Marc DeMoya, MD, is trained to be prepared for the unexpected. As an MGH trauma surgeon, he also is used to being part of difficult, oftentimes life-or-death situations. So when he came across a motor vehicle accident that involved serious injuries, DeMoya did not hesitate. He sprang into action.

His heroic efforts were recognized during a special ceremony on Oct. 18 at the Massachusetts State House, where he was honored with the Massachusetts State Police Lifesaving Award, established to recognize a civilian who undertakes significant actions in saving the life of another.

It was Dec. 23, 2014 and DeMoya was traveling with his wife and children on Route 90 in Charlton when traffic ground to a halt. Moments before, two tractor trailers and a car had been in a horrific accident. “I was eight or so cars behind it and when we came to a stop, I saw that a car had flipped over. It looked nearly flattened, like a pancake,” says DeMoya. “I ran over and saw fuel coming out of one (Continued on page 2)
11.06.15

Pediatric Gastroenterology pioneer honored with endowed chair

IT IS NOT UNUSUAL for MGH employees to enjoy long and distinguished careers. But for W. Allan Walker, MD, the nearly 50 years he has spent at the MGH have resulted in seminal contributions to the field of pediatric gastroenterology and nutrition, including authorship of the textbook, “Walker’s Gastrointestinal Disease,” now in its fifth printing.

“Everyone in the field of pediatric gastroenterology and nutrition has been touched – in a very positive way – by Dr. Walker’s career,” said Ronald Kleinman, MD, physician-in-chief of MassGeneral Hospital for Children (MGHfC), at a reception to celebrate the creation of the W. A. Walker, MD Endowed Chair in Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition. Some 100 colleagues, friends and family members attended the Oct. 8 event at the Paul S. Russell, MD Museum of Medical History and Innovation.

Peter L. Slavin, MD, MGH president, recognized Walker for his contributions to the field, including his long-term research into the prevention of necrotizing enterocolitis, an often-fatal disease that affects premature infants.

Slavin also acknowledged another “superb physician,” Alessio Fasano, MD, the first incumbent of the Walker Chair. Fasano is chief of the Department of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition and director of the Center for Celiac Research and Treatment at MGHfC. “Alessio’s efforts have contributed to enormous progress in raising awareness and improving understanding of celiac disease, a lifelong condition, and other gluten-related disorders,” said Slavin.

The award will enable stable funding for Fasano to continue his research, which includes a long-term prospective study of infants to unravel the complex factors that contribute to the development of celiac disease.

Paul Lerou, MD, named chief of Neonatology

PAUL LEROU, MD, has been appointed chief of Neonatology and Newborn Medicine for MassGeneral Hospital for Children (MGHfC) effective Oct. 1. Lerou succeeds Jonathan Cronin, MD, who will remain a member of the MGH’s clinical faculty in the Patty Ribakoff Newborn Intensive Care Unit.

“I am very grateful to Dr. Cronin for all that he’s contributed to our newborn efforts over the past 12 years, and look forward to further enhancing these programs with Dr. Lerou,” says Ronald E. Kleinman, MD, physician-in-chief of MGHfC. “We are delighted that Paul has joined us to lead our newborn programs. He is a superb clinician, dedicated and innovative scientist and a gifted administrator.”

Lerou received his medical degree from Jefferson Medical School and completed his residency and chief residency in Pediatrics at Boston Children’s Hospital, followed by a clinical fellowship in the Harvard Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship Program.

He completed postdoctoral training in the George Daley Laboratory at Boston Children’s Hospital, during which time he studied stem cell biology. Lerou’s research is focused on using stem cells to better understand how genetic disorders and prematurity affect a child’s development over the course of their lifetime and to ultimately develop new treatment strategies.

“I am very honored to join the MGH and lead the Division of Neonatology,” says Lerou. “I look forward to working with an exceptionally talented team at MGHfC to deliver state-of-the-art care for newborns and their families. Consistent with the MGH mission, we will also reaffirm our division’s commitment to research and education aimed at improving the lives of babies in our community and beyond.”

—Physician honored

(Continued from page 1)

of the trucks and I found a man who was partially ejected from the car. He was screaming. When I got to him, I saw that one of his legs was amputated at the knee and the other had an open tibia-fibula fracture.”

According to State Police, “with disregard for his personal safety in the presence of a large fuel spill, Dr. DeMoya dragged the victim a safe distance from the crash, before rendering aid, including applying a tourniquet to the severely damaged and bleeding leg.”

DeMoya recalls that earlier that week he had been teaching his children how to properly apply a tourniquet and he had placed one in his car in the event of an emergency. That night, however, they had been traveling in his wife’s car. “You are limited in what you can do at an accident like that, so you can often feel helpless,” DeMoya says.

“But in this case, thankfully, the trooper gave me his tourniquet and the man survived.”

During the ceremony, State Police thanked DeMoya for his “selfless actions in rendering medical attention that saved a life.”

DeMoya credits all those who helped at the chaotic scene as playing a key role. “It’s nice to be able to provide that helping hand,” he says. “It clearly made a difference that we were able to provide the care the man needed at that exact moment.”
Celebrating everyday heroes

THE EMPLOYEE DISABILITY RESOURCE GROUP (EDRG) hosted its third annual Breakfast of Champions Oct. 27, at which nominees for the EDRG Disability Champion Award were honored. This award recognizes employees who exhibit exemplary commitment to disability advocacy and strive to make a positive difference and impact on all those within the hospital. This year’s award was presented to Joseph Crowley, senior manager of Police, Security and Outside Services.

Crowley wears many hats in his daily routines at the MGH. He not only is the manager for the Ambassadors Program and oversees the Police and Security Outside Bike Patrol Officers program but he also volunteers with the Inpatients and Common Areas Surveillance Rounds and the Council on Disability Awareness. In all of these roles, Crowley works to ensure the MGH is a safe and accessible environment for those with disabilities.

“Joe’s contributions to disability advocacy go above and beyond the scope of regular duties,” said Peter L. Slavin, MD, MGH president. “His devotion to the MGH Mission and Credo, sincere empathy and caring attitude make for a winning combination in assisting individuals who may need accessibility accommodation during their visit to the MGH.”

The seven other nominees recognized at the breakfast were Susan Fergus, Maria Isabel Gonzalez, Benjamin Majewski, Jamie Micco, PhD, Charles Tsun-Zhi Pu, MD, Jennifer Scalia, RN, and Lisa Susser. They each were given a certificate of recognition from Slavin while excerpts of their nominations were read aloud.

“This morning we are here to celebrate our everyday heroes, “ said Slavin, “our own MGHers who go above and beyond to provide a welcoming environment for our colleagues and patients with disabilities while gently reminding us that disability is just one part of an individual’s story.”

A shot at the big screen

EVER WONDERED what it would be like to have a part in a big Hollywood movie? How about in a movie acting alongside Johnny Depp? One lucky MGH nurse recently did just that. Kathryn Beauchamp, RN, PICU clinical nurse specialist, had a small part in the movie “Black Mass,” starring Depp as notorious Boston mobster James “Whitey” Bulger.

Beauchamp – who has worked at the MGH for 16 years – was initially asked to work on the film as a technical advisor for scenes that take place in a hospital. She was sent the script to review to make sure every detail was accurate and also worked with the set director and wardrobe staff to ensure all equipment and clothing were accurate for the year in which the scenes were set.

“I attended a big meeting with director Scott Cooper and everyone involved and shared my thoughts on a few wording changes to the script,” says Beauchamp. “After chatting with Cooper for a bit he just turned to me and asked if I’d ever been in a movie. He gave me a small speaking part that he promised wouldn’t get cut.”

For one day in May 2014 Beauchamp became an actress. She had her own dressing room, received fittings, makeup and a lavish spread of food. In addition to making sure the hospital room was set up correctly, she also was able to watch the crew film the hospital scenes.

“It was a long but fun process. We filmed my one scene many times,” says Beauchamp. “Everyone made it so easy. During one of the filming breaks Johnny came over to chat and said, ‘You could be my nurse anytime.’ I told him that I’m a pediatric nurse and he just smiled and said, ‘I’m a child at heart.’”

And he demonstrated that during one break as he suddenly jumped into character as his popular character Captain Jack Sparrow, from the “Pirates of the Caribbean” movies to the delight of actor Luke Ryan, who plays Bulger’s son in the movie, and his family.

Beauchamp says she loved talking with the crew members and learning so much about the behind-the-scenes of making a movie. The experience is one she is sure to never forget. “I was raised in a family that just loved movies, and they are still such a big part of my life. To be part of this was amazing. It was one of those defining life moments.”
A joyful approach to leading

“WE NEED TO” tap into what makes us passionate and purposeful in order to stay fueled and excited to get things done,” Allison Rimm told managers and supervisors at the annual Women in Leadership event Oct. 29 in the Starr Conference Center. “There is no way you’ll get anybody to follow you if you don’t believe in yourself and your vision.”

Rimm was the featured speaker at this year’s lecture, “Mastering the Art of Influence,” and she outlined her experiences with “influence” as an essential skill to career success. Rimm – the former senior vice president of Strategic Planning and Information Management at the MGH, who left to begin her own company, Allison Rimm & Associates – shared her expertise in strategic planning, management consulting and coaching to inspire individuals and leaders.

During the lecture, Rimm also emphasized joy as the key to good leadership, necessary to be able to influence others positively in order to accomplish goals. “We need to find what it is that touches people’s heart and soul and motivates them to do what they want, and to do what you need them to,” she said. “Good leadership is about creating relationships with people and establishing good rapport.”

The event ended with a question-and-answer session, followed by a networking reception. Rimm’s themes of positivity, believing in oneself and loving what one does emerged throughout her talk. As did, of course, finding joy in daily activities.

“A joy audit” throughout your days,” says Rimm. “Is what you are doing bringing you joy? Whatever you do, be sure to inject a little joy in your day.”

The lecture, moderated by Misty Hathaway, senior director for Specialized Services and Marketing, was hosted by the Women in Leadership Committee, a volunteer group of MGH managers focused on professional development of women at the MGH.