

## MGH's first new employees of 2011

**THE FIRST NEW EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION CLASS** of the MGH bicentennial year featured special guest MGH President Peter L. Slavin, MD, who each January welcomes the year's first class.

Slavin told the employees that, from its founding, the hospital mission has been to care for the underserved of Boston. Today, although people from all economic backgrounds seek care at the hospital, serving the city's disadvantaged is still a major part of that mission, he said.

"We are one of the largest providers of care to the uninsured and those covered by Medicaid in Massachusetts," Slavin said. He continued by outlining how improving community health fits into the MGH's four-part mission, which also includes patient care, teaching and research.

**"I VIEW HOW SUCCESSFUL I AM IN MY JOB – AND I HOPE YOU WILL AS WELL – BY LOOKING AT HOW WELL THE MGH IS ADVANCING ITS MISSION."**

**PETER L. SLAVIN, MD**

Slavin described several MGH medical "firsts" – including the use of ether as a surgical anesthetic, the development of some of the first x-ray images in the United States and the first successful reattachment of a severed limb. He then provided information about the hospital's finances and the MGH's longtime financial strategy of saving just a few cents of every dollar it collects to position itself for future operations and growth.

"It puts us in a position to advance medicine next week, next year and next century," he said.

At the end of the talk, one new employee asked Slavin about his background in internal medicine and what first attracted him to the field. "I loved it because it was about treating the whole body – the whole patient," he said, adding that as an internist, he was able to develop long-term professional relationships and get to know those he treated.

A couple of years ago, Slavin said, he stopped seeing patients to concentrate on his administrative duties. "I miss not having my own patients, but I realized there is only so much you can do during your waking hours." ■

**MGH ORIENTATION:**  
Slavin, top photo, new employees, bottom photo



### *Bicentennial* CORNER

**WHILE THE FIRST** medical patient at the MGH was a saddler, the first surgical patient was an Irish sailor. He was admitted to the hospital on Sept. 20, 1821, because he had a severe case of hemorrhoids that had been plaguing him for more than 11 years. After a physical examination, it was discovered that the man would need an operation to remove the swollen veins. Caregivers then began the MGH's first surgical operation during which surgeons passed a curved needle through each structure and gently removed the painful vessels from the man's body. With little bleeding and a steady recovery, the surgery was a success. The patient was discharged a month later. And so began the history of the MGH as a leader in the art of surgical operations.

**FIRST PATIENTS:** An artist's rendering of early Boston, including the Buffinch Building, far left, circa 1850s

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## MGH concert benefits free clinic in Vietnam

**STRAINS OF SAINT-SAËNS**, Bruch and Beethoven filled the Goethe Institut Boston on Dec. 4, as the MGH Department of Dermatology hosted a benefit gala and concert to raise funds for the Vascular Anomalies Center in Vietnam. Created through a collaboration between the MGH and Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, the center is located in Ho Chi Minh City and provides free treatment for Vietnamese children with disfiguring birthmarks. R. Rox Anderson, MD, director of the MGH Wellman Center for Photomedicine, and Thanh-Nga Tran, MD, PhD, an MGH dermatologist, have worked closely with the center since its establishment in 2009 and served as co-hosts of the evening.



**MEANINGFUL MUSIC:** From left, Frautschi, Alvin Cheung, graduate student at MIT, Cheung and Fisher

Approximately 80 guests attended the event, which raised nearly \$13,000 and included Vietnamese cuisine, a silent auction and the musical performance. Guests were treated to music by cellist David E. Fisher, MD, PhD, chief of the MGH Department of Dermatology; pianist Vincent C.K. Cheung, PhD, a postdoctoral fellow at MIT; violinist Jennifer Frautschi; and vocalist Jamie Lynn Hart.

“The gala was a remarkable tribute to the people who dedicate themselves to this wonderful cause, as well as to the Vietnam clinic itself, which carries out such amazing work,” says Fisher.

Proceeds from the event will be used to support and expand the reach of the Vietnam Vascular Anomalies Center and to help fund an educational exchange program between physicians in Vietnam and the United States.

For more information about the center, visit [www.vietnamvac.org](http://www.vietnamvac.org). ■

## MGH Nurse-Midwifery Service presents on cultural differences in care

**DIFFERENT CULTURES** approach health care in different ways, and understanding these differences is the key to providing culturally competent care for all patients. On Dec. 5, Marie Henderson, CNM, MSN, director of the MGH Vincent Obstetrics & Gynecology Nurse-Midwifery Service, presented information about MGH nurse-midwives to a group of 50 Japanese individuals living in the Boston area. The goal of the presentation was to help patients make informed decisions about their obstetrical care and increase understanding of differences between the roles of midwives in Japan and the United States. The event was co-hosted by the Japanese Women’s Group of Boston and the Japanese Maternity Group of Boston.

Sanae Kishimoto, MHS, MPH, quality assurance manager for MGH Vincent Obstetrics & Gynecology, planned the event and accompanied Henderson to translate and provide additional information about obstetrics-related quality and safety efforts at the MGH. Prospective parents from Japan as well as a Japanese midwife and physician were among those who attended.

“The MGH is committed to providing the best and most appropriate care for our multicultural community,” says Henderson. “The focus of my presentation was the role of the nurse midwife in the United States, with examples of the MGH model of collaborative practice. Together, we had a very informative discussion of the differences between Japanese and American health care systems.”

**CROSS-CULTURAL CARE:** Henderson, left, and Kishimoto





**DISCUSSING DISPARITIES:** Hicks, left, and Green

## *Examining racial and ethnic stereotypes in health care*

**OFTEN WITHOUT BEING AWARE OF IT**, individuals can rely on preconceived ideas about others based on how that other person appears. Sometimes these stereotypes and resulting discrimination can extend into other areas of life, such as receiving or delivering health care.

To examine these “implicit biases,” the MGH Disparities Solutions Center (DSC) and Multicultural Affairs Office (MAO) co-hosted “Crash: Stereotypes in Society ... and Health Care?” on Dec. 15 in the O’Keeffe Auditorium. More than 50 guests attended the event, which began with screenings of segments from the movie “Crash” and an episode of ABC 20/20’s “Race and Sex –What We Think, But Can’t Say.” The screenings were followed by a panel discussion with Alexander Green, MD, MPH, associate director of the DSC and lead author of “Implicit Bias among Physicians and its Prediction of Thrombolysis Decisions for Black and White Patients,” and LeRoi Hicks, MD, MPH, an assistant professor in Medicine in the Division of General Medicine and Primary Care at BWH and a lecturer in Health Care Policy at HMS.

“Studies have shown that, while we may not think we have these internal biases, in reality, we may,” says Green. “The goal of the event was to raise awareness about these implicit biases in ourselves as individuals and especially as health care providers. It was a very interesting discussion that raised many questions and helped to put our ideas into perspective.”

For more information about the DSC, access [www.massgeneral.org/disparitiessolutions](http://www.massgeneral.org/disparitiessolutions). For information about MAO, visit [www.massgeneral.org/mao](http://www.massgeneral.org/mao). To learn more about unconscious biases, take an Implicit Association Test at <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/demo>. ■

## Materials Management at the Lunder Building

**OCCUPANCY OF THE** Lunder Building is scheduled to begin this summer. The MGH’s newest building will house the latest in technology for inpatient care, emergency medicine, surgery, radiation oncology, imaging and neurosciences. In addition to its environmentally friendly construction and interior design, the building will house a new centralized loading dock to serve as a hub of activity for MGH Materials Management.

Located at the first below-ground level of the Lunder Building, which will be known as Floor LL0, the loading dock will be the receiving site for all incoming packages to the MGH campus. Currently the MGH receives deliveries at the Blossom Street loading dock, which is located at the perimeter of the campus and only has one lane for trucks entering and exiting. The Lunder Building loading dock will have two lanes to allow incoming and outgoing delivery trucks to safely navigate the dock, and electronic signage will indicate to delivery drivers which of the five expansive loading bays are open for receiving.

“Materials Management receives approximately 36,000 packages a month,” says Ed Raeke, director of MGH Materials Management. “To help coordinate the number of delivery trucks at the Lunder Building loading dock, a traffic coordinator will staff a kiosk, similar to those in a parking garage. This coordinator will manage the two-way traffic and ensure the safety and efficiency of all deliveries.”

Adds Gary Mulrey, manager of Receiving, “Both the external traffic flow and internal material movements will be greatly improved with the new arrangement. We are looking forward to moving into the Lunder Building this summer and benefitting from its improved logistics.”

Other Materials Management enhancements include a cold storage area at the loading dock; a power washing station for the cleaning of wheelchairs and stretchers; a new patient-floor supply and stock room system; a Materials Management employee training room, break area and locker room; and a linen chute system on patient and operating room floors. In addition, Materials Management Patient Transport staff will be able to use the Bander Bridge from the Yawkey Center for Outpatient Care to the Lunder Building to transport patients.

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



**HUB OF ACTIVITY:** The Lunder Building will house a new central loading dock

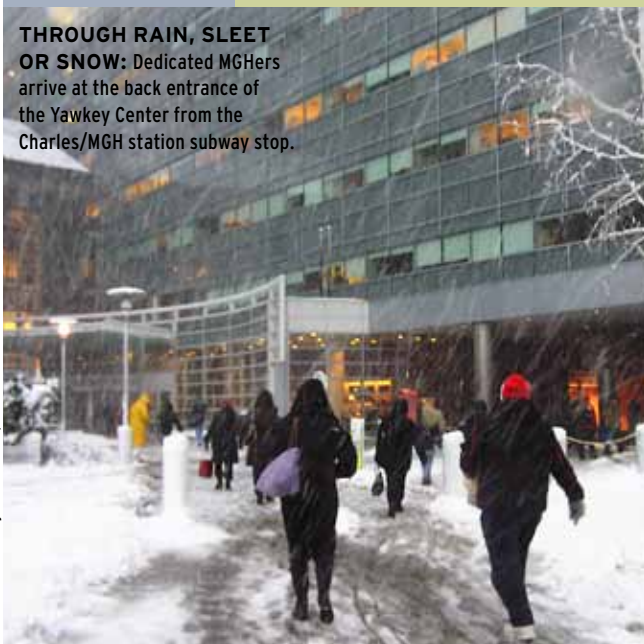
**THROUGH RAIN, SLEET OR SNOW:** Dedicated MGHers arrive at the back entrance of the Yawkey Center from the Charles/MGH station subway stop.

## MGH again manages severe snowstorm

**LAST WEEK** the commonwealth was hit by yet another major snowstorm – the second in only a few weeks. Despite the intensity of the storm, which dropped up to 2 feet of snow in some areas and brought high gusts of wind, MGH employees worked together to ensure that the hospital was safe and functional for its patients, their families, visitors and staff.

“I want to thank all MGH staff members who helped to keep activities running at the hospital throughout this last snowstorm,” says MGH President Peter L. Slavin, MD. “There are no ‘snow days’ at the MGH; our patients and their loved ones depend on us for care and services despite what Mother Nature may bring. With advanced preparations, ongoing communications and the collective coordination of logistics among caregivers, administrative and support staff who assisted in the coverage for employees who were not able to make it in, we were able to continue to provide the utmost excellence in patient care and quality. We sincerely thank all employees for responding to the needs of our patients, the hospital and colleagues so readily and quickly.”

PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNIFER LOWE, RADIOGRAPHER FOR OUTPATIENT IMAGING



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### WHAT'S HAPPENING

#### RPDR lecture

The MGH Clinical Research Program and Partners Research Computing are sponsoring “An Introduction to the Enhanced RPDR Query Tool” Jan. 31 from 4 to 5 pm in the Simches Research Center, Room 3.110. This lecture will provide an overview of new features recently released in the RPDR Enhanced Query Tool. To register, access <http://hub.partners.org/catalog>. For more information, call Hillary Dearborn at 617-726-3310.

#### QUOSA lecture

The MGH Clinical Research Program and the MGH Treadwell Library are sponsoring “QUOSA: An Information Manager” Jan. 26 from 1 to 2:30 pm in the Simches Research Center, Room 3.120. This course will provide participants with instruction on how to use QUOSA, a desktop software application for searching, retrieving and monitoring the biomedical literature. Participants also can learn how QUOSA can help create and organize personal or shared libraries of PDF documents and other files. To register, access <http://hub.partners.org/catalog>. For more information, call Suzanne Powell at 617-724-2900.

#### MGH Senior HealthWISE

MGH Senior HealthWISE is offering the following free events for seniors ages 60 and older: a lecture, “Opportunities for

Lifelong Learning” – with speakers from the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Board of the University of Massachusetts-Boston, the West End Library and the Ford Hall Forum at Suffolk University – Jan. 20 from 11 am to noon in the Haber Conference Room; a book club discussion of “Boston Miscellany: An Essential History of the Hub,” by William P. Marchione, Jan. 20 from 3 to 4 pm at the West End Library; and a hypertension screening Jan. 24 from 1:30 to 2:30 pm at the West End Library. For more information, call 617-724-6756.

#### Lecture on thyroid awareness

As part of its National Health Observances series and January being Thyroid Awareness month, the Maxwell and Eleanor Blum Patient and Family Learning Center is hosting “Common Thyroid Disorders,” Jan. 20 from noon to 1 pm in the Blum Center, located in the White Building, Room 110. Giuseppe Barbesino, MD, of MGH Thyroid Associates, will discuss what the thyroid does, why it is important and common disorders. This program is free and open to all. For more information, contact Jen Searl at 617-724-3823.

### IN GENERAL

**J.A. Jeevendra (Jeeva) Martyn, MD**, director of the Clinical and Biochemical Pharmacology Laboratory of the MGH Department of Anesthesia,

Critical Care and Pain Medicine, and anesthetist-in-chief at the Shriners Hospital for Children in Boston, is the recipient of the 2010 Excellence in Research Award from the American Society of Anesthesiologists. The award recognizes Martyn for his research in a number of areas, including the care of burn patients and critical illness-induced insulin resistance. The award is the highest recognition bestowed by the society.

**Jeannie T. Lee, MD, PhD**, of the Department of Molecular Biology and also of MGH Pathology, has been elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). She is one of 503 AAAS members being honored as 2010 fellows for their scientifically or socially distinguished efforts to advance science or its applications. Using X-inactivation as a model, Lee has significantly advanced understanding of how noncoding RNAs, interchromosomal interactions and nuclear compartments control epigenetics on a global scale. Lee also has been elected to the Genetics Society of America (GSA) board of directors for 2011 through 2013. The GSA is a professional membership organization representing more than 4,000 geneticists and science educators.