



2024 Schedule of Events

September 6 – September 14

Friday, September 6: The kickoff

4:45-6 p.m.: Orientation meeting for fellows

6-8:30 p.m.: Evening program

Introduction of the fellowship: **Audrey Shelto**, President and CEO, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation

Introduction of the fellows and keynote speaker: **Larry Tye**, Fellowship Director

2024 Fellows: Olivia Aldridge of KUT in Austin, Emily Bader of the *Maine Monitor*, Amanda Beland of Boston's WBUR, Fred Clasen-Kelly of *KFF Health News*, Katy Golvala of the *Connecticut Mirror*, Brenda Goodman of CNN, Alex Janin of *The Wall Street Journal*, Katie Jennings of *Forbes*, Sydney Lupkin of NPR, Sophia Paffenroth of *Mississippi Today*, Jenna Portnoy of *The Washington Post*, Annmarie Timmins of the *New Hampshire Bulletin*, and Brittany Trang of *STAT News*.

Keynote: ***Wearing two hats: The challenges of a physician-journalist***

Dr. **Sanjay Gupta** is a neurosurgeon, associate professor at Emory University Hospital, author, host of the *Chasing Life* podcast, and CNN's longtime and award-winning chief medical correspondent. His coverage of COVID cemented his reputation as one of America's most trusted journalists and docs.

He'll be in conversation with his colleague and our 2019 fellow, **Ben Tinker**.

Saturday, September 7: Looking for ways in and out

8:30-9:45 a.m. *Pointing the ways*

Over breakfast, we talk about story ideas and beat definitions with **Rick Berke**, co-founder and executive editor of STAT, **Virginia Hughes**, a science editor at the *New York Times*, and **Ben Tinker**, vice president of domestic beats at CNN.

10-11:15 a.m. *Can the public's health survive climate change?*

Not unless we act fast, say Dr. **Aaron Bernstein** and Dr. **Rick Woychik**. Bernstein heads the CDC's National Center for Environmental Health. Woychik directs the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. *Thinking big*

Drew Altman, president of KFF, and **Kathleen Sebelius**, former secretary of Health and Human Services, lay out their visions of the direst health challenges facing journalists and the world, and how to begin redressing them.

3-5 p.m. *Getting to know Boston*

We tour the city with guides **Jim Braude**, co-host of GBH's "Boston Public Radio," and **Ken Kruckemeyer**, who teaches urban design at MIT and oversaw bridge and highway engineering for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Sunday, September 8: Worrying about forgetting – and about medical mistakes

9:30-11:15 a.m. *Care for the long-term*

We look at creative long-term care with these hosts: Dr. **Allison Bryant** at Mass General Brigham's maternal and fetal medicine program, **Mike Kelly** at the Higashi School, **Rhonda Pieroni** of the Hearth community for at-risk seniors, and Dr. **Ipsit Vahia** and **Marie Clouqueur** at McLean Hospital's Technology and Aging Lab.

12:15-1:45 p.m. *Alzheimer's and other aging challenges*

Over lunch, we discuss challenges of aging with **Ellen Goodman**, co-founder of the Conversation Project and a Pulitzer-Prize winning columnist; and **Dorene Rentz**, co-director of the Center for Alzheimer Research and Treatment at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

1:45-4 p.m. *Down time*

We catch our breaths – exercising, napping, or whatever we want.

4-5 p.m. *Debrief*

We talk amongst ourselves about what we've seen and heard and start thinking about how to translate that into stories.

5-7 p.m. *Med errors and mea culpas*

Over dinner, we and our speakers focus on medical errors and patient safety. Dr. **Amy Boutwell** is president of Collaborative Healthcare Strategies. **Linda Kenney** directs the peer support program at the Betsy Lehman Center for Patient Safety. Dr. **Rick van Pelt** is vice president of clinical practice transformation at the University of Alabama-Birmingham Health System.

Monday, September 9: Gains and gaps in mental health

8:30-10:30 a.m. *Suicide: An epidemic and an enigma*

Kate Bentley, director of suicide prevention research at Mass General Hospital, is researching ways to predict and prevent suicides. Dr. **Michael Lindsey**, dean of the NYU School of Social Work, focuses on preventing suicides among Black youths. Dr. **Jordan Smoller**, head of psychiatric genetics at Mass General, is studying how big data and genomics can identify suicide risks.

11 a.m.-1:15 p.m. *The big picture on mental illness*

Ellen Barry covers mental health at the *New York Times*. Dr. **Ken Duckworth** is chief medical officer at the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Dr. **Tom Insel** was the longest-serving director of the National Institute of Mental Health, and has since written a book, launched mental health start-ups and a news site, and advised Google and the California governor.

1:15-4:30 p.m. *Rest up*

Take a nap, head to the fitness center, or get ready any way you choose for the long night ahead.

5:30-7:30 p.m. *Homelessness: Who, why and what to do*

Setting a context for what we'll see on Boston's streets are Boston Health Care for the Homeless Medical Director **Denise De Las Nueces**, BHCHP President **Jim O'Connell**, Pine Street Inn Director **Lyndia Downie**; Massachusetts Commissioner of Public Health **Robert Goldstein**; and Boston Emergency Medical Chief **Jim Hooley**.

8:30 p.m.-midnight *Street stories*

We ride with the Pine Street vans or EMS ambulances or divide into groups to visit the McInnis House respite center or the streets of Boston.

Tuesday, September 10: Ending addictions and policing pharmaceuticals

7:45-9 a.m. *Waking up slowly or not at all*

After a late night, sleep in or join us over breakfast to talk about what you saw on the streets.

9:15-11 a.m. *Fresh eyes on the opioid epidemic*

Phillip Reason, who is 11 years into his own recovery, runs Daily Living, a Black-focused, Boston-based recovery home. **Sam Rivera**, director of OnPoint, oversees New York City's first-in-the-nation supervised injection sites. Dr. **Nora Volkow** heads the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

11:15 a.m.-1 p.m. *Drug safety and supplies*

A nationally recognized expert in cardiovascular medicine and translational research, Dr. **Robert Califf** has twice served as FDA commissioner, under President Obama and now, under President Biden.

1-4 p.m. *Take a break.*

4-5:45 p.m. *Meditations*

We get a hands-on look at complementary medicine with Reiki practitioner **Ann Muchowski**, **Lisa Keyes** from Dedham Acupuncture, Dr. **Darshan Mehta** from the Benson-Henry Mind-Body Institute, **David Sholemson** of 3 Body Healing Arts, psychologist and sleep specialist **Lisa Strauss**, neuromuscular therapist **Stewart Wild**, and **Richmond Dickson** of the New England School of Therapeutics.

6-8 p.m. *Journalism, whimsy and all that jazz*

Scott Simon is host of NPR's "Weekend Edition Saturday" and author of 10 books.

Wednesday, September 11: Facing unfairness and preventing pandemics

8:45-10:30 a.m. *Pandemics past and future*

Mary Travis Bassett, the former health commissioner in New York state, is director of the Francois-Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Dr. **Rochelle Walensky** is former head of the Centers for Disease Control.

10:30-11:30 a.m. *Faith in science*

Dr. **Francis Collins**, the former and longest-serving director of the National Institutes of Health, gives us a sneak preview of his soon-to-be-released book, *The Road to Wisdom: On Truth, Science, Faith and Trust*.

11:45-1:30 p.m. *Rooting out biases in our journalism and health care*

Pulitzer Prize winner **Nikole Hannah-Jones** writes about racial injustice for the *New York Times Magazine* and founded the *1619 Project*.

1:30-2:30 p.m. *Reining in Long COVID*

We get an update on NIH's RECOVER program from its co-leader, Dr. **Walter Koroshetz**, director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. And on COVID generally, as well as pandemics, from **Jennifer Nuzzo**, head of the Pandemics Center at Brown University School of Public Health.

2:30-6 p.m. *Walk, run, bike, talk, sleep*

Your call on how to relax.

6-7:30 p.m. *Dinner with the fellows*

Quiet conversations and an early night.

Thursday, September 12: Stories that need telling inside medicine and out

8:45-10:15 a.m. *The art of the interview.*

Dave Davies was a longtime reporter at WHYY in Philadelphia and host on NPR's *Fresh Air*. Pulitzer Prize winner **Charlie Ornstein** is managing editor, local, at ProPublica and past president of the Association of Health Care Journalists.

10:30-11:45 a.m. *Debrief*

We talk amongst ourselves about what we've seen and heard and continue thinking about how to translate that into stories.

Noon-1:45 p.m. *Corporate medicine and its side effects*

Andrew Dreyfus is former CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts and an architect of the MA health reform plan that became the model for Obamacare. **Charlie Ornstein** is a managing editor at ProPublica. Dr. **Zirui Song** teaches at Harvard Medical School and is an expert on health care spending.

1:45-6 p.m. *An afternoon off*

Weather allowing, a van will take anyone who wants to Thoreau's Walden Pond to swim, walk, meditate, sit on one of its beaches, and, at 2:45 p.m., get an official tour.

6-8 p.m. *Long-form storytelling*

New York Times Magazine staff writer **Emily Bazelon**'s latest book is *Charged*. **Deb Brody** is editorial director at the Harvest imprint of HarperCollins. **Lucy Cleland** is a Boston-based literary agent. **Margaret Engel** runs the Alicia Patterson Foundation.

Friday, September 13: New stories to tell and new ways to control disease

9:30-11 a.m. *Cutting-edge health challenges*

Harvard Medical School Dean **George Daley** shows and tells us how his stem cell lab works. Entrepreneur **Alan Crane** has founded and run nine health companies while **Jean Pham** is launching her first biotech start-up. **Diane Davey**, director of McLean Hospital's Obsessive Compulsive Disorders Unit, introduces us to her program and residents. At the Ragon Institute, we learn about the wars against HIV, COVID, and other diseases from Director **Bruce Walker**.

Noon-1 p.m. *Preventing and controlling disease.*

Dr. **Mandy Cohen** talks about her challenges and dreams a year-plus into running the CDC.

1:30-6 p.m. *Take a break.*

One option is a yoga class just for our group, from 3-4 p.m.

6-9:30 p.m. *Toasting our time together*

With a surprise guest(s).

Saturday, September 14: Wrapping up

9-11:30 a.m. *Translating your list into stories*

We break into three groups, with each journalist presenting her or his list of stories while the rest of us suggest sources, storytelling strategies, and other ways to make those ideas resonate with readers, listeners, and editors. Group leaders are **John Lauer**man, **Karen Brown**, and **Larry Tye**.

Brown is a reporter, producer, and host at New England Public Media in Western Massachusetts.

Lauerman is a Boston-based reporter-at-large for Bloomberg News, focusing on health and higher education.

Noon-1 p.m. *Goodbyes*

Lunch with our group, then you can head home or anywhere.