



Massachusetts General Hospital
Founding Member, Mass General Brigham

The Untold Story

UIM Pioneers at Mass General Hospital

Updated February 2023

MGH Center for Diversity and Inclusion | massgeneral.org/cdi

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Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI)

As one of the first academic hospital-based centers in the country, we are dedicated to building a diverse community of physicians, scientists and Nursing & Patient Care Services staff.

Read our monthly eNews > For residents & fellows >

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Our Strategic Priorities

CDI has built programs and initiatives around four strategic priorities: Exposing students to academic medicine, advancing trainees and faculty, championing health equity and driving organizational change.

Expose Students to Academic Careers

Expose students underrepresented in medicine (UIM) to academic research and clinical careers, helping them to grow into the medical professionals and scientists of tomorrow.

Advance and Engage Trainees, Faculty and PCS Staff

We work with all departments to build and develop a community of talented, diverse residents, fellows, faculty and PCS staff through career development, networking, mentorship, funding and education.

Champion Health Equity

CDI is championing structural equity and social justice, which include policy, education and training, through advocacy and critical partnerships.

Drive Organizational Change


Collaboratively with departments and hospital leadership, our faculty programs and strategic partnerships cultivate the success of UIM by embedding diversity and inclusion into the fabric of MGH.

Stay connected with Mass General and the CDI

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A Collaborative Approach to Attracting Diverse Reside... Watch later Share

From an accredited hospital >



searching for orthopaedic residency training programs.

Watch on YouTube

A Collaborative Approach to Attracting Diverse Talent

Hear the story of how the Offices for Diversity and Inclusion at MGH and Brigham and Women's Hospital worked closely with program leads on outreach to candidates, resulting in the most diverse residency recruitment in Mass General Brigham's history.

Watch the video >

1 of 3 < >



“Diversity focuses on who we are and the unique differences each of us brings, while inclusion aims to create an environment where everyone is respected and valued. Now is the time for medicine to advance a genuine commitment to both.”

-Elena B. Olson, JD
Executive Director Center for Diversity and Inclusion



UiM Pioneers at MGH



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



Louis Sullivan, 1st
African American
fellow in Pathology.



UiM Pioneers at MGH

Lloyd Ferguson,
1st 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,
1st African American
Pathology resident.

Photo: Pathology 1970

*...or African American
female...*



UIM Pioneers at MGH

Guillermo Sanchez,
1st Latino resident
and faculty in
Medicine.

Photo: Medical
Group 1951

*...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



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.

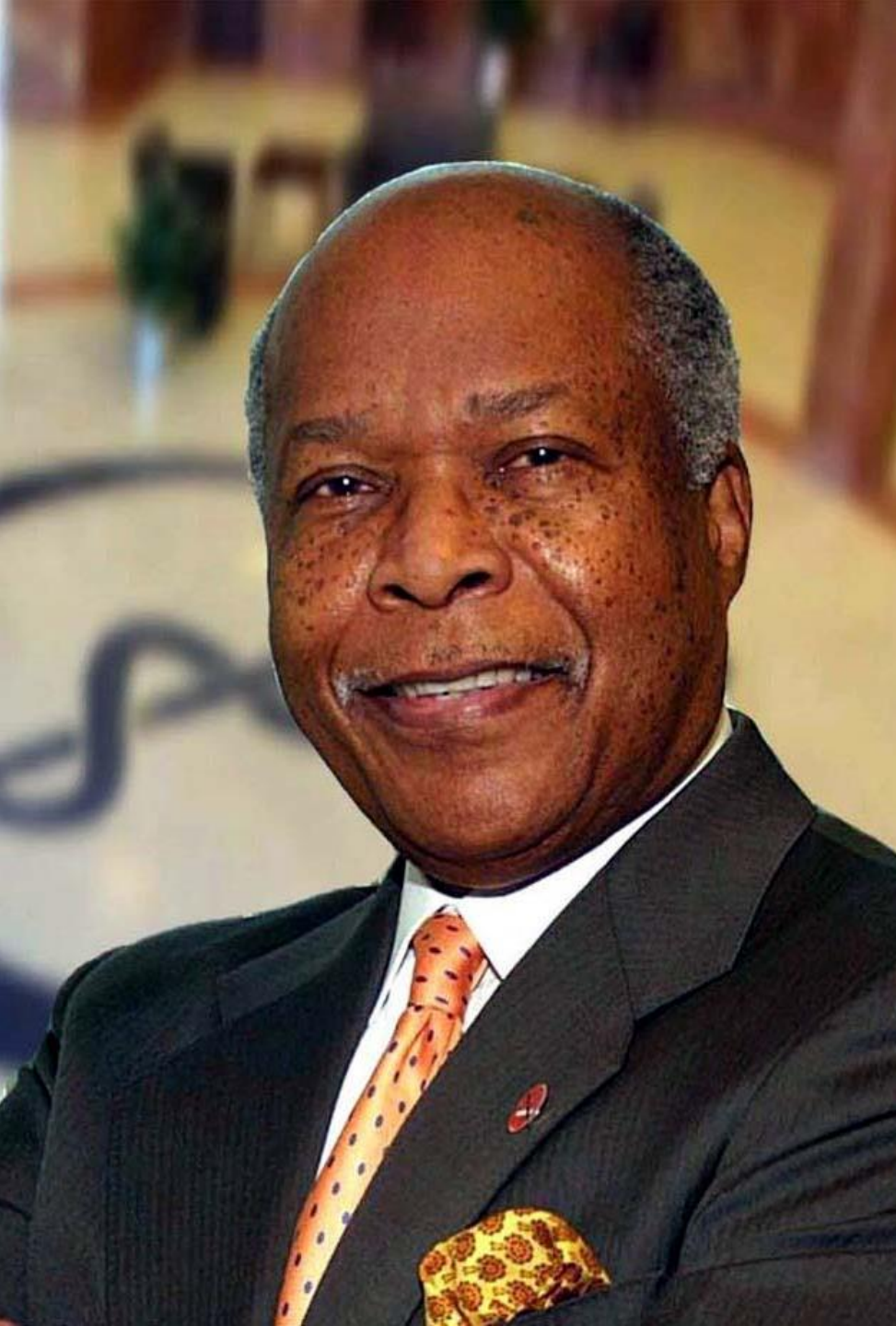




Harold May, MD, Surgery

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 UiM 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

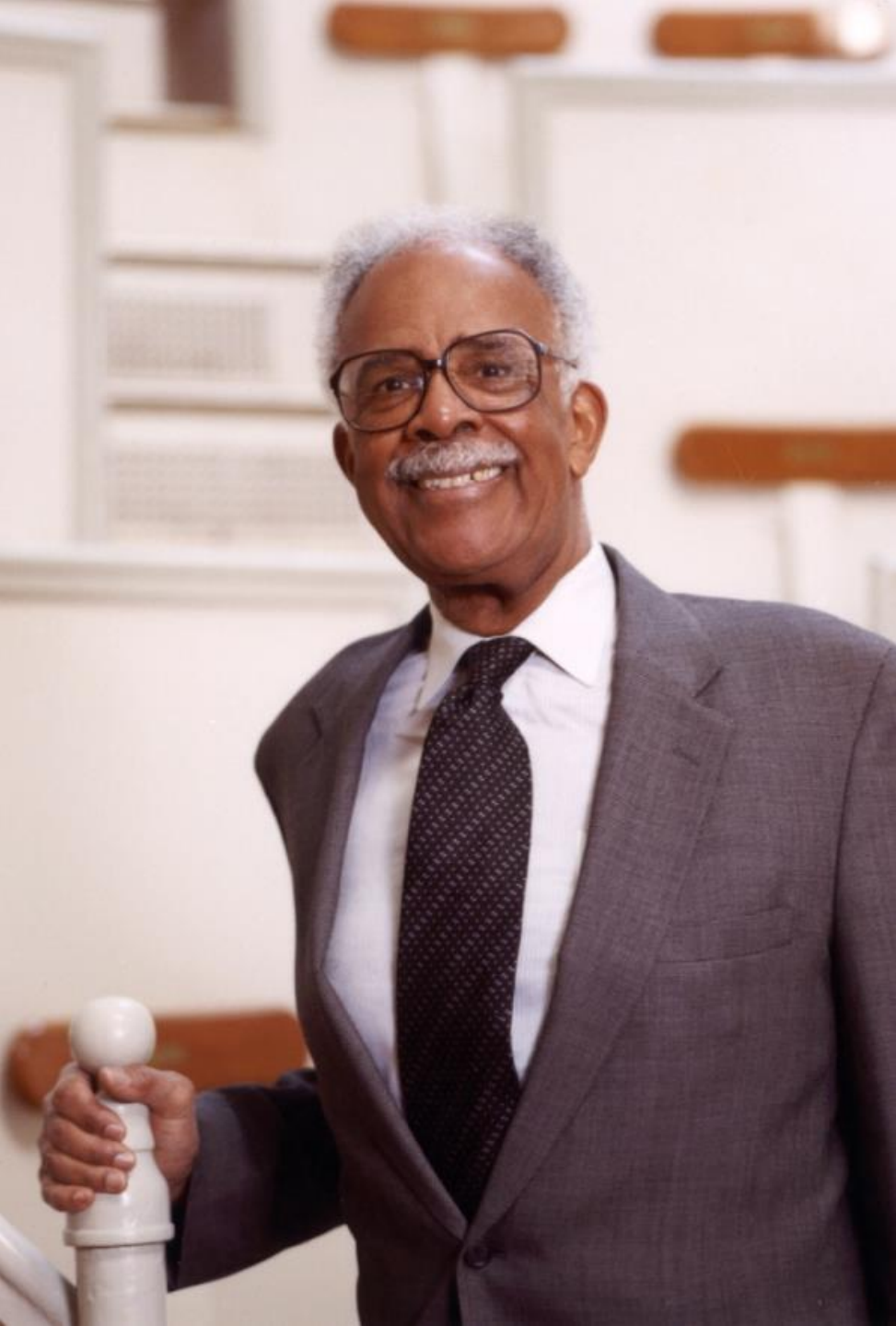
- **First African American Neurosurgery Resident.**
- 1 of 5 African Americans in Neurosurgery Training in the country during the 1960s.
- Graduated from Meharry Medical College in 1960.



Vivian W. Pinn, MD, Pathology

MGH Date of Note: 1967-70

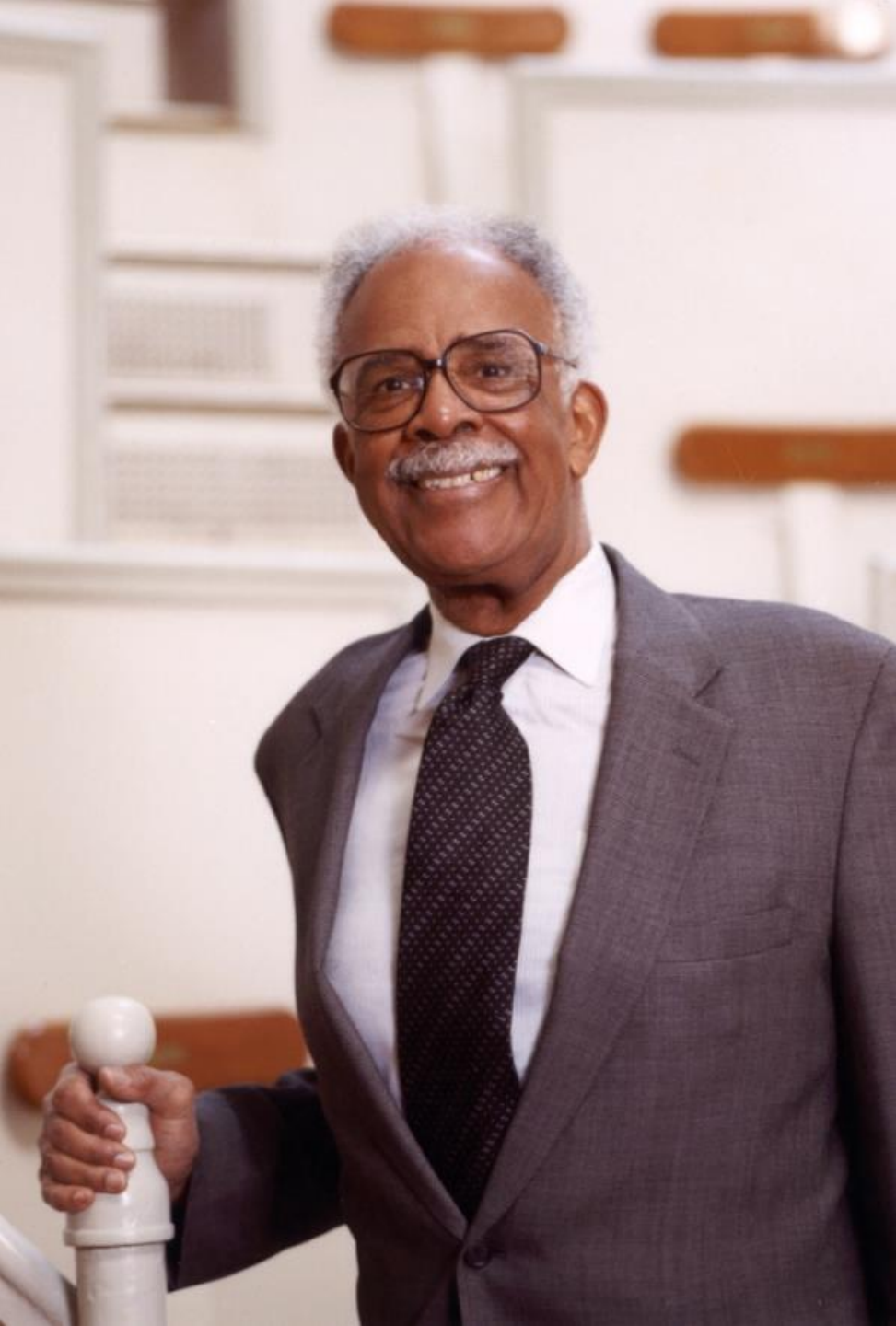
- **First African American Pathology resident.**
- After Wellesley College, entered medical school at the University of Virginia as the only African American and only woman in her class.
- **1991:** First director of Women's health at the National Institutes of Health.
- **1994:** Inducted as a fellow 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

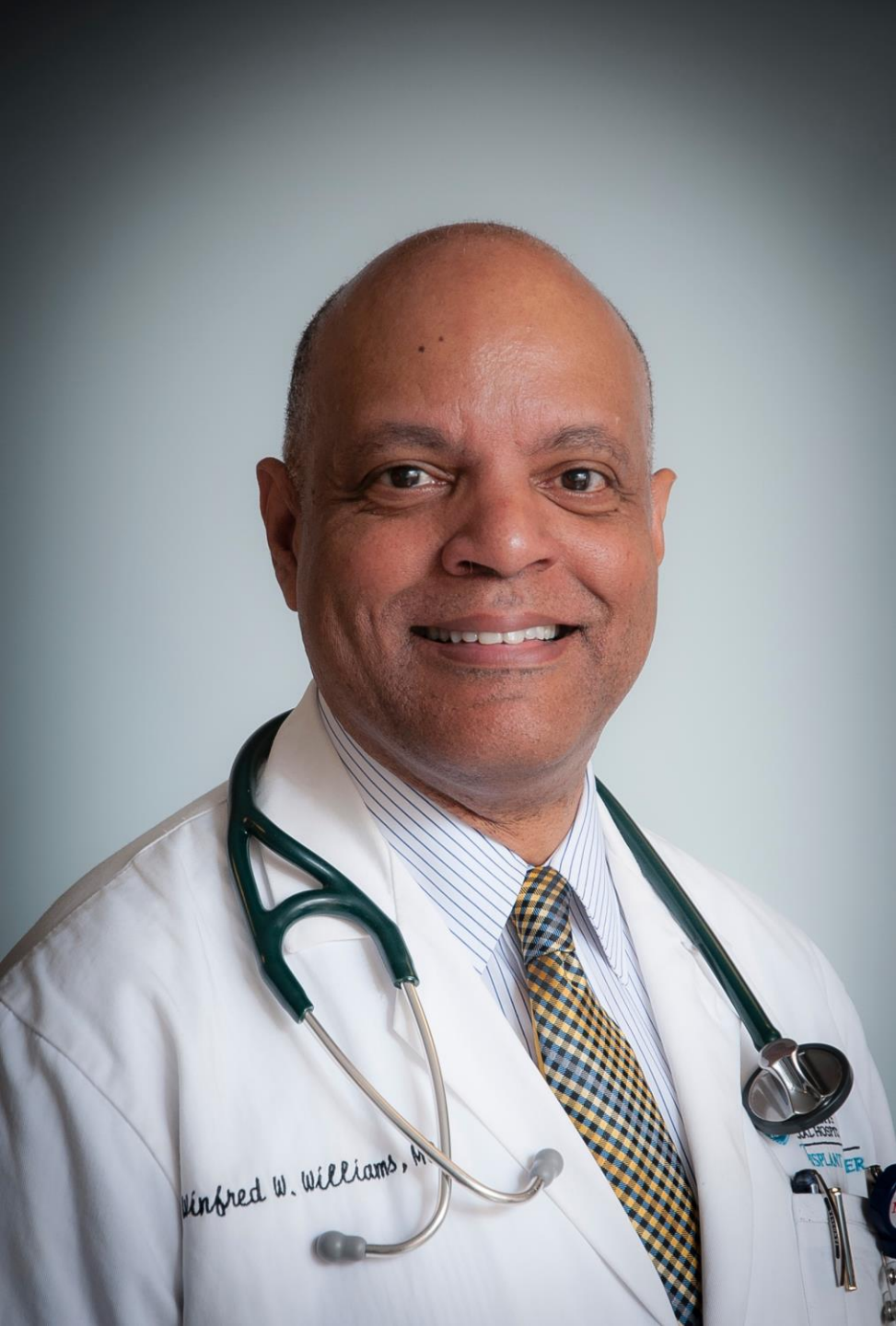
MGH Date of Note: 1989

- **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

- **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, 2022

- Named as the First Latina president of the MGPO in 2022.
- **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 department.
- **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, 2022

- Named as the First African-American Chief Medical Officer for MGH and MGPO in 2022.
- **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**
- **1996:** Earned DrPH in Epidemiology from the Harvard School of Public Health.
- **1993:** Graduated from the MGH Internal Medicine program.
- 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.
- **2017:** First Latina full professor of pediatrics at HMS.
- **2017:** Became executive director of Kraft Center for Community Health at MGH.
- **2013:** First Latina Division Chief in Pediatrics at MGHfC.
- 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 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.

“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.” - **Sonia Sotomayor**, *U.S. Supreme Court Justice*



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- The HMS Registrars Office
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