Mind the Gap: 
Pay Equity in Academic Medicine

March 9, 2020
12:00 pm—2:00 pm
Harvard Medical School
25 Shattuck St. Boston, MA
Gordon Hall
Waterhouse room

The Panel discussion to focus on the current trends in equity analysis, developing framework for addressing equity, underlying issues and how to improve upon best practices. Harvard Community and affiliates are welcome to attend. Event will be livestreamed. See website for more information:  https://jcsw.hms.harvard.edu
EVENT SCHEDULE

Welcome remarks 12:00
JCSW Professional Equity Committee Co-Chairs:
Robin Lindsay, MD and Carolyn Hoban, ScD

Building a Framework for Professional Equity

Panel Discussion 12:30
Moderators: Robin Lindsay, MD
Carolyn Hoban, ScD

Invited Speakers:
Robert Bordone, JD. Cofounder of the Harvard Law
School/Negotiation and Mediation Clinical Program
Honorable Nancy Gertner, JD. Federal Judge (ret), Harvard
Law School
James L. Heffernan, SVP and Treasurer, Massachusetts
General Physicians Organization

Audience Q & A 1:00

Closing Remarks

Adjourn to Networking Reception
Waterhouse Room 2:00
An internationally-recognized expert on consensus-building, dialogue, and facilitation, Bob Bordone has taught numerous executives, government leaders, healthcare professionals, and diplomats over the last two decades and is the author of many publications on these topics. His research interests include developing and testing methods of effective public dialogue on issues that cut to the core of identity, meaning, belonging, and belief.
Nancy Gertner is a former U.S. federal judge who built her career around standing up for women’s rights, civil liberties and justice for all. Named one of “The Most Influential Lawyers of the Past 25 Years” by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly. She has published widely on sentencing, discrimination, and forensic evidence; women’s rights; and the jury system. Her autobiography, “In Defense of Women: Memoirs of an Unrepentant Advocate,” was published in 2011. Gertner has received countless awards, including the ABA’s Thurgood Marshall Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions in the legal profession to the advancement of civil rights and civil liberties in the United States.
From 1995-2019, Jim held the role of CFO of the MGPO with 2,800 participating physicians, more than 4,000 employees, and $1.2B of operating revenue. As CFO, Jim led the MGPO’s revenue cycle, physician payment & analysis, budgeting & financial forecasting, business intelligence, compliance and business transformation, and the Professional Billing Office. Jim has participated in research and papers on health care operations, administrative burden, burnout, engagement, and equity and is a regular speaker on health care locally and nationally. Jim currently sits on the boards of the MGPO; National Healthcare Financial Management Association; Wentworth Douglass Hospital; board treasurer, Jane Doe Inc.; and board chair, CodaMetrix.

With Special Acknowledgement:

Robin Antonellis, VP of Human Resources, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI)-for her guidance and valuable insights.

JCSW Subcommittee members who participated in the collaborative learning workshop to discuss interests and priorities for the symposium.
Mass Equal Pay Act “MEPA”
An Act to Establish Pay Equity

On July 1, 2018, an updated equal pay law went into effect in Massachusetts. This new law provides clarity on what is unlawful wage discrimination and adds new protections to ensure make workplaces more fair and equal. The new law, An Act to Establish Pay Equity, updates the Massachusetts Equal Pay Act (MEPA).
The goal of the Massachusetts law is to reduce pay differences for men and women doing comparable work - Equal Pay for Comparable Work. The law broadens the definition of “comparable work” to “work that is substantially similar in that it requires substantially similar skill, effort and responsibility and is performed under similar working conditions; provided, however, that a job title or job description alone shall not determine comparability.”

Employer cannot pay women and men differently for performing comparable work. Possible exceptions include:
1. A bona fide merit-based criterion
2. Seniority (provided that parental and pregnancy-related leave do not reduce seniority)
3. Productivity (quality or quantity of production or sales)
4. Geographic location
5. Education, training or experience (to the extent such factors are reasonably related to the particular job in question and consistent with business necessity)
6. Frequency of travel (if the travel is a regular and necessary condition of the particular job)

Other key features of the law include a ban on asking for salary histories, expanded remedies available to pay discrimination victims, and incentives to employers to audit their own pay practices to look for (and correct) pay disparities.

Glossary

**Equity**
Refers to the state of having unbiased systems and processes that allocate resources

**Equality**
Refers to the state of people experiencing equal access to resources, compensation and otherwise.

“substantially similar” definition
The new pay equity law now mandates equal pay among employees who perform “substantially similar” work, when considering skill, effort, responsibility, and working conditions. Employers cannot rely on comparisons among those who share the same title to ensure pay equity. The analysis must encompass the wage rates among employees who hold “substantially similar,” role or classes of jobs, rather than individual positions.
Members of the Professional Equity Symposium Planning Group

Carolyn Hoban, ScD*                  MGH Cancer Center
Robin Lindsay, MD*                  Mass Eye and Ear Institute
Elisabetta del Ray, PhD            Harvard Medical School (Psychiatry)
Mary R. Loeken, PhD                Joslin Diabetes Center
Maria Mody, PhD                    MGH Martinos Center (Radiology)
Jo M. Solet, MD, EdM, PhD          Cambridge Health Alliance (Medicine)
Cheryl D. Vaughn, PhD, EdM         Harvard Medical School

*JCSW Professional Equity Committee Co-Chairs

JCSW Administrative Coordinator: Diana Longden
Email: JCSW_AdminAssist@hms.harvard.edu

http://jcsw.hms.harvard.edu/professional-equity

Full speaker bios and additional resources are available on the JCSW website: http://jcsw.hms.harvard.edu