

# Education at Mass General: A Brief History

Mass General, chartered in 1811, is the third oldest general hospital in the country. Alongside patient

## 1810

In their letter to notable Bostonians, appealing for funds and support for a local general hospital, MGH co-founders James Jackson and John Collins Warren note the need for educational facilities: "...[i]t is necessary to have a medical school in New England. All the materials necessary to form this school exist among us. Wealth, abundantly sufficient, can be devoted to the purpose...Everyone is liable to suffer from the want of such a school; everyone may derive, directly or indirectly, the greatest benefits from its establishment." Serving as the oldest and largest teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School, Mass General has helped shape medical education for more than two centuries.



## 1846

Unlike the highly codified medical education system in the United States today, Harvard Medical School students of the 1840s buy tickets to lectures held in classroom and hospital settings, including the first successful demonstration of surgical ether anesthesia. In order to graduate, students must prove that they attended each required lecture at least twice and that they had studied with a "competent physician" for at least three years. The medical school curriculum is revamped along lines recognizable today in 1869.



## 2009

The MGH Learning Laboratory is established to support simulation-based education as a new field of practice and study, expanding opportunities for MGH trainees and staff to engage in routine deliberate and reflective practice for expert performance. The lab provides a central infrastructure to support educational units and teaching fellows across campus. For over three decades, MGH educators and faculty have played a leading role in developing simulation training locally, nationally and worldwide.



## 2010

The Lunder-Dineen Health Education Alliance of Maine is established with a gift to Mass General from the Lunder Foundation of Portland, Maine designed to extend Mass General educational expertise to Maine residents and health care professionals.



## 2012

MGH embarks on an Education strategic planning process, creating new infrastructure for the Executive Committee on Teaching and Education (ECOTE) to support shared learning across all professions and disciplines. Resulting recommendations will lead to appointment of an institutional Executive Director for Teaching and Education (2015) and a Chief Learning Officer (2018) to support the education mission across campus.

care, research and community, education is a founding pillar. Here are just a few milestones.

## 1873

Mass General opens what is to become the oldest continuously operating school of nursing in the United States: the Boston Training School for Nurses, renamed the Massachusetts General Hospital Training School for Nurses in 1896, and later, the Massachusetts General Hospital School of Nursing. The MGH School of Nursing graduates its last diploma school class in 1981.



## 1910

Mass General internist Richard Cabot works with pathologist James Homer Wright to adopt a teaching format different from the time period's long lectures: discussions of "actual cases of disease." These diagnostic conferences are then published as Case Records of the Massachusetts General Hospital in the *New England Journal of Medicine* and continue to be renowned and emulated the world over.



## 2005

The Department of Psychiatry founds the Psychiatry Academy, providing international leadership in education and dissemination of best practices in mental health. Today, the Academy distributes more than 100,000 pieces of educational content each year and includes members from 127 countries.



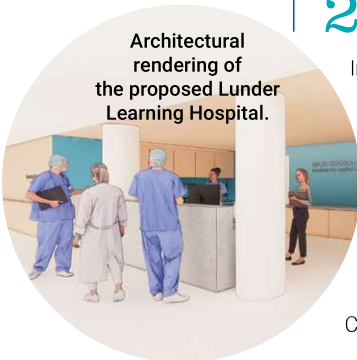
## 1977

MGH is awarded degree-granting authority by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In 1980, the MGH Institute of Health Professions opens, admitting its first master's students in physical therapy and social work. Certificate and degree-granting programs are now consolidated in the Institute's School of Nursing, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, and the School of Healthcare Leadership – which also now offers advanced degrees in the science of learning through its Health Professions Education program.

## 2022

In support of the short- and long-term educational needs articulated as part of the hospital's strategic planning process, MGH receives a transformational \$50 million gift from the Lunder Foundation of Portland, Maine that aims to reinvent health care education for the 21st century and ensure the highest quality care for every patient. This commitment – one of the largest ever to support education across the health professions – will enhance the training of providers in all roles now and into the future by funding three linked initiatives: the Peter L. Slavin, MD Academy for Applied Learning in Health Care; the Lunder Learning Hospital; and the MGH Learning Endowment.

Architectural rendering of the proposed Lunder Learning Hospital.



For an immersive virtual reality tour of the future Lunder Learning Hospital please scan the QR code above.