José Baselga, MD, PhD, joins MGH Cancer Center

RELOCATING FROM BARCELONA, Spain, to Boston, José Baselga, MD, PhD, chairman of the Medical Oncology Service and director of the Division of Medical Oncology, Hematology and Radiation Oncology at the Vall d’Hebron Institute of Oncology, will join the MGH this summer as chief of the Division of Hematology/Oncology and associate director of the MGH Cancer Center. Baselga’s particular areas of interest are in clinical breast cancer and translational and early clinical research. He has been actively involved in the development of a number of new and targeted cancer-fighting agents as well as the identification of novel mechanisms that may resist current therapies.

“We are all very enthusiastic that Dr. Baselga has elected to join the Mass General Cancer Center,” says Daniel Haber, MD, PhD, director of the center. “He is an exceptional leader and commands international respect for his research and vast accomplishments in the field of clinical oncology. After an

(Continued on page 2)
Sandbox Challenge inspires new solutions

THEY MAY SEEM LIKE an occasional health nuisance to some, but at hospitals across the world, urinary tract infections (UTIs) are one of the most common hospital-acquired infections, accounting for approximately 40 percent of all health care-related infections. Of these, 80 percent are attributable to indwelling urethral Foley catheters.

Because hospital-acquired UTIs associated with the use of Foley catheters are so widespread, the MGH Sandbox, an internal website designed to encourage the MGH community to work together to solve clinical problems, launched the Sandbox UTI Challenge this past December.

“We know that there is tremendous power in collective problem solving,” says Harry DeMonaco, MS, director of the MGH Innovation Support Center. “To harness this power, we developed and will continue to host clinical challenges to inspire the creativity of our bright minds here at the MGH. The very common problem of catheter-related UTIs is one that affects hospitals everywhere, and by establishing this as the first Sandbox challenge, we hope to develop new and practical ways to reduce their occurrence.”

During the Sandbox UTI Challenge, 12 teams comprising nurses, physicians and other clinicians from various departments developed hypotheses as to why indwelling Foley use is so prevalent and implemented a solution to reduce their usage. On March 11, at a celebration in the East Garden Room marking the end of the challenge, 11 teams presented their solutions and their explanations of what worked well and what did not. Each ended with an assessment of their plan’s potential to be implemented successfully at the MGH.

The winning team, “We Pity the Foley,” consisted of White 11 nursing staff members Susan Wood, CNS; Michele Allen, RN; Stacy Strezsak, RN; and Susan Morash, RN. With their solution, the group recorded a 49 percent reduction in Foley usage on their unit.

“The results from all of our participating teams were quite impressive,” says Christiana Iyasere, MD, MBA, associate director of the Innovation Support Center. “Through celebrating and acknowledging what worked and what did not, the entire Sandbox community gained a better understanding of Foley usage.”

For information about the Sandbox UTI Challenge, access http://hub.partners.org/sandbox from any Partners workstation or contact Iyasere at ciyasere@partners.org.

Bicentennial CORNER

Countdown to the MGH Bicentennial

AS OF MARCH 19, MGHers will have to wait exactly 288 days until the celebration of the hospital’s distinguished history – the MGH Bicentennial – begins on Jan. 1, 2011. Among the bicentennial-themed activities and features to expect are the following:

• A new MGH Bicentennial logo to be unveiled in June 2010;
• An MGH Bicentennial intranet site to launch in June 2010 and external website to go live in January 2011;
• MGH Bicentennial-themed merchandise available at the MGH General Store in early 2011;
• A comprehensive MGH history book to be on stands in early 2011; and
• An MGH museum displaying objects, exhibits and documents significant to the hospital’s history, as well as recent innovations.

For more information about the MGH Bicentennial, send an e-mail to mgh 2011@partners.org.

– Baselga

(Continued from page 1)

extended international search, we are confident that he will be an integral part of our exceptional team and will work to ensure that our commitment to the close integration of research and clinical care remains a priority.”

Baselga received his medical degree from the Universidad Autonoma of Barcelona in 1982. He completed his internal medicine residency at both Vall d’Hebron University Hospital in Barcelona and State University of New York in the United States. He also completed a fellowship in medical oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center where he remained as a faculty member of the Breast Medicine Service until returning to Spain in 1996.

Baselga is the immediate past president of the European Society of Medical Oncology. He is a member of the board of directors of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) and a past member of the board of directors of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO). He has published more than 250 peer-reviewed articles as well as more than 400 abstracts and book chapters. Baselga is the recipient of many distinguished awards including a Young Investigator Award and a Career Development Award both from ASCO and the Rosenthal Family Award from AACR.
“WE PLEDGE TO NEVER” commit, condone or remain silent about men’s violence against women. We will respect, listen to and share power with women in our lives.” This is the commitment made by hundreds of men in the MGH community through MGH Men Against Abuse, a committee of the MGH Domestic Violence Working Group. On March 2, MGH Men Against Abuse joined other MGH employees and individuals from across the state for an educational session at the Massachusetts State House as part of White Ribbon Day 2010. The annual event began three years ago and reflects a growing worldwide campaign aimed at engaging men and boys in ending violence against women. At the MGH, domestic violence prevention advocates, Employee Assistance Program counselors, Police and Security officers, and clinical staff work together year-round to protect patients, visitors and staff. Many members of these groups also participate in domestic violence prevention efforts in their own communities. For more information about MGH Men Against Abuse, access www.massgeneral.org/menagainstabuse/.

MGHers support White Ribbon Day campaign

“WE PLEDGE TO NEVER” commit, condone or remain silent about men’s violence against women. We will respect, listen to and share power with women in our lives.” This is the commitment made by hundreds of men in the MGH community through MGH Men Against Abuse, a committee of the MGH Domestic Violence Working Group. On March 2, MGH Men Against Abuse joined other MGH employees and individuals from across the state for an educational session at the Massachusetts State House as part of White Ribbon Day 2010. The annual event began three years ago and reflects a growing worldwide campaign aimed at engaging men and boys in ending violence against women. At the MGH, domestic violence prevention advocates, Employee Assistance Program counselors, Police and Security officers, and clinical staff work together year-round to protect patients, visitors and staff. Many members of these groups also participate in domestic violence prevention efforts in their own communities. For more information about MGH Men Against Abuse, access www.massgeneral.org/menagainstabuse/.

Helping patients across the MGH

ALTHOUGH NATIONAL PHYSICAL THERAPY MONTH took place in October, the benefits of the celebratory month continue. Recently, members of the MGH Department of Physical Therapy presented a $3,000 check – funds raised during October – to representatives of the Avon-MGH Breast Care Program. The donation will be used to purchase lymphedema compression garments for breast cancer patients who cannot afford them.

“Each year for more than 10 years, the Department of Physical Therapy selects a hospital program to support during Physical Therapy Month,” says Ann Jampel, PT, MS, clinical education coordinator. “The overall philosophy of our department is very patient-centered, so we strive to support our patients at the MGH in a variety of ways – from hosting a blood drive to donating the spare change out of our pockets to holding a golf putting challenge in the physical therapy gym.”

This past year, Matthew Nippins, PT, DPT, CCS, and Heidi Zommer, PT, MSPT, served as co-chairs of the department’s fundraising committee. The group hosted several raffles throughout the month for the chance to win numerous prizes, including tickets to Red Sox, Patriots and Bruins games.

For more information about the MGH Department of Physical Therapy, access www.mghphysicaltherapy.org.

GIVING BACK: From left, Michael Sullivan, PT, DPT, MBA, of the Department of Physical Therapy; Kevin Hughes, MD, of Surgical Oncology; Constance Roche, NP, of Surgical Oncology; Nippins; Zommer and Jampel
Catholic Palm Sunday Mass March 27 and 28 at 4 pm – palms will be distributed on the inpatient units in the morning and at the 4 pm service; an Eve of Passover service March 29 at 11 am; regularly scheduled ecumenical services at 12:15 pm and Roman Catholic Masses at 4 pm March 29 through 31; an ecumenical prayer service for Holy (Maundy) Thursday April 1 at 12:15 pm, followed by Roman Catholic Mass of the Last Supper at 4 pm; a Passover/Shabbat service April 2 at 11 am, and a Good Friday service from noon to 3 pm followed by a Roman Catholic Passion of the Lord and Holy Communion service at 4 pm; a Roman Catholic Easter Vigil Mass April 3 at 7 pm (there will not be a 4 pm Mass); an ecumenical Easter service April 4 at 12:15 pm; and an Easter Sunday Roman Catholic Mass at 4 pm. For more information, call 617-726-2220.

**Career Information Day**

MGH Training and Workforce Development will sponsor its annual Career Information Day March 25 from 10:30 am to 4:25 pm in the Haber Auditorium. The following sessions will be held to assist employees with their career development: nursing, 10:30 to 11:10 am; medical imaging, 11:15 to 11:55 am; medical technology/pathology, noon to 12:40 pm; surgical technology, 12:45 to 1:25 pm; professional billing and medical coding, 1:30 to 2:10 pm; electrodagnostic technology, 2:15 to 2:55 pm; radiation therapy, 3 to 3:40 pm; and respiratory therapy, 3:45 to 4:25 pm. Registration is not required. For more information, contact John Coco at jccoco@partners.org or 617-724-3368.

**2010 Disparities Forum**

The MGH Committee on Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care, the Disparities Solutions Center, the Center for Community Health Improvement, the Multicultural Affairs Office, Patient Care Services and the MGPO are co-sponsoring the 2010 Disparities Forum March 29 from 8 to 9 am in the O’Keeffe Auditorium. Atul Gawande, MD, a BWH surgeon and research director of the BWH Center for Surgery and Public Health, is the event’s keynote speaker. Gawande regularly writes for The New Yorker and recently published “The Checklist Manifesto: How to Get Things Right.” Light refreshments will be served. For more information or to register, e-mail disparitiessolutions@partners.org.

**Disparities seminar series**

The MGH Disparities Solutions Center will host its “Keeping Current: Racial and Ethnic Disparities” seminar series March 31 from noon to 1:30 pm in the Yawkey Center, Room 10660. Jennifer Potter, MD, director of the women’s health center at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, director of Women’s Health at Fenway Community Health Center and co-editor of “The Fenway Guide to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Health,” and Graham McMahon, MD, MMS, assistant professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and physician in the BVWH Department of Medicine, will present. A question and answer period will follow. A light lunch will be served. For more information or to register, e-mail disparitiessolutions@partners.org.

**Research nurse roundtable**

The MGH Clinical Research Program is sponsoring a research nurse roundtable March 23 from 12:15 to 1:15 pm in the Simches Research Center Garrod/Mendel Conference Room. This meeting will feature Linda Pitler, RN, MSN, CCC, who will present a spotlight on research at the MGH Thoracic Aortic Center. Attendees may bring their lunches. To register, access http://hub.partners.org/catalog. For more information about the roundtable, contact Pitler at 617-643-0686. For information about registration, contact Hillary Dearborn at 617-726-3310.

**Living with an ICD**

The Cardiac Arrhythmia Service of the MGH Heart Center is hosting a free educational event, “Living with an ICD,” April 17 at the Seaport Hotel in Boston. The event is designed for individuals living with or considering an implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD). Heart Center physicians will talk about developments in the field of ICDs, cardiac resynchronization therapy for heart failure, remote monitoring and tips for living with an implantable device. Guests and family are welcome. Parking, a continental breakfast, beverages and lunch will be provided. For more information or to register, contact Mary Farr at 617-643-1452 or mfarr@partners.org.

**Town hall meeting on Haiti relief effort**

MGH Public Affairs and Human Resources are co-hosting a town hall meeting on the ongoing relief effort in Haiti March 30 from 2 to 4 pm in the O’Keeffe Auditorium. Guest panelists, including staff members who volunteered in Haiti and employees of Haitian descent, will discuss their personal experiences with the earthquake and its aftermath. A question and answer session will follow. For more information, e-mail pa@partners.org.

**IN GENERAL**

Jessie Jacobsen, PhD, a postdoctoral research fellow for the MGH Center for Human Genetic Research, has been named the University of Auckland Young Alumna of the Year for 2010. The award is given to a graduate who has made outstanding contributions to his or her profession, community and nation. Jacobsen received her award March 5 at the Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner.

Jeanine Wiener-Kronish, MD, chief of the MGH Department of Anesthesia, Critical Care and Pain Medicine, has been selected to receive a Patriot Award from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, an organization of the U.S. Department of Defense. Recipients are recognized for offering support to National Guard or Reserve members and are nominated by an employee who serves in the National Guard or Reserve. The award will be presented April 5.

Rachel Verville, director of Partners HealthCare Revenue Capture, was honored with the 2009 Marilyn S. Gustafson Award. The award recognizes managers who have embraced and applied the tenets of Partners Finance’s Management Development Initiative – teamwork, staff development, mentorship and leadership.