Faculty Biographies

Ella Franklin, Managing Director, ER One Center for Building Sciences, MedStar Institute for Innovation

Ella is the managing director for the Building Science division of MI2. She is also the project manager for the Bridge to ER One, a prototype building project at the Washington Hospital Center, serving as a test-bed for new technologies and innovative design concepts in emergency medicine. Through the lens of an infection preventionist, she studies the role of the built environment in the transmission or prevention of nosocomial infections.

Ella joined MedStar Health in 2003 after 20 years in clinical nursing practice. After earning her Bachelor of Science from Georgetown University and completing training at the National Institute for Nursing Research (NIH) she has served as a clinical research coordinator and held numerous clinical leadership positions in a range of specialties including: critical care, ambulatory surgery, occupational health and infection control. In addition to clinical practice, Ella has contributed to numerous public health initiatives including the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government’s Regional Pandemic Illness Planning Committee and the District of Columbia’s Healthcare worker Smallpox vaccination response. She directed the first-in-nation mass personal protection equipment training program for a large, urban teaching hospital and assisted in the creation of a widely adopted model for boosting the number of the health care workers who receive influenza vaccination. Following the largest U.S. hospital tuberculosis outbreak of the past 25 years, Ella led the healthcare worker contact tracing in collaboration with the U.S. Public Health Service.

During the 2006 Avian Influenza outbreak, she served as a consultant to the Egyptian Health Ministry and provided healthcare worker safety and infection prevention training. Ella is an active member of The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA), the Association for Professionals in Infection Control & Epidemiology (APIC) and Sigma Theta Tau, the International Honor Society of Nursing. The Bridge to ER One, a Pebble Project of the Center for Health Design has been featured in Advance for Nurses, Nursing Spectrum, Occupational Hazards, Responder Safety, Washington Business Journal, CQ Homeland Security, ED Management, Health Facilities Management and Prevention (APIC).

James W Harrell, FAIA, FACHA, LEED AP  Design Leader and Senior Medical Planner Healthcare Group GBBN Architects, Inc

Mr. Harrell has over forty-five years of experience in planning, design and construction of healthcare facilities. His interest in improving the environments for healthcare has led him to be deeply involved in the development of guidelines and standards for the planning and design of hospitals and healthcare facilities. He is a frequent lecturer to national and international audiences on healthcare design concepts and is a contributing author on designing for healthcare. He is a Fellow of American Institute of Architects, a member of the Academy of Architecture for Health, and a Founding Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Architects.

Mr. Harrell has designed over 40 Emergency Departments around the country and in China. These have included Level Trauma Centers, Academic Medical Centers, Community Hospitals, and free-standing Urgent Care Centers

Barbara J. Huelat, AAHID, FASID, IIDA

Barbara Huelat is internationally acclaimed for her groundbreaking award-winning work and personal creative sensitivity for the design of healthcare environments. As a practicing Interior Designer, she has personally served over 200 healthcare organizations with visionary solutions for patient/family/staff-friendly spaces. Her spectrum of clients includes the Mayo Clinics, the National Cancer Institute of Japan,
the National Institutes of Health, ER One: a “Pebble” research project at the Washington Hospital Center and currently, the Potomac Hospital in suburban Virginia. Her talents for creating healing spaces have long been recognized by the American Society of Interior Designers, The American Hospital Association and the American Institute of Architects. Barbara is a founding board member of the Center for Healthcare Design, and is National President of the American Academy of Healthcare Interior Designers, a credentialing organization established to create professional performance standards for this unique design specialty.

James Lennon, Lennon Associates, President

James Lennon, AIA, ACHA is an architect that has designed or planned more than a billion dollars in health care projects. He has specialized in the design of emergency departments for the last 15 years. Mr. Lennon lectures about emergency department design at the Harvard Graduate School of Design Professional Development Program for the past 8 years.

Example projects that Mr. Lennon has designed include: ER One phase III and IV, Washington, D.C., Duke University emergency department (90,000 visits/yr), York Hospital (65,000 visits/yr), York, PA, Queen Elizabeth II Emergency Department (55,000 visits/yr) Halifax, Nova Scotia, University of Kentucky (68,000 visits/yr) Lexington, KY, Children’s Hospital of Dallas (70,000 visits/yr) Dallas, TX.

Debajyoti Pati, PhD FIIA, LEED © AP, Vice President, Director of Research, HKS, Inc.

Dr. Debajyoti Pati is the Rockwell Endowed Professor in the Department of Design, Texas Tech University. He is also the Executive Director of CADRE, the non-profit knowledge resource of HKS Architects. He has presented and published widely on healthcare environment research. He was adjudged among the most influential people in healthcare design in 2009 and 2010, and received the Best International Research Project award from the International Academy for Design & Health in 2009 and 2010. He is a member of the Research Coalition of the Center for Health Design, on the editorial board of HERD, and Fellow of the Indian Institute of Architects.

Michael (Mik) P. Pietrzak, MD, Director of Strategic Initiatives for the MedStar Institute for Innovation (MI2).

Dr. Pietrzak was a founding director of the ER One Institute at Washington Hospital Center which is now part of MI2. Prior to the establishment of the ER One Institute, he was a project principal and director of Project ER One charged with leading the federally funded initiative in developing the design features, concepts, and specifications for an all risks medical facility in a multi-threat environment. Mik has held several academic positions including Assistant Clinical Professor of Emergency Medicine at Georgetown University, Associate Clinical Professor at George Washington University, and Associate Clinical Professor at the Department of Military Emergency Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences, where he continues to hold an adjunct faculty appointment. In addition, he is the founder and principal of Knowledge Management Solutions, a consulting firm working in the areas of medicine, design, and technology application. He serves as senior medical consultant to HKS architects healthcare group and has been intimately involved in the development of environments for senior housing.

Mik was a Fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians having served as an officer and on numerous committees. He served on the American Institute of Architects committee for Guidelines for the Design and Construction of Hospital and Health Care Facilities, and on several committees and working groups providing input to the United States Government on critical infrastructure protection; over his career he has made over 100 presentations at national and international conferences. Mik received his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Iowa School of Medicine and completed a residency in emergency medicine at Georgetown University Hospital.

Frank Zilm, President, Frank Zilm & Associates
Frank Zilm has focused his architecture career on the planning and programming of healthcare facilities, beginning with his doctoral studies at the University of Michigan, and continuing with the execution of over 300 projects throughout the United States. He has pioneered the application of computer modeling in hospital planning, has sponsored research and has served on the Research Council of the Center for Healthcare Design. He is a frequent guest lecturer and author on topics related to the planning of emergency services, surgery design, master planning, and hospital design. In 2008 Frank Zilm accepted a lecturer position in healthcare design at the University of Kansas College of Architecture, Design, and Planning. International planning projects include studies for health care providers in India, Kenya, and Haiti.