



2020 Schedule of Events

September 11 – 18

Friday, September 11: **The kickoff**

5-6:15 p.m.: Orientation meeting for fellows

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

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

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

2020 Fellows: Anna Almendrala of Kaiser Health News, Jason Beaubien of NPR, Giacomo Bologna of the *Clarion Ledger* in Jackson, MS, Victoria Colliver of Politico, Elisabeth Harrison of WBUR in Boston, Akilah Johnson of ProPublica, Rose Lundy of *The Maine Monitor*, Michael Nedelman of CNN, Sophie Novack of the *Texas Observer*, Cristina Quinn of WGBH in Boston, Teddy Rosenbluth of the *Concord Monitor* and Harriet Taylor of CNBC.

Keynote: *Trusting Journalists in an Era of Distrust*

Nancy Barnes is the top editor at National Public Radio and immediate past president of the News Leaders Association. She previously ran newspapers in Houston and Minneapolis, and worked at ones from North Carolina to Massachusetts, where she grew up. She serves on the Pulitzer Prize Board.

Saturday, September 12: **Pointing the way**

10-11:15 a.m. ***Public radio as a beacon***

We look at compelling public radio models for producing hard-hitting journalism – and paying for it – with **Nancy Barnes** of NPR and **Christa Scharfenberg**, who runs the Center for Investigative Reporting and launched *Reveal*, its investigative broadcast and award-winning podcast.

11:30-1 p.m. ***Can the public's health survive climate change?***

Not unless we act fast, say Dr. **Aaron Bernstein**, Dr. **John Balbus** and Congresswoman **Anna Eshoo**. Bernstein runs the Center for Climate, Health, and the Global Environment at the Harvard School of Public Health. Balbus is the top climate change expert at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. Eshoo chairs the House Subcommittee on Health.

2-3 p.m. ***Tackling human rights and social justice***

No journalist has done that for longer, and to greater effect, than *New York Times* columnist and two-time Pulitzer winner **Nicholas Kristof**.

5-7 p.m. ***Getting to know you***

We learn more about one another over a long-distanced dinner, after hearing inspiring words (about autism) from **Christopher Jackson**, star of *Hamilton*, *Lion King* and *Bull*, and (about consumer-centered health) from **Ralph Nader**.

Sunday, September 13: Worrying about forgetting and remembering to stay safe

Noon-2 p.m. *Alzheimer's and other aging challenges*

We discuss memory-loss disorders and related worries of aging with **Alice Bonner**, former secretary of Elder Affairs in Massachusetts; **Len Fishman**, director of the Gerontology Institute at UMass-Boston; **Dorene Rentz**, co-director of the Center for Alzheimer Research and Treatment at Brigham and Women's Hospital; and **Rob Weisman**, who covers aging at the *Boston Globe*.

3:30-4:45 p.m. *Debrief*

Among ourselves, we reflect on what we've seen and heard so far, and how to translate that into stories.

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

At dinner time, we focus on medical errors and patient safety. Dr. **Amy Boutwell** is president of Collaborative Healthcare Strategies. **Linda Kenney** is director of peer support 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 14: **Gains and gaps in mental health**

10 a.m.-noon *The big picture*

Dr. **Joshua Gordon** is director of the National Institute of Mental Health. Dr. **Tom Insel** was Gordon's predecessor at NIMH and is now California's mental health czar.

1:15-3 p.m. *New ways to understand and battle the opioid epidemic*

Michael Botticelli was the drug czar under President Obama. **Colie Finn**, who is in recovery, was featured in the HBO film, *Heroin: Cape Cod*. Dr. **Nora Volkow** heads the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

4-6 p.m. *Suicide: An epidemic and an enigma*

Matthew Nock, a psychologist at Harvard and MacArthur fellow, is researching ways to predict and prevent suicides. Dr. **Jerry Rosenbaum**, psychiatrist-in-chief emeritus at Mass General, recently served as president of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Dr. **Jordan Smoller**, head of psychiatric genetics at MGH, is studying how big data and genomics can identify suicide risks.

6:15-8:15 p.m. *Cooling down*

We relax with **James Nestor**, author of *Breath: The New Science of a Lost Art*, then with **Darshan Mehta**, medical director at the Benson-Henry Institute for Mind-Body Medicine.

Tuesday, September 15: **Hard data and soft money**

10 a.m.-noon *Asking for money*

Nobody likes to do it, but journalists are having to. Our speakers suggest ways to do it better. **Drew Altman** runs the Kaiser Family Foundation. **Margaret Engel** directs the Alicia Patterson Journalism Foundation. **Ann Marie Lipinski** is curator of Harvard's Nieman Foundation. **Margaret Low** is CEO at WBUR.

1:30-3 p.m. *Turning numbers into stories*

Over lunch, we explore data-driven journalism with **Charlie Ornstein**, who oversees the Local Reporting Network at ProPublica and is a Pulitzer Prize winner.

5-6 p.m. *Telling stories of inspiration and whimsy*

Scott Simon, host of NPR's *Weekend Edition Saturday*, helps us see why journalism matters more than ever.

Wednesday, September 16: **The Era of the Virus**

10:15-11:45 a.m. *A view from ground zero*

US Surgeon General **Jerome M. Adams** talks about the national response – past, present and looking ahead.

Noon-2 p.m. *Sounding alarms, contextually*

Dr. **Dan Barouch** directs Beth Israel Deaconess' Center for Virology and Vaccine Research. **Donald McNeil** covers pestilences and plagues at the *New York Times*. Dr. **Michael Mina** is a core member of Harvard's Center for Communicable Disease Dynamics. Dr. **Harold Varmus**, a Nobel Laureate, is the former head of the National Institutes of Health and the National Cancer Institute.

3-4:30 p.m. *Working to get it right*

We look at divergent strategies for staying safe with officials at the center of the storms. **Ashley Bloomfield** is chief executive at New Zealand's Ministry of Health. Dr. **David Heymann** is former chairman of Public Health England and was a senior official at the WHO and CDC. **Joshua Michaud** oversees global health research at the Kaiser Family Foundation. Dr. **John Nkengasong** is director of Africa CDC. Dr. **Hitoshi Oshitani** is a key architect of Japan's coronavirus strategy.

5-7 p.m. *Long-form storytelling*

Deb Brody is the publisher at Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. **Lucy Cleland** is a literary agent at Boston-based Kneerim & Williams. **Eileen McNamara** is a former Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist at *The Boston Globe* and current author and professor. **Megan Newman** is publisher at Avery, an imprint of Penguin Books.

Thursday, September 17: Stories that need telling inside medicine and out

10 a.m.-noon *Cutting-edge health challenges*

We break into groups. **Manny Lopes** shows and tells us about racial, ethnic and gender disparities, and how his East Boston Neighborhood Health Center is rooting them out. We hear about the wars against HIV, Covid and other diseases at the Ragon Institute with Dr. **Bruce Walker and Galit Alter**. *New England Journal of Medicine* Editor-in-Chief Dr. **Eric Rubin** and Executive Editor Dr. **Mary Beth Hamel** give us a tutorial on getting the most from their publication, then co-founder and Executive Editor **Rick Berke** does the same with STAT.

1-3 p.m. *Really diversifying*

We talk about ways to make news gatherers and news stories better reflect America's racial, ethnic and gender diversity with NPR mental health reporter **Rhithu Chatterjee**, awarded-winning journalist and Pulliam Distinguished Visiting Professor at DePauw **Deborah Douglas**, Kaiser Health News Editor-in-Chief **Elisabeth Rosenthal**, and *The 19th* Editor-in-Chief **Andrea Valdez**.

3:15-4:15 p.m. *Holding the press to account and uplifting it*

We talk with *New York Times* media columnist and BuzzFeed founding editor-in-chief **Ben Smith** about how, despite ongoing assaults on the press, journalists can and must think big.

4:30-5 p.m. *Debrief*

It's just us, again, trying to make sense of things.

5:15-7:30 p.m. *The Last supper*

We gather over remote dinners to listen to music and stories from **Fred Hersch**, who the Jazz Journalists Association named Pianist of the Year in 2018, and whose memoir *Good Things Happen Slowly* recalled living with HIV and relearning to play after two months in a coma that robbed him of all muscular function.

Then we toast one another and our week of hard work.

Friday, September 18:

Wrapping up

10-noon

Translating your lists 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 **Jen Berryman, Tom Gagen** and **Larry Tye**.

Berryman, who was a health producer during her 19 years at WCVB-TV in Boston, is vice chancellor at UMass Medical Center.

Gagen, who spent 20 years writing editorials for *The Boston Globe*, is writing a biography of Boston's longest-serving mayor, Tom Menino.

Noon-12:30

Evaluations – it's better than visiting the dentist, but just barely

1 p.m.

Goodbyes

Lunch with our group, then we turn off our Zooms.