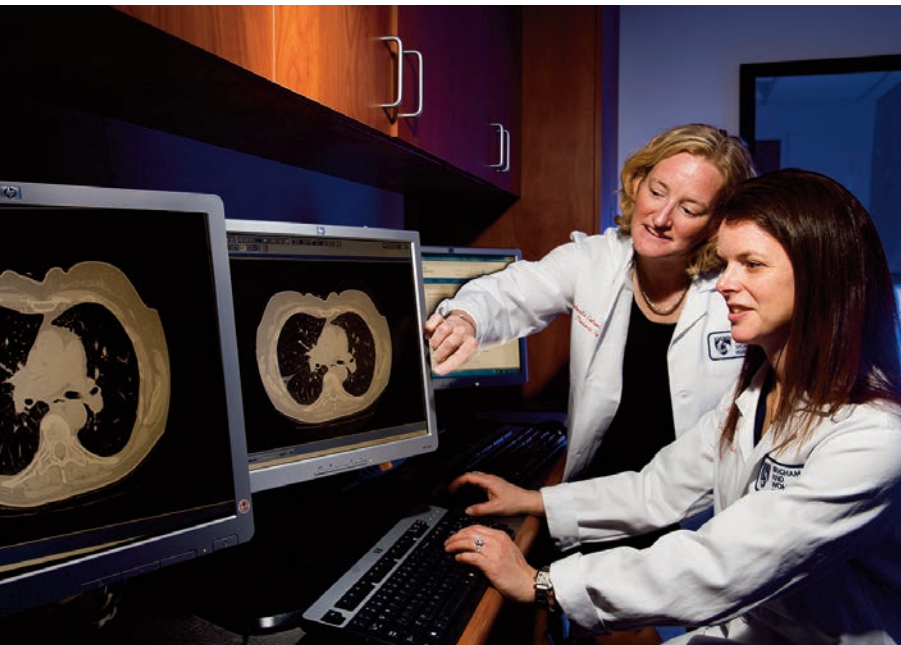




BRIGHAM AND  
WOMEN'S HOSPITAL

## Women's Lung Health Program



The Women's Lung Health Program at Brigham and Women's Hospital brings together clinicians and researchers who are dedicated to discovery, diagnosis, and treatment of respiratory diseases that are unique to women, manifest differently in women, and require gender-specific care. The multidisciplinary team is led by thoracic surgeon Yolonda L. Colson, MD, PhD, and pulmonologist Megan Hardin, MD.



HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL  
TEACHING HOSPITAL



## Women's Lung Health Program

### About the Women's Lung Health Program

The Women's Lung Health Program at Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) offers referring physicians a unique resource for female patients with known or suspected lung disease. Our team of clinicians and researchers is dedicated to the discovery, diagnosis, and treatment of respiratory diseases that are unique to women, manifest differently in women, and require gender-specific care.

Developed in conjunction with the Lung Center, the Connors Center for Women's Health and Gender Biology, the multidisciplinary Women's Lung Health Program team collaborates closely with colleagues in women's health to optimize care across the lifespan for women with complex respiratory conditions and diseases.

Our team includes pulmonologists, pulmonary vascular specialists, thoracic surgeons, otolaryngologists, infectious disease specialists, geneticists, medical oncologists, sleep medicine specialists, and dietitians who offer expert evaluation and treatment for:

- Asthma
- Bronchiectasis
- Chronic lung infections
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Dyspnea
- Inherited lung conditions
- Lung cancer
- Lung health during pregnancy
- Lymphangiomyomatosis (LAM)
- Pleural effusions
- Pulmonary hypertension
- Sleep-related disorders of breathing
- Voice and vocal cord dysfunction

### Women's Lung Health Program Expands Gender-specific Care for Complex Patients

The Connors Center for Women's Health and Gender Biology at BWH, established in 2002, has championed better health and health care for all women through the discovery, dissemination and integration of information on sex and gender-based differences and the application of this knowledge to the delivery of care.

"Sex differences in diseases are widespread and can influence risk, prevalence, severity, treatment response, and many other aspects related to evaluation and management of disease," said Paula A. Johnson, MD, MPH, Executive Director of the Connors Center for Women's Health and Gender Biology at Brigham and Women's Hospital. "Gender-specific approaches to care and research to better understand the underlying biological differences in diseases in men and women are critical to improving outcomes in all patients."

The Women's Lung Health Program joins other specialized Brigham and Women's programs including the Center for Cardiovascular Disease in Women, the Women's Orthopedic and Joint Disease Center and the Women's Neurology Program.

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### Learn More about Us

Please visit us at [www.brighamandwomens.org/womenslunghealth](http://www.brighamandwomens.org/womenslunghealth) to learn more about our program and team.

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## Specialized Care for Patients with Complex Disease

Collaborating with other specialists throughout Brigham and Women's Hospital and Dana-Farber/Brigham and Women's Cancer Center, our team provides unique multidisciplinary care:

- For women whose pregnancies are high risk due to complex lung disease, we work with Maternal Fetal Medicine specialists in our Center for Women and Newborns to manage care;
- For women with respiratory illnesses related to and affected by menopause and the menstrual cycle;
- For women with lung cancer, we work with specialists in the Brigham and Women's Hospital Thoracic Surgery Program and the Women's Lung Cancer Program at Dana-Farber/Brigham and Women's Cancer Center, to provide gender-specific treatment.

## Comprehensive Care and Management

Our team delivers advanced care and tailored disease management, including:

- Expert evaluation for difficult-to-diagnose respiratory disease and genetic testing for rare conditions;
- Image-guided surgical techniques and access to transplantation services;
- Clinical trials of novel therapeutic approaches for select patients;
- Extensive research to advance earlier detection and improve outcomes in women with lung disease.

## Gender Differences in Respiratory Disease

Researchers at BWH have made important discoveries related to unique aspects of respiratory disease in women, including:

- Among people with low smoking exposure, women tend to develop more severe COPD compared with men. (*Thorax*. 2010 Jun;65(6):480-5.);
- Asthma is undertreated among older women, even those who are health care professionals. (*Arch Intern Med*. 2002;162(15):1761-1768.);
- COPD and asthma are independently associated with an increased risk of type 2 diabetes in women (*Diabetes Res Clin Pract*. 2010 Dec;90(3):365-71.);
- The rate of lung cancer in never smokers is higher in women than in men. (*Semin Thorac Cardiovasc Surg*. 2011;23(2):137-45.).

Current research initiatives include:

- Investigation of hormonal, genetic, and environmental differences in the expression of asthma and COPD;
- Genetic clues related to the susceptibility to lung cancer and severity of the disease;
- Biomarker studies and investigation of the role of estrogen in lymphangioleiomyomatosis (LAM);
- Novel approaches to the treatment of pulmonary hypertension.

## Patient Referrals and Information

If you would like to schedule an appointment for your patient or discuss a particular case with one of our specialists, please call us at **(617) 732-8887**.

## Women's Lung Health Program

### Leadership



**Yolonda L. Colson, MD, PhD**  
Co-director, Women's Lung Health Program,  
Brigham and Women's Hospital;  
Director, Women's Lung Cancer Program,  
Dana-Farber/Brigham and Women's Cancer Center



**Megan E. Hardin, MD**  
Co-director, Women's Lung Health Program,  
Director, Asthma in Pregnancy Program,  
Partners Asthma Center,  
Brigham and Women's Hospital

### Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine



**Manuela Cernadas, MD**  
Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine,  
Brigham and Women's Hospital



**Christopher H. Fanta, MD**  
Director, Partners Asthma Center,  
Brigham and Women's Hospital



**Barbara A. Cockrill Gootkind, MD**  
Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine,  
Brigham and Women's Hospital  
Subspecialty: Pulmonary Vascular Disease



**Elizabeth P. Henske, MD**  
Director, Center for LAM Research and Clinical Care,  
Co-director, Pulmonary Genetics Center,  
Brigham and Women's Hospital



**Carolyn M. D'Ambrosio, MD**  
Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine,  
Brigham and Women's Hospital



**Benjamin Raby, MD, MPH**  
Co-director, Pulmonary Genetics Center,  
Brigham and Women's Hospital



**Dawn L. DeMeo, MD, MPH**  
Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine,  
Brigham and Women's Hospital

### Otolaryngology



**Jayme R. Dowdall, MD**  
Co-director, Voice Program,  
Division of Otolaryngology,  
Brigham and Women's Hospital

### Nutrition



**Kate Sweeney, MS, RD, LDN**  
Manager,  
Nutrition and Wellness Service,  
Brigham and Women's Hospital



**Chandler Thompson DMA, MS, CCC-SLP**  
Clinical Vocologist/Speech Pathologist,  
Division of Otolaryngology,  
Brigham and Women's Hospital



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