My Giving Helps Employee Campaign launched

THE MGH FUND, which raises unrestricted funds for the hospital, provides support for an extensive array of programs and initiatives that enhance patient care, enable world-class researchers to pioneer new ideas in medicine and make the MGH a great place to work. To help advance the MGH mission by supporting such programs, the hospital has launched the My Giving Helps MGH Fund Employee Campaign, a five-week effort to support the fund. The employee campaign will be followed by a major public campaign in October.

“One gift really does have infinite possibilities,” says Hilary Marshall, director of the MGH Fund. “There are many areas at the hospital that could benefit from the MGH Fund’s support. We hope that every employee across all areas of the hospital will help make a difference by making a donation.”

Adds Bill Banchiere, director of Environmental Services and one of the co-chairs of the campaign, “Donations to the MGH Fund are used to support the outstanding efforts of colleagues, fulfilling the hospital’s top priorities.”

To learn more about the My Giving Helps MGH Fund Employee Campaign, visit http://intranet.massgeneral.org/give.

EXPO EXCITEMENT: Last year, Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino launched the expo with Channel 7 news anchors Kim Khazei and Frances Rivera, along with James J. Mongan, MD, 2003-2009 president and CEO of Partners HealthCare, back row, second from right, and Michael Jellinek, MD, chief of the MGH Child Psychiatry Service and president of Newton-Wellesley Hospital, back row, far right.

Health and Fitness Expo June 12 and 13

TIPS AND TOOLS for improving overall health is the theme of this year’s MGH and MassGeneral Hospital for Children (MGH/C) exhibits at the fourth annual 7 News/Partners HealthCare Health and Fitness Expo June 12 and 13 at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston.

MGH dietitians will offer attendees one-on-one nutrition screenings, including Body Mass Index calculations and personalized caloric intake assessments. The MGH also will collaborate with The Food Project and the Federation of Massachusetts Farmers’ Markets, organizations that promote locally grown food and sustainable agriculture, to highlight the availability of fresh, healthy produce in area farmers’ markets.

Several MGH clinicians will give presentations on topics such as mind/body medicine, skin care, medical radiation exposure, preventing pediatric injuries and mammography guidelines. MGH physicians also will assess physical fitness levels and provide tips on ways to increase daily physical activity, while the MGH/C booth will be a place for children to enjoy fun, safe activities and exercises guided by fitness professionals. The expo also will feature:

- Appearances by celebrity guests such as Tedy Bruschi, former New England Patriot; Mario Lopez, host of NBC’s “Extra”; retired U.S. Army Gen. Frederick M. Franks; Kris Freeman, U.S. Olympic cross country skier; and the winners of “America’s Next Top Model” and “The Biggest Loser”
- Partners HealthCare “Ask a Doctor” booth
- Free medical tests and screenings, including bone density, mood and memory, and balance
- Interactive sports clinics, fitness games, health activities and demonstrations

The Health and Fitness Expo is free and open to the public. For a schedule of events, exhibits, speakers and celebrity appearances, visit www.bostonhealthexpo.com.
Visiting Clerkship Program celebrates 20 years

Since the 1990 establishment of the Visiting Clerkship Program (VCP), more than 850 African American, Native American and Hispanic American medical students have trained at Harvard Medical School (HMS)-affiliated hospitals through the program. An initiative of the HMS Office for Diversity and Community Partnership, the VCP provides financial support to fourth-year and qualified third-year underrepresented minority medical students in the HMS Exchange Clerkship Program.

On May 17, VCP participants, HMS faculty and staff from the MGH and other affiliate hospitals gathered to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the program. Joan Reede, MD, MPH, MBA, HMS dean for Diversity and Community Partnership, welcomed guests and thanked them for their support of the VCP. Jeffrey Flier, MD, dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Harvard University, offered acknowledgements as well.

“Today, we are very proud to have been a part of this program since its inception,” said MGH President Peter L. Slavin, MD, in his remarks. Slavin explained the reason for the MGH’s support of the VCP, including the need for a workforce reflective of current demographic trends and supporting efforts toward eliminating disparities in health care.

LeRoi Hicks, MD, MPH, a BWH physician and HMS faculty member, was the event’s keynote speaker. Hicks shared his personal experiences as a VCP graduate and how the program has supported his success.

For more information on the VCP, visit www.mfdp.med.harvard.edu.

Workplace emotions workshop

As part of the MGH Leadership Academy 2010 Spring Lecture Series, the MGH presented “Managing Emotions in the Workplace,” May 26 with guest speaker Sigal Barsade, PhD, professor of Management at the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. Barsade has conducted extensive research on emotions in the workplace and their impact on decision making, motivation and work effectiveness and is the author of numerous articles and book chapters on the topic.

Barsade opened the lecture by discussing the case of a technology company employee who had exceptional technical knowledge but also exhibited uncooperative and disruptive behavior to the point that the effect of his actions far outweighed the benefit of his technical contributions. Barsade led a discussion with audience members, who shared their experiences of working with similarly difficult colleagues or managers.

Barsade explained that it is important for managers as well as employees to work with emotional intelligence, which is the ability to recognize and manage one’s own and others’ emotions. She explained that emotions can be useful as points of information, and ignoring emotions could lead to missing valuable information that can help to make effective decisions.

“It’s important to use emotional intelligence to change your course of action after getting the feedback,” said Barsade, who described four steps of using emotional intelligence. These include: effectively identifying and expressing emotions; using emotions to facilitate thinking and problem solving; understanding emotions, including the ability to predict how others might react to a situation; and regulating one’s own emotions and those of others in ways appropriate to the task at hand.

“Professor Barsade’s presentation was an important reminder of just how much impact emotions can have on the work we do and those with whom we work,” says Jeff Davis, senior vice president of Human Resources. “So many try to manage without considering emotions, but the key to success is to understand these feelings and why they cause people to act the way they do.”

For more information about the MGH Leadership Academy, access www2.massgeneral.org/leadershipacademy.
Five years on the frontier

THE PREFIX “PROTO” connotes progress and originality. The name of Proto, a quarterly magazine produced by the MGH in collaboration with Time Inc. Content Solutions, indicates the magazine’s focus on the latest research breakthroughs and medical controversies, as well as the unique position of Proto as a publication. Overseen by the MGH, Proto explores biomedical research regardless of where it is taking place.

“Our goal in creating Proto was to use the diverse expertise of the MGH as a vantage point for examining innovation in biomedical research, clinical advances and health policy worldwide,” says Peter L. Slavin, MD, MGH president, who helps guide the magazine’s direction along with David F. Torchiana, MD, MGPO chairman and CEO, and an editorial board comprising MGH experts from across the disciplines.

“We want Proto to provide an authentic, objective and provocative glimpse into the world of health care,” says Torchiana. “With that in mind, we make sure the magazine discusses research controversies and setbacks, as well as the progress medical researchers have made.”

Nearly five years since its debut in fall 2005, Proto continues to report on the ever-changing frontier of medicine. With a readership of more than 75,000 nationwide, the magazine reaches thousands of others through its website and most recently, a program on ReachMD, a station on XM Satellite Radio. The first show aired May 17.

“Proto helps give the MGH exposure beyond Boston – and it happens in a lot of small ways we might not even think about,” says Paul Libassi, deputy managing editor for Proto at Time Inc. Content Solutions.

Though Proto targets physicians, researchers, health care and opinion leaders, and policymakers, its influence has gone well beyond the medical and scientific community. Articles from Proto have been reprinted in mainstream news publications such as The Washington Post and the Saturday Evening Post. Even radio personality Rush Limbaugh has picked up a copy: “The Future of Obesity,” an article in the summer 2009 issue, was a point of discussion during one of his radio shows and on his website. Proto also has received multiple editorial awards – including awards from Folio magazine, the American Society of Journalists and Authors, the Custom Publishing Council and Apex Awards for Publication Excellence – as well as honors for its design and photography.

“It has been stimulating, fun and a privilege to work with these two creative, talented groups – writers and artists from Time Inc. Content Solutions and clinicians and scientists from the MGH,” says Celeste Robb-Nicholson, MD, a member of the Proto Editorial Board and a primary care physician in the MGH Department of Medicine. “The collaboration has been mutually stimulating and has sparked a lively, forward-looking publication.”

For more information on Proto, visit www.protomag.com.

MGH Community Health Associates celebrate women with health fair

PRESENTING A multigenerational community event featuring health screenings, educational information, raffles and fun for women of all ages, MGH Community Health Associates (CHA) and the MGH community health centers hosted their biannual health fair, “Celebrating Women: Living a Healthy Vibrant Life!” May 6 at Everett High School.

This year’s event featured the theme, “Active Body, Active Mind and Active Spirit.” Guest panelists included Eva Selhub, MD, of the Benson-Henry Institute for Mind Body Medicine at MGH; Marie Pasinski, MD, MGH neurologist; and Susan Lane, RN, MSN, MBA, of CHA. Mallika Marshall, MD, of the MGH Chelsea HealthCare Center, moderated.

As a highlight of the fair, awards were presented to women in the CHA communities who exemplify living a healthy, vibrant life: Tina Fabiano Champagne of Charlestown, Elizabeth McBride of Chelsea, Katherine Lassiter of Everett, Barbara Maldero of the North End, Edna Dankens of Revere and Kathryn Dixon of Winthrop.
Granite State Quest to benefit MGHfC pediatric cancer research

The 8th Annual 2010 Granite State Quest, a one-day bicycle ride of either 50 or 100 miles through Southern New Hampshire, raises support for pediatric cancer research at MassGeneral Hospital for Children (MGHfC). The event takes place July 10, and the registration fee is $50. Participants cycling the 50-mile ride are required to raise $500, and those participating in the 100-mile ride must raise $1,000. All proceeds benefit MGHfC cancer research. The registration deadline is June 12. For more information, visit www.granitestatequest.org.

Eldercare presentation

The MGH Geriatric Medicine Unit is hosting an evening with Francine Russo, author of “They’re Your Parents, Too! How Siblings Can Survive Their Parents’ Aging Without Driving Each Other Crazy,” June 17 in the O’Keeffe Auditorium. A reception will begin at 5:30 pm, and the program will start at 6 pm. Barbara Moscovitz, MSW, LICSW, of the Geriatric Medicine Unit, will moderate. To register, e-mail Ashley Gravatte at agravatte@partners.org or call 617-643-6302. All guests who register will receive a complimentary copy of the book.

Nicholas Ruggiero, MD, a clinical research fellow in the MGH Heart Center, is the recipient of the 2010 Greg Braden Memorial Fellow of the Year Award. The award is presented by the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI) to the top graduating fellow who best represents the research, clinical and technical excellence exemplified by the late Gregory Braden, MD, FSCAI, an SCAI Board of Trustees member.

The fifth annual Massachusetts General Hospital Award in Cancer Research, which honors a scientist in the pursuit of eradicating cancer through innovative research, recently was presented to Charles Sawyers, MD, the inaugural director of the Human Oncology and Pathogenesis Program at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and a Howard Hughes investigator. Daniel Haber, MD, PhD, director of MGH Cancer Center, presented the award to Sawyers prior to Sawyers’ May 6 seminar “Overcoming Resistance to Targeted Cancer Therapy” in the Simches Research Center. Sawyers is a co-recipient of the Lasker Prize for his work on the development of Gleevec for the treatment of chronic myeloid leukemia, and he has led the development of a novel antiandrogen for the treatment of previously hormone-insensitive prostate cancer.

Mental health and cancer screening among Hispanics

According to the American Cancer Society, Hispanic Americans are the least likely of all racial and ethnic groups to use preventive cancer screenings. Studies also have shown that Hispanics – the fastest growing ethnic minority in the United States – are more likely to be diagnosed with cancer at an advanced stage, have lower cancer survival rates than non-Hispanic whites and have high rates of anxiety and depression. To examine these health care disparities, Lina Pabon-Nau, MD, MPH, Aetna/MGH Disparities Solutions Center (DSC) health care disparities fellow, carried out extensive research looking into how anxiety and depressive symptoms might affect cancer screening in Hispanics of different levels of acculturation.

As part of the June 2 MGH Racial and Ethnic Disparities: Keeping Current seminar series sponsored by the DSC, Pabon-Nau presented her research, “Effect of Anxiety or Depression on Cancer Screening Among Hispanic Immigrants by Years in the United States,” with Lidia Schapira, MD, medical oncologist for the Gillette Center for Breast Oncology at MGH, providing commentary following the presentation.

Pabon-Nau analyzed data from the 2005 and 2007 California Health Interview Survey, a random-dial telephone survey conducted in English and Spanish, and completed statistical analyses of the information. She confirmed that Hispanics have higher rates of anxiety and depressive symptoms than non-Hispanic whites and found that anxiety and depressive symptoms among Hispanics decrease with increasing years in the United States. She also confirmed that the rates of screening for colon, breast, cervical and prostate cancer were lower for Hispanics than non-Hispanic whites.

“Overall the conclusions of the study showed that anxiety symptoms have a negative effect on cervical cancer screening for Hispanics, while depressive symptoms have a negative effect on prostate cancer screening. After adjusting for anxiety or depressive symptoms, demographics and socioeconomic status, I found that newer immigrants are more likely to receive screenings for colon and breast cancer, compared to Hispanics who have been in the United States for a longer period of time,” said Pabon-Nau.

“Dr. Pabon-Nau’s research reminds us of the great variety we find within Hispanic cultures and the fact that immigrants have rich biographies that have an impact on their health behaviors,” said Schapira. “I will definitely be using this new understanding in my practice.”

For more information about the DSC, access www2.massgeneral.org/disparitiessolutions.