



**ALL FOR HAITI:**  
From left, Mayo,  
Jackson, May, Winkfield,  
McKenzie and Osbourne

## Thinking globally, acting locally

*MGH gala raises awareness and support for relief efforts in Haiti*

**MORE THAN A MONTH** has passed since Haiti was devastated by a magnitude 7.0 earthquake. While worldwide relief efforts to assist the island nation continue, members of the MGH community are doing their own part to support relief efforts.

Recently, the Organization of Minority Residents and Fellows (OMRF), a subcommittee

of the MGH Multicultural Affairs Office (MAO), planned a major fundraising project. The OMRF executive board – including Audley Osbourne, MD, of MGH Urology; Karen Winkfield, MD, PhD, of Radiation Oncology; Fola May, MD, MPhil, of Internal Medicine; and Andrea Jackson, MD, of Obstetrics and Gynecology – hosted an evening gala, with

support from MGH Human Resources and MAO, to benefit the MGH Haitian Relief Fund.

Held at the Liberty Hotel, the gala sold out with more than 450 guests and raised more than \$35,000 for the MGH Haitian Relief Fund. Since its creation in January, the fund has

*(Continued on page 2)*

## MGH goes red for women's heart health



**THE MGH HEART CENTER** and Corrigan Women's Heart Health Program celebrated the American Heart Association's "Go Red for Women" month in February with a number of activities to help raise awareness of heart disease among women.

On Feb. 2, Heart Center nurses and nurse practitioners volunteered at a White Lobby information table to provide clinical guidance on heart disease risk factors. Visitors, patients and employees answered questions about heart health for the chance to win a pedometer.

On Feb. 3, cardiologist Danita Sanborn, MD, and Ben Duffy, food production manager for MGH Nutrition and Food Services, cooked several delicious, heart-healthy meals for the lunchtime

*(Continued on page 4)*

**HAVE A HEART:** Members of the MGH Anticoagulation Management Service (AMS) wear red to support women's heart health.

## – MGH gala

(Continued from page 1)

raised more than \$140,000 to support MGH and Haitian community relief efforts. It also is being used to fund an employee grant program, which already has helped many of the more than 200 MGH employees directly affected by the earthquake.

“The Haitian Relief Gala participation and donations far exceeded our expectations,” says Osbourne. “People are stopping me in hallways with praise for our fundraiser. They were thrilled to receive a powerful message on the importance of thinking locally and acting globally.”

Osbourne says attendees were thrilled to meet the evening’s special guests – including Tyrone McKenzie and Jerod Mayo, both linebackers for the New England Patriots – and enjoyed the night’s musical entertainment. Proceeds from the silent auction, which featured a private plane trip to Nantucket, Celtics tickets and autographed sports memorabilia, raised additional funds for both the MGH Haitian Relief Fund and Partners in Health.

As a highlight of the evening, MGH and BWH clinicians who had traveled to Haiti to provide medical care shared their experiences. MGH President Peter L. Slavin, MD, also offered remarks, thanking the OMRF executive board and the MGH community for supporting the relief efforts.

For more information or to make a donation by credit card to the MGH Haitian Relief Fund, access [www2.massgeneral.org/donate/haiti/](http://www2.massgeneral.org/donate/haiti/). Cash and check donations are accepted at the Development Office, located at 165 Cambridge Street, Suite 600. For information about other MGH Haiti relief efforts, visit [www.massgeneral.org/haiti](http://www.massgeneral.org/haiti). ■



MECI MGH: From left, Roy, Seale, Benalfew, Sewell, Durette, Rock, Goler, Moise, McField-Avila and Gerard

## MGH Haitian community offers thanks

“MECI MGH” – which means “Thank you, MGH,” in Haitian Creole – was on each button handed to the guests entering the O’Keeffe Auditorium Feb. 12 for the 10th annual Patient Care Services Celebration of Black History Month and African-American Pinning Ceremony. This year’s event featured a special focus on Haiti, as the MGH Haitian community coordinated a collective expression of gratitude to the MGH for its support following the devastating earthquake that struck the island Jan. 12.

The event was planned by a committee of MGH employees with close ties to Haiti – Victoria Benalfew, of the Blood Transfusion Service; Louis Gerard, of Environmental Services; Lisa Moise, of the Registration and Referral Center; Harold Roy, of MGH Police and Security; and Jean Alexis, Kendrick Durette, Erika Goler, Bernice McField-Avila, Evadne Seale, Evette Sewell and Franchette Rock, all of the Emergency Department.

The program began with Sewell welcoming guests and explaining that the members of the MGH Haitian community wished to express their sincere thanks for the meaningful support of the hospital community. Rock then provided a historical overview of Haiti, which Christopher Columbus happened upon in 1492 and claimed for Spain.

Roy, a first generation Haitian-American, delivered the keynote address. He was at the airport in Port-au-Prince when the earthquake struck and offered his insight into how the life-altering event compared to the stresses of daily living that once seemed so challenging. Roy encouraged the audience to learn from his grandmother, who told him in Haitian Creole, “Pa bay tet ou problèm,” which means, “Don’t sweat the small stuff.” Moise followed, singing and playing on her guitar an original composition about Haiti, followed by Gerard, who provided a brief language lesson on Haitian Creole greetings.

Several MGHers were thanked for their efforts to support the MGH Haitian community and were presented tokens of appreciation. For a complete list of those who were named, access [www.massgeneral.org/about/newsarticle.aspx?id=2099](http://www.massgeneral.org/about/newsarticle.aspx?id=2099).

The highlight of the event was the presentation of the African-American Pinning Ceremony awards to this year’s winners, Marie Guerrier, RN, of Ellison 12, and Soloman Mugati, BSN, of White 7. Guerrier was not in attendance because she was in Haiti assisting with medical relief efforts, so her supervisor, Ann Kennedy, RN, accepted the pin on her behalf.

“The MGH family is very diverse yet held together by our value for one another,” says Deborah Washington, RN, PhD, director of MGH Diversity for Patient Care Services. “We come together as one against adversity. The tragedy in Haiti is an example of how we step up when needed.” ■

## Task force results lead to revised chemotherapy preparation process

**AS PART OF AN INITIATIVE** to understand the environmental impact of the preparation, administration and disposal of chemotherapy drugs, the MGH Hazardous Drug Safety Task Force (HDSTF) undertook an environmental study in 2007 targeting nine commonly used intravenous (IV) chemotherapy drugs in specific areas where they routinely are handled. To evaluate the potential contamination of surfaces with these drugs, which are generally hazardous, HDSTF researchers – under the direction of Jeffrey Supko, PhD, director of the Clinical Pharmacology Lab – swabbed various surfaces at the Yawkey 8 infusion clinic, pharmacy and MGH Central Pharmacy.

The results were similar to those in previously published studies – there were residual amounts of chemotherapy drugs in nearly undetectable quantities in some areas of these locations. While the risk posed to employees by these very low levels is unclear, the HDSTF committee, along with the MGH Pharmacy, identified a number of general assumptions to guide the revision of the process for the preparation of the drugs.

The environmental sampling indicated that the chemotherapy vials as they arrive from the manufacturers have trace amounts of chemotherapy drug present on their outer surfaces. It also became clear that a pharmacy technician's gloved hand may be a potential culprit in contamination of the outside of the final IV container.

A new process for preparing chemotherapy drugs, in the form of a pilot project, which included the reconfiguration of pharmacy areas and a revision of handling process, was implemented on Jan. 25 in the Yawkey 8 pharmacy.

“Major improvements in our process include physically separating chemotherapy drugs from other noncontaminated supplies to reduce the risk of cross-contamination,” says Meg Clapp, RPh, chief pharmacy officer.

Additionally, new mixing techniques now separate preparation areas within the fume hood into two zones, one designated as the area for ‘dirty’ items and another for ‘clean’ items. Pharmacy technicians preparing the chemotherapy drugs now are required to wear two pairs of clean gloves and use clear plastic wrap – much like the type used to wrap food – as a protective cover over the final IV container during preparation. Once the chemotherapy



**REVISED TECHNIQUE:** Karen Pistone, CPhT, pharmacy technician, uses new procedures for preparing chemotherapy drugs within a fume hood.

drug is mixed, the protective covering is removed and the clean IV container is placed into the clean delivery bin.

“The goal is to apply best practices during chemo preparation with the intent of keeping the final IV container clean and minimize downstream exposure,” adds Clapp.

The new Yawkey 8 procedures were developed and

implemented by Vladimir Boskovic, CPhT, lead technician; Katie LaFleur, PharmD, pharmacist; and Peter Ng, RPh, pharmacy supervisor, under the direction and guidance of Kelly Barnes, RPh, compliance pharmacist, and the oversight of Clapp. Currently, additional swab tests of environmental surfaces are being examined to see if the changes have reduced the amount of chemotherapy drugs in the environment.

For more information about the HDSTF project, contact Inga Lennes, MD, director of Clinical Quality, at [ilennes@partners.org](mailto:ilennes@partners.org). Employees with concerns or questions about their own work environment and chemotherapy drug safety should speak directly to their managers or supervisors. ■



## Rollout of bedside computers for EMAPPS and ACD

**THROUGH EXTENSIVE PLANNING** and interdisciplinary collaboration, the MGH Acute Care Documentation (ACD) and Electronic Medication Administration Process for Patient Safety (EMAPPS) hardware team recently completed the installation of more than 900 bedside computers and barcode scanners in all inpatient locations. Each inpatient unit was assessed individually and decisions regarding placement of these new computers were made with input from the unit's clinical leadership. Computers and barcode scanners also were added to the unit-based medication rooms to support the new EMAPPS workflow.

“The completion of the installation enables the ACD project to advance toward the goal of automating inpatient documentation, including flowsheets and notes, by providing a dedicated computer for every inpatient bed,” says Ann McDermott, RN, Patient Care Services Informatics ACD clinical project manager.

The installation process required the collaboration of an interdisciplinary MGH team including members of Buildings and Grounds, Patient Care Services, Information Systems and Network Services. The project began in January 2009 and was completed in December 2009, staying one step ahead of the rollout sequence for EMAPPS.

“There truly were no weak links on the project install teams – to say the teamwork was fantastic would be an understatement,” says Jack Brown, corporate team leader for Partners Information Systems. “Each install team met every challenge with enthusiasm, creativity and hard work. They should be very proud of what they accomplished during this project.”

In a continued effort to improve access to computers on inpatient units, the ACD team will add new computers to hallways and common areas, along with a wide-scale distribution of mobile computers to support the “roving clinician.”

“This three-pronged approach to computer access – bedside, hallway and mobile – will support our clinical community on the journey toward a truly electronic health record,” says Michele Cullen, RN, Information Systems ACD project manager.

For more information about the ACD project, contact Cullen at [mcullen1@partners.org](mailto:mcullen1@partners.org).

**WHAT'S HAPPENING****2010 Poussaint Visiting Lecture**

The Harvard Medical School (HMS) Office for Diversity and Community Partnership and Office of Alumni Relations are hosting the 2010 Alvin F. Poussaint, MD, Visiting Lecture March 4 from 3 to 4 pm in the Joseph B. Martin Conference Center at HMS. Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, MD, MBA, president and CEO of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, will present "Medicine's Great Equalizer: A Love for Humanity." To register, call 617-432-2313 or e-mail [ying\\_wang@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:ying_wang@hms.harvard.edu).

**Nutrition book talk**

The Maxwell and Eleanor Blum Patient and Family Learning Center will host a book talk with Walter Willett, MD, MPH, PhD, of the Departments of Nutrition and Epidemiology at Harvard School of Public Health and the Department of

Medicine of Harvard Medical School, on his book, "Eat, Drink, and Be Healthy," March 8 from noon to 1 pm in the White Building, Room 110. The event is open to all MGH patients and staff, and attendees are invited to bring their lunches. For more information, call 617-724-3823.

**Wellman Center Lecture Series**

The Wellman Center Lecture Series, presented by the MGH Wellman Center for Photomedicine, will host "Light, Sound, nanoAction: Ultrasound-guided Intravascular Photoacoustic Imaging of Anatomy, Chemistry and Biology of Atherosclerotic Plaques," March 2 from 2:30 to 3:30 pm in the Thier Conference Room with a reception beginning at 2:15 pm. Stanislav Emelianov, PhD, of the University of Texas Department of Biomedical Engineering, will be the guest speaker. For more information, access [www2.massgeneral.org/wellman/news-events.htm](http://www2.massgeneral.org/wellman/news-events.htm).

**HMS Foundation Funds Program**

Information on funding opportunities offered through the Harvard Medical School (HMS) Foundation Funds Program is now available online at [www.hms.harvard.edu/foundationfunds](http://www.hms.harvard.edu/foundationfunds). Researchers interested in applying for any of the awards listed on the site must first apply for an

HMS nomination by submitting an application online no later than April 7 at 5 pm. An informational meeting will be held March 2 from noon to 1:30 pm in the Armenise Amphitheater at HMS. For more information, contact Erin Cromack, of the Office of the HMS Dean for Academic and Clinical Affairs, at 617-432-7463 or [erin\\_cromack@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:erin_cromack@hms.harvard.edu).

**Medical terminology course**

MGH Training and Workforce Development is offering Basic Medical Terminology on Tuesdays from 4:45 to 6:45 pm from March 9 to May 18, excluding March 30. In this 20-hour course students will learn to analyze, decipher, spell and pronounce medical terms. Emphasis is placed on understanding terms in their proper context as they relate to the anatomy, physiology and pathology of the human body. No previous background in science or biology is required. Proficiency in English is required. This course is open to all MGH employees and costs \$70, which includes the textbook. To enroll, go to PeopleSoft: Main Menu > Self Service > Employee > Request Training Enrollment and search for course code MGH013. For more information, contact John Coco at 617-724-3368.

**— Go Red**

(Continued from page 1)

crowd in the East Garden Room. During the demonstration, Duffy prepared a low-fat, low-calorie chicken gumbo. Sanborn prepared cod served over a warm lentil salad and discussed the heart health benefits of fish and lentils, both good sources of heart-healthy fat and dietary fiber, respectively.

On Feb. 4, Claudia Chae, MD, a cardiologist with the Corrigan Women's Heart Health Program, hosted a lunchtime session called "Heart Disease in Women: Am I at Risk?"

Chae highlighted the major risk factors for heart disease, including age, family history, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, smoking, obesity and inactivity. She emphasized that many of these risk factors are preventable or could be modified by maintaining a healthy diet, exercising and quitting smoking.

The events culminated Feb. 5 with National Wear Red Day. Staff members around the hospital were encouraged to wear red to promote heart disease awareness. To celebrate, Heart Center staff distributed more than 300 carnations to female Heart Center patients and staff and placed eight bouquets in family waiting areas of the inpatient cardiac nursing units, with a plaque beside each explaining the significance of Go Red.

For more information about the MGH's Go Red events and the Corrigan Women's Heart Health Program, access [www.massgeneral.org/heartcenter](http://www.massgeneral.org/heartcenter).



Submit news tips  
and story ideas  
to MGH Hotline

**EDITOR**

Suzanne Kim  
617-726-0275

**ASSISTANT EDITOR**

Emily Lemiska  
617-724-2753

**DESIGNER**

Aldona Charlton  
617-726-7539

**FAX**

617-726-7475

**E-MAIL**

[Hotline@partners.org](mailto:Hotline@partners.org)

**MAIL**

Public Affairs Office  
50 Staniford Street, Suite 830  
Boston, MA 02114

MGH Hotline is published weekly  
by the MGH Public Affairs Office.



Hotline is on recycled paper.  
Please recycle Hotline  
in any white paper box.

**A dedicated Friend**

**ON JAN. 12**, the Friends of the MGH Cancer Center celebrated the longstanding commitment of one of their founding board members, Jensie Shipley. For 25 years, Shipley has worked tirelessly on many of the Friends' activities, in particular the Maxwell V. Blum Cancer Resource Room, the HOPES program, the Wall of Hope, valet parking, the Blossom Street Café and most recently, the Howard Ulfelder, MD, Healing Garden.

**FRIENDS:** Front row, from left, W. Gerald Austen, MD, chair of the MGH Chiefs Council, Shipley, and William Shipley, MD, of the MGH Cancer Center; Back row, from left, Jay Loeffler, MD, chief of Radiation Oncology, and Ginny Durfee, president of the Friends' Board

