

2025-2026 Harvard Interdisciplinary Pain and Headache Rounds

Introductory Keynote Presentation: *Discovery, First Demonstration and Dissemination of Ether at Massachusetts General Hospital, 1846*

Leonard Kaban, DMD, MD, FACS

Karen Stocker, LPN and Ronald J. Kulich, PhD (Discussants)

September 17, 2025, 8:00-9:00 AM EST

In-Person: The Maxwell & Eleanor Blum
Patient and Family Learning Center
at Massachusetts General Hospital
(MGH Main Campus
White Building, First Floor, Room 110)

Virtual: [Zoom Registration Link](#)

Or scan the QR code below



Co-Hosted by
***The Maxwell & Eleanor Blum Patient and Family Learning Center &
The Harvard Interdisciplinary Pain and Headache Rounds***

About the Lecture

Completed in 1843 as a surgical teaching amphitheater, the Ether Dome at Massachusetts General Hospital became the stage for a medical revolution just three years later. In 1846, Dr. John Collins Warren removed a neck tumor from patient Edward Abbott in the first public demonstration of surgical anesthesia with ether. For the first time, surgery could be performed without agony—a breakthrough that transformed medicine, ended the era of surgery by speed and endurance, and gave patients and families new hope. The Ether Dome remains a powerful symbol of progress, marking the moment modern surgery truly began.

Keynote Speaker: Leonard Kaban, DMD, MD

Dr. Kaban served as the Walter C. Guralnick Professor and Chair of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS) at Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) and Chief of OMFS at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) from 1994 to 2015. He currently holds the title of Walter C. Guralnick Distinguished Professor and Chief Emeritus of OMFS at HSDM and MGH.

Introducing the 2025-2026 Rounds Series

The Rounds is an interdisciplinary educational series focused on providing evidence-based knowledge in pain and headache care. Originally developed for clinicians and researchers in Boston, the virtual program has grown to reach participants in more than 80 countries. Since our launching in 2021, we have welcomed not only healthcare professionals but also patients and families, recognizing the value of patient engagement in improving care, best practices, and outcomes. This year, we're introducing "pain language summaries" and other content for our attendees. You can view the 2025-2026 schedule [here](#).