

Alumni Association Newsletter



Mass General Brigham

Preliminary clinical trial results show ‘dramatic and rapid’ regression of glioblastoma after next generation CAR-T therapy



Members of the Mass General Cancer Center INCIPIENT team tested the approach in a phase 1 clinical trial

of patients with recurrent glioblastoma. In a paper published in [The New England Journal of Medicine](#), researchers from the Mass General Cancer Center, a member of the Mass General Brigham healthcare system, shared the results. [Read more here.](#)



Mass General Brigham researchers develop AI foundation models to advance pathology

Foundation models, advanced artificial intelligence systems trained on large-scale datasets, hold the potential to provide unprecedented advancements for the medical field. In computational pathology (CPath), these models may excel in diagnostic accuracy, prognostic insights, and predicting therapeutic responses. Researchers at Mass General Brigham have designed the two of the largest CPath foundation models to date: UNI and CONCH. [Read here.](#)

Brigham and Women’s Hospital

75 Brigham physicians honored at annual meeting of the medical staff

The Office of the Chief Medical Officer celebrated 75 physicians for their outstanding contributions to the Brigham's mission, culture and academic medicine at large. [Read more here.](#)

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.](#)



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Brigham and Women’s Hospital Faulkner Hospital

Mass General Brigham names Kevin Giordano, MBA, FACHE, as next president of Brigham and Women’s Faulkner Hospital



Mass General Brigham today announced that Kevin Giordano, MBA, FACHE, has been named president of

Brigham and Women’s Faulkner Hospital and chief operating officer of Brigham and Women’s Hospital and the Brigham and Women’s Hospital Physicians Organization and as senior vice president, operations, at Mass General Brigham. [Read here](#)

Brigham and Women’s Faulkner Hospital is first in Massachusetts to earn Magnet with distinction

Brigham and Women’s Faulkner Hospital first received Magnet designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center, a subsidiary of the American Nurses Association, in 2019. On Friday, March 22, 2024, members of the Department of Nursing, Patient Care Services and senior leaders gathered to listen in as the Commission on Magnet shared the news that the hospital has been re-designated—this time designated as Magnet with Distinction! [Read more here.](#)

Mass Eye and Ear

Mass Eye and Ear commemorates 200th anniversary with year-long celebration

From humble beginnings in 1824 as one room where two doctors provided eye care to Boston’s poor, Massachusetts Eye and Ear has grown over the past 200 years into a renowned international center for treatment and home to the world’s largest vision and hearing research centers. [Read more.](#)

Mass Eye and Ear Ophthalmology: celebrating 200 years of excellence in patient care, research, and education

In 1940, Paul A. Chandler, MD, who would go on to become a national leader in the diagnosis and management of glaucoma, joined the staff at Mass Eye and Ear, where he developed a busy glaucoma practice. [Read more.](#)

Ophthalmology annual meeting and alumni reunion – Thursday, June 13 – Friday, June 14, 2024, Boston, Mass.

All current and former Harvard Medical School Department of Ophthalmology residents, fellows, and postdocs and all current and former faculty members are invited to attend the [2024 Annual Meeting and Alumni Reunion](#) on Thursday, June 13 - Friday, June 14, 2024 in Boston, MA. [Register 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

2024 Anne Klibanski visiting lecture series 05 with Drs. Rebecca Gillani and Rebecca Hasterman

[MGH Faculty Development Podcast](#)

Dr. Gillani presented on “Neuroinflammation causes neuronal dysfunction by destabilizing excitatory synapses.” Dr. Hastermann presented on “Antigen-specific T cells in autoimmune inflammatory diseases of the central nervous system.”



Presenters: Rebecca L. Gillani, MD, PhD, Instructor, Neurology, MGH/HMS and Maria Hastermann, MD, PhD, Max Delbrück Center, Berlin

The Anne Klibanski Visiting Lecture Series was created to support and advance the careers of women. These lectures offer the opportunity for women faculty from outside institutions that have hosted Anne Klibanski Scholars to present on their expertise, either alone or in tandem with an Anne Klibanski Scholar. [Listen here.](#)

Pursuing equity through opportunities: anchor program collaborates with MGH youth scholars

Mass General Brigham has the unique ability to make significant economic and social impacts in greater Boston. One way it does so is through the Anchor Program – championed by the MGB Board of Trustees – aimed at breaking down barriers to systemic change by creating more opportunities and promoting racial, gender and economic equality. [Read more here.](#)

Research spotlight: A huge leap forward for drug discovery in cancer

[Liron Bar-Peled, PhD](#), an investigator at the Krantz Center for Cancer Research at Massachusetts General Hospital and an associate professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, is the senior author of a new study in Cell, [DrugMap: A Quantitative Pan-Cancer Analysis of Cysteine Ligandability](#). [Read more on his research here.](#)

Collaboration across the MGH learning community

Mass General is dedicated to educating, supporting and mentoring the next generation of local, national and international health care leaders. As the original and largest teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School and the founder of the MGH Institute of Health Professions, education is one of the pillars of the hospital’s four-part mission. It is this commitment to education as part of a shared community of care which first inspired the long-term collaboration between MGH and the Lunder Foundation to create the Lunder-Dineen Health Education Alliance of Maine (Lunder-Dineen). [Read more.](#)

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

Novel service for treatment-resistant depression launches at McLean Hospital

With a commitment to caring for individuals with complex behavioral and mental health conditions, McLean Hospital recently launched an accelerated transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) program that reduces the amount of time it takes for individuals to feel relief from depression.

[Read more.](#)

Anxiety and OCD course advises on supporting kids and teens

McLean Hospital hosted *Anxiety and OCD in Kids and Teens*, a course aimed at health care professionals, educators, and parents. Experts [Lisa W. Coyne, PhD](#), [Fairlee C. Fabrett, PhD](#), and [Jeff Szymanski, PhD](#), weighed in on topics including the fundamentals of anxiety and OCD, how anxiety conditions can be managed in a classroom setting, and how clinicians diagnose and treat anxiety, OCD, and related disorders. [Read more.](#)

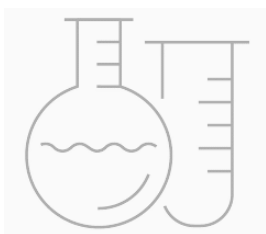
Horizons

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

Salem Hospital

Salem Hospital opens new unit with 24 private rooms

Salem Hospital recently held a ribbon-cutting ceremony in celebration of the opening of Pingree 5, its newest inpatient unit featuring 24 private rooms. The new rooms, which increase the hospital's total number of licensed beds to 371, were created from existing space above the Pingree 4 floor. [Read more.](#)



Black History Month Feature

Vivian Pinn, MD, was the first Black Pathology resident at Massachusetts General Hospital from 1967 to 1970.



Born in Halifax, Virginia, to a family of educators — a great-granddaughter of slaves on one side and of Cherokee heritage on the other — Dr. Pinn grew up spending considerable time with both sets of grandparents while her parents taught in the segregated academic system of the south. In Dr. Pinn's family, boys joined the military and sent money home to their sisters

so they could pursue their education. "My family clearly felt that women should be educated during a time that not everyone (agreed)," said Dr. Pinn.

Moving to Wellesley College in 1958, Dr. Pinn recalls struggling with the equipment of a chemistry lab, where she burned her hands as she became familiar with facilities she had not previously encountered. While finishing her time at Wellesley, Dr. Pinn began work in the Pathology department at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). At the invitation of the Department Chair, Benjamin Castleman, MD, she joined the lab of Martin Flax, MD, a neuropathologist from MGH with whom she would continue to work — after having completed medical school as the only woman and only Black person in her class at the University of Virginia — as MGH's first Black pathology resident. When Dr. Flax was offered a chairmanship at Tufts, he brought Dr. Pinn with him on the condition she be offered a faculty appointment even though she had not yet completed her full residency.

At Tufts, Dr. Pinn was the only Black professor at the medical school and one of only a handful of women. Students would often drop by her lab asking for guidance and support, which led to her becoming assistant dean of Student Affairs at Tufts Medical School. Dr. Pinn said not having a mentor who shared her unique demographic position "impacted me in a negative way...and set the stage for me to be available for students, even though I wasn't much older than they were...it was a wonderful time in my career."

Dr. Pinn went from Tufts to Howard University, where she was the first Black woman to chair an academic pathology department in the United States. While in Washington, DC, Dr. Pinn joined the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as the inaugural full-time director of the Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH). Through ORWH, she led the efforts to implement and monitor the inclusion of women and minorities in clinical research funded by the NIH.



Edward Barksdale, MD grew up in the 1960s in Virginia and his early dream was to become an astronaut. At a time when there were few role models or expectations that Blacks might achieve such stellar careers, becoming a physician seemed impossible. Fast forward to 1994, when he completed his training, Dr. Barksdale was to become only

the sixth Black pediatric surgeon out of 650 pediatric surgeons in the United States. Today, that number stands at 60 out of 1,600.

Dr. Barksdale received his undergraduate degree from Yale University, where he was an All-American fencer as well as outstanding student. He continued his education at Harvard Medical School and stayed in Boston to complete his residency in general surgery at MGH. He went on to complete a clinical fellowship program in pediatric surgery at Children's Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati.

Dr. Barksdale's first faculty position was at the University of Pittsburgh and Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, the launch of what would be many prestigious professional accomplishments. He has served as the president of the American Pediatric Surgical Association, was elected member to the American College of Surgeons Academy of Master Educators, has been named one of the "Best Doctors in America," won the "Patient's Choice Award," and is a member of the Inaugural Academy of Distinguished Clinicians at University Hospitals. He is currently surgeon-in-chief at the University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio, and the Robert J. Izant Jr., MD, Endowed Chair and professor at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

Earlier this year, Dr. Barksdale was announced as the incoming executive director for the Society of Black Academic Surgeons.

In addition to these considerable professional accomplishments, Dr. Barksdale is a passionate advocate for children's healthcare. His extensive involvement in community work, child welfare and health disparities has become a defining feature of his personal and professional lives. He is the founder of the Anti-Fragility Initiative, a hospital-based anti-violence program aimed at reducing recidivism and improving the overall outcomes and well-being of teens vulnerable to gun violence. He speaks of the "syndemic," or convergence of pandemics, that have led to an unprecedented increase since 2022 in the shooting of America's children, something he experiences in his professional life with heartbreaking frequency. Noting that

he has moved from lab science to social science out of necessity, Dr. Barksdale exemplifies — literally and metaphorically — the "three Hs" of a good surgeon: heart, head and hands.



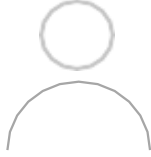
Dr. Barksdale's co-chief resident at MGH, **Lynt Johnson, MD**, has continued on the path of excellence and achievement as professor of Surgery and chairman of the Board of Trustees at George Washington University Hospital, where he also serves as executive director of the Liver and Pancreas Institute for Quality (LPIQ).

A native of Savannah, Georgia, Dr. Johnson received his undergraduate degree in chemistry from Duke University before heading to Auburn University for his master's in business administration and Harvard Medical School for his medical degree. After completing his surgical residency at MGH, Dr. Johnson took a fellowship in transplantation and hepatobiliary surgery at the New England Deaconess/Harvard Medical School program. When Dr. Johnson was in college, a dean told him that Harvard Medical School must have lowered its standards if he got accepted. That remark motivated Dr. Johnson and led to his success as a transplant surgeon.

Dr. Johnson has pioneered transplant programs at every institution he has worked. Soon after completing his training, Dr. Johnson's first faculty appointment was at the University of Maryland in Baltimore. Troubled by the lengthy waiting lists and uncertain survival prognoses of transplant patients, Dr. Johnson pioneered new techniques and methods for securing viable organs, even if conventional wisdom deemed them "imperfect." A short move south saw Dr. Johnson and his wife, Gloria, move to Georgetown University Hospital. While there, he founded the Georgetown Transplant Institute as the Director of Hepatobiliary and Pancreas Surgery, the only one performing liver transplants in Washington, which — at 94% — has one of the highest post-transplant survival rates in the country. In 2009, he became chairman of the Department of Surgery, where he stayed until his move across town to George Washington University in 2015.

Dr. Johnson is the recipient of countless honors and awards including chairman for the National Kidney Foundation, the United Network of Organ Sharing, the Society of University Surgeons and the American College of Surgeons. He is the past president of the Society of Black Academic Surgeons and chair of the Finance Committee for the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases, the American Surgical Association and the Southern Surgical Association.

He has won teaching awards, community service awards and the Omega Century Award of Excellence in Science and Medicine.



Women's History Month Feature

Nina Tolhoff-Rubin MD is Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, Mass General Hospital Endowed Chair in Renal Transplantation, inaugural incumbent and Medical Director Emeritus of the Renal Transplant Program for Massachusetts General Hospital.



Nina came to Mass General Hospital in 1966 and was the first woman to complete the Medical Residency program there. After completing her Renal Fellowship, Dr. Tolhoff-Rubin joined the staff at Mass General Hospital Renal Unit and served as Medical Director for the first Medical Intensive Care Unit. In 1974, Nina was asked to assume the role of Medical Director of Dialysis and Transplantation.