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Hadley Family establishes first Dana-Farber Chair for cancer care equity

Dana-Farber's Cancer Care Equity Program (CCEP) exists to create a path that allows those with the heaviest burden of cancer to be treated with the highest level of expertise. Zip code, skin color, and income should not determine who is able to access cancer treatment.

That mission—to ensure that no community is left behind—inspired Chris and Connie Hadley to establish the Hadley Family Chair at Dana-Farber in 2021 with a gift of \$2.5 million. This is the first-ever Chair at the Institute dedicated to cancer care equity, and the first incumbent is Christopher Lathan, MD, MS, MPH, chief clinical access and equity officer and founding director of the CCEP. The Hadley Family Chair represents several key strategic priorities of The Dana-Farber Campaign: investing in the exceptional expertise at the heart of the Institute, advancing Dana-Farber's signature "Total Patient Care" approach, and making Dana-Farber's quality of care available to all who need

it by expanding access to marginalized communities.

Founded in 2012, the CCEP is centered on the effects of race, class, and access to care. Despite enormous advances in cancer research, prevention, and treatment, historically underserved and marginalized racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups still bear a disproportionate burden of cancer occurrence and mortality, including communities in and around Boston. While the roots of these health disparities are complex and often interrelated, limited access to affordable, comprehensive health care remains a critical factor. The CCEP works diligently to reduce barriers and expand access to exceptional cancer care for underserved patients in the Greater Boston area through community-facing outreach programs, evidence-based education and patient navigation, and research that sheds further light on the causes and impacts of cancer health disparities as well as the best ways to intervene.



Christopher Lathan, MD, MS, MPH (left), is the first incumbent of the Hadley Family Chair at Dana-Farber, endowed by Connie and Chris Hadley (right) to ensure that Dana-Farber's quality of care is available to all who need it.

"Improving care for the marginalized doesn't just improve care for the marginalized—it improves care for all," said Lathan, who is also the medical director of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute at St. Elizabeth's Medical Center. "I am humbled by Chris and Connie's support and partnership in moving this work forward." Lathan's goal is for the work of the CCEP to serve as a national model.

"We feel fortunate to support Dr. Lathan and the Cancer Care

Equity Program," said Dana-Farber Trustee Chris Hadley. "The caliber and importance of this work is so outstanding that we want to do everything possible to raise its profile."

"Chris and I have tremendous respect for Dr. Lathan," added Connie. "He has dedicated his professional life to eliminating health disparities and we feel fortunate to play a part in furthering Dana-Farber's focus on inclusion and access for all communities."

“At Dana-Farber we envision a future where cancer prevention, care, and outcomes are grounded in equity and social justice,” said Laurie H. Glimcher, MD, president and CEO of Dana-Farber and the Richard and Susan Smith Professor of Medicine. “I am so proud that Chris and Connie are standing shoulder-to-shoulder with us to advance this critical work and am deeply grateful to them for their foresight in establishing this Chair. The Hadley Family Chair stands as a powerful symbol of our shared commitment while making a tangible impact on the CCEP’s exceptional work.”