Juliana H. Chen, M.D. is a child and adolescent psychiatrist at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) and Newton-Wellesley Hospital (NWH), and a part-time clinical instructor at Harvard Medical School. She serves as Associate Director of the MGH Center for Cross-Cultural Student Emotional Wellness, which supports the emotional wellness and mental health needs of students with diverse cultural backgrounds, in particular Asian/Asian American students. She also serves as Co-director of the Parents Program at The Resilience Project, an innovative community outreach program that works with schools and parents to support the emotional wellness and resilience of children and teens. Dr. Chen is a former SAMHSA Minority Fellow and current Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar who along with her teammates is working to advance health equity through their project, “Breaking Silences in the Model Minority: A national intervention to increase mental health awareness and decrease stigma in Asian immigrant families.” In addition, she is executive producer of the short documentary film “Looking for Luke” (www.lookingforlukefilm.com), which has been screened across the U.S. to reduce stigma and break the silence around mental health issues especially within the Asian American community. Dr. Chen facilitates parent skills groups and regularly speaks on the topics of resilient parenting and family-based interventions to address mental health issues. She received her M.D. from the Yale School of Medicine. She completed her adult psychiatry residency training at Harvard Longwood, and her child and adolescent psychiatry training at MGH and McLean Hospital. She maintains a small private practice in Cambridge, MA.

Brandi Davis-Dusenbery, PhD
Chief Scientific Officer
Seven Bridges

As Chief Scientific Officer of Seven Bridges, Brandi oversees all aspects of scientific innovation with a focus on creating solutions that accelerate biomedical discovery. Brandi leads the development of collaborative data analysis ecosystems for the National Cancer Institute and National Heart Lung and Blood Institute where she works with stakeholders to shape novel mechanisms and global standards for data access, analytical reproducibility, and usability. Brandi holds a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Tufts School of Medicine where she focused on the impact of small RNAs in cardiovascular disease. As a fellow at Harvard University, Brandi applied next-generation sequencing technologies to understand the molecular underpinnings of ALS. Brandi’s work has been published in leading journals including Nature, Science Translational Medicine, and Molecular Cell.
Parastoo Khoshakhlagh, Ph.D. is the CEO and co-founder of GC Therapeutics, Inc (GCTx). GCTx is a VC-backed cell therapy company based on a technology that Dr. Khoshakhlagh co-invented during her postdoctoral research in Professor George Church’s Lab at Harvard and co-first authored in Nature Biotechnology. GCTx was the recipient of grant awards from the Harvard Biomedical Blavatnik Accelerator in 2017 and 2018, received the Massachusetts Life Sciences Innovation Day Prize in 2018 and was among the winners of the Harvard President’s Innovation Challenge in 2019 and MIT 100K in 2020. GCTx’s technology was also featured in Nature Biotechnology’s News Feature and in CBS’s 60 minutes. Dr. Khoshakhlagh is also the co-founder, co-inventor and former CSO of Tympanogen, Inc., a woman-led company which is developing Perf-Fix, the first non-surgical, minimally invasive 3D hydrogel patch to heal chronic eardrum ruptures. Tympanogen has won awards such as the NASA Earth / Space Life Science Innovation Award and the nCourage Courageous Women Entrepreneur Prize. Dr. Khoshakhlagh and her co-founder worked with NASA on a first-of-its-kind experiment launched into space on the SpaceX Dragon Cargo Ship. She completed her Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering at Tulane University. Her PhD led to her being a co-inventor on a U.S. patent application that resulted in the creation of Axosim, a start-up that develops drug screening nerve-on-a-chip products. In addition, Dr. Khoshakhlagh has previously received a prestigious award from the NIH and the Avon Foundation for creating a commercialization pathway for a reconstructive scaffold for breast cancer.

Laura Kleiman, Ph.D.
CEO & Founder
Reboot Rx

Laura Kleiman is the Founder and CEO of Reboot Rx. Laura’s career has focused on building collaborations across disciplines and sectors to expand treatment options for cancer patients. She was previously Scientific Research Director in the Department of Data Sciences at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Laura earned a PhD in Computational and Systems Biology from MIT and conducted translational cancer research as an American Cancer Society Postdoctoral Fellow at the Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School. Laura was recently featured in Forbes, was named a CHM Patrick J. McGovern Tech for Humanity Prize Changemaker finalist, and received the 40 Under 40 in Cancer Award.
Dr. Minter-Jordan is President and CEO for the CareQuest Institute for Oral Health. She leads a diverse group of collaborators and health improvement experts to engage in original research and data analysis, grantmaking, health improvement initiatives, oral health innovation, education and advocacy all in pursuit of a single mission—to improve the oral health of all. She joined DentaQuest in 2019 after 12 years at the Roxbury, Mass.-based Dimock Center, which focuses on the integration of clinical and behavioral health and is the second largest health center in the Boston area. As CEO, she formed partnerships with world-class institutions, including Harvard Medical School, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, and Partners HealthCare to advance person-centered care. She was an attending physician and instructor at Johns Hopkins Medicine and graduated from Brown University School of Medicine and the Johns Hopkins University Carey School of Business. Myechia is a founding member of the New Commonwealth Racial Equity and Social Justice Fund created in the summer of 2020 by a coalition of Black and Brown executives in Massachusetts to make transformative social change by addressing systemic racism and racial inequity. She serves on several boards and committees including the Blue Shield of California, Yawkey Foundation, Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, The Boston Foundation, Harvard School of Dental Medicine, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum.

Maria Palasis has served as Lyra’s President and Chief Executive Officer and a member of its board of directors since January 2015. Previously, she was the Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer from 2011 to 2015. In 2008, she joined Arsenal Medical, Inc., a biotechnology company, as Executive Vice President and subsequently served as President and Chief Executive Officer, and a member of the board of directors of Arsenal Medical from January 2015 to June 2018. From 1995 to 2008, Maria worked at Boston Scientific Corporation, Inc., where she held several senior level roles which included managing a portfolio of external biotech and medical device investments and leading the development of several drug-device combination therapies. She serves on the Board of Directors of PanTHER Therapeutics and is on the Board of the nonprofit MedExecWomen. She was elected into the National Academy of Engineering in 2021 for outstanding contributions to the design of medical devices and drug delivery systems. She holds a B.S. and Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Cincinnati, and she held a postdoctoral fellowship in molecular biology at the University of Cincinnati School of Medicine.
Dr. Claire-Cecile Pierre is the Executive Director of the Kerry Murphy Healey Center for Global Health Entrepreneurship at Babson. Trained in Internal Medicine and Board Certified in Clinical Informatics, Dr. Pierre holds decades of experience in the use of technology to improve the quality of care in the US working in large multi-hospital academic health systems and in community health centers. She is the Chief Medical Officer of Harbor Health Services, a network of clinical sites with locations in multiple towns from Boston to the Cape of Massachusetts. With a career focused on health equity, Dr. Pierre seeks to encourage healthcare innovations that appropriately value the expertise of patients and communities. Dr. Pierre also holds decades of experience in global health focusing on health systems strengthening after disasters. She has responded to multiple outbreaks, including HIV, Cholera, Zika and COVID 19. She has worked at Partners in Health and the World Bank. She is a faculty member of Harvard Medical School’s Center for Primary Care where she served as Director of the Program in Health Systems Strengthening and Social Change at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Pierre is exploring the role of targeted investments and entrepreneurial leadership in increasing health equity.

Dr. Claire Wagner is Chief of Staff to the CEO of the Bill & Melinda Gates Medical Research Institute, a non-profit biotechnology organization that applies breakthrough science and technology to combat diseases that disproportionately affect the poor. Dr. Wagner supports the CEO in delivering on the Gates MRI mission, advancing strategic initiatives, and aligning internal and external priorities. Prior to this role, Dr. Wagner was Research Fellow to Dr. Agnes Binagwaho and Dr. Paul Farmer in Kigali, Rwanda for several years before joining the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Union for International Cancer Control to advance a global effort resulting in the 2015 expansion of the World Health Organization’s Model List of Essential Medicines for Cancer. She has consulted for a number of public and private organizations and companies on improving access to products and services for underserved populations. She is co-author of more than 40 scientific publications and book chapters. Dr. Wagner graduated from the joint MD/MBA program at Harvard Medical School and Harvard Business School where she was the 2020 Harvard Business School Class Day Speaker; she completed her BA in Anthropology at Dartmouth College.
Sally Wang Liang JD MPH is VP of Business Development, Head of the Global Business Unit at PepLib, a peptide discovery and therapeutics company funded by leading Chinese life sciences VCs. At PepLib, she leads a global BD&L team in all aspects of deal-making from search and evaluation, transactions, to alliance management, and across all deal types from research collaboration with global pharmaceutical companies to in-licensing assets from biotechs. She comes to PepLib as a life sciences business executive and a multidisciplinary IP & Regulatory lawyer with 15+ years of healthcare industry experience. She is actively involved in Boston/Cambridge biotech ecosystem: serving on the Scientific Advisory Board of New Equilibrium Biosciences, an AI drug discovery company invested by RA Capital, as Expert-in-Residence at the Harvard iLab, and mentor with MassBIO and Harvard-MIT's Activate. Previously, she was Entrepreneur-in-Residence at the biotech VC Orange Grove Bio, building companies around promising university technology. She was also a serial entrepreneur in digital health: as the CEO and Co-founder of an international telemedicine company, DocFlight, where she garnered a patient network of 25 million covered lives through partnerships and improved the health outcomes of over 85% of serviced patients, and as Chief Strategy Officer and EVP of IP and Regulatory of a leading digital therapeutics company, Click Therapeutics. As a lawyer, she practiced pharmaceutical patent litigation and IP licensing at the premier intellectual property firm, Venable-Fitzpatrick, and clerked for a federal judge. She was also involved in life sciences policy making on the national level at the Food and Drug Administration Office of Policy and the US Senate Health Education Labor Pension Committee Health Office. She began her career as a management consultant at Clarion Healthcare, advising many of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies and top biotech firms on business strategy. Sally received a A.B. in Biology from Harvard College, a J.D. from Harvard Law School, and a M.P.H from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Dr. Simone Wildes received her bachelor's degree from Barry University. She earned her medical degree from Loma Linda University. She completed an internship, residency and fellowship in infectious disease at Hahnemann University Hospital. Dr. Wildes is Associate Director of Infectious Disease and serves on the Institutional Review Board at South Shore Health. She is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine at Tufts Medical Center. Dr. Wildes is actively involved with the Massachusetts Medical Society as an executive board member, Chair of the Committee on Diversity, Vice Chair of the Committee on Public Health and serves on the Presidential COVID-19 Advisory Group. She is involved with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Equity Advisory group and MA COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory group. Dr. Wildes is a member of the Infectious Disease Society of America and America College of Physicians. She is an ABC medical contributor. Dr. Wildes serves as the Health Ministries Director for her local church in Boston and is involved with Faith-Based Cancer Network in Boston.