



2025 Schedule of Events

September 5 – September 13

Friday, September 5: **Kickoff**

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

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

Introduction of the fellowship: **Amanda Yarnell**, Director, Harvard School of Public Health's Center for Health Communication

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

2025 Fellows: Lynh Bui of the *Washington Post*, Jennifer Calfas of the *Wall Street Journal*, Tiziana Dearing of Boston's WBUR, Gwen Dilworth of *Mississippi Today*, Jamie Gumbrecht of CNN, Jason Laughlin of the *Boston Globe*, Natasha Loder of *The Economist*, Christine Mai-Duc of *KFF Health News*, Stephen Simpson of the *Texas Tribune*, William Skipworth of the *New Hampshire Bulletin*, Will Stone of NPR, Laura Tillman of the *Connecticut Mirror*, and Dorcas Wangira of BBC-Africa.

Keynote: ***Exposing health inequities in an anti-DEI era***

Nikole Hannah-Jones writes about racial injustice for the *New York Times Magazine*, founded the *1619 Project*, won the Pulitzer Prize and a MacArthur genius grant, and holds the inaugural Knight Chair in Race and Journalism at Howard University.

She'll be in conversation with **Jake Silverstein**, editor-in-chief of the *Times Magazine*, former editor of the *Texas Monthly*, and a 2002 Fulbright scholar.

Saturday, September 6: **Setting the stage**

8:30-9:45 a.m. ***Digging deep***

Over breakfast, we talk about deep dives into financial documents, data sets, and other hard-to-tackle source material with **Scott Hensley**, senior health editor at NPR, **Katie Jennings**, a former health reporter at *Forbes* and Politico, and **Charlie Ornstein**, managing editor-local at ProPublica and past president of the Association of Health Care Journalists.

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

Not unless we act fast, say **Gina McCarthy**, Dr. **Mary Rice**, and **Ariel Wittenberg**. McCarthy ran EPA under President Obama and was the White House climate advisor under President Biden. Rice heads Harvard's Center for Climate Health and the Global Environment. Wittenberg is public health reporter at Politico's E&E News.

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

Dr. **Kirsten Bibbins-Domingo** is editor-in-chief of the Journal of the American Medical Association and JAMA Network. Dr. **Robert Califf** was FDA commissioner under Presidents Obama and Biden. Dr. **Debra Houry** was chief medical officer at the CDC under Presidents Biden and Trump. Dr. **Megan Ranney** is dean of the Yale School of Public Health.

1-2:45 p.m. ***Rest up***

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 Dr. **Jim O'Connell**, president of Boston Health Care for the Homeless.

5:30- ***Getting to know one another***

Clambake back on campus followed by schmoozing in the Bottom Line Lounge.

Sunday, September 7: **Zeroing in on women's health and rooting out medical mistakes**

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

We look at creative care models with these hosts: **Hugo Aerts** of Mass General Brigham's AI-in-Medicine program, **Nora Friedman** at the Lurie Center for Autism, **Rhonda Pieroni** of the Hearth community for formerly-homeless seniors, **Christine Reilly** at the Boston Home for adults with advanced neurological disorders, and Dr. **Ipsit Vahi** at McLean Hospital's Technology and Aging Lab.

12:15-1:45 p.m. *Caring for women*

Over lunch, we discuss challenges of women's and maternal health with **Jessica Cohen**, professor of health economics at HSPH; **Angel Foster**, professor of women's health at the University of Ottawa; and **Ana Langer**, Harvard's Women and Health Initiative, Department of Global Health and Population.

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, our speakers show us new ways to understand patient safety and reduce medical errors. Dr. **Amy Boutwell** is president of Collaborative Healthcare Strategies. **Linda Kenney** directs the peer support program at Massachusetts' Betsy Lehman Center for Patient Safety. Dr. **Rick van Pelt** is chief clinical transformation officer at the University of Alabama-Birmingham Health System.

Monday, September 8: **Gains and gaps in mental health**

8:45-10:45 a.m. ***Fresh eyes on the opioid epidemic***

Colie Finn, a recovering addict, now helps others recover. **Alexis Goosdeel** is head of the European Union Drugs Agency. **Gil Kerlikowske** was drug czar and commissioner of customs and border protection under President Obama. Dr. **Nora Volkow** heads the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

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

Dr. **Josh Gordon** ran the National Institute of Mental Health under presidents Trump and Biden and chairs the psychiatry department at Columbia University. Dr. **Tom Insel** ran NIMH under presidents George W. Bush and Obama and has launched a series of mental health start-ups. **Eliza Williamson** knows the mental health system through her lived experience and as head of the MA chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

1:15-4 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 Chief Medical Officer **Denise De Las Nueces**, Pine Street Inn Director **Lyndia Downie**, Massachusetts Commissioner of Public Health Dr. **Robert Goldstein**, and Boston Emergency Medical Services Chief **Jim Hooley**, along with **Tom Insel** and **Alexis Goosdeel**.

8 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, Beth Israel Deaconess' emergency department, or the streets of Boston.

Tuesday, September 9: **Preventing pandemics and eating healthier**

7:45-9 a.m. ***Waking up slowly***

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

9-11 a.m. ***Pandemics past and future***

Dr. **Demetre Daskalakis** directed CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases. Dr. **David Heymann** chaired Public Health England and was a senior official at the WHO and CDC. Dr. **Jean Kaseya** is director general at the Africa CDC. **Jennifer Nuzzo** directs the Pandemic Center at Brown University. Dr. **Rochelle Walensky** ran the Centers for Disease Control under President Biden.

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11:15 a.m.-1 p.m. ***Looking back and ahead at infectious and other disease challenges***

Longtime NIAID chief Dr. **Tony Fauci** sits down for a fireside sat with NPR global health reporter **Gabrielle Emanuel** and us.

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

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

We get a hands-on look at complementary medicine with **Richmond Dickson** of the New England School of Therapeutics, neuromuscular therapists **Sarah Ernst-Edwards and Lisa Gorman**, **Chris Householder** and **Rachel Householder** from Perfect Postures, **Lisa Keyes** of Dedham Acupuncture, Dr. **Darshan Mehta** from the Benson-Henry Mind-Body Institute, **David Sholemson** of 3 Body Healing Arts, reflexologists **Barbara Strassman** of Heart and Soul Holistic Healing Center and **Susan Makuch**, and psychologist and sleep specialist **Lisa Strauss**.

6-8 p.m. ***Making America Healthier***

Vani Hari, a.k.a. the Food Babe, is a critic of the food industry and a leader of the Make American Healthy Again movement. Dr. **Walter Willett** of Harvard has spent his life researching how diet affects major illnesses like cancer and heart disease.

Wednesday, September 10: **Worrying about forgetting and other scary things**

8:45-10:15 a.m. ***Suicide: An epidemic and an enigma***

Michael Lindsey, dean of the NYU School of Social Work, focuses on preventing suicides among Black youths. **Matt Nock**, chair of Harvard's psychology department, has spent his life probing why people self-harm. Dr. **Jordan Smoller**, head of psychiatric genetics at Mass General, is studying how big data and genomics can identify suicide risks.

10:30-noon ***Alzheimer's and Ageism: Challenges of the Aging***

Ellen Goodman is co-founder of the Conversation Project and was a Pulitzer-Prize winning syndicated columnist at the *Boston Globe*. **Dorene Rentz** co-directs the Center for Alzheimer Research and Treatment at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

12:15-2 p.m. ***Demystifying the dense landscape of health insurance***

Andrew Dreyfus was CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts and, before that, an architect of the MA health reform plan that became the model for Obamacare. **Amy Rosenthal** runs Health Care For All, which promotes coverage and access for everyone in Massachusetts.

2-5:30 ***Walk, run, bike, talk, sleep***

Your call on how to relax.

6-7:30 p.m. ***Dinner and a surprise guest***

Quiet conversations and an early night.

Thursday, September 11: Stories that need telling inside medicine and out

8:45-10:15 a.m. *The arts of interviewing and investigating.*

Dave Davies was a longtime reporter at WHYY in Philadelphia and host on NPR's *Fresh Air*. **Sarah Kliff** is an investigative health care reporter at the *New York Times*.

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

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

11:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m. *Corporate medicine and its side effects*

Bob Kocher is a health specialist and partner at Venrock, a venture capital firm. Dr. **Zirui Song** teaches at Harvard Medical School and is an expert on health care spending. **Sarah Jane Tribble** is lead reporter on the rural health desk at *KFF Health News*.

1:45-5:45 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 a bench, and, at 2:45, get an official tour.

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

Andre Dubus III is an award-winning novelist and short-story writer. **Dave Davies** interviews authors and others on *Fresh Air*. **Peter Hubbard** is publisher at HarperCollins' Mariner Books imprint. **Howard Yoon** is a partner and literary agent at William Morris Endeavor.

Friday, September 12:

New ways to control disease and new challenges to journalism

9:30-11 a.m.

On health care's cutting edge

Harvard Medical School Dean **George Daley** shows and tells us how his stem cell lab works. Doing the same are Dr. **Sabina Berretta**, who runs McLean Hospital's brain bank; Executive Director **Mike Kelly** at the Higashi School, which educates students with autism; Chief Medical Information Officer Dr. **Esther Kim**, who oversees Mass General Brigham's AI technologies/solutions; **Steve Seiner**, medical director at McLean's ECT program; and Director **Bruce Walker** at the Ragon Institute, where they've waged wars against HIV, COVID, and other diseases.

11:45-1:45 p.m.

Reading and responding to the political headwinds

Dr. **Eric Rubin** is editor-in-chief of the *New England Journal of Medicine*. **Amy Walter** is publisher and editor-in-chief of the *Cook Political Report with Amy Walter* and a political analyst for the PBS NewsHour.

2-4:30 p.m.

Take a break.

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

4:30-10 p.m.

A Sox comeback, starting tonight

We head to Fenway for a tour, a sit-down with team president **Sam Kennedy** and *Boston Globe* Sox writer **Alex Speier**, and to watch the Olde Towne team trounce the Damn Yankees.

Saturday, September 13: **Wrapping up**

9:00-11:30 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 Lauerman, Karen Brown, and Larry Tye.**

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

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

Noon-1:00 p.m. ***Goodbyes***

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