



**BOSTON, Ma (November 19, 2020)** -- The Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare today announced that its 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Kenneth B. Schwartz Compassionate Healthcare Dinner will feature a keynote speech by renowned physician, Dr. Ashish Jha, dean of the Brown University School of Public Health. Award-winning broadcast journalist Callie Crossley of WGBH Radio and Television will host the virtual event, which this year will celebrate the legion of healthcare professionals working tirelessly on the front lines to care for patients battling COVID-19.

Workers representing every aspect of the healthcare profession, from doctors and nurses, to translators and transporters, will be honored for their commitment, resilience, and compassion in the face of this relentless public health crisis. Philanthropist Jack Connors, founder of the marketing and communications firm, Hill, Holliday, Connors, Cosmopolos, Inc., Lois Cornell, executive vice president of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and Andrew Dreyfus, president & CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, are the event's co-chairs.

According to Schwartz Center Chief Medical Officer Beth Lown, MD, the Schwartz Center's efforts to promote equitable, compassionate care are particularly relevant during these unprecedented times. "The physical and emotional toll this pandemic has taken on the healthcare community is real and far-reaching, and the impact on both individuals and organizations will reverberate for years to come," said Lown.

Proceeds from the event support the Schwartz Center's essential initiatives, which include Schwartz Rounds<sup>®</sup>, a Compassion in Action webinar series, the recently launched Stress First Aid program, and a toolkit offering a variety of resources to support the mental health of healthcare professionals.

"As with all of our offerings, these programs were designed to support the emotional health and well-being of our healthcare workers," said Schwartz Center CEO Matt Herndon. "At the Schwartz Center, we care for the caregivers who day-in and day-out risk their own safety and well-being to care for all of us."

Rather than showcase a single individual who has demonstrated "extraordinary acts of compassion," this year the Schwartz Center will honor a *Nation of Caregivers*.

"Throughout the evening we will share the stories of healthcare providers who—despite the dangers this disease poses to them and their loved ones—remain on the job to offer comfort, compassion, and vital care to millions of patients nationwide," said Schwartz Center Board President Sharon McNally.

Sponsors of the Schwartz Center's 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Kenneth B. Schwartz Compassionate Healthcare Dinner include: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, CRICO, and Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky, and Popeo.

**About the Schwartz Center for Compassionate healthcare:**

The Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare envisions a world where all who seek and provide healthcare experience compassion. We have hundreds of members in the U.S., Canada, Australia and New Zealand, including hospitals, long-term care facilities and other healthcare organizations, and more

than 200 healthcare organizations conducting our programs in the United Kingdom and Ireland. Through them, we have positively impacted hundreds of thousands of caregivers and patients across nearly every healthcare setting with our programs and resources.

The Schwartz Center's mission to put compassion at the heart of healthcare holds true no matter how extraordinary or difficult the circumstances. Since our founding in 1995, healthcare organizations rely on our programs, education and resources to support clinician well-being and mental health, enhance the quality of care, enable better outcomes, and create a more positive experience for all members of the care team, patients and their families. For more information, visit [theschwartzcenter.org](https://theschwartzcenter.org)