

Paul Edward Farmer, MD, PhD, passes away in Rwanda

BOSTON – Partners In Health announced that its co-founder, **PAUL EDWARD FARMER, MD, PhD**, 62, unexpectedly passed away Feb. 21st in Rwanda from an acute cardiac event while he was sleeping. He is survived by his wife, Didi Bertrand Farmer, and their three children.

Dr. Farmer was Kolokotronis University Professor and chair of the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School, chief of the Division of Global Health Equity at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, and co-founder and chief strategist of Partners In Health.

Farmer was a renowned humanitarian who worked hand in hand with local governments and organizations around the world, including those in many rural and underserved communities, to establish partnerships to help build hospitals, train medical workers, and establish community clinics in remote, impoverished areas where residents would otherwise have had little hope of any kind of health care.

He was the chief strategist and co-founder, with Jim Yong Kim, Ophelia Dahl, and Todd McCormack, of the social and health organization Partners In Health. Farmer also served as the United Nations Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Community-based Medicine and Lessons from Haiti, a country where he first worked as a volunteer while still an undergraduate and where he spent much of his life.

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu called Farmer “one of the great advocates for the poorest and sickest of our planet.”

Infectious disease specialist

Born in 1959 in North Adams, Massachusetts, Farmer grew up in Florida with his parents and five siblings, living at times in a school bus converted into a mobile home and on a boat. He attended Duke University on a Benjamin N. Duke Scholarship and received his MD in 1988 and his PhD in 1990 from Harvard University.

He specialized in infectious diseases

and was the author of more than 200 scientific papers.

Farmer began his life's work as a college volunteer in Haiti in 1983, working with dispossessed farmers in the country's Central Plateau, where he was struck by the level of care available to impoverished residents. There, he served for 10 years as medical director of L'Hôpital Bon Sauveur, a charity hospital.

Farmer once told an interviewer, “There is nothing I like more than building a hospital – that's what I call a good pastime....That inspires me.”

Farmer's work has become a model for health care delivery in underresourced communities worldwide; it laid the groundwork for developing the science of global health delivery implementation.

In 1987, Farmer co-founded Partners In Health, the Boston-based international non-profit that provides direct health care services, leading research, and advocacy on behalf of those who are sick and living in poverty.

Under Farmer's leadership, Partners In Health built a hospital in Haiti after an earthquake rocked the country in 2010, fought multidrug-resistant tuberculosis in Peru and around the globe, assisted Liberia and Sierra Leone in tackling Ebola, worked to stop the Zika virus, and is still dedicated to battling emerging new health threats.

Farmer's work with Partners In Health was described in a 2003 book by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Tracy Kidder, *Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World*.

The book followed Farmer from Harvard to Haiti, Peru, Cuba, and Russia, describing, among other things, how he exported treatment for multidrug-resistant tuberculosis from Haiti to Peru and then to Siberia, achieving cure rates comparable to those in the United States.

Because of Farmer's efforts, Haiti saw higher rates of vaccination and lower



Dr. Paul Farmer helped found Partners In Health, which now collaborates with governments across 12 countries to bring quality health care to those most in need.

[PHOTO: JOHN RA / PARTNERS IN HEALTH]

rates of infant mortality and malnourishment in areas where PIH was active.

Farmer's work with his colleagues has also been chronicled in the *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, *The Lancet*, the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, and *Social Science and Medicine*.

Farmer wrote extensively on health, human rights, and the consequences of social inequality. His books include *AIDS and Accusation*, *Haiti after the Earthquake*, *Infections and Inequalities*, *To Repair the World: Paul Farmer Speaks to the Next Generation*, and *A Path Out of Poverty*. In addition, Farmer was co-editor of *Women, Poverty, and AIDS*, *The Global Impact of Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis*, and *Global Health in Times of Violence*.

Farmer was a recipient of numerous honors, including the Margaret Mead Award from the American Anthropological Association, the American Medical Association's Outstanding International Physician (Nathan Davis) Award, a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Fellowship and, with his PIH colleagues, the Hilton Humanitarian Prize. He was a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Harvard Medical School is planning a community memorial gathering via Zoom and will share details as soon as they are confirmed. ❖

Appointments

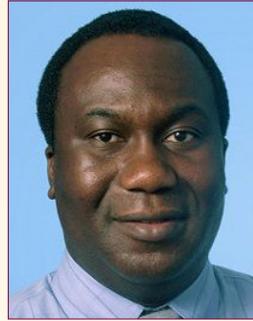


Ramin Ronald Tabaddor, MD, named Chief of Orthopedics for Kent Hospital

WARWICK – **RAMIN RONALD TABADDOR, MD**, has been appointed Chief of Orthopedics at Kent Hospital.

Dr. Tabaddor has been a practicing orthopedic surgeon at Kent Hospital since 2015. He received his medical degree from Boston University, completed the Harvard Uni-

versity's combined orthopedic residency program, as well as a Sports Medicine Fellowship from the University of Minnesota. He is currently the Director of the Hip Preservation Institute for University Orthopedics, and the Head Orthopedic Team Physician for the University of Rhode Island Athletics. He has also been awarded the Dean's Excellence in Teaching Award from the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University each of the last three years ❖



Kwame Dapaah-Afryie, MD, named Governor-elect of RIACP

PROVIDENCE – **KWAME DAPAAH-AFRIYIE, MD, MBA, FAC**, Director of Hospital Medicine at The Miriam Hospital, has been designated Governor-elect Designee of the Rhode Island Chapter of the American College of Physicians.

His appointment kicks off a year of training before he commences a four-year term as governor that begins in spring 2023.

Dr. Dapaah-Afryie founded the hospitalist program at The Miriam Hospital in 1997 and was named director of its division of hospitalist medicine in 2004. He was instrumental in the establishment of the hospitalist program at Newport Hospital, a Lifespan affiliate. He is a Senior Fellow in the Society of Hospital Medicine.

He completed his residency at The Miriam Hospital and earned his medical degree from the University of Science/Technology in Ghana. He is a Professor of Medicine (Clinical Educator) at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. ❖

You could be part of the next life science breakthrough!

Sign up for the **RHODE ISLAND CLINICIAN-ENTREPRENEUR (RICE) NETWORK**

RICE connects entrepreneurially-minded clinicians with innovative RI start-ups seeking to develop technologies in the medical device, pharmaceutical, and biotech industries. Roles include critic, advisor, board member, or clinical trial runner. Visit ri-bio.org/clinician-entrepreneur-network for details.

RICE Network is a program of RI Bio, advancing the life sciences through education, collaboration, and advocacy.

 **RI Bio** 225 Dyer Street, Providence, RI 02903
401.400.5499 | ri-bio.org

RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL JOURNAL

RIMJ Seeks Volunteer Physician Editor

The *Rhode Island Medical Journal* (RIMJ) is seeking a Rhode Island physician with an interest and expertise in editing and writing to assist with issue planning, theme development, peer review, and author correspondence.

This volunteer editorial position, with a flexible time commitment, is a unique opportunity for a physician familiar with the State's healthcare landscape to engage with colleagues, faculty, students and allied healthcare professionals.

RIMJ publishes 10 online issues a year (available at rimedj.org), with a hiatus in January and July. The publisher is the Rhode Island Medical Society (RIMS), and editors are approved by the RIMS Board for a three-year tenure, with an option to renew for an additional term.

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and CV to **Editor-in-Chief William Binder, MD**, at william_binder@brown.edu.

Recognition

HopeHealth achieves SAGECare Platinum credential for serving LGBT elders

PROVIDENCE – HopeHealth has earned the highest national credential for cultural competency in serving and supporting older adults who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT).

Last year, more than 80% of HopeHealth staff completed one hour of SAGECare training covering an overview of the needs, concerns and unique history of LGBT older adults and how to improve the quality of care provided to them. The curriculum was developed by SAGE, the country's oldest and largest LGBT advocacy and services organization.

Additionally, at least 80% of HopeHealth's leadership team completed four hours of SAGECare training. By meeting the 80% benchmark, HopeHealth achieved platinum status.

"We have always prioritized person-centered support and care," HopeHealth President & CEO **DIANA FRANCHITTO** said. "Now by partnering with SAGECare, we are demonstrating our

strong commitment to providing the best care possible while making each patient feel comfortable being who they are."

The 80% training standard has symbolic importance because an estimated 80% of the general population rely on legal or blood-related family members for caregiving. But LGBT people are twice as likely to live alone and four times less likely to have children, which can increase their risk of social isolation as they age. Loneliness and isolation have been shown to be associated with poor physical and mental health.

LGBT older adults may face challenges in seeking and receiving adequate and inclusive care or aging-related social services due to the inability to rely on traditional family supports. As a 2021 SAGECare Platinum credentialed provider, HopeHealth staff now have the communication tools and information needed to create a culture of dignity and respect for all their patients and their relationships in older age. ❖

Obituary

 **HENRY G. MAGENDANTZ, MD**, 85, of Butler Avenue, passed away peacefully with his loving family by his side on January 27, 2022 at HopeHealth Hultar Hospice Center, Providence. He was the husband of Kathy Jellison and the late Ann (Rotch) Magendantz.

Dr. Magendantz was an obstetrician/gynecologist for the Rhode Island Group Health Association and Harvard Pilgrim Health. He would later work for OB/GYN Associates, Providence, before entering private practice. Dr. Magendantz was a fertility specialist and was involved in the delivery of more than 3,000 infants over the course of his long career. He served as an attending at Miriam Hospital, Rhode Island Hospital, and Women & Infants Hospital. He was also a Clinical Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

A graduate of Phillips Exeter Academy, Class of 1954, Dr. Magendantz earned his bachelor's degree from Harvard College, Class of 1958, and his MD from the Duke University School of Medicine, Class of 1962.

From 1968-1970, he was a U.S. Army Major serving in the Army Medical Corps at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.



A longtime member of Central Congregational Church, he served as a deacon, and was a member of numerous committees. In addition, he was a member of the Nature Conservancy, the Audubon Society, the American Fertility Society and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Besides his wife, he is survived by one daughter, Elisa Barton of London, England; three sons, Eric Magendantz of Winter Park, Florida, Christopher Magendantz of West Hartford, Connecticut and Nicholas Magendantz of Barrington; one sister, Margaret Magendantz, PhD, of Cambridge, Massachusetts; three daughters-in-law, Sheila Tekavec, Kristin Magendantz and Kimberly Magendantz; one son-in-law, Samuel Barton and nine grandchildren.

A celebration of his life will be held later this year at Central Congregational Church, Providence. Private burial will be in Swan Point Cemetery, Providence. In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory to Planned Parenthood-R.I. Chapter, 175 Broad Street, Providence, R.I. 02903, or to NARAL, 1725 Eye Street NW, Suite 900, Washington, D.C. 20006 would be appreciated. For the online guest book, please visit www.bellowsfuneralchapel.com. The family would like to thank Miriam Hospital and Wingate Residences for their outstanding care. ❖