

# Congratulating New HMS Endowed Chair

Catherine M. DesRoches, DrPH, MSc



**Catherine (Cait) M. DesRoches, DrPH, MSc**, has been appointed as the **John F. Keane & Family Associate Professor of Medicine** at **Harvard Medical School**. The Keane Chair was established to promote patient engagement, safety, and healthcare value through fully transparent communication among patients, families, and clinicians — a mission at the heart of Dr. DesRoches’s career.

Dr. DesRoches is faculty in the **Division of General Medicine** research section, Associate Professor of Medicine at HMS, and a distinguished health services researcher with expertise in emerging trends in healthcare delivery. She serves as Program Director of [OpenNotes](#) and Principal Investigator of the OpenNotes Lab — which designs, evaluates, and guides innovations in clinical documentation,

medical records, and patient engagement — and as Program Director for the Keane OpenNotes Fellowship in Patient Engagement and Transparency at BIDMC. OpenNotes is a national movement that brings together patients, families, and clinicians to improve communication through shared clinical notes and fully transparent medical records. Under her leadership, OpenNotes has grown from a research initiative into a federally mandated standard of care: following the 21st Century Cures Act and the 2021 Information Blocking Rule, all electronic health information must now be made available to patients — a transformation to which Dr. DesRoches’s work contributed directly.

Her scholarship has appeared in leading peer-reviewed publications including *Health Affairs*, the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *JAMA*, and the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, and she is the recipient of the 2015 Nursing Outlook Excellence in Practice Award and the 2010 Article of the Year in Professionalism in Practice from the American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation. She earned her doctorate in public health from Columbia University and has held faculty and research positions at Harvard Medical School, Simmons College, and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

In accepting the chair, Dr. DesRoches follows its inaugural incumbent, OpenNotes co-founder Dr. Tom Delbanco — a fitting continuation of the legacy of scholarship and patient-centered innovation that the Keane Chair was created to advance.