



**IMAGING ADVANCES:** Rafferty in the breast tomosynthesis exam room

## 3D mammography

*MGH Imaging attains  
a medical first*

**THE MGH CELEBRATED** a medical milestone March 7, when the Breast Imaging Division scanned the first U.S. patient using breast tomosynthesis, a revolutionary three-dimensional (3D) mammogram imaging technology.

Pioneered by the division after more than a decade of research, breast tomosynthesis recently received approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The scan is performed at the same time as a conventional mammogram using the same scanner, which moves in an arc over the patient rather than remaining stationary. The process, however, produces multiple images, rather than a single two-dimensional frame, allowing radiologists to move back and forth through multiple image slices.

“Like flipping through the pages of a book, the radiologist is now able to look at one page at a time instead of seeing the whole breast reduced to a single frame, as is the case with standard mammography,” says Elizabeth Rafferty, MD, director of the MGH Breast Imaging Division.

In addition to improving detection, the new technology can help rule out abnormalities that might appear suspicious in a traditional two-dimensional mammogram. This reduces the need for additional imaging or biopsies.

Breast tomosynthesis is available for annual mammogram screening as well as for diagnostic purposes. For more information, access [www.3Dmammo.org](http://www.3Dmammo.org). ■

## ASSISTING IN JAPAN

**ON MARCH 11**, the northeast coast of Japan suffered a magnitude-9.0 earthquake and destructive tsunami, resulting in the deaths of 5,178 people to date, more than 8,600 missing and the evacuation of 380,000 Japanese from the devastated areas. Many have been left homeless in freezing weather with limited food, water and electricity.

While the MGH and other hospitals await the call for medical assistance from the Japanese government, three MGH Emergency Services physicians already have traveled to the country to offer their support. N. Stuart Harris Jr., MD, MFA, FACEP, director of the Wilderness Medicine Fellowship of the Emergency Department;

Takashi Shiga, MD, Emergency Medicine fellow; and Kohei Hasegawa, MD, Emergency Medicine resident, arrived in Tokyo on March 14 to work with the Disaster Medical Assistance Team of the Tokushukai Hospital Group.

Three days into their deployment, the group headed to Kesenuma, a village destroyed by fires during the tsunami. In a phone interview, Harris explained that they were prepared to handle a wide array of cases, ranging from water-related injuries to blunt-force or penetrating trauma. He also said that there may be cases associated with the lack of resources, such as food and clean drinking water.

All three of the MGH physicians speak Japanese, including Harris, who lived in Iwate-ken for two years in the late 1980s. “Thanks to the tremendous willingness of our MGH Emergency Department colleagues who offered coverage, we are able to be here to help as much as we

*“After the earthquake  
Strangers nod to each other  
As if family”*

A HAIKU

can,” says Harris. “We really appreciate their understanding and the hospital’s readiness to help the Japanese people.”

During this time, the MGH remains on standby and ready to respond with volunteers in the event assistance is requested, according to Susan Briggs, MD, co-director of the Office of Disaster Response (Continued on page 4)

## Disabilities training sessions offered

**APPROXIMATELY ONE IN FIVE AMERICANS** have a disability, and that prevalence will likely increase as the population ages. To help MGH staff address the important needs of individuals with disabilities, monthly training sessions are being sponsored by the MGH Council on Disabilities, Office of Patient Advocacy and the Norman Knight Nursing Center.

Staff from departments across the hospital are encouraged to attend one of the training sessions to increase their skills and sensitivity around providing the best care for patients with disabilities. Cecilia Gandolfo, of the Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts, conducts the hour-long sessions in the O'Keefe Auditorium. This month's latest training took place March 11.

During each session, Gandolfo provides a range of information about disabilities, including the definition of an individual with a disability, statistics about the prevalence and related health care disparities, as well as information about the Americans with Disabilities Act. She also offers insight into responding to the needs of patients with disabilities. Through videotaped interviews of a variety of individuals with disabilities, she illustrates ways caregivers can work with these individuals to provide the best quality of care.



**GANDOLFO**

The overarching principle, Gandolfo said, is what she refers to as the platinum rule: "You should treat others not necessarily how you want to be treated, but how they want to be treated." She emphasized the importance of open, clear and respectful communication, such as asking for permission before offering help or touching or removing an individual's assistance device. "Be sure to use person-first language when talking with or about individuals with disabilities," she said.

"While accessibility is required by law through the Americans with Disabilities Act, the goal of the MGH is to go above and beyond compliance and to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for everyone," says Zary Amirhosseini, disability program manager.

To date, the training sessions have received positive feedback from staff. "If we all increase our awareness about disabilities, we will do a better job of both retaining our current patients and attracting new ones," says Rebecca Coburn of Security Operations, who attended the March 11 session. "It's critical that we support the needs of individuals with disabilities at all levels."

Additional training sessions will take place in the O'Keefe Auditorium:

- April 16 at 2 pm
- May 18 at 6 pm
- June 26 at 1 pm
- July 22 at 2 pm
- Aug. 17 at 2 pm
- Sept. 21 at 6 am
- Oct. 26 at 1 pm
- Nov. 16 at 1 pm
- Dec. 14 at 1 pm

For more information on how to better serve patients with disabilities, visit [www.massgeneral.org/accessibility](http://www.massgeneral.org/accessibility); consult a member of the MGH Council on Disabilities Awareness; or contact Amirhosseini at 617-726-3370 or [mghaccessibility@partners.org](mailto:mghaccessibility@partners.org).



**PROMOTING BEAUTY WITHIN:** From left, Haglund, Herzog, von Furstenberg and Scanlan

## Harris Center 14th Annual Public Forum

**THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL PUBLIC FORUM** hosted by the Harris Center for Education and Advocacy in Eating Disorders at MGH featured David B. Herzog, MD, director of the Harris Center, and legendary fashion icon Diane von Furstenberg, president of the Council of Fashion Designers of America. The March 8 event took place at Harvard Business School with nearly 800 guests attending the forum and 150 attending the reception.

Prior to the event, von Furstenberg spent the afternoon with the Harris Center Teen Mentorship Program for a group discussion with Teresa Scanlan, Miss America 2011, and Kirsten Haglund, Miss America 2008. Fifteen young women between the ages of 12 and 18 from several Boston-area schools heard von Furstenberg and the two pageant winners share their personal experiences and perceptions concerning the importance of healthy behaviors and images in the media.

Later, at the public forum, von Furstenberg continued her efforts to "promote beauty as health" by addressing topics of empowerment, self-image and well-being. She shared her life story, starting with the inspiration and courage she drew from her mother, a Holocaust survivor. She also asked audience members to reconsider how they view themselves and others. "Beauty is perfect in its imperfections," she said.

The program closed with Herzog re-affirming his commitment to working with leaders of the fashion industry to promote better health for both fashion models and the general public.

The event helped raise more than \$250,000 for the Harris Center, which is dedicated to research, education and advocacy for eating disorders and offers clinical assessment and treatment for children, adolescents, adults and families affected by these diseases. For more information about the center, access [www.harriscentermgh.org](http://www.harriscentermgh.org). ■

## Lunder Building 9 and 10 medical oncology floors

The top five floors of the Lunder Building are adult inpatient units for neuroscience and cancer patients. While the patient floors follow a standard design, each has features specific to a particular patient population. This week, MGH Hotline describes the special features of Floors 9 and 10, which are devoted to cancer patients, and provides a general description of a Lunder Building patient floor, including the nursing, support services and common areas.

**THE PATIENT FLOORS** in the Lunder Building were designed for specific patient populations, such as neuroscience and cancer patients, yet the layout also allows for flexibility for other types of patients in the future. Each floor will be composed of a single unit that is divided into two C-shaped interlocking subareas. Each subarea includes support space for a medication room, housekeeping closet, on-call suite and a staff locker room. This allows for easy communication and collaboration between the two subareas as well as fewer footsteps for nurses.

To prevent noise associated with maintenance and general operational activity from reaching patient rooms, corridors for patients and their visitors will be located away from hallways used for medications and support services. Housekeeping supplies, carts, equipment and dietary galleys will be kept away from patient rooms in separate “cut-through” hallways. To further lessen noise levels, clinical and operational supplies will be delivered to patient floors via service elevators that open into behind-the-scenes corridors.

The corner of each patient floor will house specialized spaces for staff lounges, family/multipurpose rooms and rehabilitation rooms. A central pathway crossing diagonally within the unit will allow light to enter into the center of the unit, where a waiting area for family and visitors will overlook the atrium. Close to this area will be a conference room for multidisciplinary staff collaboration, a documentation room and a social work services office.

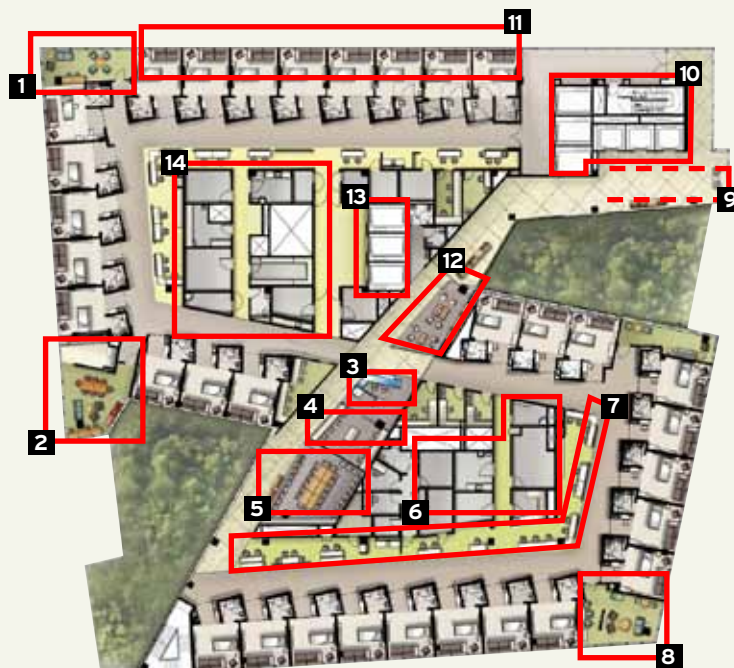
“Nursing care and observation will be provided at three locations,” says Barbara Cashavelly, RN, nursing director of Phillips 21, a 20-bed medical oncology unit, which will transition to 32 beds on Lunder 9.

“There will be central monitoring and key communication points at interaction work zones on each floor outside the patient rooms as well as decentralized computer stations and work counters across from patient rooms for multidisciplinary team consults. In addition, there will be nurses’ stations within each patient room for documentation.”

Lunder 9 and 10 will be designated medical oncology floors. All of the patient rooms on Lunder 10 will be set up for protective isolation for bone marrow transplant and other patients. The unit will maintain a positive pressure environment in which the airflow is carefully managed to help minimize and prevent infection. Lunder 10 also will have an exercise room specifically designed and equipped for these patients.

“Lunder 9 and 10 will have an infusion suite each with two infusion chairs,” adds Ellen Fitzgerald, RN, nursing director of Ellison 14 and soon Lunder 10. “These will be used to provide an alternate location for intravenous hydration and infusion therapy and for getting patients in early to start their chemotherapy before the room where they will stay is ready. Lunder 10 also will include a satellite pharmacy to provide chemotherapy production for the inpatient units in the building.”

*Lunder Building Patient Floor Diagram*



- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>1</b> Family/multipurpose consult room | <b>8</b> Family/multipurpose consult room |
| <b>2</b> Staff Lounge                     | <b>9</b> Main Public Corridor             |
| <b>3</b> Visitor Welcome Desk             | <b>10</b> Patient and Visitor Elevators   |
| <b>4</b> Documentation Room               | <b>11</b> A Section of Patient Rooms      |
| <b>5</b> Conference Room                  | <b>12</b> Family Lounge                   |
| <b>6</b> Support Service Areas            | <b>13</b> Service Elevators               |
| <b>7</b> Interaction Work Zones           | <b>14</b> Support Service Areas           |

**FOR A DETAILED DIAGRAM** of a Lunder Building patient floor, access <http://sharepoint.partners.org/mgh/lunderbuilding>.

In preparation for occupying the Lunder Building, Cashavelly says this summer the nursing staff will be looking at the nursing workflow for their new unit in order to maintain continuity of patient care and safety. She adds that nurse practitioners will cover 28 beds between the two units.

For more information about the Lunder Building, access [www.massgeneral.org/lunderbuilding](http://www.massgeneral.org/lunderbuilding).

## — Japan

(Continued from page 1)

in the MGH Center for Global Health, director of the International Trauma and Disaster Institute at MGH and founder of the International Medical Surgical Response Team. "We want to be available for anything they need."

In addition to dealing with the destruction from the earthquake and tsunami, the Japanese are dealing with the country's compromised nuclear reactors, which have been overheating due to disabled cooling systems.

"We're watching the Daichi nuclear plant very closely," adds Harris, who, along with Shiga and Hasegawa, is approximately 200 km north of the plant.

"We are extremely proud of our MGH physicians now in Japan," says Alasdair Conn, MD, chief of Emergency Medicine. "I see this as part of our emergency department mission. Drs. Harris, Shiga and Hasegawa each have areas of expertise sorely needed following the earthquake and tsunami, and we support their decision to use their skills and expertise for the benefit of the citizens of Japan."

## No need for an appointment, just "Ask the Doctor"

**PARTNERS HEALTHCARE** and WHDH-TV Channel 7 have launched an interactive "Ask the Doctor" web series with experts in the areas of obstetrics, pediatrics and emergency and primary care medicine. The team of experienced physicians comprises Laura Riley, MD, of the MGH Vincent Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology; Victoria McEvoy, MD, of MassGeneral Hospital for Children; Jeff Collins, MD, of MGH Primary Care; Lisa Owens, MD, of BWH Primary Care; and Christian Arbelaez, MD, MPH, of BWH Emergency Medicine. During live web chats at [www.whdh.com/askthedoctor](http://www.whdh.com/askthedoctor) each Wednesday



from 12:45 to 1:45 pm, the general public has the opportunity to ask the featured physician a question. The March 9 live chat with Riley drew 200 participants.

"This is a great way for folks to log on to their computers and learn about ways to keep themselves and their families healthy and fit," says McEvoy. "The team of Partners physicians are excited to offer their knowledge and services through these web chats."

For a schedule of Partners physicians appearing on the "Ask the Doctor" series, access [www.massgeneral.org/about/newsarticle.aspx?id=2670](http://www.massgeneral.org/about/newsarticle.aspx?id=2670). ■



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## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### Partners Employee Assistance Program

The Partners Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is a workplace-based consultation, counseling, information and referral program for employees and their household members. The program aims to promote a healthy work environment and enhance and maintain the well-being of all employees. The EAP would like to remind the MGH community that services are available to employees and family members who are personally affected by the tragedy in Japan. The EAP office is located at 175 Cambridge St., Suite 320. For more information, access [www.eap.partners.org](http://www.eap.partners.org) or call 617-726-6976 or 1-866-724-4EAP.

### MGH Senior HealthWise

MGH Senior HealthWise will offer the following free events for seniors ages 60 years and older: a lecture, "Health Information on the Web," March 24 from 11 am to noon in the Haber Conference Room with Jennifer Searl, MLS, health educator for the Maxwell and Eleanor Blum Patient and Family Learning Center, and a hypertension screening March 28 from 1:30 to 2:30 pm at the West End Library, 151 Cambridge St. To register for the lecture or for more information about these events, call 617-724-6756.

## Nominations for Sustainable Champion Awards

**IN HONOR OF** Earth Day on April 22, the Partners Sustainable Initiatives Program is seeking nominations for its second annual Sustainable Champion Awards program. The award recognizes individuals and teams throughout Partners who have gone above and beyond their regular duties to further the Sustainable Initiatives Program goals. These include creating a healthy, safe and sustainable environment for staff, patients and visitors; minimizing adverse environmental and public health effects; and building a financial model through greater efficiencies in operations, procurement and capital investment.

All full- and part-time employees and physicians from across Partners are eligible to receive a Sustainable Champion Award. Nominations are due by April 6 and may be submitted online at <http://tinyurl.com/4mun83z>. Award recipients will be notified April 18 and will be honored at an April 27 ceremony and luncheon at the Shapiro Cardiovascular Center at BWH.

For more information about Partners Sustainable Initiatives or the Sustainable Champion Awards program, contact Meredith Lee at [mlee40@partners.org](mailto:mlee40@partners.org) or 617-643-4528.