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

What's Going on at in Primary Care at MGH

General Medicine Mentoring Program
Jean Tempel, a supporter of primary care at MGH and a member of the President's Council, has generously donated $300,000 to establish a mentoring program for MGH General Medicine. This program will be a formal system of mentorship and career support to maximize the potential and career satisfaction of each faculty member.

Dr. Paul Griner, a former MGH resident, has been recruited to help establish this program. Dr. Griner is a senior and distinguished physician, the former Chief of General Medicine and CEO of Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, NY, and past-president of both the Society of General Internal Medicine and the American College of Physicians. He is currently a Senior Fellow at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement. Details about the program will be forthcoming.

APF Kicks Off New Year of Seminars
The 2007 Ambulatory Practice of the Future (APF)/Stoeckle Center seminars will focus on the theme of Innovation in Care. The kick-off speaker was Peter Coughlan, the Transformation Practice Leader at IDEO. Peter's presentation, "Improving the Health Care Experience through Innovation and Design," introduced the concept of innovation, and he shared examples of incremental and revolutionary innovations in health care. For details on future seminars, see Upcoming Events, opposite side.

Group Practice Improvement Network
The Stoeckle Center and the APF were invited to join the Group Practice Improvement Network (GPIN), a group which brings medical group leaders from across the country together with top experts from inside and outside the health care industry to find solutions to the challenges facing medical groups today.

Ron Dixon, Susan Edgman-Levitan, Sherry Haydock, David Judge, Eric Weil, and Dean Xerras represented the Stoeckle Center and the MGPO at the annual GPIN meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona, in February. For information on future GPIN meetings, contact the Stoeckle Center.

Literature in Medicine
The Stoeckle Center is sponsoring a reading and discussion group called Literature & Medicine: Humanities at the Heart of Health Care. Offered through the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities (MFH), the group of twenty-five doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, and administrative staff meets once a month for six months to discuss readings that illuminate issues central to caring for people.

Awards, Accolades, and Achievements

Allan H. Goroll, MD, Awarded Master of the American College of Physicians
Congratulations to Dr. Goroll on earning the honorable title of Master from the American College of Physicians (ACP)! Dr. Goroll, a Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and a Physician at the Mass General, is a pioneer of modern primary care internal medicine and a leader in medical education and medical professional activities.

The ACP is the nation's largest medical specialty society. Its mission is to enhance the quality and effectiveness of health care by fostering excellence and professionalism in the practice of medicine. Masterships are bestowed upon select ACP Fellows "on account of personal character, positions of honor, contributions toward furthering the purposes of the ACP, eminence in practice or in medical research, or other attainments in science or in the art of medicine."
Gregg Meyer, MD, to Lead Quality and Patient Safety

Peter Slavin announced this good news at the turn of the year, and we applaud Gregg for his appointment as the first senior vice president for Quality and Patient Safety! A national leader in the area of quality and safety, Gregg is now heading the multi-faceted efforts to set forth a vision for what quality and safety at the MGH should be.

Profile in Primary Care

James M. Perrin, MD, Pediatrics; Stoeckle Center Advisory Board Member

Jim Perrin has worked at the MGH in pediatrics for 20 years. He is the director of the Division of General Pediatrics, as well as the director of the MGH Center for Child and Adolescent Health Policy. He is a professor of pediatrics at Harvard Medical School and the vice chair of the MGH Department of Pediatrics for Research.

Much of Jim’s work has focused on understanding chronic diseases in children, and the role of practitioners in managing their health. The epidemiology of children’s chronic diseases has changed in recent years, and there has been a marked increase in the number of children with these conditions. Some of this increase is due to improved health care and better diagnostic measures, but much is attributable to higher rates of obesity, asthma, and mental health issues.

On the policy side, Jim has studied the impact of sick children on families, and he advocates for maintenance and improvement of both health insurance benefits and public programs (like income support), for children and their families. His recent work has focused on the use of primary and subspecialty care for children and adolescents. The lack of coordination between these groups is an important missing piece; Jim has worked to change this through efforts like the Coordinated Care Clinic at the Mass General Hospital for Children.

Upcoming Primary Care Events at the Mass General

>>> M A R C H <<<

Wednesday, March 28 • 4:00-5:00pm
Ambulatory Practice of the Future (APF) Seminar
“Office Practice: Working Smarter, Not Harder”
Speaker: Christine Sinsky, MD, Medical Associates, Dubuque, Iowa; Co-chair, ACP/SGIM practice innovation project
Where: Yawkey Bldg, 10th floor, Doerr 10660

Thursday, March 29 • 8:00-9:00am
Medical Grand Rounds
“Why Can’t I Find a Primary Care Physician Taking New Patients at the Mass General?”
Speakers: Brit Nicholson, MD, Michael Barry, MD, and Susan Edgman-Levitan, PA
Where: O’Keefe Auditorium

>>> A P R I L <<<

Friday, April 13 • 7:45-9:00am
General Medicine Rounds
“General Internal Medicine: Past, Present, and Future”
Speaker: Eugene Rich, MD; RWJ Health Policy Fellow at IOM, and incoming president of SGIM
Where: Simches Research Bldg, Room 3120

Friday, April 16 • 8:00-9:00am
General Medicine Case Conference
Details forthcoming

Wednesday, April 25 • 4:00-5:00pm
Ambulatory Practice of the Future (APF) Seminar
“Developing New Models of Primary Care to Improve Quality and Affordability”
Speaker: Rushika Fernandopulle, MD, Renaissance Health, Cambridge, Mass.
Where: Yawkey Bldg, 10th floor, Doerr 10660

Friday, April 27 • 7:45-9:00am
Stoeckle Center Seminar
“Coordination of Care for Children with Special Health Care Needs in the Hospital and at Home”
Speakers: Marjorie Curran, MD, MGHJC, and Kristin Holt-Donovan, Patient Advisor, MGH
Where: Yawkey Bldg, 10th floor, Doerr 10660