“Greetings and Salutations”
News from the Frontlines of Primary Care

About the Name
For those who know Dr. Stoeckle, our new title needs no explanation. When Dr. Stoeckle encountered you in the clinic, the hospital, or even the lunchroom, you were always welcomed with “Greetings and salutations!” (and a warm, friendly smile). Although we received numerous excellent suggestions, we thought that this phrase captured the heart of our newsletter. The word salutation has its origin in the Latin word saluto, meaning to wish well or to pay respect. We hope this newsletter welcomes everyone into the MGH primary care community and recognizes their collective good works. Congratulations to Dr. Al Mulley for suggesting the winning name. The runner-up was Dr. Ron Dixon, whose suggested name is the tag line. Thank you for all of your wonderful ideas!

Primary Care In The News

Our Very Own Red Sox “Star”
If this picture looks familiar, it’s because you’ve seen it on the Red Sox billboard on Brookline Avenue between Lansdowne and Yawkey Way. You also may have seen it on the season schedule and some of the home game ticket stubs. What makes this picture so fun and interesting is that the young man on the right is Neal Gavin, son of the Stoeckle Center’s Project Coordinator, Pat Gavin! Neal and his two friends, Joe Fitzpatrick and Dennis Thomson, celebrate with Trot Nixon after catching Trot’s game winning walk-off home run in the 11th inning of a playoff game against the Oakland Athletics in 2003.

Society of General Internal Medicine Clinical Educator Award
William Kormos, MD, MPH, was awarded the 2006 SGIM New England Regional Clinical Educator Award on March 24th. Dr. Kormos is a very dedicated Primary Care Physician in the Internal Medicine Associates practice. He is also the Education Director of the Stoeckle Center. Congratulations, Dr. Kormos!

Upcoming Primary Care Events At MGH

Ambulatory Practice of the Future/Stoeckle Center Seminar: Empowering Patients and Care-givers Using Internet-based Applications
Speakers: Daniel Hoch, MD and John Lester
When: Wednesday, May 24, 4:00-5:00pm
Where: Ether Dome
Stoeckle Center Seminar: The Ambulatory Practice of the Future: Embracing Innovation in Primary Care
Speaker: David Judge, MD (Bulfinch Medical Group, MGH)
When: Friday, May 26, 7:45-9:00am (breakfast at 7:30)
Where: Walcott Conference Room (Wang 125)

Ambulatory Practice of the Future/Stoeckle Center Seminar: Quality Allies: What We Are Learning about Providing Excellent Self-Management Support in Ambulatory Care
Speakers: Doriane Miller, MD and Laurel Simmons
When: Wednesday, June 28, 4:00-5:00pm
Where: Ether Dome

Stoeckle Center Seminar: Achieving a Better Work-Life Balance: Methods from RENEW
Speaker: Linda H. Clever, MD, MACP (RENEW)
When: Friday, June 23, 7:45-9:00am (breakfast at 7:30)
Where: Walcott Conference Room (Wang 125)

Please Note: All Stoeckle Center and APF/Stoeckle Center seminars are videoconferenced to interested off-site practices. We also record each seminar and send a videotape to all primary care practices. To request a video conference connection or a copy of a seminar videotape, please call the Stoeckle Center at 617-724-8824.

What's Going On In Primary Care

CMS Demonstration Project: Care Management for High-cost Beneficiaries (CMHCB)
MGH/MGPO has recently signed on as one of six sites participating in the CMS Demonstration Project. While CMS has a number of planned and ongoing care coordination and disease management demonstrations and programs, the CMHCB demonstration will be the first effort to focus specifically on provider-directed models of care for high-cost fee-for-service Medicare beneficiaries. The program goals are to help increase adherence to evidence-based care, reduce unnecessary hospital stays and emergency room visits, and help participants avoid costly and debilitating complications. The project leaders are Drs. Gregg Meyer and Tim Ferris. There are several work groups on the project team, including: Clinical Services Team (Peter Greenspan), Data & Analysis (Jim Heffernan), IS (Keith Jennings), and Outreach & Communication (Holly Hallen). The project will go live this summer.

Primary Care Operations Improvement (PCOI)
The PCOI program is a central organizing structure for all primary care practices at MGH. Established in 1997, the goal of the PCOI program is to improve the quality of care for common primary care problems and to enhance cost-effective health promotion and evidence-based disease prevention activities in our practices. In particular, PCOI has focused on redesigning primary care processes to make care delivery more effective and efficient. The PCOI Executive Committee meets weekly to review ongoing projects and plan future ones. This committee reports monthly to the PCOI Advisory Board, which provides a mechanism for feedback from the practices.