

Congratulating New HMS Dean for Students in Medical Education

Jennifer Potter, MD



Jennifer Potter, MD, has assumed the role of **Dean for Students in the Program in Medical Education at Harvard Medical School**. Faculty in the **Division of General Medicine** and Co-Chair of The Fenway Institute, Dr. Potter is a world-class clinician and medical educator, who has been deeply committed to our HMS learners. She has served as Interim Dean for Students since October 2025 through a period of transition, and after a highly successful search that considered many qualified internal and external candidates, HMS is excited to have Dr. Potter continue to lead the Office of Student Affairs with characteristic warmth, judgment, and steadiness.

Dr. Potter brings a wealth of experience, expertise, and a profound commitment to the education and well-being of medical students. She graduated summa cum laude in psychobiology from the University of Massachusetts Boston, earned her MD from Harvard Medical School, and completed her internship, residency, and chief medical residency at the New England Deaconess Hospital. She is a Professor of Medicine at HMS and a primary care physician in Healthcare Associates at BIDMC, where she was the founding director of the Women's Health Center for two decades.

A national leader and internationally recognized expert in sexual and gender minority (SGM) health and trauma-informed care, Dr. Potter has spearheaded the creation of foundational educational competencies in SGM health and trauma-informed care that now serve as a blueprint for undergraduate medical education across the United States. Her scholarship focuses on how clinicians are taught to communicate, partner with patients, and create safer, more responsive clinical and educational environments. She has served as co-editor of multiple landmark textbooks, director of continuing medical education courses, and Associate Editor of MedEdPORTAL, helping to disseminate innovative, learner-centered teaching resources across the health professions.

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At HMS, Dr. Potter's roles are deeply grounded in learner engagement and well-being. As Dean for Students and former Advisory Dean and Director of the William Bosworth Castle Society, she mentors medical students from matriculation through graduation, with particular attention to professional identity formation and reflective practice. From 2018-2026, she served as Director of Student Well-Being Programs for HMS students, developing and implementing trauma-informed, equity-minded programs that support mental health, belonging, and a positive learning climate. She is a faculty leader of the Trauma-Informed Care and Sexual and Gender Minority Health longitudinal curricular frontiers and directs the HMS–Fenway Health LGBTQIA+ Health Fellowship Program.

Beyond HMS and BIDMC, Dr. Potter is Co-Chair of The Fenway Institute, an interdisciplinary center for research, education, training, and policy to improve health for SGM communities and people affected by HIV, where she leads the Institute's Division of Education and Training. Internationally, she consults with higher education and healthcare organizations on trauma-informed systems transformation, curriculum design, and strategies to enhance communication, trust, and engagement for both patients and learners.

Dr. Potter's teaching and mentorship have been recognized with numerous institutional, local, state, and national honors, including the Daniel D. Federman Outstanding Clinician Educator Award, HMS Class of 2019 and 2020 Outstanding Faculty Mentor Awards, the HMS Scholarly Engagement Excellence in Student Mentoring Award, the Dr. Susan M. Love Award, the Massachusetts Medical Society LGBTQ Health Award, and the AAMC Group on Women in Medicine and Science Individual Leadership Award. Dr. Potter is revered by current and past students who have worked closely with her. Anna Mulhern and Mayowa Oke, Student Council presidents for the classes who entered in 2024 and 2023, respectively, noted that "Dr. Potter is an outstanding student advocate, collaborator, and mentor. We are thrilled that she will continue guiding and championing current and future classes of HMS students."