

YouthCare Gala raises nearly \$800,000

ONE OF THE SYMPTOMS of autism spectrum disorders – which affect up to 1.5 million Americans – is discomfort with or disinterest in social interaction. On April 7, five young men stood tall as examples of the possibility of overcoming the challenges of autism, eloquently sharing their experiences with YouthCare – a highly successful MGH program for individuals with autism – in front of 650 guests at the annual YouthCare Gala.

The benefit event, held at the Mandarin Oriental, helped provide financial support for YouthCare while raising awareness about autism.

Programs and services offered by YouthCare range from summer camps to school consultations and are designed to help children, teenagers and young adults make social connections and gain the living skills they need to reach their full potential. YouthCare clinicians and staff take a multidisciplinary team approach and collaborate closely with parents, teachers and other health care providers.



AUTISM AWARENESS:
From left, Slavin, McLeod and Long at the gala

Gala Committee Co-Chairs David H. Long, president of Liberty Mutual Group, and Timothy M. Sweeney, executive vice president of Liberty Mutual, welcomed guests. Following their remarks, Peter L. Slavin, MD, MGH president, thanked other committee members – Marlene and Gerry Austen Jr., MD, Ann Marie and Daniel Gross, (Continued on page 2)

A grateful family thanks MGH Transplant Center staff



A THANKFUL FAMILY: Wong, second from right, with the Walker family, from left, Landon, Eric, Natalie, Ariana and Christine

WHEN 35-YEAR-OLD ERIC WALKER was diagnosed with kidney failure in 2006, the life of the once energetic husband and father of three young children changed completely. He spent the next three years on dialysis waiting for a transplant. “I was hooked up to a machine for eight hours a night,” says Walker. “Life was dialysis, and I was always tired.”

Walker’s oldest daughter, 11-year-old Ariana, saw how the illness was affecting her father and began taking an active role in his treatment and recovery. She often accompanied Walker to his appointments at the MGH, asking many questions of his caregivers. She quickly formed a friendship with Waichi Wong, MD, a nephrologist in the MGH Transplant Center.

Finally, in 2009, a donor was identified for Walker. Because that person was not a biological match, Walker and the donor decided to participate in the New England Program for Kidney Exchange, which helps match donors and recipients who are biologically incompatible with those who are. On

(Continued on page 3)

– YouthCare Gala

(Continued from page 1)

Terry and Tom Hamilton, Kim and Eric Karofsky, Shonda and Curt Schilling, and Stephanie Long – for their efforts. He also shared details about YouthCare’s mission.

The highlight of the event was the presentation by the five program participants, who were introduced by Scott McLeod, PhD, executive director of YouthCare. Each described how the

MCLEOD EXPLAINED THE CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUNG PEOPLE WITH AUTISM AND DESCRIBED HOW THEY BECOME EVEN MORE DIFFICULT FOR TEENAGERS TRANSITIONING INTO ADULTHOOD.

program has positively influenced his life. Because of YouthCare, said the Longs’ son Oliver, “I don’t have to feel like I’m on the outside looking in.”

After their remarks, McLeod explained the challenges faced by young people with autism and described how they become even more difficult for teenagers transitioning into adulthood. To meet the needs of this specific age group, McLeod announced plans to further expand YouthCare’s comprehensive group and consultation services for individuals with autism up to age 30 by spring 2013.

The gala came to a close with a live auction featuring prizes, donated by committee members and gala attendees. Among the prizes were a gaming experience with former Red Sox pitcher Curt Schilling at 38 Studios, a meal with Peter King of *Sports Illustrated* and a music lesson with Tom Hamilton, bassist of Aerosmith. The auction prizes, ticket sales and other donations raised nearly \$800,000.

For more information about YouthCare, visit www.mghyouthcare.org. ■

Career Information Day at MGH

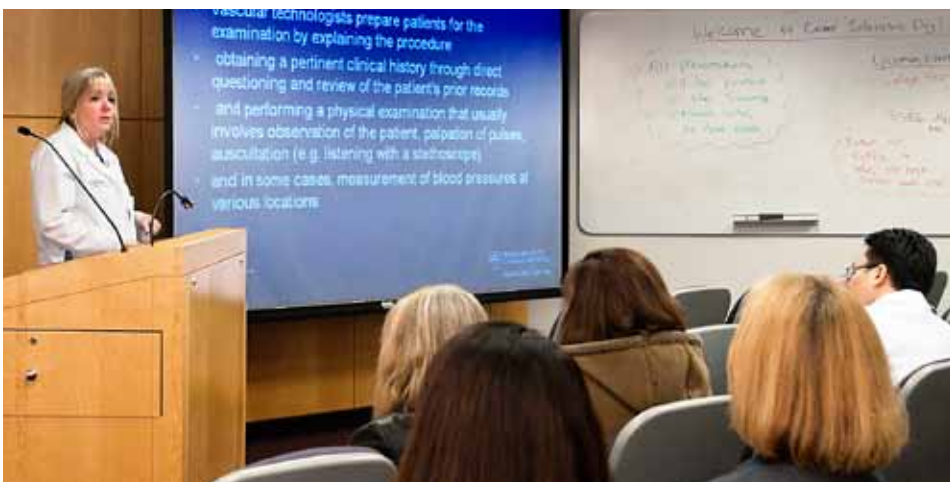
TIESHA CABRAL, a patient service coordinator in the Cancer Center, listened with interest as Sandra Woodworth, RT(R)(CT), a clinical instructor for MGH Imaging, described the day-to-day life of a radiologic technologist. Woodworth was among those sharing insight about their careers March 31 during Career Information Day.

Hosted by the Human Resources Office of Training and Workforce Development, Career Information Day gave more than 50 attendees a look at the opportunities available in medical imaging, medical and surgical technologies, medical coding, electrodiagnostic technology and respiratory therapy. Cabral, who is taking prerequisite courses at Bunker Hill Community College, hopes to enter the school’s radiologic technologist program next year. “I love interacting with patients in my current job, but I’m looking for something that’s a bit more hands-on,” she said. Cabral’s interest in radiology comes at a good time, Woodworth said, as the field is expected to grow in the next five years. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that 30,000 new radiologic technologists will be needed by 2016.

Woodworth described the different environments in which radiologic technologists work – in the Emergency Department, operating rooms, or inpatient and outpatient areas. “I’ve been here for 30 years, and I’ve worked in every radiology area,” she said. Another aspect of a career in radiology that appeals to many – including Cabral – is the possibility of a flexible schedule. Woodworth said technologists are needed at all hours of the day – on weekends, evenings and on call.

“Because I am a single mom, having the option of a flexible schedule would help me a great deal,” Cabral said. “My son is at the age where he is active in sports and other programs at school, and the flexible schedule would allow me to be there for him more.”

For more information about Career Information Day, contact John Coco at 617-724-3368 or jcoco@partners.org. ■



CAREER INFORMATION: Kathleen Hannon, technical director of the MGH Vascular Diagnostic Lab, shares information about her career.

Three MGH nurses named *Nursing Spectrum* regional award finalists

THREE MGH NURSES have been selected New England regional finalists for this year’s *Nursing Spectrum* Nursing Excellence Awards. The awards recognize nurses who have made exceptional contributions to their field in the following categories: Advancing and Leading the Profession, Clinical Care, Community Service, Management, Mentoring and Teaching. Following an open nomination process, five finalists in each

region are selected in each of the six categories. This year’s MGH New England finalists and their nomination categories are: Gino Chisari, RN, MSN, DNP(c), director of The Norman Knight Nursing Center for Clinical & Professional Development – Advancing and Leading the Profession; Lillian Ananian, RN, PhD(c), clinical nurse specialist in the Medical Intensive Care Unit – Clinical Care; and Natalie Harris, RN, staff

nurse on Ellison 6 for Orthopaedics and materials manager for Medical Missions for Children – Community Service.

A panel of nursing leaders will select an overall winner in each category. The New England finalists will be honored and the winner in each category will be announced at a May 11 gala at the Marriott Hotel in Newton.



GLOBAL HEALTH PROVIDERS: From left, front row, Marsh, Turlington, Vanessa Kerry, MD, MSc, of the MGH Center for Global Health, Goodman, Jessica Haberer, MD, of the MGH Infectious Disease Unit, and Paul Farmer, MD, PhD, founding director of Partners in Health. From left, back row, Sadath A. Sayeed, MD, JD, of Global Health and Social Medicine at HMS, and Kristian Olson, MD, MPH, DTM&H, of the MGH Center for Global Health

Maternal health around the world

SHE IS BEST KNOWN as an American supermodel for brands such as Calvin Klein, Chanel and Maybelline Cosmetics. But Christy Turlington recently established a different reputation for herself: maternal health advocate for women around the world.

In 2003, Turlington experienced life-threatening complications while giving birth to her first child. Thanks to swift medical intervention by a team of health care providers, both she and her daughter narrowly missed becoming maternal mortality statistics. The experience made a significant impact on Turlington, who, during her pregnancy with her second child, traveled to El Salvador, where she saw women prepared to give birth with few birthing and medical resources. She understood that, had she given birth under the same circumstances, she and her baby may not have survived.

To help raise awareness about the importance of maternal health around the globe, Turlington produced “No Woman, No Cry,” a film exploring the risks of giving birth without adequate care in three parts of the world: Tanzania, Bangladesh and Guatemala. On April 4, the MGH Center for Global Health and Harvard Medical School (HMS) Department of Global Health and Social Medicine co-hosted an event where Turlington presented her film and joined Annkathryn Goodman, MD, director of the MGH Gynecology Oncology Fellowship Program, and Sarah Marsh, CM, MPH, nurse midwife and former women’s health coordinator for Partners in Health, at a panel discussion on the birth experience and well-being of mothers worldwide.

“Around the world, more than 500,000 women die each year during childbirth, and 90 percent of these deaths are preventable,” said Turlington. “I knew that more could be done to elevate awareness around this issue and felt that, through the medium of film, I would be able to share women’s stories from around the world to rally some activism.”

Goodman, who has served on disaster relief deployments in Haiti, Indonesia and Iran, shared her view on global maternal health. “We need to understand what we can do to protect women. To do that requires an understanding of the social, cultural, medical and economic systems of the countries in which they live. The MGH Center for Global Health aims to help alleviate suffering, identify how to reduce the burden of disease and partner with health care providers of other countries to strengthen their public health sectors, specifically around important issues such as maternal health. We are grateful to Christy for helping to raise public awareness of this critical concern around the world.” ■

– Transplant Center

(Continued from page 1)

Nov. 5, 2009, Walker received his new kidney from a compatible donor.

“I was up and about the next day,” he says. “Three months later I had almost all of my energy back, and I was doing normal activities. I could keep up with the kids again. Basically, I got my life back.”

This past winter, a very grateful Ariana wrote a letter thanking the MGH Transplant Center staff for caring for her father: “Since my daddy has been transplanted, we have been able to swim, camp, hike and do other fun family activities,” she wrote. “Transplant was scary, but I knew he would make it through. I was so thankful that the doctors and nursing staff had taken such good care of him.”

Upon reading the letter, Wong says she was touched and brought to tears. “A letter like this is one of the best rewards any physician can receive. It reminded me of why I do this job that I love and respect so much.”

Walker and his family are thankful for each day, and he urges others to register as organ donors. “You never know who you’re going to help.”

Right now, more than 110,000 patients and their families are waiting for an organ transplant in the United States. Nearly 3,000 are waiting in Massachusetts alone. April is National Donate a Life Month, and to help address the need for organ donors, the MGH Transplant Center and New England Organ Bank will host an information table April 21 from 10 am to 2 pm in the Main Lobby. Passersby can sign up to become organ donors, and past donors and recipients will be on hand to discuss their experiences. To register to become an organ donor, stop by the table or visit www.donatelifenewengland.org.

WHAT'S HAPPENING**Taste of the North End**

The "Taste of the North End" will be held May 6 from 6 to 11 pm at Steriti Memorial Rink, located at 561 Commercial St., Boston. The event will feature food and wine from 30 North End restaurants. The James Montgomery Blues Band will perform and KISS108 and NECN's Billy Costa will emcee. Tickets are \$79 until April 22 and \$99 thereafter. Proceeds benefit the MGH North End Community Health Center. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.tasteofthenorthend.org.

**EDITOR**

Suzanne Kim
617-726-0275

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Emily Lemiska
617-724-2753

DESIGNER

Aldona Charlton
617-726-7539

FAX

617-726-7475

E-MAIL

Hotline@partners.org

MAIL

Public Affairs Office
50 Staniford Street,
Suite 830
Boston, MA 02114

MGH Hotline
is published weekly
by the MGH Public Affairs Office.

MGH Hotline
is available at
www.massgeneral.org/news/hotline

Submit news tips and story ideas
to MGH Hotline.



MGH Hotline is printed
on recycled paper.
Please recycle Hotline
in any white paper box.

Women's health fair

The MGH and Vincent Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology will celebrate National Women's Health Week by sponsoring "An Ounce of Prevention," a day-long women's health fair, May 11 from 8 am to 4 pm in the Bulfinch Tents. This interactive health fair – featuring more than a dozen subspecialties and programs across the MGH – will offer opportunities for women to learn how to remain healthy throughout their lives. Each service will emphasize preventive care practices and strategies, invite participants to engage in self-assessment and raise awareness about specific issues or risk factors. Providers will be on-hand throughout the day, and door prizes will be raffled. For more information, contact Abby MacDonald, LICSW, at asmacdonald@partners.org or 617-724-4008.

Patient-Centered Computing and eHealth

The annual HMS Continuing Medical Education (CME) program, "Patient-Centered Computing and eHealth: Transforming Healthcare Quality" will be held May 6 through 8 at the Sheraton Hotel Boston. Participants will learn best practices and gain insights about effectively using health information technology. MGH course faculty members are Claus Hamann, MD, MS; David C. Judge, MD; Andrew Karson, MD, MPH; Joseph C. Kvedar, MD; and Charles H. Weiss, MD. Blackford Middleton, MD, MPH, MSc, corporate director for Clinical Informatics Research and Development for Partners HealthCare, will be the CME course director. To register, visit www.cme.hms.harvard.edu/courses/ehealth.

Drug development in an academic medical center

The MGH Clinical Research Program, the Translational Medicine Group at the Center for Computational and Integrative Biology at MGH, and Partners Research Ventures and Licensing are sponsoring "From Bench to Bedside: Drug Development in an Academic Medical Center" April 28 from 2 to 5 pm in the Simches Research Center, Room 3.110. Topics will include an overview of the types of academic discoveries

**Save the Date**

7 News Partners HealthCare Health and Fitness Expo
June 25 and 26
10 am to 5 pm at the Hynes Convention Center
www.bostonhealthexpo.com

that are most likely to have clinical utility; patents and the patenting process; approaches to obtaining funding for the translational process; the development pathway for new drugs and devices; and resources available at the MGH to help investigators who want to take on this challenge. To register, visit <http://hub.partners.org>. For more information, contact Suzanne Powell at 617-724-2900.

MGH Senior HealthWISE

MGH Senior HealthWISE will offer the following free events for seniors ages 60 years and older: a lecture, "Glaucoma," with Tom Hsu, MD, of the Ophthalmic Consultants of Boston, April 21 from 11 am to noon in the Haber Conference Room; a book club discussion of "The King's Best Highway" by Eric Jaffe April 21 from 3 to 4 pm at the West End Library; a hypertension screening April 25 from 1:30 to 2:30 pm at the West End Library; and a performance by the Boston Conservatory Cabaret April 26 from 3:30 to 4:30 pm in the Thier Conference Room – registration is required for this event. For more information or to register, call 617-724-6756.

InfoByte computer courses

Partners Information Systems (IS) will offer InfoByte computer courses beginning April 20. InfoByte courses are free, 90-minute courses offered by Partners IS. Topics include Outlook,

Excel, Word and PowerPoint. Employees can register for courses using PeopleSoft. For more information, visit <http://listraining.partners.org>.

Clinical pastoral education

The Schwartz Center is offering fellowships for the fall 2011 MGH Clinical Pastoral Education Program for Healthcare Providers. The program is open to clinicians from any discipline who work directly with patients, family or staff and wish to integrate spiritual caregiving into their professional practice. The part-time program is held in group sessions on Mondays from 8:30 am to 5 pm. Additional hours are negotiated for the clinical component. The fall program begins Sept. 6 and runs through Dec. 20. Applications will be accepted after May 1. For more information, call the MGH Chaplaincy at 617-726-4774 or Rev. Angelika Zollfrank at 617-724-3227. This program is accredited by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc.

PIE Awards Ceremony

All members of the MGH community are invited to attend the annual Partners in Excellence (PIE) Awards Ceremony April 22 at 3 pm in the Bulfinch Tents. MGH employees will be honored for their outstanding contributions to Partners in 2010. For more information, call 617-724-9743 or email partners_inexcellence@partners.org.