The invitation to write one of these monthly 150th anniversary reflections on my journey within the Harvard Medical School has been a meaningful opportunity to take stock of how our world, our dedicated, professional staff who make it all possible, and for the vision for “alleviating human suffering and improving health and well-being for all” – with that final word, all, being most important.

When you reflect on your past, you may realize that you have been a faculty leader for 20 years. For most of those years, I have been Dean for Medical Education. I would like to share some of the highlights of my deanship and the many wonderful people I have met along the way.

Twenty years, 2014 – Dean for Medical Education

In 2014, I was named Dean for Medical Education. I was excited to have the opportunity to lead the Department of Medical Education and to work with the many talented individuals who make up the medical education community at HMS. I was especially pleased to have the opportunity to continue the work of my predecessor, Paul Farmer, who had been Dean for Medical Education for many years.

Over the next five years, I worked to ensure that our educational programs continued to be at the forefront of medical education. We made significant changes to our curriculum, including the introduction of a new curriculum for the first-year students. We also worked to ensure that our faculty and staff were well-supported and that our programs were sustainable.

In 2019, I was named the Edward M. Hundert Chair in Medical Education. This chair was established in honor of a former Dean for Medical Education, and it is a testament to the importance of medical education at HMS.

During my deanship, I have been fortunate to work with many talented individuals, including the HMS student body, faculty, and staff. I am grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of this wonderful community.