

# **THE UNTOLD STORY: UIM PIONEERS AT MGH**

---


**Elena Olson, JD,  
Executive Director, Center for Diversity and Inclusion  
Massachusetts General Hospital**



# The MGH Center for Diversity and Inclusion (“CDI”)

Massachusetts General Hospital

Centers & Departments

 MASSACHUSETTS  
GENERAL HOSPITAL  
CENTER FOR DIVERSITY  
AND INCLUSION

Contact Us

Support Us

About Us

Students


Residents & Fellows

Faculty

Health Equity

News & Events

Support Us



The Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI) is one of the first academic hospital-based centers in the country dedicated to helping build a diverse community of physicians and scientists and fostering a culture of inclusion and respect.

CDI provides numerous career-enhancing resources to students, trainees and faculty who are underrepresented in medicine to support their unique professional paths and expand their aspirations and goals. We also advance health equity

About Us

Mass General and the Center for Diversity and Inclusion are building the leaders of tomorrow.

LEARN MORE>

CONTACT US

Center for Diversity and Inclusion  
55 Fruit Street, BUL 123  
Boston, MA 02114  
Email: [cdi@mgh.harvard](mailto:cdi@mgh.harvard).

Near Public Transit

Handicapped



# UIM PIONEERS at MGH



Louis Sullivan, 1<sup>st</sup>  
African American fellow  
in pathology

This slide show gives us a window into the contributions of many “first” physicians who are and were underrepresented in medicine (UIM) at MGH. They are true pioneers.



# UIM PIONEERS at MGH

Lloyd Ferguson,  
1<sup>st</sup> African American  
Medical resident



Photo: Medical  
Group 1960

They broke barriers, often being not only the first, but also the sole, African American male. . .

# UIM PIONEERS at MGH

Vivian Pinn,  
1<sup>st</sup> African American  
Pathology resident



Photo: Pathology  
1970

... or African American female...



# UIM PIONEERS at MGH

Guillermo  
Sanchez, 1st  
Latino  
resident and  
faculty in  
Medicine



. . . or Latino trainee or faculty in their department.

# UIM PIONEERS at MGH



They became role models for many more UIMs in and beyond MGH, pursuing careers as clinicians, investigators, educators, community and health care leaders and policy experts.

Jonathan Woodson, MD (MGH '82,'87,'88), Brigadier General, USMA; Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs



## William Augustus Hinton, MD, Pathology

MGH Date of Note: 1913

- **First known African American physician at MGH.** He assisted Dr. Wright in the autopsy service of the Department of Pathology.
- First African American to hold a full professorship at Harvard Medical school in 1949
- Graduated from Harvard College in 1905 and from Harvard Medical School in 1912
- Developed the internationally used “Hinton Test,” a flocculation method for detecting syphilis



# Julius Rosenwald Fellowships

MGH Dates of Note: 1920-1940

- In 1917, Sears President **Julius Rosenwald** established a foundation that included approximately 1,000 scholarships or fellowships to African American students.
- **1920-1940 - Three of the first African American physicians at MGH were recipients of Rosenwald Fellowships**



## Julius Rosenwald Fellows

MGH Date of Note: 1920

***Theodore Kenneth Lawless, MD***

- **Dermatology, 1920**
- 1919 – Graduated from Northwestern School of Medicine
- 1935 – First African American Certified with American Board of Dermatology & Syphilology



## Julius Rosenwald Fellows

MGH Dates of Note: 1938-1940

### *Harold E. Farmer, MD*

- **Internal Medicine, 1938**
- 1932 – Graduated from University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine

### *Robert E. Fullilove, Jr., MD*

- **Urology, 1940**
- 1934 – Graduated from Howard Medical School
- First African American elected president of the Essex County Medical Hospital

Robert Fullilove, MD (above), courtesy of his son, Robert Fullilove, PhD





## Frances J. Bonner, MD, Psychiatry

MGH Date of Note: 1946, 1949

- **1946 - First African American woman resident at MGH**
- **1949 - First African American woman faculty at MGH**
- 1975 - received her psychoanalytic certification from the Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute
- Started her MGH research career with a two-year fellowship from Radcliffe College to study hysteria
- Co-Founded the Psychoanalytic Institute of New England



## Guillermo Sanchez, MD, Medicine

MGH Dates of Note: 1949, 1952

- **1949 - First Latino resident in Department of Medicine (DOM) and MGH**
- **1952 - First Latino attending in DOM and MGH, and longest standing Latino to serve on the MGH faculty (50 years)**
- Completed training in both cardiology and gastroenterology
- 1995 - Elected founding chairman of the MGH archives and served as one of MGH's leading medical historians

# Effie O'Neal Ellis, Pediatrics

MGH Date of Note: 1951-52

- **First known African American Resident in Pediatrics**
- 1960 - Director of Maternal Care and Health Care, Ohio Department of Health
- 1970 - First African-American woman executive at American Medical Association
- 1970 - One of four appointed to the President's Committee on the Handicapped





# Harold May, MD, Surgery

MGH Dates of Note: 1953-1959

- **First known African American surgery resident**
- Graduated from Harvard Medical School (1951)
- Spent 11 years as a medical missionary in Haiti
- 1970 - Director of the Division of Community Health at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital
- 1997 - Founded Family, Inc.



# Honorable Louis Sullivan, MD, Pathology

## MGH Dates of Note: 1960-1961

- **First African American to complete a clinical fellowship in pathology**
- 1981 - First Dean and President of Morehouse School of Medicine, and currently is President Emeritus
- 1989 - Appointed by President George H.W. Bush to serve as Secretary of Health and Human Services
- He appointed many URM pioneers:
  - First female director of the National Institutes of Health
  - First female and Hispanic Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service
  - First African American Commissioner of the Social Security Administration
  - First African American Administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration

# Lloyd Ferguson, MD, Medicine

MGH Date of Note: 1960, 1964-1966

Lloyd Ferguson



Photo: Medicine Housestaff, 1960

- **First known African American intern and resident in Internal Medicine (1960, 1964-66)**
- 1964 - Completed residency in Pathology at University of Chicago
- Professor and Assistant Dean of students in the division of the biological sciences and the Pritzker School of Medicine at the University of Chicago






## Charles E. Brown, MD, Neurosurgery

MGH Dates of Note: 1965-1969

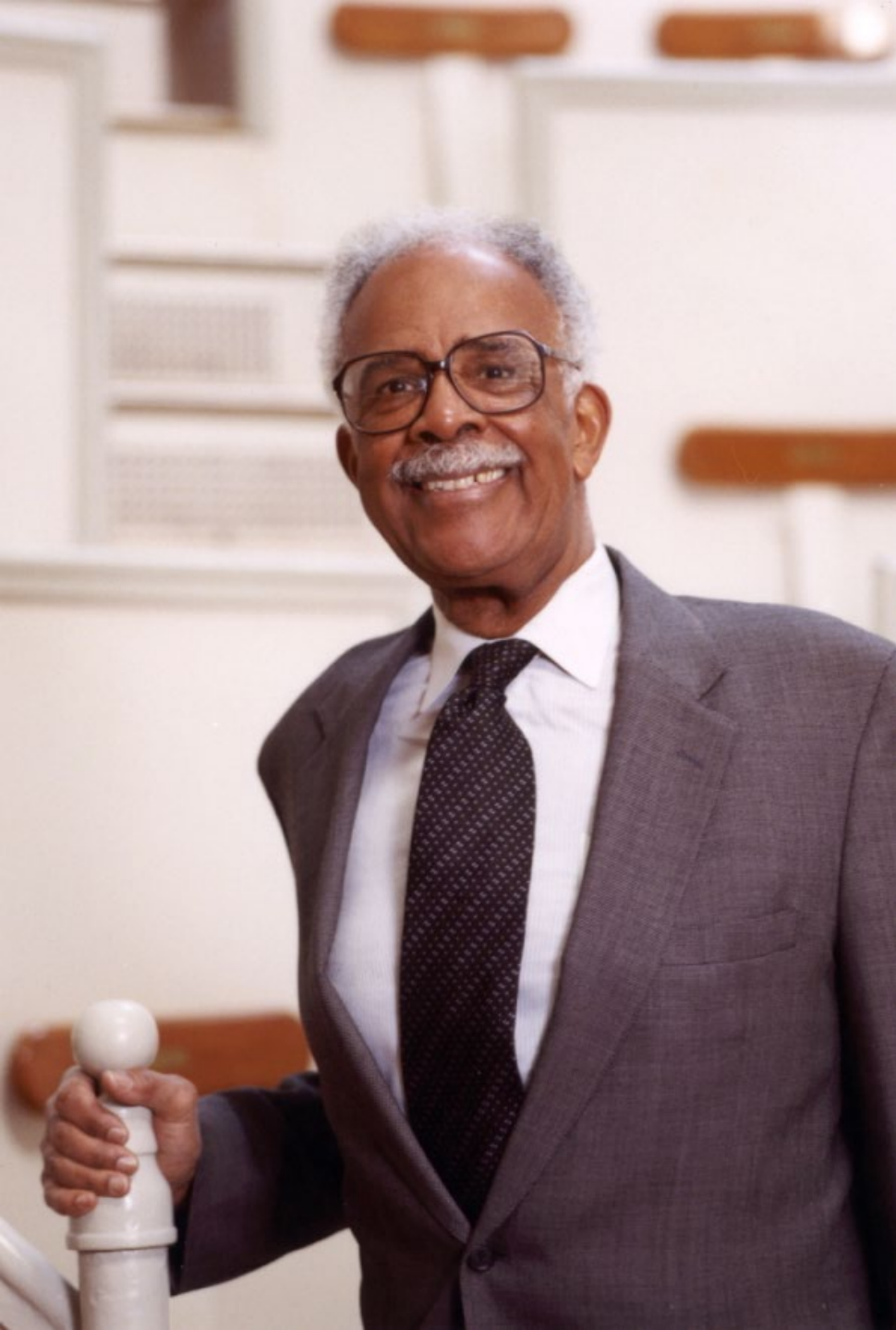
- **First African American Neurosurgery Resident**
- 1 of 5 African Americans in Neurosurgery Training in the country during the 1960s
- Graduated from Meharry Medical College in 1960

A black and white portrait of Vivian W. Pinn, MD. She is a Black woman with short, dark, wavy hair, wearing a light-colored blazer over a dark top and a pearl necklace. She is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera.

# Vivian W. Pinn, MD, Pathology

MGH Date of Note: 1967-70

- **First African American Pathology resident**
- After Wellesley College, entered medical school at the University of Virginia as the only African American and only woman in her class
- 1991 - first director of Women's health at the National Institutes of Health
- 1994 - Inducted as a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences
- 1995 - Received the Elizabeth Blackwell Award from the American Medical Women's Association and was elected to the Institute of Medicine.

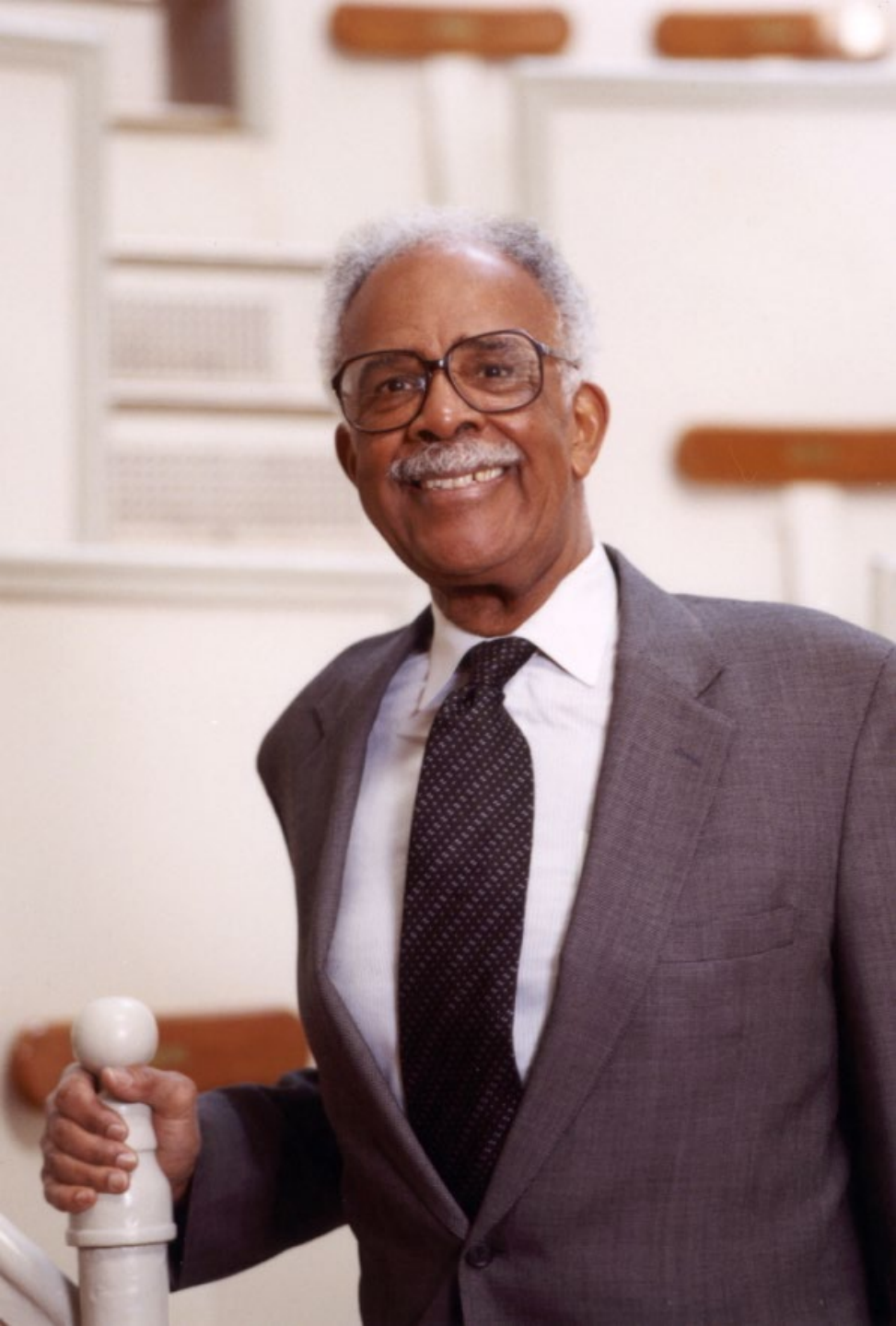


## Chester M. Pierce, MD, Psychiatry

MGH Date of Note: 1968

- **First African American full professor at MGH.** Practiced in the Department of Psychiatry for over 25 years.
- 2011 – Emeritus Professor of Education and Psychiatry at HMS, and at the Harvard University Graduate School of Education and School of Public Health
- Past President of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology and the American Orthopsychiatry Association
- Founding president of the Black Psychiatrists of America





# Chester M. Pierce, MD, Psychiatry

MGH Date of Note: 1968

- Held rank of Commander in the US Navy
- Served on 22 editorial boards
- Senior consultant to the Surgeon General of the US Air Force
- Advisor to the Children's Television Network (*Sesame Street*, *Electric Company*) and the US Arctic Research Commission



## Juan Taveras, MD, Radiology

MGH Date of Note: 1971

- **First Latino Service Chief at MGH**
- Professor of Radiology and Radiologist-in-Chief for 17 years
- 1988 – became Professor Emeritus and Harvard created the Juan M. Taveras Chair in Diagnostic Radiology
- Credited as the “Father of Neuroradiology”



# Ernesto Gonzalez, MD, Dermatology

MGH Dates of Note: 1976, 2008

- **1976 - First Latino faculty in Dermatology**
- **1977 - Chief of Dermatology Ambulatory Services**
- **2008 - First Latino full professor in Dermatology and fourth Latino to hold professor appointment at MGH**
- One of the founders of Photochemotherapy in the USA
- In 2006, the MGH established the *Ernesto Gonzalez Award for Outstanding Service to the Latino Community* to honor Dr. Gonzalez many contributions. 30+ MGH employees have been recipients of this Award



## Hector Manuel Tarraza, MD, OB/GYN

MGH Date of Note: 1981, 85

- **First Latino resident and fellow in OB/GYN**
- 1981-85 - residency in OB/GYN
- 1985-87 - clinical fellowship in GYN oncology
- Currently - Chair, OB/GYN Department, Maine Medical Center





**Jonathan Woodson, MD**  
**Medicine, Surgery, Vascular Surgery**  
MGH Date of Note: 1982, 1987, 1988

- **First and only African American to complete training in Medicine, Surgery and Vascular Surgery at MGH**
- Professor of Surgery and Associate Dean at Boston University School of Medicine
- Holds the rank of Brigadier General, United States Army, Reserve and has supported several Army Medical Departments
- Recently appointed by President Barack Obama to be assistant secretary of Defense for Health Affairs



# Francisco Cigarroa, MD, Surgery

MGH Date of Note: 1983

- **1983 - First Latino chief resident**
- First Hispanic appointed to lead a major AMC and public university system in the US
- 2000 - President of the UT Health Science Center (San Antonio)
- 2009 - Chancellor of the University of Texas System



## Raphael Lee MD, Plastic Surgery

MGH Date of Note: 1983

- **First African American Plastic Surgery Resident**
- First African American from MGH to receive a MacArthur Fellowship, “genius grant”
- Named one of "America's Top Surgeons" by the Consumers' Research Council of America



## Juanita Merchant, MD, PhD, Medicine

MGH Date of Note: 1987-88

- **First Chair of the Minority Recruitment Committee in Medicine**, which was the first MGH effort in any department for recruitment of UIMs
- Medicine residency ('87) and Fellowship in Gastroenterology at MGH ('90)
- Professor of Medicine, University of Michigan





## Tina I. Young Poussaint, MD, Radiology

MGH Date of Note: 1989

- 1989 - First African American Radiology attending
- 1987 and 1989 - First African American woman to complete a residency training in diagnostic radiology and a fellowship in neuroradiology
- Graduated from Yale University School of Medicine
- 2003 - Director of the Neuroimaging Center for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Consortium, Children's Hospital



## Tina I. Young Poussaint, MD, Radiology

MGH Date of Note: 1989-1992

- **1989 - First African American Radiology attending**
- 1987 and 1989 - First African American woman to complete a residency training in diagnostic radiology and a fellowship in neuroradiology
- Graduated from Yale University School of Medicine
- 2003 - Director of the Neuroimaging Center for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Consortium, Children's Hospital



# Winfred W. Williams, MD, Medicine

MGH Dates of Note: 1990, 1992

- **1990 - First African American attending in the Department of Medicine (DOM)**
- **1992 - Founded the Office for Minority Health Professions in the DOM**, with the support of then chair John Potts, MD
- The office evolved into the MGH Center for Diversity and Inclusion
  - Promotes the recruitment and retention of physicians and scientists underrepresented in medicine
  - Develops culturally competent physicians
- Currently, Associate Chief of Nephrology





# Edward M. Barksdale, Jr., MD, Surgery

MGH Date of Note: 1991

- **One of first two African American co-chief residents in Surgery**
- Currently:
  - Chief of the Division of Pediatric Surgery at the Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital
  - Vice-Chairman of the Department of Surgery at University Hospital, Case Medical Center





# Lynt Johnson, MD, Surgery

MGH Date of Note: 1991

- **One of the first two African American co-chief residents in Surgery**
- Currently:
  - Chairman, Department of Surgery
  - Director, Hepatobiliary Surgery
  - Transplant surgeon at Georgetown University Hospital





## Carlos Fernandez del Castillo, MD, Surgery

MGH Dates of Note: 1991, 2010

- **1991- first Latino staff attending in Surgery**
- **2010 - first Latino full professor in the Department of Surgery**, and fifth Latino professor in MGH's history
- Research focused on acute pancreatitis and Pancreatic Cancer
- Director, Pancreas and Biliary Surgery Program



Walter R. Frontera-Roura, MD, PhD  
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
MGH Date of Note: 1996

- **First Latino Chair and professor of the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Department**, and second Latino full professor at MGH
- President of the International Federation of Sports Medicine
- Developed rehabilitative interventions using therapeutic exercises
- Dean of the Faculty of Medicine; Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Physiology, University of Puerto Rico



# Vilma E. Ortiz, MD, Anesthesia, Critical Care & Pain Medicine

MGH Date of Note: 1996

- **1996 - First known Latina faculty at MGH, and in the Department of Anesthesia, Critical Care & Pain Medicine**
- Completed residency in Anesthesia at MGH (1992) and Fellowship in OB Anesthesia at Beth Israel Hospital (1995)
- Senior attending anesthesiologist, General Surgery and Obstetric Anesthesia teams





# Paula O'Connor, MD, Medicine

MGH Date of Note: 1998

- **1998 - First African American Chief resident in Medicine**
- 1994-2001 - Completed residency in Internal Medicine and fellowships in Hematology/Oncology and AIDS Oncology at MGH
- 2002-present - career in industry and biotechnology, as medical director of Genentech, Inc., and Onyx, Inc.



## Michael Watkins, MD, Surgery

MGH Date of Note: 2002

- **First African American staff attending in Surgery**
- Director, *Vascular Surgery Research Laboratory*
- Associate Editor, *Circulation*
- 20 years of continuous extramural funding (VA Merit, NIH, AHA, ADA and Private Foundations) in ischemia reperfusion injury



## Joan Y. Reede, MD, MPH, MBA, Medicine MGH Date of Note: 2002

- **First African American from MGH to serve as a Dean at Harvard Medical School (HMS)**
- First African American Dean at HMS (Dean for Diversity and Community Partnerships)
- 1992 – joined MGH staff in Mongan Institute for Health Policy
- First African American woman from HMS and MGH to be a member of Institute of Medicine



## J. Carl Pallais, MD, Medicine

MGH Date of Note: 2003

- **First Latino Chief resident in Medicine**
- 2003-2004 - Fellowship in Endocrinology at MGH
- 2004 – joined staff at MGH
- Director of endocrine rotation for Internal Medicine Residents and Longitudinal Series in Genetics for Medical Grand Rounds
- Recipient of Howard Hughes Research Fellowship, Excellence in Resident Teaching Award





## Marcela del Carmen, MD, MPH, OB/GYN; MGPO

MGH Dates of Note: 2003; 2015; 2016

- **2003 - first Latina faculty in the Department of OB/GYN and Latina surgeon (gyn surgical oncologist)**
- 1999 - completed MGH fellowship in GYN Oncology
- 2005 - Clinical Director of the GYN Oncology Division
- 2009 – Became the first Latina Associate Professor in the Dept
- 2015 - first Latina full professor at MGH and in OB/GYN across HMS
- 2016 - first Latina Chief Medical Officer, MGPO
- Research focused on understanding barriers to cancer care among Latina women in the US





# William T. Curry, Jr, MD, Neurosurgery

Dates of Note: 2004, 2018

- **2004: First African American attending physician in Neurosurgery**
- 2018: First African American full professor in Neurosurgery
- Completed Neurosurgery residency at MGH (1997-2004)
- Recipient of the 2005 Neurosurgery Research and Education Foundation Young Clinician's Award
- Clinical Director, Neurosurgical Oncology, MGH



# Margarita (Maggie) Alegria, PhD Medicine and Psychiatry

Dates of Note: 2004 (HMS); 2015 (MGH)

- 2004 – first Latina full professor across HMS (2015 at MGH)
- 2015 – Inaugural Chief, Disparities Research Unit, Medicine
- 2014-2018 – International Latino Research Partnership: Multisite R01 testing mental health and substance use intervention among immigrant/migrant Latinos in Boston and Spain
- 2020 – Inaugural Harry G. Lehnert, Jr. and Lucille F. Cyr Endowed MGH Research Institute Chair





## R. Gilberto ("Gil") Gonzalez, MD, Radiology

MGH Date of Note: 2005

- **2005 - First Latino full professor to be promoted within the ranks of MGH and Harvard Medical School**
- 1989 - MGH fellowship in Neuroradiology
- 1996 - Became the chief of the MGH Neuroradiology Division
- Awarded the lifetime research achievement award from the American Society of Neuroradiology



# Emery M. Brown, MD, PhD, Anesthesia

MGH Date of Note: 2006

- **2006 - First and only African American with an endowed MGH and HMS professorship: the Warren Zapol Professor of Anesthesia**
- First and only African American with joint appointments as professor at MIT, MGH, and HMS
- His research uses neuroscience to study how anesthetic drugs act in the brain
- 2007 – Received NIH Director’s Pioneer Award and elected to the Institute of Medicine



# Karen Winkfield, MD, PhD, Radiation Oncology

MGH Date of Note: 2010

- **First African American staff attending in Radiation Oncology**
- 2007-2010 - residency in Radiation Oncology
- Only African American Radiation Oncologist in Boston teaching Hospitals
- President, New England Medical Society





## Valerie Stone, MD, Medicine

MGH Date of Note: 2011

- **First African American female full professor at MGH** and the most senior academic ranked at Harvard Medical School
- 2002: First African American Director of the Primary Care Program and Associate Chief of the General Medicine Division at MGH
- Academic general internist and infectious disease specialist
- Currently, Vice Chair for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Department of Medicine, Brigham Hospital





# Carlos A. Camargo, MD, MPH, DrPH, Emergency Medicine

MGH Date of Note: 2012

- **2012 - First Latino full professor in Emergency Medicine**
- 1993 - Graduated from the MGH Internal Medicine program
- 1996 – Earned DrPH in Epidemiology from the Harvard School of Public Health
- Founder and director of the Emergency Medicine Network (EMNet), a research collaboration of 204 Emergency Departments



## Elsie Taveras, MD, Pediatrics

MGH Date of Note: 2013, 2017, 2018

- 2018 - first Latina endowed chair at MGHfC and MGH
- 2013 - first Latina Division Chief in Pediatrics at MGHfC
- 2017 - first Latina full professor of pediatrics at HMS
- 2017 - became executive director of Kraft Center for Community Health at MGH
- Research focuses on childhood obesity disparities in the US





# O'Neil Britton, MD, Chief Medical Officer and Sr. Vice President

MGH Date of Note: 2016

- **First African American Chief Medical Officer and Sr. Vice President at MGH**
- 2012 - Chief Health Information Officer for Partners Healthcare, where he provided clinical, academic and administrative leadership in the development, implementation and operational advancement of Partners eCare, an initiative to implement an integrated health record across Partners HealthCare.
- 2007 - served as Chief Medical Officer and Vice President of Professional Services at Brigham and Women's Faulkner Hospital, as well as Vice Chair of Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital.





# Julie Price, PhD, Radiology

MGH Date of Note: 2016

- **First African American female Full Professor with PhD at MGH**
- First African American Full American full Professor PhD in Radiology
- Director of PET Pharmacokinetic Modeling at the Athinoula A. Martinos Center at Massachusetts General Hospital.
- Dr. Price is a leader in the study and applications of quantitative positron emission tomography (PET) and led the first fully quantitative pharmacokinetic evaluations of Pittsburgh compound-B (PIB), one of the most widely used PET ligands for imaging amyloid beta plaques.



## Joseph Betancourt, MD, MPH

MGH Date of Note: 2019

- 2019 - first Latino Vice President at MGH (Equity and Inclusion)
- 2005 - founding director of the Disparities Solutions Center
- member of IOM Committee that produced Unequal Treatment in 2002



# Seun Johnson-Akeju, MD, Anesthesia

MGH Date of Note: 2020

- **First African American Chief of Service at MGH**
- Prior to becoming Chief of Service, was Director of Neuroanesthesia in the Department of Anesthesia, Critical Care and Pain Medicine
- Completed clinical training in anesthesia at MGH, followed by post-doctoral research training at Harvard University
- Dr. Johnson-Akeju's laboratory performs translational neuroscience research targeted at developing and implementing strategies to preserve the brain health of patients

Sonia  
Sotomayor,  
*U.S. Supreme  
Court Justice*

*I think it's  
important to move  
people beyond just  
dreaming into  
doing. They have to  
be able to see that  
you are just like  
them, and you  
made it.*

# Acknowledgements

The Multicultural Affairs Office (MAO) would like to acknowledge the following individuals whose contributions made this project possible:

- The physicians featured in this slide presentation
- Martha Stone, MS, AHIP, Treadwell Library
- Jeffrey Mifflin, MGH Archivist
- Sandra Deden, Communications Director, Mass General Physicians Organization
- David Louis, MD, Pathology Department Chair
- Robert Fullilove, MD's family
- The HMS Registrars Office
- Department Chairs and historians

This presentation was prepared by:

- Elena Olson, JD, MAO Executive Director
- Emeli Valverde, MAO Program Manager
- L. Adaora Nwachukwu, Intern