

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](#).



Mass General Brigham hospitals are ranked as top hospitals in the nation by U.S. News & World Report

Five Mass General Brigham hospitals, Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH), McLean, Mass Eye and Ear, and Spaulding Rehabilitation were once again named among the top hospitals in the nation by U.S. News & World Report and each also earned high marks in multiple clinical specialties. [Read more](#).

- [Brigham and Women's Hospital](#): #1 obstetrics and gynecology, #2 in diabetes and endocrinology, #4 cancer (with Dana-Farber as the Dana-Farber Brigham Cancer Center), #4 rheumatology, and #8 urology
- [Mass Eye and Ear](#): #4 for ophthalmology and #6 for otolaryngology
- [Massachusetts General Hospital](#): #1 psychiatry, #4 ophthalmology (in partnership with MEE), #6 rheumatology, #6 ear, nose and throat (in partnership with MEE), #6 neurology and neurosurgery, and #7 diabetes and endocrinology, #8 cardiology and heart surgery, and #9 gastroenterology and GI surgery
- [McLean](#): #2 in the nation for psychiatry
- [Spaulding Rehabilitation](#): #3 spot for rehabilitation



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



Dear Alumni,

Graduate Medical Education at Mass General Brigham is embarking on an exciting new chapter, launching the Mass

General Brigham Alumni Association (MGBAA), which is designed to foster the connections and bonds you all share as former trainees.

The MGBAA is more than just a network; it is a community built on shared experiences, establishing and reinforcing connections, and the common goal of advancing medical education and patient care. In today's ever-changing healthcare landscape, the wisdom and expertise you all embody from your experiences are more important than ever. We will build the MGBAA to provide opportunities for mentorship and collaboration, which will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of our training programs and the next generation of medical professionals. Whether through attending program/alumni events, participating in the MGB Alumni Network, or sharing your story with our current trainees, your involvement is essential to our continued success.

I encourage each of you to take an active role in the Alumni Association. Together, we can build a community that not only supports its members but also drives the advancement of medical education and patient care. I am confident that with your participation, we can achieve great things and continue to uphold the legacy of excellence that defines our institution.

Warm Regards,

John C.

*John C
Vice President, Graduate Medical Education
Mass General Associate Professor of Pediatrics,
Harvard Medical School*



Dear Alumni,

I am honored to introduce myself as the Associate Director of Alumni Relations for Mass General Brigham (MGB). As someone who is passionate about fostering

relationships and community, I am thrilled to announce the launch of the Mass General Brigham Alumni Association (MGBAA)! This community is designed to bring together past residents, fellows, and postdocs from training programs among the affiliated MGB hospitals.

I am excited to embark on this journey of building and nurturing a strong network of alumni. My vision is simple but direct: to create a vibrant, engaged alumni community that not only keeps you connected to your former training program(s), but also provides you with valuable professional development, mentorship opportunities, and a platform to celebrate your achievements.

This is just the beginning of a wonderful new chapter. However you decide to remain connected, there will be something here for you. Please stay tuned for more details and ways to get involved with the MGBAA. I can't wait to see what we will accomplish together.

Warm Regards

Serghino René

*Serghino L. René
Associate Director, Alumni Engagement
Mass General Brigham*

Mass General Brigham

Explore the Future of Medicine at the 2024 World Medical Innovation Forum



Mass General Brigham and Bank of America proudly present the 2024 World Medical Innovation Forum, a premier

global event that gathers over 2,000 CEOs, senior executives, investors, clinical leaders, entrepreneurs, and innovators in Boston each year. Taking place at the Encore Boston Harbor September 23-25, this year's Forum will spotlight leading innovations in medicine and highlight transformative advancements in patient care. [Read more here](#)

Mass General Brigham Reports Third Quarter 2024 Financial Results

Mass General Brigham, a not-for-profit, integrated healthcare system, today reported income from operations of \$47 million (0.9% operating margin) for the third quarter of fiscal year 2024, which ended on June 30, 2024. In the third quarter of fiscal year 2023, the health system reported income from operations of \$69 million (1.4% operating margin). [Read here.](#)

Brigham and Women's Hospital

Small actions for big impact at work

"[Microskills: Small Actions, Big Impact](#)" is a how-to guide to breakdown complicated tasks and goals into small, learnable skills. Co-authors emergency medicine physicians [Dr. Adaira Landry](#), of Brigham & Women's Hospital and Dr. Resa Lewiss explain how this guide can help you navigate challenges in the workplace. See their in-person interview on WCVB-TV's *CityLine* [here](#).

Staff Recognized for the Brigham Way

Earlier this summer, 31 individuals and five teams were recognized during a Brigham Way luncheon hosted by [Brigham President Giles Boland, MD](#). This quarterly event honors staff who continually foster a culture of excellence, respect and professionalism to create an exceptional Brigham experience for patients and colleagues. [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

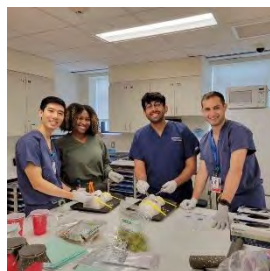
Monthly online publication for and about Brigham clinicians and researchers. [Read the latest here.](#)

Heart & Science

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

Brigham and Women's Faulkner Hospital

Brigham and Women's Faulkner Hospital Recognized as a 'High Performing Hospital' by U.S. News & World Report



Brigham and Women's Faulkner Hospital has been named a high performing hospital in the metro city of Boston, according to the latest edition of the U.S. News Media & World Report's 2024-2025 Best Hospitals rankings. [Read here.](#)



Brigham and Women's Faulkner Hospital is nationally recognized for its commitment to providing high-quality care

Brigham and Women's Faulkner Hospital is nationally recognized for its commitment to providing high-quality [stroke care](#), [heart failure care](#) and [improving cardiac arrest survival rates](#).

Mass Eye and Ear

Opening the Gates to Gene Therapy for Treating Deafness

Mass Eye and Ear researcher Zheng-Yi Chen, DPhil, is studying several approaches to reverse different forms of inherited deafness that he hopes can one day pave the way for treatments for many genetic and non-genetic forms of hearing loss. [Read more.](#)

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

From the Bench: The Wainger Lab at Massachusetts General Hospital

The [Wainger Lab at Massachusetts General Hospital](#) conducts research on how abnormalities of motor and sensory neuron physiology contribute to diseases such as ALS and chronic pain. In this issue we spotlight the lab's recently published paper that focuses on stimulator of interferon genes (STING) within neurons. [Learn more here.](#)

Sean M. Healey & AMG Center for ALS and Les Turner ALS Center at Northwestern Medicine

Establish Acceleration Centers of Enrollment Initiative

Together with Les Turner ALS Center at Northwestern Medicine, the Sean M. Healey & AMG Center for ALS at Massachusetts General Hospital is thrilled to announce the launch of the Acceleration Centers of Enrollment (ACE) initiative. The ACE initiative aims to accelerate enrollment and operational improvements in ALS clinical research by increasing access to clinical trials, expanded access protocols, and non-therapeutic research studies. Support for the ACE initiative comes from an Anonymous donor, ALS ONE, and the Les Turner ALS Foundation. [Read more here.](#)

Congratulations to the 2024 Class of Bridging Academia and Industry Education Program

The 2024 Class of the Bridging Academia and Industry education program concluded with a project competition, where five teams of investigators pitched their challenge-driven research projects to teaching faculty and leadership from academia and industry. [Read more here.](#)

MGH Celebrates West End Neighborhood

MGH neighbor and West End staple, The West End Museum, is once again open to the public this summer after being closed for more than two years because of a burst pipe. The newly renovated and reimagined space formally reopened in May. The museum focuses on the rich and diverse neighborhood history, telling the stories of immigration, industry and urban redevelopment.

“MGH is proud to be part of the West End neighborhood,” says Nick Haney, public coordination and initiatives director, MGH Office of Planning and Construction, and The West End Museum board member. “We are deeply committed to elevating the area as well as preserving its character, and as such we substantially invest in the neighborhood, including The West End Museum.” [Read more here.](#)

Sean M. Healey & AMG Center for ALS Announces 2024 ALS Young Investigator Awards

The Sean M. Healey & AMG Center for ALS is thrilled to announce the 2024 MGH ALS Young Investigator Awards. These awards celebrate the work of researchers and innovators in the field of ALS research. [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

McLean Hospital and Harvard Medical School Announce Inaugural Conference on Dissociative Identity Disorder

McLean Hospital and Harvard Medical School Continuing Education announced that they are cohosting [Stronger Together: Dissociative Identity Disorder Past, Present, and Future](#), an international conference on a complex but highly treatable psychiatric condition that is commonly misunderstood and often misdiagnosed. This commonly misunderstood condition affects more than 1% of the global population and is often confused with PTSD and other psychiatric disorders. [Read more here.](#)



McLean Hospital Names April Koh to Its Board of Trustees

McLean Hospital, an affiliate of Harvard Medical School and a member of Mass General

Brigham, is pleased to announce that April Koh, CEO and co-founder of Spring Health, a comprehensive mental health benefit for employers and health plans, has joined the McLean Hospital [Board of Trustees.](#)

“April brings a wealth of experience to our board,” said Carol Vallone, chair of the McLean Hospital Board of Trustees. “Her innovative approach and dedication to mental health will be invaluable as we continue to advance McLean Hospital’s mission.” [Read more here.](#)

Research Spotlight: Impact of Neighborhood Resources on Resilience After Trauma

[E. Kate Webb, PhD](#), a research fellow at McLean Hospital, led an investigation into whether individual resources and neighborhood resources, like green space, might impact neurobiology and the trajectory of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms. Her research was published July 31 in JAMA Psychiatry.

In addition to Webb, other McLean authors include [Lauren A.M. Lebois, PhD](#); [Laura Germine, PhD](#); [Scott L. Rauch, MD](#); [Diego A. Pizzagalli, PhD](#); [Kerry J. Ressler, MD, PhD](#); and [Nathaniel G. Harnett, PhD.](#) [Read more here.](#)

Horizons

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

Salem Hospital

Salem Hospital Receives Stroke Award from American Heart Association

Salem Hospital has received the American Heart Association’s highest recognition for stroke care with a 2024 ‘Get With The Guidelines’ Gold Plus quality achievement award. [Read more here.](#)

Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital

Early Trial Reports Promising Results in Restoring Arm and Hand Functions for People with Spinal Cord Injury

A multi-site clinical trial found that a noninvasive form of electrical stimulation to the cervical spinal cord led to improvements in hand and arm function for people with tetraplegia due to cervical spinal cord injury (SCI). The results of the trial, published last month in Nature Medicine, reported that the stimulation treatment called ARCEX Therapy resulted in clinically meaning improvements in arm function without serious adverse events. [Read more here.](#)

Alumni Spotlight: David Brown, MD



President Academic Medical Centers, Mass General Brigham (MGB), and the Mass General Trustees Professor of Emergency Medicine at Harvard Medical School [David Brown, MD](#) is a proud alumnus of the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) residency program. He talks to the [Mass General Brigham Alumni Association](#) about his pathway to MGB and what has kept him here for more than 30 years. View Brown's in-person interview [here](#).

Attraction to Medicine

Dr. Brown wanted to be a doctor for as long as he can remember. When he was six or seven years old, he would tell his dad, now a retired community gastroenterologist, that he wanted to be a doctor. He recalls his father smiling to briefly acknowledge his sentiment, then moving along with his day. After years of Brown repeating the same desire, his father finally took heed and sat him down for a conversation just before high school.

His dad said, "David, you've told me you wanted to be a doctor now for a long time. You have to work really hard in high school and do well so you can go to a good college. Then you have to do really well in college and not get distracted and go to a good medical school. Then, if you do really well in medical school, maybe, just maybe, you can train at the Mass General. It's simply the best."

That conversation remained in his head throughout his academic experience and his journey to MGH.

"My dad was pretty proud when I became president of MGH in 2021, but he was much, much prouder in 1989 when I matched here as an intern," said Brown.

Mentors and Influencers

The list of giants in the MGH Department of Medicine are long, and many of them were very important to Brown. He learned an enormous amount from Mort Swartz, MD who was one of the original firm chiefs and leading physicians in the field of infectious diseases.

"I can still see and hear Mort's very thoughtful, humble approach to teaching and mentoring, both at the bedside and in the classroom," said Brown.

Hasan Bazari, MD, was an important clinical educator who became program director of the medicine residency program.

"Hasan was a wonderful teacher who prioritized education and clinical care, as well as both the patients and the trainees," said Brown.

Roman DeSanctis was another key teacher and mentor, whose kind and personal approach to dignified patient care was something that Brown had the pleasure of observing many times as a trainee and a faculty member. "Roman taught me to sit down at the bedside, slow down, and listen carefully to every patient."

Oncologist Michael Seiden, MD, was chief resident during Brown's last year of training. He inspired Brown to stay in academic medicine, which was not his original plan.

Residency Experience

Brown transitioned from Internal Medicine to Emergency Medicine. Where he went to medical school, Emergency Medicine was not a recognized specialty at the time. Upon arrival to MGH, there was not an Emergency Medicine program, but there

was an Emergency Department. As he rotated through the various parts of the Internal Medicine residency, his most enjoyable rotations were in the Emergency Department or in the intensive care unit.

“I liked the environment of the Emergency Department where you had to make decisions under conditions of uncertainty,” said Brown. “You have to be humble because you will not always get it exactly right the first time and you have to readjust, recalibrate.”

Looking back, he finds that his training within the Emergency Department was a great training ground for his current role where many decisions are made under conditions of uncertainty and lack of complete information on any particular set of issues.

Career Pathway

After Brown completed his Internal Medicine residency, he joined the faculty in Emergency Medicine at a time when one could still become board certified in Emergency Medicine through an Internal Medicine training pathway. That pathway closed 30 years ago.

Now 35 years later, he considers himself an MGB-lifer.

“I came here expecting to spend three years at [MGH],” said Brown. “I went to medical school to be a doctor. This job was never part of the plan.”

Original plan aside, he always wanted to have impact. He recognized that he was surrounded by talented and dedicated trainees and nurses, as well as clinicians and scientists who were his teachers.

“I realized that I would have much more impact if I stayed at MGH and focused on teaching and doing research, in addition to providing clinical care,” said Brown. “My focus has been on impact and every opportunity that's come my way during my career, I've answered with ‘how can I have the most impact?’”

That's what led Brown to pursue becoming a department chair. That's why he said “yes” when asked to become the interim president of a community hospital within the MGB system while still being a department chair in the middle of a pandemic. It is why he ultimately decided to become a candidate for the job of MGH president.

Message to Alumni

“Once you come to one of our Mass General Brigham training programs, you remain part of our family forever,” said Brown. “We are eager to have more engagement [and] more involvement of our alumni as we think about ways to further innovate in the spaces of patient care, research, and most importantly...education.”