



**Northeastern University**  
**Bouvé College of Health Sciences**



**Bouvé**  
**Strategic**  
**Advisory**  
**Council**

**2025**





# MISSION

## **Bouvé College of Health Science Mission**

Advancing academic excellence and pushing the boundaries of human knowledge to promote health for everyone across the healthspan – from campus to community; from cells to society; from local engagement to global impact.



## **Bouvé Strategic Advisory Council Mission**

The Bouvé Strategic Advisory Committee will provide support and advancement of the Bouvé College mission by leveraging their healthcare expertise, extensive network of industry and financial resources, and personal time dedicated to collaborating with Northeastern Bouvé colleagues.





### **Binja Basimike, BHS'12, MPH'14**

Binja Basimike is a Healthcare Business Systems Consultant specializing in end-to-end healthcare system implementations. She recently led a multimillion-dollar system conversion for a Boston-based student healthcare brokerage firm. Previously, Binja contributed to improving female cancer survivors' well-being at Dana Farber Cancer Institute. She holds a B.S. in Health Sciences and an MPH from Northeastern University.

A published oncology co-author, Binja is an American Public Health Association member and Bouvé College Service Medal Recipient. She serves on Northeastern's MPH Young Alumni Board and as a mentor for the Women Who Empower program. Binja also runs [Africancocktail.com](http://Africancocktail.com), promoting innovation and women's empowerment through blogging and events. She currently resides in Kinshasa, DRC.

## George Behrakis, BS'57, H'98

George Behrakis, P'57, H'98, exemplifies Northeastern University's success story. The son of Greek immigrants, he leveraged his degree to become a pharmaceutical industry leader, founding Donner Laboratories and leading Muro Pharmaceutical, Inc. His work significantly advanced respiratory ailment treatments.

Now chairman of Gainesborough Investments, Behrakis is an active philanthropist through his Behrakis Foundation. He serves on numerous boards, including the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and Brigham and Women's Hospital.

At Northeastern, Behrakis is vice chair emeritus of the Board of Trustees. His generous contributions resulted in the Behrakis Health Sciences Center and an endowed trustee professorship in biotechnology.

Behrakis and his wife Margo reside in North Tewksbury, MA, with two of their four children being Northeastern alumni.





## **Robert Dempsey, BSBA'89, MBA'97**

Robert Dempsey is a seasoned ophthalmic industry leader with over 20 years of global experience in drug development, business transactions, and commercialization. Currently CEO and President of AsclepiX Therapeutics, he leads transformative efforts in ocular diseases and cancer treatment.

Previously, as CEO of TearClear, Dempsey accelerated business strategies, achieving successful Series B financing and positive FDA engagements. As Group Vice President and Head of Global Ophthalmology at Shire (acquired by Takeda), he oversaw one of 2019's largest biopharma mergers.

Dempsey serves as Board Chair of the Holland Foundation for Sight Restoration and Co-Director of SightLife's Corporate & Surgeon Program. He holds board positions at several biotech companies and earned his MBA and BS from Northeastern University.





## **Darryl Elliott, BS'90**

Darryl Elliott, has over 30 years of experience in physical therapy. He has practiced at Carney Hospital, in private outpatient settings, and at Boston University, while also teaching as adjunct faculty at Northeastern and Boston universities.

In 2014, Elliott founded Elliott Physical Therapy, realizing a lifelong dream. He has held leadership roles in the Massachusetts Chapter of the APTA and serves on multiple boards, including the New England Physical Therapy Network and Beth Israel Deaconess-Milton Hospital Advisory Board.

Passionate about building community-based clinics, Elliott focuses on mentoring therapists and advocating for the profession. He is active in local organizations promoting population health and wellbeing. Elliott enjoys spending time with his family, golfing, and playing tennis.





## Rebecca Frey, PharmD'98

Rebecca Frey, COO of EvolveImmune since 2020, is a versatile biopharmaceutical executive with extensive experience in drug development, manufacturing, and commercialization across diverse therapeutic areas and product platforms.

Previously, Frey served as COO at Cardurion Pharmaceuticals and EVP of Operations at Prevail Therapeutics. She also held leadership roles at Alexion Pharmaceuticals and Novartis, successfully leading IND and MAA/BLA programs, integrations, and corporate transformations.

Frey serves on Halda Therapeutics' board and co-chairs Executive Women in Bio of Connecticut. She represents bioscience in the Bioscience & Investor Inclusion Group (BIIG). Frey holds a Doctorate in Pharmacy from Northeastern University, completed a post-doctoral fellowship at Tufts Medical Center, and earned an Executive Certificate from MIT Sloan.





## **Arnold Friedman**

Arnold Friedman, a seasoned mentor with the Health Sciences Entrepreneurs Advisory Group at Northeastern University's Bouvé College, brings over 30 years of legal expertise to his role. As former Vice President and Deputy General Counsel at Textron Inc., a \$13B multi-industry company, he led a successful company-wide innovation initiative.

Currently Senior Counsel at Synesis Law, Friedman's experience spans Massachusetts and Rhode Island. He serves on Northeastern's Advisory Board for Nurse Innovation and Entrepreneurship and has held board positions with healthcare non-profits including the Rhode Island Visiting Nurses Association and Providence Community Mental Health Center.

A longstanding Bouvé supporter, Friedman is a member of the Frank Palmer Speare Society and continues to contribute his expertise to healthcare and innovation initiatives.





## Kathleen Hagan

Kathleen Hagan, founder of Hagan & Company, is a Boston-based international marketing consultant specializing in early and growth-stage technology firms.

Her expertise lies in guiding international companies through the U.S. market and fostering cross-border partnerships. Kathleen's career spans roles as Director of Foreign Trade for Massachusetts Port Authority, Founding Director of the Northern Ireland Technology and Development Center, and Director of the MIT Enterprise Forum.

She serves on multiple corporate and nonprofit boards, including Northeastern University's Health Sciences Entrepreneurs Program. A robotics industry analyst, Kathleen authored the first comprehensive report on Massachusetts' robotics sector.

She holds an MBA, cum laude, from Boston University and graduated from Trinity College, Washington, D.C., where she received the McArdle Leadership Award.





## **Srinivas “Sam” Maddali**

Srinivas “Sam” Maddali is the CEO and Founder of United Pharmacy Network, bringing over 25 years of pharmacy industry experience to his role. A results-driven executive, Sam specializes in fostering independent pharmacy growth through mentorship and education.

His expertise spans forecasting price trends, developing purchasing strategies, analyzing market growth data, and navigating legislative affairs. Sam excels in real estate development negotiations and crafting both digital and traditional marketing strategies.

His leadership is characterized by a keen ability to anticipate market dynamics and their impact on future activities. Throughout his career, Sam has demonstrated a commitment to nurturing the independent pharmacy sector, leveraging his comprehensive industry knowledge to drive innovation and growth in this vital healthcare niche.



## **Azita Razzaghi, P'88, PharmD'91**

Azita Razzaghi leads Safety and Pharmacovigilance at Verastem Oncology, leveraging a career dedicated to drug safety. Her expertise spans multiple therapeutic areas, including Oncology, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, and Osteoporosis.

Azita's track record includes contributions to three successful drug launches during her tenures at Ariad Pharmaceuticals and Sanofi Genzyme.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy and a Doctor of Pharmacy from Northeastern University, complemented by a Clinical Research fellowship from Brigham and Women's Hospital. Committed to fostering industry talent, Azita serves as a preceptor for Northeastern students in internships, co-ops, and fellowships.

Her comprehensive background in pharmacovigilance and clinical research positions her as a key player in ensuring drug safety and efficacy in the biopharmaceutical sector.





**Hoda Sayed-Friel, BS'80**  
***Chair, Strategic Advisory Council***

Hoda Sayed-Friel, a renowned expert in healthcare delivery systems, guided MEDITECH's strategic direction for over 37 years. She spearheaded the evolution of MEDITECH's Electronic Health Record and established its Professional Services group.

Hoda's influence extends to the development and adoption of Advanced Clinical Systems, emphasizing healthcare provider perspectives in system design. A champion for leveraging IT to enhance healthcare safety, quality, and efficiency, she has been instrumental in promoting EHR adoption nationwide.

Hoda serves on the National Academy of Medicine's work-group for Genomics & EHR integration and contributes to bipartisan committees shaping EHR regulations. Her focus on care coordination, interoperability, and population health has significantly impacted the healthcare IT landscape.



## **Haley Waud, BS'12, DPT'13**

Haley Waud, founder of Youreka Hub LLC, transitioned from physical therapy to product innovation and development. After earning her Doctorate of Physical Therapy in 2013, she discovered a passion for inventing solutions to everyday problems.

This led to the establishment of Youreka Hub in 2018, a company focused on product licensing, development, and coaching aspiring inventors. Haley's portfolio includes two full patents, three PPAs, and four pending applications. She secured her first licensing deal in December 2017, with a second in negotiation.

An avid traveler, Haley visited all seven continents before turning 24. Her diverse interests extend to volunteering, hiking, golfing, and sailing. Notably, she can solve a Rubik's cube in under three minutes, reflecting her problem-solving aptitude.





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