



ADVANCEMENT OF THE PROFESSION - Rohn Friedman, MD



Dr. Rohn Friedman graduated summa cum laude from Harvard College and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Prior to going to Harvard Medical School, he studied psychology and philosophy at the University College of Oxford University on a Marshall Fellowship. He did his residency in psychiatry at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center and completed Helen Singer Kaplan’s Sex Therapy Training Program at the Payne Whitney Clinic. He began his psychoanalytic training at the NY Psychoanalytic Institute and completed it at the Boston Psychoanalytic Institute where he served for some time on the faculty and on various committees. He is quadruple-boarded in general, consultation-liaison, geriatric, and forensic psychiatry and has served as an examiner for the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

Dr. Friedman’s first appointments in the Boston area were at Cambridge Hospital, McLean Hospital, and Harvard Community Health Plan before coming to Beth Israel Hospital in 1987, where he is now the highly valued vice chair of the Department of Psychiatry and associate professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Friedman has written about patient evaluation and treatment in emergency situations and in consultation-liaison psychiatry. He also has explored whether smartphones can be used to monitor symptoms of mental health conditions — especially in the elderly.

Dr. Friedman has served as core teacher of faculty, residents, and medical students. His clear-thinking, near-encyclopedia knowledge of the scientific literature in his area, and his gentle, understated way have led countless students and colleagues to seek him out for teaching and clinical advice. He is the consultant’s consultant.

He has been very active in many national and local professional organizations. In the MPS he has served on the nominating committee, as co-chair of the Primary Care Task Force, councilor, president-elect, and then as president. In these positions, he has brought wisdom, an ability to help others to do their best work, a deep commitment to patients, and unparalleled professionalism.

The awards committee is pleased to name Dr. Rohn Friedman the recipient of the MPS 2019 Outstanding Psychiatrist Award for Advancement of the Profession.