issue here.](#)

Salem Hospital

North Shore Physicians Group is now Mass General Brigham

As long-time members of the Mass General Brigham healthcare system, North Shore Physicians Group is changing its name. Signage at practices, patient materials, and practice names in doctor profiles will show the new name. This update will take place over a few weeks. [Read more here.](#)

Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital

Greg Jackson, MRC, named Spaulding Rehabilitation President



[Greg Jackson](#), MRC, has been named by Mass General Brigham to a dual role as president and chief operating officer of Spaulding Rehabilitation, effective immediately. Jackson has served as interim president since last September and as COO since May 2023, when he first

came to Spaulding following a comprehensive nationwide search. [Read more here.](#)

Spotlight: Tina Young Poussaint, MD, FACR



[Tina Young Poussaint](#), MD, FACR is the Chief of Radiology, and the Lionel W. Young Chair in Radiology at Boston Children's Hospital as well as a Professor of Radiology at Harvard Medical School.

She was always interested in the sciences and so she chose a Mathematics/Biology major when attending Mount Holyoke College, where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa and magna cum laude. When she attended Yale University School of Medicine and did an elective at UCSF, she knew that Radiology was her specialty.

She applied to various programs throughout the country and was honored to be selected to join the Diagnostic Radiology Residency Program at Massachusetts General Hospital.

When Dr. Poussaint was a resident, she was always aware of what an amazing opportunity she had been given. The Department of Radiology set the standards in imaging across the country and the world in terms of excellence, innovation, and patient care. She had amazing teachers who provided her with the best training, and she always felt encouraged and inspired to pursue her career goals and grow.

After completing her residency, she approached the then Chief of Radiology, Dr. Juan M. Taveras, to discuss her interests in fellowship training. She expressed her passion for three areas: Angiography, Pediatric Radiology, and Neuroradiology. Ultimately, she chose Neuroradiology, drawn to its use of diverse imaging modalities to evaluate the central nervous system. Dr. Taveras—widely recognized as the father of Neuroradiology—was thrilled with her decision. Dr. Poussaint attributes much of her exceptional training to the Department of Radiology which has subspecialized with Dr. Taveras' remarkable leadership and mentorship.

After joining the faculty at MGH after her neuroradiology fellowship, she had an opportunity to join the Department of Radiology at Boston Children's Hospital. Dr. Taveras admitted that they would miss her but that this was a wonderful career opportunity. Dr. Poussaint was made director of the NIH-funded Neuroimaging Center for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Consortium at Boston Children's Hospital in 2003, chaired the BCH IRB for 10 years and then was made the Chief of the Department of Radiology in 2023.

When it comes to firsts, Dr. Poussaint has had many in her career. She was the first African American woman radiology resident. She was the first African American radiologist to be appointed to the MGH faculty, and she is the first African American woman selected as the chair of a Radiology department at Harvard Medical School. She was also just recently nominated to and joined the Board of Directors of the Radiological Society of North America and will ascend to President in a few years.

Dr. Poussaint got to where she is through hard work, grit and determination, but she also knows that her experiences while training at MGH helped give her the skills she needed to move forward and excel. For those trainees just beginning, she encourages them to take advantage of all the opportunities available, to strive toward excellence, and believe in their potential to become true leaders in their specialty.

Learn more about Dr. Tina Young Poussaint at the following links.

- <https://www.childrenshospital.org/directory/tina-young-poussaint>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tina_Young_Poussaint
- <https://www.linkedin.com/in/tina-young-poussaint-md-facr-40718422a/>

Spotlight: Nawal Nour, MD, MPH



Nawal Nour, MD, MPH is the Chair of the Obstetrics & Gynecology Department at Brigham and Women's Hospital. Prior to serving as Chair, she served as the Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer for Faculty, Trainees and Students since 2018. She has also served as the director of the Ambulatory Obstetrics Practice for two decades and assumed leadership of the Ambulatory Gynecology Division last year. In addition, she is the Founding Director of the African American Women's Health Center.

Dr. Nour was born in the Sudan and raised in Egypt and England. She came to the United States to attend Brown University. She received her MD from Harvard Medical School and completed the Obstetrics & Gynecology Residency program at the Brigham and Women's Hospital. She also earned her MPH at Harvard School of Public Health.

Dr. Nour admits that she never thought she would end up where she is today. And though she grew up in a poor country, she always felt that somehow, someway, she was going to make a difference, especially in the lives of women. She debated a career in law, or the humanities but since she had always been inclined towards science, she decided on a career in medicine. She knows that in this field, she can truly help people and she has always appreciated the one on one, face to face interactions with her patients. She gets to know them on a personal level.

She admits that residency training was rigorous and very surgically heavy. There is a common misconception that doctors in the Obstetrics & Gynecology field simply deliver babies but there is so much more to it than that. The OBGYN specialty cares for women from the age of fourteen, onward and one of Dr. Nour's goals has always been to elevate her field and women and she feels that with her training in the OBGYN residency, she's been given the chance to achieve that goal.

Her residency training showed Dr. Nour how vast and different her cases could be. And though training was strenuous, there was always a sense of community amongst the residents as well as independence. Dr. Nour was allowed to make decisions and have an active role in patient care and that really helped to boost her self-confidence.

One of Dr. Nour's true passions is in health equity and standardizing care across the system. The statistics are unfortunate but very real that women of color are three to four times more likely to die during childbirth than Caucasian women. The automatic thought is to blame it on socio-economic status or insurance issues, but the truth is, is that there is structural racism in our system, and we are all accountable for it. The fact is that not everyone who comes through our healthcare system is treated identically and Dr. Nour is adamant about making that change. Though it requires research, studying loads of statistical data and creating effective policy change, Dr. Nour is more than up for the challenge.

She believes that every patient presenting similar symptoms should be treated to the same tests and diagnostics and everything is automated and standardized. Every patient will be given the same care, no matter their status. She is also a firm believer in health equity and meeting patients where they are. If a patient enters the hospital and their first language is not English, they should automatically have a translator or translation app available, so that each party can communicate effectively.

And though Dr. Nour had always hoped to return to the Sudan to help the women but due to the current political climate, she is focusing on making just as much of an impact caring for women here and hopes that her successes are far reaching. Since she is the first African American to be appointed to the role of Department Chair, she is in an important and pivotal role. Though she never thought she would land in such a position, she knows that in this role, she has created the space for young women to know that they can do whatever they work hard for. That if there is something they hope and wish for and they are willing to put in the time and effort, then they can truly make a lasting impact, just like Nawal Nour.

Learn more about Dr. Nour at the following links.

- https://physiciandirectory.brighamandwomens.org/details/1204/nawal-nour-obstetrics_gynecology-boston
- <https://magazine.brighamandwomens.org/departments/the-rundown/nawal-nour-md-mph>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nawal_M._Nour