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

What’s Going on in Primary Care at MGH?

Partners Creates Primary Care Task Force
The PHS Task Force is charged with developing a Partners-wide strategy for primary care in the community. Chaired by Brit Nicholson, CMO and VP of Primary Care Administration at MGH, and Bob Goldszer, Associate CMO at BWH, the Task Force will look at issues that affect recruitment and retention of primary care physicians. MGH is well-represented on each of three sub-committees:

- **Career Development**: Michael Barry (co-chair), Paul Griner, Valerie Stone, Kate Treadway
- **Practice Design**: Sally Iles (co-chair), Lisa Brugnoli-Semeta, Susan Edgman-Levitan, Rushika Fernandopulle, Katherine Hesse, David Judge, Allison McDonough
- **Compensation**: Greg Pauly (co-chair), Bernie Aserkoff, John Goodson, Allen Goroll, Sherry Haydock, Evan Porter, Robert Singer.

General Medicine Mentoring Program Update
The mentoring program continues to make good progress. To date, 42 career conference sessions have been held, and almost as many CVs have been converted to the HMS F.I.R.S.T system.

All new faculty will have a career conference with a senior mentor within 3-4 months of appointment. The list of senior mentors has expanded to include Michael Barry, Alan Goroll, Paul Griner, Dan Hunt, Gregg Meyer, Lessie Robb-Nicholson, and Valerie Stone.

Charlotte Fagerberg joined the staff this fall as Program Manager; she most recently worked for the Partners AIDS Research Center.

Paul Griner, the program director, has attended nine practice team meetings to describe the program and receive feedback to refine it further. If you’d like Paul to visit your practice, please contact Charlotte at 617-726-4107 or cfagerberg@partners.org.

Chelsea Navigator Program a Success
“Navigator” programs, which provide a coach to help underserved patients access preventive care screenings, have proven effective in the Partners system for breast and cervical cancers. This approach

Stoelcke Center Welcomes New Member
Alicia Wong joined the staff this fall as a Clinical Research Coordinator. She graduated from Bowdoin College last May with a Bachelor’s degree in sociology and a minor in chemistry. During college, she was involved in a range of social and biological research studies on chronic illness and disability. At the Stoelcke Center, Alicia will work on a variety of collaborative projects geared towards the development and implementation of quality improvement initiatives in primary care.

“Navigator Program” continued
Sanja Percac-Lima, MD, a primary care physician at Chelsea Community Health Center, pursued funding for the program when she realized her patients were not getting screened. Chelsea had the lowest screening rates of all practices within the MGH, though its high immigrant population is one of the most vulnerable.

Dr. Percac-Lima’s proposal won the inaugural Clinical Innovation Award, an internally funded award given by the Clinical Research Program.

This program tailored an intervention for each patient. Navigator coaches worked to eliminate both the personal barriers (knowledge, fear of procedure or diagnosis, motivation), and system barriers (scheduling, language, translation of materials, transportation, financial) responsible for low screening rates.

The results were encouraging: rates of colonoscopy screenings more than doubled, and when combined with other forms of colon screenings, they almost tripled. The success of this program sets a new standard for screening this population, and paves the way for other innovative approaches and interventions.

The Navigator program represents a collaborative effort among investigators from the MGH Chelsea Health Center, PCOI program, MGH Community Benefits, Gastrointestinal Unit, Cancer Center, Interpreter Services, and Disparity Solutions Center. The program receives funding support from the MGH Clinical Innovations Award Program and infrastructure support from the MGH Clinical Research Program.
Profile in Primary Care

Stoeckle Center Meets First Year of Matching Gift Challenge to Increase Philanthropy

Last year, the Stoeckle Center received a wonderful matching gift opportunity from our Advisory Board member, David Barlow. David has long been an active fundraiser and promoter of the Center’s work, and is a founding member of the Stoeckle Center Advisory Board. He is a member of the Mass General President’s Council, and serves as Chairman and CEO of Molecular Insight Pharmaceuticals in Cambridge, Mass.

We have just completed the first year of this generous three-year challenge of $150,000 ($50,000 per year) and have successfully met our goal through a combination of first-time and increased gifts. Funds will benefit all of the Stoeckle Center activities.

Awards, Accolades, and Achievements

Susan Edgman-Levitan received the 2007 National Innovation and Leadership award from the Center for Information Therapy. The Center aims to advance the practice and science of information therapy to improve health, consumer decision making, and healthy behaviors. (www.ixcenter.org)

Upcoming Events at the Mass General: JANUARY

Friday, January 25 • 7:45-9:00am
Stoeckle Center Seminar
Speaker: Eric Weil, MD; practice leader, Revere Community Health Center
Location: Yawkey Bldg, 10th floor, Room 10-660

Tuesday, January 29 • 5:30-7:30pm
Panel Discussion
“Malpractice in Primary Care: Stories and Strategies”
Location: Simches Auditorium, Room 3110

Happy New Year from the Stoeckle Center!