



**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, 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.



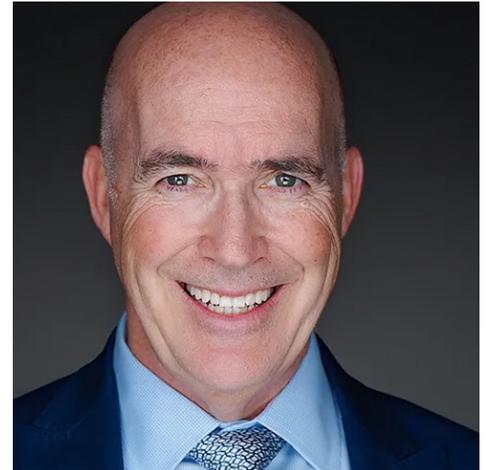


Robert Dempsey, BSBA'89, MBA'97

Robert Dempsey is a seasoned ophthalmic industry leader with over 20 years of global experience in drug development, business transactions, and commercialization. Currently the interim CEO for Ashvattha 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.



David A. Epstein, MS, MBA

David Epstein is a seasoned, analytical operating executive with over 25 years in digital healthcare software. Most recently the Chief Product Officer at Evidium, he oversaw the strategic direction, development, and deployment of diagnostic AI and clinical analytics applications. Epstein previously held senior roles at medCPU, Deloitte Consulting, Allscripts, and IBM Research and Software Group.

Mr. Epstein is a long-time member of the Mid Atlantic Bio Angels and the Harvard-Radcliffe Club of Westchester's Board of Governors and Schools Committee. He is an Adjunct Professor of Statistics at Mercy University and currently an instructor in the Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison program.

A computer scientist by training, he earned his AB and SM degrees from Harvard and received an MBA from Columbia. He lives with his wife in Westchester County, NY and Wolfeboro, NH. He enjoys racing sailboats, skiing, and building wooden boats.



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.





Laura Hamilton BSBA'05, MSC'15, MBA'17

Laura Hamilton BSBA'05, MSC'15, MBA'17 is Chief Business Officer at MassBio and President of the Boston Irish Business Association (BIBA). Originally from Cork City, Ireland and now based in Boston, she is a senior business executive with deep experience spanning drug discovery, medtech, digital health and life sciences innovation across the US and European markets.



Throughout her career, Laura has operated at the intersection of industry growth, global market expansion, and strategic partnership development. She has held executive leadership roles with EU-based life sciences companies. She previously served as Director of Business Development at MassBio, where she led substantial membership growth while building and activating an extensive global network of executives, founders, investors, and policymakers across the life sciences sector.

Laura previously served as a Mentor and Judge with MassChallenge's Bridge to MassChallenge program, advising international companies on U.S. market entry, commercialization strategy, and growth. She also previously served on the American Heart Association Boston Metro Board of Directors. Laura is a proud three-time graduate of Northeastern University, holding a BSBA in Finance, a Master's in Innovation, and an MBA. She is passionate about advancing healthcare innovation, fostering international collaboration, and convening leaders to drive meaningful impact across the global health landscape.



Peter Healy

Peter Healy is Divisional President of Metro Boston for Beth Israel Lahey Health, and President of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC). As Divisional President of Metro Boston, Pete oversees four Boston-area academic and specialty institutions: BIDMC, Joslin Diabetes Center, Mount Auburn Hospital and New England Baptist Hospital. In this role, he fosters collaboration in clinical care, research, and educational programming. As President of BIDMC, he leads the 766-bed academic medical center affiliated with Harvard Medical School that boasts a full range of outpatient and emergency services, including a Level I Trauma Center, more than 1,600 physicians on the medical staff, over 12,000 employees, and annual research funding totaling \$230 million. Pete joined BIDMC as President in 2017 and has collaborated extensively with BIDMC leaders and Harvard Medical Faculty Physicians leadership to strengthen clinical operations, academic achievement and the BIDMC Experience. Previously, he served as President and CEO of Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Milton (BID Milton). During his tenure, BID Milton was one of the fastest growing community hospitals in the state, earned national recognition for health care quality and patient safety, grew its medical staff, and recorded positive financial results five years in a row. Pete has more than 25 years of hospital leadership experience in Greater Boston, including key roles at Boston Medical Center and Brigham and Women's Faulkner Hospital. Pete earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio and a master's in health services administration from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio.



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.



Martha Tuff, PA-C '13

Martha Tuff is a graduate of the Physician Assistant program at Northeastern University Bouvé College of Health Sciences and currently practices per diem in Genitourinary Medical Oncology at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, with a clinical focus in bladder cancer. Her work has centered on complex longitudinal oncology care, interdisciplinary collaboration, and supporting patients through rapidly evolving treatment landscapes.

Earlier in her career, Martha practiced Emergency Medicine and Urgent Care, developing expertise in high-acuity assessment, rapid clinical decision-making, and frontline patient management. In addition to her oncology practice, she volunteers as an EMT in Rhode Island, maintaining active involvement in community-based emergency response.

Her experience across oncology, emergency care, and ambulatory settings provides a broad systems-level perspective on healthcare delivery. As an alumna, Martha is deeply invested in the continued evolution of PA education and is particularly interested in ensuring that academic preparation reflects the realities of modern clinical practice, interdisciplinary teamwork, and evolving models of care.



Brent Wright, MD

Dr. Brent Wright is the Associate Dean for Rural Health Innovation with the University of Louisville School of Medicine. He has spent his life dedicated to training family medicine residents in a rural community while continually asking them to reimagine patient care and healthcare delivery.

Dr. Wright's work as an associate dean gives him the freedom to work with various grant teams at the university examining projects such as NIH funded community research to geriatric workforce issues in need of AI development. Dr. Wright has varied interests beyond academia that include leadership in community banking, entrepreneurship, agricultural stewardship, and organized medicine. As a graduate of the Marshall School of Business, he uses his financial and strategic knowledge to help advise early-stage startup companies, venture funds, and innovation marketplaces. He is an advisor to Health 2047, a venture studio powered by the American Medical Association that builds and backs early-stage healthcare companies.

He also works with Scale Health, a Los Angeles based marketplace for health innovation, to advise startup companies and their leadership. Additionally, Brent works with Downeast Digital, an organization that uses digital technology to navigate complex industries, transforming obstacles into opportunities at the speed of innovation. Currently he is engaged in Kentucky's efforts to transform rural health through the Rural Health Transformation Program.





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