

MITSS Faculty Bios



Yvonne Cheung, MD, MPH

Dr. Yvonne Cheung is the Chair of the Department of Patient Safety and Quality at Mt. Auburn Hospital in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She became involved in Peer Support during her Fellowship in Quality and Patient Safety at Harvard Medical School from 2012 to 2014. In her current role, she has played an integral part in bringing a Peer Support program to Mount Auburn.

Dr. Cheung graduated from Harvard University cum laude, with a baccalaureate degree in both History of Science and Biology. She went on to receive her medical degree from Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons, where she was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha. After completing an internship in Internal Medicine at Mount Auburn Hospital, she completed her residency in Anesthesiology at Massachusetts General Hospital. In 1996, she joined the Department of Anesthesiology at Mount Auburn Hospital. In recognition of her commitment to teaching, Dr. Cheung was appointed Director of the Anesthesia Residency Rotation.

After 16 years in clinical practice, Dr. Cheung returned to Mount Auburn in 2012 as one of the first class of Fellows in Quality and Patient Safety at Harvard Medical School. After successful completion of this program, she was awarded her Master's in Public Health (MPH) by the Harvard School of Public Health in June of 2014.

Concurrently, in October 2013, Dr. Cheung took on the role of Interim Medical Director, Department of Quality and Safety, at Mount Auburn Hospital. During her time at this role, she achieved many notable successes, such as the establishment of Mount Auburn's first anticoagulation clinic.



Barbara DiTullio, RN, BSN, MA

Barbara DiTullio is the Nursing Director for the operating rooms at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, a Harvard teaching hospital in Boston, where she is responsible for the clinical management of the East and West Main ORs. Ms. DiTullio has held numerous leadership roles and was the nursing lead for the original pilot program for Peer Support at Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston. She has continued on with Peer Support at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, training new peer supporters, and facilitating the program's growth as it expands to other areas of the hospital.

Ms. DiTullio is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts Boston, and she holds a Bachelor's degree in Nursing and a Master's degree in Critical and Creative Thinking. Her coaching skills help to strengthen and inspire her colleagues, particularly in the area of communication. She has presented at numerous venues at both the local and national level, authored a large number of posters, and led innovative teams.



Patricia Folcarelli, PhD, RN

Pat is the Senior Director, Patient Safety at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in the Silverman Institute for Health Care Quality and Safety. In her current role she is responsible for the oversight of patient safety, risk management and patient relations. Pat has been at BIDMC for the past 26 years and has held roles as a clinical nurse and as the Director of Professional Practice Development.

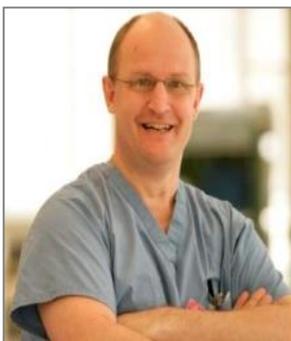
Pat holds a B.S. from Hunter College - Bellevue School of Nursing of the City University of New York, and an M.A. and Ph.D. from New York University. Pat is an instructor of surgery at Harvard Medical School. Pat currently serves on the Quality and Safety Board for Mercy, the 6th largest Catholic Health System in the U. S. and on the Board of the Mass Coalition for the Prevention of Medical Errors.



Linda K. Kenney

Ms. Kenney is the Executive Director and President of MITSS (Medically Induced Trauma Support Services, Inc.), founded the organization in 2002 as the result of a personal experience with a near fatal medical event, when she identified the need for support services in cases of adverse events and outlined an agenda for change. Since that time, she has been at the forefront of the patient safety movement, inspiring organizations to tackle the challenges that impair effective disclosure, apology, and support programs for patients, families, and staff. She speaks regularly at healthcare conferences and forums, provides in-depth consultations to hospitals and other organizations, and her expertise has been sought on numerous patient safety projects throughout the country

and around the globe. In 2006, Linda was the first consumer graduate of the prestigious HRET/AHA Patient Leadership Fellowship. That same year, she was the recipient of the National Patient Safety Foundation's esteemed Socius Award, an annual award given in recognition of effective partnering in pursuit of patient safety. She has authored and contributed to a number of publications on topics including the emotional impact of adverse events on patients, families, and clinicians. Linda currently serves on the board of the Massachusetts Coalition for the Prevention of Medical Errors and the NPSF (National Patient Safety Foundation) Board of Governors, as well as a member of the Global Patient Family Advisory Committee for The Beryl Institute.



Steve Pratt, MD

Dr. Pratt attended Brown University where he received an undergraduate degree in Religious Studies. He continued in the 7-year Program in Liberal Medical Education at Brown, receiving his Medical degree in 1991. He completed an Internal Medicine preliminary year before beginning his Anesthesia residency at Beth Israel Hospital, a major teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School. Dr. Pratt was appointed Chief resident in 1995. He then completed a 1-year fellowship in Obstetric anesthesia and joined the staff at Beth Israel. He was appointed the Director of Quality Improvement for the Department of Anesthesia and Critical Care in 1998 and the Clinical Director of Obstetric Anesthesia in 2001. Currently he is the Chief of the Division of Quality and Patient Safety

for the Department of Anesthesia. As a member of the Quality Improvement community, Dr. Pratt has been active in many patient safety initiatives within Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. He sits on multiple hospital Quality Improvement Committees, has created on-line training programs in Moderate Sedation, and helps lead the efforts in quality improvement and case review in the peri-operative and peri-partum environments. He is leading an effort to create a peer support process within BIDMC.

Dr. Pratt has been involved nationally in patient safety since 2001 when he was the lead anesthesiologist in a national, multi-center trial evaluating the effect of team training on obstetric outcomes. He has helped author two curricula for teaching team training on Labor and Delivery and was instrumental in developing and publishing clinically relevant outcomes for assessing quality of Obstetric care. He has been asked to speak nationally and internationally on the topics of patient safety and team training in obstetrics. He helped create and is the initial chair of the Patient Safety Committee for the Society for Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology. Most recently, he collaborated with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement to organize a summit of national patient activist leaders at the IHI annual Forum.



Frederick van Pelt, MD, MBA

Dr. van Pelt is an Associate Clinical Principal with The Chartis Group with more than 15 years of experience in clinical practice, performance improvement, patient safety and change management within hospital systems. His areas of interest and expertise include the development and implementation of complex improvement initiatives across the care continuum, physician and care provider engagement, understanding and managing disruptive innovation, and sustainability and spread of improvement solutions. Dr. van Pelt has provided advisory services in multiple healthcare settings both nationally and internationally, and has lectured extensively on quality and patient safety worldwide.

Prior to joining Chartis, Dr. van Pelt served for five years as Director for Global Programs at Partners Healthcare International (PHI), the international division for Partners Healthcare System and its founding Harvard affiliated teaching hospitals, the Massachusetts General Hospital and the Brigham and Women's Hospital. Between 1997 and 2008, Dr. van Pelt served on the clinical faculty at Harvard Medical School and worked in the public and private sectors in a variety of clinical and administrative leadership positions.

Dr. van Pelt completed his anesthesia residency and fellowship at the Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, and holds his MD degree from the University of Massachusetts Medical School. He completed his MBA at Harvard Business School and received his BA degree, magna cum laude, from Amherst College. Dr. van Pelt serves as a faculty member at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) and at The Dartmouth Institute Microsystems Academy (TDIMA).