Greetings and Salutations
News from the Frontlines of Primary Care

What’s Going on in MGH Primary Care?

GPIN Conference News

Last month, the Stoeckle Center sent a group of MGH primary care practitioners to the 30th semi-annual conference of Group Practice Improvement Network (GPIN), “Challenging Our Assumptions,” in Orlando, Florida.

The conference gave attendees the opportunity to network with primary care clinicians and administrators from hospitals and practices across the country, and they enjoyed presentations on a variety of topics from “Managing energy to maximize sustainable high performance” to “Blue ocean strategies.”

MGH attendees included Susan Edgman-Levitan (Stoeckle Center); David Finn, MD (MGMG); Tom Finn (MGMG); Joe Gesmundo, MD (Back Bay); Sally Iles (PC Admin); Bill Kormos, MD (IMA, Stoeckle Center); Jay Lafratta (MGMG); Donna Leone, RN (Everett); Joan Niles, RN (Revere); and Elvira Pinjic (Everett).

GPIN is a nonprofit organization that helps its members achieve and sustain performance excellence by sharing knowledge and best practices. www.gpin.org.

NPR Tunes in to Primary Care

National Public Radio (NPR) health and science reporter Rachel Gotbaum developed a series on the crisis in primary care, which aired on WBUR in mid-April. “The Doctor Can’t See You Now” featured MGH as a leader in addressing the many issues currently facing the field, and included interviews with Drs. Michael Barry, Alasdair Conn, Mark Goldstein, Allan Goroll, Naomi Leeds, Valerie Stone, and Katharine Treadway.

In addition to the local three-part series, a one-hour documentary will be distributed to NPR stations nationwide over the next six months. There is a comprehensive web component to the story on WBUR’s website, featuring audio, text, and still photos. You can find the link at: www.insideout.org/documentaries/primarycare

Awards, Accolades, & Achievements

SGIM David Calkins Award honors John Goodson

The Society for General Internal Medicine (SGIM) created a health policy award in memory of David Ross Calkins, MD, MPP, which recognizes an SGIM member for significant advocacy work. The first recipient, MGH’s John Goodson, MD, received the award in April, at the annual conference, for his long service to SGIM, his dedication to physicians and patients, and his work in health policy and advocacy.

Dr. Calkins led an accomplished career as a physician and medical educator, and was devoted to health policy, patient advocacy, education, and clinical care. He taught at Harvard Medical School, practiced internal medicine at the MGH, and was an active member of the Stoeckle Center Advisory Board.

The Calkins Award has been endowed in order to provide the recipient with a cash prize. If you’d like to make a donation of any amount, please send an email pledge to Audrey Mertens-Tedeman (amertensstedeman@partners.org).

Excellence in Mentoring Awards

Congratulations to two members of the GIMU community who received a Harvard Medical School “Excellence in Mentoring Award” for providing sponsorship, encouragement and support for career and/or personal development for themselves and others.

Daniel Singer, MD, Professor of Medicine, MGH, received the William Silen Lifetime Achievement in Mentoring Award; Kenneth Freedberg, MD, Associate Professor of Ambulatory Care and Prevention, MGH, earned the Clifford Barger Excellence in Mentoring Award.

Danny and Ken will be honored at the 2007-2008 Excellence in Mentoring Awards Ceremony at Harvard Medical School on Tuesday, May 20, 2008.
SGIM Conference News

In mid-April, many MGH primary care clinicians attended SGIM’s 31st annual meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The following physicians led courses, gave workshops, and presented their research or clinical cases.

Precourses and Workshops

Karen Carlson, Stephanie Eisenstadt, Kathleen Ulman: Supporting Behavioral Change through Diabetes-specific Group Visits
James Richter: Practice Management and Innovation
Nancy Rigotti: International Symposium in General Internal Medicine: Global Aspects of Smoking Cessation and Tobacco Control

Abstracts

Steven Atlas: A Randomized Trial of an Informatic-based Intervention to Increase Breast Cancer Screening in a Primary Care Network
Michael Barry: Potential Jurors Reactions to a PSA Malpractice Case
Elizabeth Farrell, MD: Bigelow Basics: An Evidence-Based Approach to the Medical Admission
Lenny Lopez: Impact of Hospitals on the Quality of Care of Acute Medical Conditions” and “Predictors of Disclosure of Hospital Adverse Events and Its Impact on Patients’ Quality Ratings
Sanja Percac-Lima: A Patient-tailored Navigator Program for Colorectal Cancer Screening in a Community Health Center: A Randomized Controlled Trial
Nancy Rigotti: An Electronic Health Record-based Intervention to Improve Tobacco Treatment in Primary Care: A Randomized Controlled Trial
Anne Thorndike: Be Fit Worksit Wellness Program to Promote Weight Loss and Physical Activity

Other Presentations

Michael Barry: Meet the Professor
Roby Bhattacharya: A 46 year old woman with dyspnea and mononeuritis multiplex
Nancy Rigotti: Symposium: Surviving in This Funding Environment

Profile in Primary Care

Sandra St. Fleur joined the staff this spring as Director of Patient Experience of Care, Performance, and Quality Management. She comes to the Stoeckle Center with ten years of experience helping managers build the culture and capacity to facilitate an extraordinary experience of care in their environments. Prior to joining the Stoeckle Center, Sandra worked as a Senior Consultant for the MGH Service Improvement Department, where she designed programs aimed at improving the process improvement and strategic planning skills of managers. At the Stoeckle Center, Sandra will work with physicians and change leaders across PCHI to improve their patients’ experience of care by targeting specific composites for improvement that have been identified in their MHQP Patient Perception Survey reports. Sandra received a master’s degree in organizational development from Boston College.

Upcoming Events: May & June

**Friday, May 23 • 7:45-9:00 a.m.**
Stoeckle Center Seminar
“A Vision For ‘Pediatric’ Primary Care For The 21st Century”
Speakers: Charles J. Homer, MD, MPH; President/CEO of the National Initiative for Children’s Healthcare Quality; Assoc. Prof., Dept of Society, Human Development and Health, HSPH
Location:Yawkey Bldg, 10th floor, Room 10-660

**Friday, June 27 • 7:45-9:00 a.m.**
Stoeckle Center Seminar
“Update from the Partners Primary Care Task Force”
Speakers: Members from the Task Force Subcommittees
Location: Yawkey Bldg, 10th floor, Room 10-660