Celebrating Ether Day

ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-SEVEN YEARS AGO, the MGH ushered in a new era of medical practice that changed the medical world. The first successful public demonstration of ether used as a surgical anesthetic became the event for which the hospital is now widely known. For many years, Ether Day – Oct. 16 – was a celebration of medical breakthroughs, but since 1945, the MGH also has selected a day close to the anniversary to honor longtime employees. Those celebrating milestone anniversaries are given pins and ribbons to mark their years of service.

“So many people, once they arrive, choose never to leave,” said Peter L. Slavin, MD, MGH president. “These ribbons represent the pride we feel to be at this institution.”

On Oct. 18 under the Bulfinch tents, Slavin and David F. Torchiana, MD, chairman and CEO of the MGPO, welcomed guests, followed by remarks from Jeff Davis, senior vice president for Human Resources, who also introduced the Ether Day dancers.

More than 3,100 employees were acknowledged, two of whom were recognized for 65 years of service – Paul Russell, MD, senior surgeon and emeritus chief of the MGH Transplantation Unit, and John D. Stoeckle, MD, of MGH’s John D. Stoeckle Center for Primary Care Innovation. “I love my work and I love working here,” said Stoeckle. “It doesn’t seem like it has been 65 years – it’s always changing.”

Russell added, “We are always striving to make things better.”

Jennifer Dubose, LPN, of Blood Transfusion Services, who received her 40-year pin, said, “It’s a wonderful place to work. It’s like family.”

Those celebrating milestones of 20 years or more were invited to attend the Ether Day Dinner held Oct. 24 at the Westin Copley Place.

Storybook Ball draws hope

IF HAROLD, from the 1955 classic childhood storybook “Harold and the Purple Crayon,” were to draw a picture representing the 14th annual Storybook Ball, it would be a bull’s-eye. The premiere fundraising event for the Mass General Hospital for Children (MGHfC) surpassed its $20 million milestone in cumulative funds raised.

The Oct. 19 event transported 500 attendees from the Museum of Fine Arts into the world of “Harold and the Purple Crayon,” raising more than $1.6 million for pediatric Emergency and Trauma Services.

The evening included a video highlighting the story of 19-year-old Jaymi Cohen, who was treated at MGHfC after she was injured in the Boston Marathon bombings. The Tufts University sophomore and her lacrosse teammates (Continued on page 2)
Enhancing the MGH experience

THE MGH WELCOMES more than 200 new physicians and scientists every year. With any new job, the first days, weeks, months and even year can be challenging and overwhelming. To help new faculty across all departments acclimate, the MGH Center for Faculty Development hosted its third annual New Faculty Orientation Oct. 9 in the Their Conference Room.

The daylong event provided participants with an opportunity to hear from senior faculty leaders and to learn about available resources, research and education opportunities. The session also featured information about hospital services such as the Employee Assistance Program and the Multicultural Affairs Office.

Ann Klibanski, MD, director of the Center for Faculty Development, and Peter L. Slavin, MD, MGH president, welcomed participants. “Thank you for joining the faculty here at the MGH,” said Slavin. “I hope all of you will have long, successful careers and as much fun over the next years as I’ve had in my last 29 here.”

Greg Pauly, MGPO chief operating officer, who provided an overview of the physicians’ organization, noted that it is not unusual for employees to remain at the hospital for the better part of their careers. “Although, I’ve been at the MGH for 21 years, I’m still considered a new employee,” said Pauly. “It’s a remarkable institution, and I hope you enjoy your tenure here.”

My Giving Helps raises nearly $1 million

WITH MORE THAN $967,000 raised by 3,860 employees for the MGH Fund and United Way, the 2013 My Giving Helps campaign was an enormous success. The annual campaign welcomed more than 200 new donors and saw an increase of $50,000 from last year, stemming from direct donations and payroll deductions, as well as through contributions raised by activities such as the employee pie-eating contest and Penny Wars competition.

“The generosity of our employee donors is both humbling and inspiring,” says Keith Lillemoe, MD, surgeon-in-chief and chief of the Department of Surgery, who was a lead co-chair of My Giving Helps. “Thanks to them, the impressive amount we raised will fund countless important projects here at the MGH and in our community.”

Gifts to the MGH Fund support promising clinical programs and research efforts at the hospital, while donations to United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley support more than 170 local nonprofit organizations.

A special reception was held Oct. 17 to celebrate the campaign’s success and acknowledge the hard work of its 150 volunteers – including numerous co-chairs, leadership committee members and My Giving Helps champions.

“The results of the campaign are a testament to the generosity and kindness of MGH employees,” says Ann Prestipino, MPH, senior vice president for Surgical and Anesthesia Services and Clinical Business Development, and a lead co-chair of the campaign. “Not only are our employees among the best and brightest in health care, but they also have hearts of gold.”

Although the campaign officially ended Sept. 27, one-time donations are accepted year-round at www.mygivinghelps.org.

— Storybook Ball

(Continued from page 1)

were standing outside the Forum restaurant when the second bomb exploded a few feet away. Cohen says she ran when she heard the first bomb explode and moving away from the area in those few seconds may have saved her life. She was brought to the MGH Emergency Department where 50 small pieces of shrapnel were found embedded in her legs.

A portion of the Storybook Ball proceeds will support the renovation of the MGH/C Pediatric Emergency Department. Slated to open in 2014, the new space will have six private exam rooms surrounding a central workstation and a new waiting room, giving patients and families their own space separate from adult emergency patients.

“The renovated Pediatric Emergency Room will not only have increased square footage and improved physical design, but it will allow us to be closer to our patients and treat them more efficiently,” says Ari Cohen, MD, chief of the MGH/C Pediatric Emergency Division. “We are so appreciative of the donors and guests of Storybook Ball for helping to make this happen.”

Funds were raised through attendance, as well as bids on auction packages, including a wine-tasting dinner for 12 at Sotheby’s New York City Boardroom with the CEO of Sotheby’s Wine; a “home-cooked” meal whipped up by Chef Ken Oringer; passes to the 2013 HBO Emmy after-party in Los Angeles, complete with custom Michael De Paula gown; and tickets to a Bruin’s game with the legendary Ray Bourque in the Executive Suite and post-game meeting with defenseman Dennis Seidenberg.
Beauty is everywhere

IN A BRIEF MOMENT on a Manhattan street corner, fashion photographer Rick Guidotti became an ambassador for change. He saw a girl with white hair and white skin who defied beauty’s boundaries and made him want to learn everything he could about albinism.

“I traveled the world as a fashion photographer, working for clients such as L’Oreal, Revlon and Yves Saint Laurent, but this chance encounter inspired me to seek out others like her. I poured through medical books. The images of albinism were of sickness and despair. Something was missing from almost all – humanity.”

Earlier this week, Guidotti presented his work, “Positive Exposure,” in the O’Keeffe Auditorium, in honor of National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Founded in 1998, Guidotti’s nonprofit organization, Positive Exposure, uses photography and video to highlight the beauty of genetic diversity, challenging the stigmas associated with differences in appearance.

“My entire career I was always told who was beautiful. I am an artist. I don’t just see beauty on the cover of a magazine,” says Guidotti.

Guidotti was determined to find a way to show the beauty of genetic disorders through an unfiltered lens. Over the past 15 years, he has traveled throughout the world photographing and recording hundreds of people who live with genetic conditions from Down syndrome to dwarfism to Marfan syndrome. He has collaborated with advocacy organizations, medical schools and various educational institutions. In addition, his work has been featured in the American Journal of Medical Genetics, the Atlantic Monthly, Life magazine, the Washington Post and the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History – all in an effort to change societal attitudes toward genetic differences.

“My daughter has cerebral palsy, and people often say it's too bad she is disabled because she's so beautiful,” said Nathalie Korpics, training specialist in the Department of Radiology, who attended the presentation. "It's like saying she's almost perfect – but not quite.”

Guidotti said people often remark on his departure from the fashion industry and its stark contrast to his new focus. He simply responds, “I've never photographed a disability. I still photograph beauty.”

For more information about Positive Exposure, visit positiveexposure.org. Guidotti will exhibit his work at the MGH in 2014.

Singing the praises of MGH’s unsung heroes

“I HAPPENED TO BE in the right place at the right time, and for that I am eternally grateful,” said Hilary Levinson, a registered nurse in the MGH Emergency Department, during a ceremony honoring her recent efforts identifying and treating a patient who was the victim of domestic violence.

“Caring for patients is a privilege beyond any other and one that I hold close to my heart.”

Levinson received the 2013 Unsung Hero Award from the MGH Domestic Violence Working Group, alongside fellow honorees Wendy Macias-Konstantopoulos, MD, MPH, in the Department of Emergency Medicine, and Michael Cloutier, senior investigator in the Police and Security Special Investigations Unit. The annual award, given during a ceremony on Oct. 9, recognizes staff who are dedicated to helping survivors of domestic violence.

“We received nominations honoring skilled professionals from all areas of the hospital,” said Elizabeth Speakman, LICSW, director of HAVEN (Hospital’s Helping Abuse and Violence End Now). “We have many people who truly go above and beyond and I hold close to my heart.”

Cloutier was honored for his dedication to providing victims of violence with options and resources in a comforting and compassionate manner and for his devotion to ensuring the patients are connected to the proper care and support following treatment at the hospital. “Everyone here works for the same goal and everyone plays an important role in supporting the MGH community,” he said.

Macias-Konstantopoulos, who also serves as medical director of the Human Trafficking Initiative in the Division of Global Health, was recognized for her efforts to educate clinicians about the signs patients involved in sex trafficking might exhibit as well as the intricacies of treating these patients. “Thank you for honoring me in such a valuable and important way,” she said. “I am thankful there are so many heroes at the MGH that could have been recognized today, and I share this with everybody who does this work.”
Keeping connected through the gift of technology

WITH A SHY SMILE, MassGeneral Hospital for Children cystic fibrosis patient Kyle Orben reached out and accepted his new iPad. Although the 8-year-old had told his mom that he would share the gift with his nine brothers and sisters, he first quietly soaked in the new toy, awestruck by the on and off button.

The iPad was a gift from Ralph and Sabina Fusco of The Richard Fusco Foundation, an organization dedicated to helping cystic fibrosis patients stay connected with their family and friends, keep up with their schoolwork and maintain an optimistic outlook during often long and frequent hospital stays. The Fuscos dedicate their work to the memory of their son Richard, who was born with cystic fibrosis and died a year ago at the age of 44. The last three years of Richard's life were drastically improved by having an iPad, which helped him keep in touch with his relatives and friends while at the hospital, as well as watch movies and television, read and play games.

“We want other kids to have that same feeling that the future is bright and they have a place in the outside world,” said Ralph Fusco.

Kyle is the first patient to receive an iPad from the foundation, which plans to donate more iPads to local pediatric cystic fibrosis patients who would otherwise be unable to afford one. “We should adopt Ralph and Sabina as grandparents,” the Orben family, who live in Wakefield, exclaimed as they gratefully accepted the iPad.

SPirit of HALLOWEEN:
Mass General Hospital for Children (MGHfC) patient Delia Binette, 6, concentrates on her pumpkin at the annual Spirit Halloween Superstores party Oct. 21. Since 2006, Spirit Halloween Superstores have donated more than $100,000 to MGHfC through its Spirit of Children Program.