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Health Systems Initiative

HSI Newsletter: September 2026

MIT's most recent academic and fiscal year ended on June 30, 2026. In this issue, we present [highlights from our annual report](#) and a link to view [the full document](#). This report covers our accomplishments and activities in six sections: Research, Lab on Employee Population Health, Seminars and Events, Education, Communications, and Advisory Board.

Under [Notes](#), we publicize an accomplishment of two Sloan Fellows: the development of LymeAlert, an at-home test for Lyme disease.

[MIT HEALS](#) returns to [MIT Future Fest](#), which runs from September 30 through October 4, 2026. This year, HEALS' seminar features [Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw](#), executive chairman and founder of [Bicon Biologics](#). Ticket information for the October 1 talk is listed under [Events](#), below. Passes to Future Fest are available [here](#).

As always, questions and suggestions are welcome at healthsystems@mit.edu.

NEWS

MIT Sloan HSI Annual Report FY26 Highlights

MIT's most recent academic and fiscal year ended on June 30, 2026. The annual report covers our accomplishments and activities in six sections: Research, HSI Lab



Health Systems Initiative

and Advisory Board. See the full report [HERE](#); highlights are below.

The HSI Research Fund is the engine of this work, seeding faculty projects on timely healthcare issues. Since 2019, it has funded 31 projects—16 complete, 13 ongoing, and two new this year—with almost \$2.6 million in philanthropic support, mostly for research data and MIT student stipends for hands-on work with faculty. Many teams also collaborate with healthcare organizations and academic partners. See the [HSI Research Fund: Overview and Impact](#) for the full picture.

[Two new faculty-led projects](#), both on the real-world implications of AI adoption in work and healthcare, were selected through the Research Fund's 2026 call for proposals and announced on April 13, 2026.

This year, we held eight lunchtime seminars. In keeping with our aim of strengthening ties across MIT, three seminars featured HSI Advisory Board members or Sloan alumni returning to campus. One of these, featuring Shani Fargun, Sloan Fellow MBA '25, was also the topic of our most-read LinkedIn post. Fargun, VP of Healthcare at StackAI, spoke about ["Unsexy AI That Works: A Practical Session on Building Real-World Healthcare AI Workflows with StackAI."](#)

A Healthcare Lab team's work for the Department of Neurosurgery at Boston Children's Hospital produced measurable gains within a year. Boston Children's piloted several recommendations, including redesigned 20/40-minute scheduling templates and standardized clinic preparation. One year later, participating providers saw a 12% increase in patient volume without added clinic hours, cancellations fell 26%, and scheduling-related patient satisfaction improved. In all, the host reported, the pilot saved the department roughly \$200,000. [Read the full account.](#)

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NOTES

First At-Home Lyme Disease Test Developed by Two Sloan Fellows

MIT News reported that alumni [Erin Dawicki](#), MBA '24, and [Michelle Ewy](#), MBA '24, developed an at-home test for Lyme disease. The Sloan Fellows spoke to Boston 25 News about developing [LymeAlert](#), the first at-home test kit. "The faster you treat it [Lyme disease], the way easier it is to treat and have complete resolution of symptoms for a lot of people," says Dawicki. "But the second challenge is the current diagnostics we have miss 64 to 78 percent of early-stage cases." [Full story](#) at Boston 25 News.

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EVENTS

MIT Health and Life Sciences Collaborative (HEALS) Announces Seminar at Upcoming MIT Future Fest

[Future Fest](#) returns to MIT from September 30 to October 4, 2026. The [MIT HEALS](#) seminar will feature [Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw](#), Executive Chairperson and Founder of Biocon Limited and [Biocon Biologics Limited](#). The talk is on October 1, from 4:00 to 5:30 pm at the [MIT Welcome Center](#).

Tickets are free for MIT students, faculty, and staff. If you are not a current MIT student, faculty member, or staff member and would like a complimentary ticket, please email mit-heals@mit.edu. Passes to Future Fest are available [here](#).

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