



Jennifer Ellis '81

Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery
Bellevue Hospital

Bio sourced from: <https://nyulangone.org/doctors/1063436129/jennifer-l-ellis>

Dr. Ellis' father was a psychiatrist, and she saw firsthand how he made a difference in people's lives. She decided to help people as well, but became especially interested in cardiac surgery when she discovered that heart problems—unlike brain problems—are essentially mechanical. A faulty valve or inadequate blood supply, for instance, can be diagnosed and precisely addressed so that a patient can go on to have a relatively normal life.

Ellis manage a variety of cardiac conditions, such as aortic and mitral valve disorders, coronary artery disease, ischemia, tricuspid valve disease, and ascending aortic aneurysm and dissection.

Ellis performs coronary artery bypass graft surgery and repair and replace heart valves and the ascending aorta, which carries blood from the heart to the body. Collaborating with cardiologists, anesthesiologists, critical care doctors, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants, Ellis ensures comprehensive and high-quality care.

Ellis stats “My goal is to help patients achieve the best possible outcomes. I present treatment options and explain the risks and benefits. I encourage patients to make the right choice for them. One of the most rewarding highlights of my job is seeing a patient, a few weeks after surgery, run up a flight of stairs without becoming short of breath.”

Ellis became board-certified in thoracic surgery in 2000, and was the 100th woman in the United States to do so. Today, only several hundred women are board-certified thoracic surgeons, and just a few are Black women. Ellis also trains residents in cultural competence to improve their interactions with people from different backgrounds and is developing a program that would allow college students from underserved communities to observe cardiac surgeons in the summer.



Keith Flaherty '89, P'23

Director of Clinical Research
Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center

Dr. Flaherty is Director of Clinical Research at the Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center, and Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. As described in the more than 300 peer reviewed primary research reports he has authored or co-authored, Dr. Flaherty and colleagues made several seminal observations that have defined the treatment of melanoma when they established the efficacy of BRAF, MEK and combined BRAF/MEK inhibition in patients with metastatic melanoma in a series of New England

Journal of Medicine articles for which Dr. Flaherty was the first or senior author. He is the principal investigator of the NCI MATCH trial, the first NCI-sponsored trial assigning patients to targeted therapy independent of tumor type on the basis of DNA sequencing detection of oncogenes. Dr. Flaherty joined the NCI Board of Scientific Advisors in 2018 and AACR Board of Directors in 2019. He serves as editor-in-

chief of *Clinical Cancer Research*. Dr. Flaherty co-founded Loxo Oncology in 2013 and served on the board of directors through the acquisition by Eli Lilly in 2019. He co-founded X4 Pharmaceuticals (NASDAQ: XFOR) and privately held Strata Oncology (2015), Apricity Oncology (2017), C-Reveal (2020), and most recently, Scorpion Therapeutics (2020). He serves on the boards of directors for Clovis Oncology, Checkmate Pharmaceuticals and Kinnate BioPharma.



Kanu Okike '97

Orthopaedic Surgeon
Hawaii Permanente Medical Group

Kanu Okike MD MPH is an orthopaedic surgeon with the Hawaii Permanente Medical Group and an Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Hawaii, both in Honolulu, HI. Dr Okike's clinical practice focuses on orthopaedic trauma (fractures) as well as total hip replacement. His research interests include hip fractures, healthcare disparities, physician diversity, conflicts of interest, and international orthopaedics. His work has been published in journals such as *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *The Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA), and *The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery*. He maintains a passion for orthopaedics in the developing world, and volunteers regularly at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH) in Kumasi, Ghana. He lives in Honolulu with his wife Jennifer and two daughters, Kalei and Tiare.

More thorough bios can be found at:

<https://healthy.kaiserpermanente.org/hawaii/provider/kanu-okike-6395543>

<https://hawaii.permanente.org/careers/dr-kanu-m-okike>



Alisa Savetamal '85, P'19, '21, '24

Director
Connecticut Burn Center

Dr. Savetamal was raised in Belle Plaine, Iowa. She came to the East Coast for high school and received a bachelor's degree from Harvard College in government. She also received a master's degree in political science from Columbia University before switching fields, entering a post-baccalaureate program, and ultimately attending medical school at Columbia. Dr. Savetamal trained in general surgery at Stamford Hospital (CT), followed by a trauma fellowship at University Medical Center in Las Vegas and a surgical critical care fellowship at University Hospital/UMDNJ in Newark. She has been at Bridgeport Hospital since 2006 and director of the Connecticut Burn Center since 2013. She has served on various committees of the American Burn Association and is the president of the Northeast Region Burn Conference organization. Her research interests include elderly burn care, palliative care in burns, early mobilization after skin grafting, and reducing the use of central lines in the burn unit.

Dr. Savetamal and her husband Kevin Buehler are the parents of two Andover graduates (Jacob '19 and Nick '21), as well as of a current student (William '24).