



CENTER STAGE: An MGHfC patient, left, with Iverson

Celebrating two 200s

The circus comes to MGHfC for a joint bicentennial birthday party

COLORFUL JUGGLING CLUBS soared through the air with the greatest of ease during the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus's Oct. 12 visit to MassGeneral Hospital for Children (MGHfC). The circus, which also celebrates its 200th year in 2011, came to the hospital for a joint birthday party and to kick off its five-day run at the TD Garden.

Along with excited young patients, families and staff, the Judith A. Newell Playroom on Ellison 18 was filled with clowns, acrobats and other circus stars and a festive birthday cake. Ringmaster Johnathan Lee Iverson towered over Howard Weinstein, MD, chief of the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Unit, as they led the crowd in a rendition of "Happy Birthday." Iverson also provided MGHfC patients and staff with a special birthday present: 200 free tickets to the week's performances. Several of the children's tickets include an opportunity to meet the performers before the show.

Two clowns presented both birthday and get well cards painted by circus elephants. Clowns then chose children from the crowd to assist in performing tricks, including juggling and spinning a ball on their fingertips. A performance by Ulaanbaatar Ballerina, a three-person hand-balancing act, left young patients in awe as the female ballerina performed splits and handstands while balancing on top of her male companions. The trio, which hails from Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, mixes contemporary ballet moves with circus and acrobatic skills. ■



Care redesign teams begin implementing quality recommendations

As part of the Partnerswide Strategic Initiative, teams of experts from the MGH and other Partners affiliates are focusing on ways to improve the quality and efficiency of care. The effort began with five multidisciplinary case redesign teams developing recommendations for specific diseases and procedures. This first round of teams began implementing the recommendations Oct. 1 and will be measuring their effectiveness. Teams will report these findings to Partners leadership and use them to further refine the recommendations. MGH Hotline is publishing a series highlighting the efforts of several of these teams.

CORONARY ARTERY BYPASS GRAFT (CABG) surgery, the most common open-heart procedure in the United States, is used to treat patients with coronary artery disease, which can lead to serious complications such as heart attacks. During a CABG procedure, a healthy artery or vein is grafted to a blocked coronary artery in order to bypass the block and maintain normal blood flow to the heart.

In addition to being a high-volume operation, CABG surgery represents a substantial use of hospital resources, and as such, is quite costly.

Over the last year, a team of caregivers, administrators, data analysts and other experts led by cardiac surgeon Arvind Agnihotri, MD – director of Cardiac Surgery Quality Improvement and of Less Invasive and Robotic Heart Surgery – has collaborated to identify opportunities to make CABG more efficient, creating the best

possible outcomes for patients and potentially reducing overall costs. Their recommendations build upon CABG quality improvement and measurement efforts that have taken place across Partners hospitals for more than a decade and are based on the latest research and data from national organizations. The team's initial recommendations, which were reviewed and approved by MGH and Partners leadership, are:
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– CABG

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- Provide patients with a nurse care navigator who will offer guidance and support throughout the entire episode of care;
- Reduce blood product utilization by decreasing the amount of products used per patient and the number of patients that require blood products;
- Admit patients on the day of surgery unless earlier admission is medically necessary;
- Standardize resources used in the operating room based on best practice guidelines and cost efficiency;
- Reduce length-of-stay by standardizing care practices in intensive care and intermediate care settings; and
- Follow standard protocol for anticoagulation management for cardiopulmonary bypass and postoperative care.

The team already implemented same-day admission for most patients, and a subgroup currently is addressing opportunities for reducing blood product utilization before, during and after CABG surgeries.

“Reducing blood product utilization is one of the recommendations we are most excited to implement,” says Agnihotri. “Reducing blood product utilization benefits everyone involved. It’s better for the patient to avoid transfusions because of the associated complications, and reducing transfusions significantly reduces costs because blood products are very expensive.”

Adds Mike Andrawes, MD, of the Department of Anesthesia, Critical Care and Pain Medicine, “By ensuring that we use blood products as efficiently as possible – that we don’t give unnecessary transfusions or order blood products preemptively and end up having them go to waste – we can improve the quality of care and make it more affordable.”

Andrawes and his colleague Greg Koski, MD, are leading the effort for Cardiac Anesthesia in this multidisciplinary subgroup, which also involves members of the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit (ICU), including William Hoffman, MD; the Blood Transfusion Service, including Sunny Dzik, MD; Cardiac Perfusion; ICU Nursing; and Cardiac Surgery physician assistants.

For more information about the Strategic Initiative and the efforts of all the care redesign teams, access <http://priorities.massgeneral.org>.

West End residents thank the MGH



POSITIVE IMPACT: From left, Connor, Moscovitz and Hicks

WEST END RESIDENTS filled the Community Room of the Amy Lowell building Sept. 30 to honor the MGH’s bicentennial and the Senior HealthWISE Program for its dedication to providing high quality services for nearly a decade.

During the luncheon ceremony, residents shared their favorite examples of how Senior HealthWISE has positively affected their lives, from keeping their minds and bodies active to filling their social calendars with events. Following a round of applause honoring MGHer Barbara Moscovitz, MSW, LICSW, for her enthusiastic and compassionate support of senior programs, the Senior HealthWISE program director was momentarily at a loss for words.

“I’m rarely speechless,” Moscovitz said. “Being here today and receiving your love and support is beyond what I know how to describe. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your warmth and generosity.”

The ceremony also honored Cathy Smyth, LICSW, geriatric social worker; Diane Connor, RN, wellness nurse; Jennalin Gabriele, administrative assistant; and Karen Hicks, community resource specialist.

Peter L. Slavin, MD, MGH president, credited the residents with being the kind of neighbors he considers to be the heart of the MGH for the past 200 years. “There is no neighborhood we are more committed to serving than this one,” he said. ■

IN MEMORIAM

Judy Newell, RN, MSN

JUDY NEWELL, RN, MSN, nursing director of the MGH Vincent Gynecology Oncology Units and the Pediatric Units of MassGeneral Hospital for Children (MGHfC), died Oct. 7 at the age of 66.



“Judy was an extraordinary nurse leader who was an incredible role model for all of us,” says Isaac Schiff, MD, chief of the MGH Vincent Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology. “She made certain that all patients were treated with dignity and compassion. I will miss her most as a dear friend.”

Newell was a graduate of Lowell General Hospital School of Nursing and Northeastern University. She was highly respected and well-known throughout the MGH as a top-notch educator who helped shape the nursing community. In July, Newell was celebrated at an event to dedicate the Ellison 18 playroom in her honor.

Ronald Kleinman, MD, physician-in-chief at MGHfC, says Newell also will be remembered for her cheerful demeanor. “Judy was a nurturing person, a happy person. Anyone who sat down with Judy for more than five minutes got an answer in the form of a song. It was delightful to be around her, and it was a privilege to be with someone we all gained something from. She gave us more than she took.”

“When I became chief nurse and senior vice president for Patient Care, I turned to Judy for her wisdom and guidance,” adds Jeanette Ives Erickson, RN, DNP. “She was truly a values-based leader who has been a part of the fabric of Mass General for more than 40 years. We will miss her. Our condolences go out to her family and many loved ones.”

Newell is survived by her brother Wayne, a longtime member of the MGH Volunteer Department, sisters and numerous nieces and nephews. At her request, there will be no calling hours. A celebration of her life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in her name can be directed to the MGH Cancer Center or MGHfC.



INNOVATION AT WORK: Standing, from left, vascular surgeons Cambria, Virendra Patel, MD, Glenn M. LaMuraglia, MD, and Christopher J. Kwolek, MD; R. Todd Lancaster, MD, vascular fellow; and Bruce Laramée, RN, staff nurse. Seated at center is Rae Allain, MD, anesthesiologist

Leading the endovascular revolution

FOR THE Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, these are exciting times. Experts in the field currently describe the fact that many open vascular surgeries have been replaced with minimally invasive endovascular surgeries or

combined with traditional open surgeries as an “endovascular revolution.” This revolution has helped decrease surgical morbidity and speed recovery from vascular procedures.

The first endovascular aortic aneurysm

repair in New England was performed at the MGH in 1994 by David Charles Brewster, MD. Today, the division is leading in aneurysm surgeries in the Northeast both in terms of overall volume of aortic aneurysms completed and as a referral center for complex abdominal and thoraco-abdominal aortic aneurysms.

Approximately six years after Brewster’s pioneering surgery, the division became the first group in the region to have a component of vascular surgeons fully trained in endovascular procedures. In 2003, MGH vascular surgeons opened the first endovascular operating room in the region. Now, the endovascular program is further strengthened with the opening of the Lunder Building.

“The opening of the endovascular operating rooms in the Lunder Building marks a gratifying final step in the major change that has occurred in the practice of vascular surgery over the past two decades,” says Richard Cambria, MD, chief of the Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery. “The facility represents the completion of that evolution now with the state-of-the-art imaging equipment, a full staff of X-ray technicians to facilitate the work and round-the-clock availability of a total endovascular team.” ■

Blood donors honored at annual breakfast

FOR IRENE RESKE, applications systems analyst in the Information Systems department, the decision to be a blood donor is an easy one. “I’m very involved in my church and I see a lot of women who are going through cancer therapies,” Reske says. “When I see somebody going through that and then realize I’m able and healthy – and that a unit of blood can help up to three patients – it’s just so easy.”

Reske was honored Oct. 5 during the 2011 Employee Blood Donor Recognition celebration for donating whole blood six times in the past year. She shared the spotlight as a top donor with Catherine Schiavo-White, billing representative in the Department of Orthopædics, and Constance Miller, researcher at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. Renee Ethier, aquatics facility manager in the Craniofacial Developmental Biology Laboratory, was recognized as MGH’s top platelet donor. They each received a signed, hardcover copy of the book *Something in the Ether: A Bicentennial History of Massachusetts General Hospital, 1811-2011*.

The annual event also paid tribute to staff who have donated blood four or more times during the past year. Honorees were presented with a certificate and MGH Blood Donor Center logo water bottle and treated to a buffet breakfast. “It helps MGH and it’s a great thing for MGH employees to do,” says honoree Debra Thiboutot, finance director, Proton Beam Federal Share.

For more information about the Blood Donor Center, call 617-726-8177.



TOP DONORS: From left, Miller, Ethier, Reske and Schiavo-White

WHAT'S HAPPENING**William F. Milton Fund**

Research funds are available to Harvard University faculty members through the William F. Milton Fund, which supports studies of a medical, geographical, historical or scientific nature that either promote the welfare of the human race or investigate and determine the value and importance of a discovery or invention. Funding of up to \$40,000 may be requested for the 2012 year. The application deadline is Oct. 21 at 5 pm. For more information, contact deborah_good@hms.harvard.edu.

Federal funding opportunities

Speakers from the National Institutes of Health: Intramural and Extramural Programs will discuss "Federal Funding Opportunities" Oct. 20 from 3 to 6:15 pm at HMS, followed by a networking dinner from 6:15 to 7 pm. The event is for physicians in

postdoctoral training, junior faculty and research and clinical fellows. Registration is required. To register, call 800-843-6356 or visit www.massmed.org/fed2011.

Blood Donor Center promotions

During October, all blood donors at the MGH Blood Donor Center will receive a free Halloween-themed T-shirt. Donors also will be eligible to win two round-trip airline tickets to Toronto on Porter Airlines. For more information, call 617-726-8177 or email mmacphee@partners.org.

Pastoral Care Week

The MGH Chaplaincy will celebrate Pastoral Care Week from Oct. 24 to Oct. 28. Information tables will be in the Main Lobby Oct. 25 from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. All employees, patients, families and visitors also are welcome to attend the Blessing of the Hands Oct. 27 from 6:30 to 8 am, 11:30 am to 1 pm, and 3 to 5 pm in the MGH Chapel, Ellison 1. The open labyrinth walk will be held Oct. 27 from 8:30 am to 1 pm in the Chapel.

Intensive care anniversary

Employees are invited to join the Respiratory Intensive Care Unit and Surgical Intensive Care Unit in celebrating the 50th anniversary of intensive care at the MGH on Oct. 28 at 1 pm in the Ether Dome. A brief presentation will review highlights from the first 50 years, followed by a light reception in the SICU Pontoppidan Conference Room, Ellison 4. For more information, contact Judith Romano at 617-724-3292 or jromano@partners.org.

IN GENERAL

Katharine Treadway, MD, a physician in the MGH Department of Medicine, has been appointed as the Dr. Mark and Karen Lawrence Director of Professionalism at HMS. As part of this new initiative, Treadway will integrate holistic and humanistic curriculum elements across the four-year MD curriculum. Treadway will work with course, clerkship and Principal Clinical Experience (PCE) directors to ensure humanistic approaches to patient care are incorporated in the core curriculum of the basic science, social science and patient-doctor

Just for moms

THE MGH HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT and the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) recently celebrated the opening of a new Mothers' Corner lactation room on Bulfinch I next to the Employee Access Center. From left are Andrea Stidsen, director of the EAP; Badia Eskandar, PT, DPT, staff physical therapist and nursing mother; and Maureen Larkin, manager of employee communications for Human Resources. For more information about the Mothers' Corner or other EAP programs, call 617-726-6976 or visit www.eap.partners.org.

**Flu shots available**

THE CENTERS for Disease Control and Prevention recommends all people ages 6 months and older get a flu shot. To help prevent the spread of the flu this year, the MGH is offering a centralized flu shot clinic in the Wang Ambulatory Care Center Main Lobby for adult patients and all employees.

Information for patients

The Medical Walk-In Unit is offering flu shots to patients over 18 years old at the centralized clinic Monday through Friday from 8 am to 6 pm until Nov. 11. Registration is required. New patients may register by calling 1-866-211-6588. For more information, visit www.massgeneral.org/flu.

Information for employees

Occupational Health Services (OHS) is collaborating with the Medical Walk-In Unit so that employees may be immunized at this convenient location as well. Employees unable to stop by the central clinic may get their shots at OHS, 165 Charles River Plaza, Suite 404 or call 617-726-2217 to schedule an appointment. As in years past, employees who decline the flu vaccine will be required to wear a surgical mask in patient care areas. For more information, access <http://sharepoint.partners.org/mgh/influenza>.

In addition to the weekday hours listed above, the central clinic will be open for both employees and patients on two Saturdays, Oct. 15 and 22, from 9 am to 3 pm.

courses, the core clinical clerkships, the longitudinal curriculum of the third-year PCE and PCE quarterly intersessions for third-year students.

Rakesh Jain, PhD, director of the Steele Laboratory in the MGH Department of Radiation Oncology, will speak at the annual Irving O. Shoichet Lecture Series at the University of Toronto Oct. 19.

Jain's seminar, "Delivery of Molecular and Nano-Medicine in Tumors," will illuminate the role of chemical engineering in understanding blood vessel function and cancer growth. The lecture series provides a forum for distinguished researchers to showcase cutting-edge scientific research that addresses critical issues.

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