

From: Elizabeth Parsons <Elizabeth.Parsons@wakefieldma.gov>

Sent: Sep 25, 2025 18:49:14.000000000 UTC

Subject: RE: Fellow Introduction [EXTERNAL]

To: Farhan, Mutahir <Mutahir.Farhan@childrens.harvard.edu>; Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org>; Vodka, Kayla <Kayla.VodkaRego@childrens.harvard.edu>

Cc: Hassan, Mohammad <Mohammad.Hassan@childrens.harvard.edu>

Hi Farhan and Hasaan,

Thank you both for your interest in getting involved! I absolutely agree with Maureen that physicians—family physicians and pediatricians especially—have crucial voice in educating our decision-makers about effective policies to reduce harm.

You are both welcome to join our local coalition meetings in Wakefield (in person or virtually) each month, or even as a spotlight speaker once to share your expertise and what you're seeing when it comes to adolescent substance use. I can see our members and perhaps school collaborators being interested in what you have to share.

I would also love to include you in our MA Alcohol Policy Coalition (MAPC) where members are working on toolkits that can be shared across the public health/prevention field. These toolkits include information about educating local decision makers, how the local policy process works for alcohol (it's different from tobacco), and about how an alcohol excise tax increase can reduce alcohol harms. Your expertise would be welcome on any/all of those areas. Several communities across MA are working on this local education and may benefit from your voices when in front of their Boards of Health, Coalitions, and/or liquor boards.

For first steps, I can invite you to our next Wakefield Unified Prevention (Wake-UP) Coalition meeting in October AND our next MAPC meeting at the end of October if you'd like?

Thanks again!

Liz

From: Farhan, Mutahir <Mutahir.Farhan@childrens.harvard.edu>

Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2025 2:13 PM

To: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org>; Vodka, Kayla <Kayla.VodkaRego@childrens.harvard.edu>; Elizabeth Parsons <Elizabeth.Parsons@wakefieldma.gov>

Cc: Hassan, Mohammad <Mohammad.Hassan@childrens.harvard.edu>

Subject: Re: Fellow Introduction [EXTERNAL]

Hello everyone!

Maureen/Liz - It is a pleasure to meet you both virtually. This is very exciting! I have been wanting to get more involved in the advocacy side, especially on the legislative side as many of the issues we are running into as clinicians can be addressed (or at the very least, improved) at a government level. I also do a lot of work on the social media side so that would be another avenue to explore down the road if needed. I would love to also be included in the emails.

Kayla – Thank you for the kind words. You are 100% right – West coast >>> East coast

Best regards,

Mutahir Farhan, MD, AAHIVS

Addiction Medicine Fellow Physician

Harvard Medical School / Boston Children's Hospital

Adolescent Substance Use and Addiction Program (ASAP)

Division of Addiction Medicine



300 Longwood Ave, Boston, MA, 02114

T: 617.355.6000 | F: 617.730.0252 | O: 617.355.2727

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From: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org>
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 at 3:53 PM
To: Vodka, Kayla <Kayla.VodkaRego@childrens.harvard.edu>, Elizabeth Parsons <eparsons@wakefield.ma.us>
Cc: Hassan, Mohammad <Mohammad.Hassan@childrens.harvard.edu>, Farhan, Mutahir <Mutahir.Farhan@childrens.harvard.edu>
Subject: RE: Fellow Introduction [EXTERNAL]

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Thank you, Kayla!

Good afternoon Farhan and Hassan,

Great to “meet” you at least electronically for now. Would love to chat further to share a bit about our Massachusetts tobacco policy work and to solicit your thoughts and hopefully your support.

As Kayla said, I have been working on spreading the word and encouraging municipalities to adopt this groundbreaking policy. A heavy lift when up against Big Tobacco. I have attended and participated in many public hearings around the state. I have learned that the most effective advocacy (those who are listened to most closely) are local youth, residents, and medical professionals, in that order. I can speak all I want but Board members and other municipal leaders listen most closely to their own constituents and to respected medical professionals. No one speaks to the issue of harm caused by these insidious products better than physicians who actually treat patients affected by nicotine addiction.

If you would like, we can start by adding you to our NFG email distribution list. We share updates via email and try to meet via Zoom once every couple of weeks or so to catch up and to strategize. Some email recipients just read the emails. Some attend the zoom meetings. And some participate in public

hearings to lend their support. Or even testify at the State House as four Children's Hospital pediatricians did this past July.

I would be very happy to chat via phone or Zoom if that works. Let me know. And I can send along a couple of short documents that will help flesh out this policy for you.

Thank you for your interest. Hope to continue this conversation soon.

Best regards,
Maureen

Maureen Buzby
562 Main St.
Melrose, MA 02176
781-979-4158
Cell: 781-307-1411

From: Vodka, Kayla <Kayla.VodkaRego@childrens.harvard.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 3:10 PM
To: Elizabeth Parsons <eparsons@wakefield.ma.us>; Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org>
Cc: Hassan, Mohammad <Mohammad.Hassan@childrens.harvard.edu>; Farhan, Mutahir <Mutahir.Farhan@childrens.harvard.edu>
Subject: Fellow Introduction

Hi Maureen and Liz,

I wanted to send you a quick email before I head out on maternity leave to introduce you to our two new fellows in Addiction Medicine, Hassan and Farhan! Both of our fellows are interested in policy/advocacy work.

Farhan/Hassan - Maureen and Liz wear various hats in relation to substance use and advocacy work. Maureen has been on the leading edge of advocating for and getting the Nicotine Free Generation bills passed throughout the Commonwealth and is a Regional Tobacco Coordinator. Liz works for a local community coalition focused on substance use prevention and is also the founder of MAPC (the Massachusetts Alcohol Policy Coalition) and does a ton of amazing things under both of those roles.

Liz/Maureen - Farhan and Hassan are both truly amazing doctors who have jumped right into Addiction Medicine feet first! Farhan is trained in Internal Medicine and comes from the West Coast (as an Oregonian, west coast, best coast!) and Hassan is trained in Family Medicine and hails from upstate NY! We are very lucky to have both join our team this year. □

Looking forward to hearing about any potential collaborations when I return in the new year!

Kayla Vodka Rego, MPH (She/Her/Hers)

Division Manager

Division of Addiction Medicine

[Boston Children's Hospital](#)

300 Longwood Avenue, Boston, MA 02115

Office: 857-218-4317

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