



# Greetings & Salutations

## News From the Frontlines of Primary Care

March/April 2009

Number 10

### What's Going on in Primary Care?

#### Schwartz Center Expands Scope of Rounds at MGH to Include Primary Care

Schwartz Center Rounds is a multidisciplinary forum where caregivers discuss difficult emotional and social issues that arise in caring for patients.

Recently, the Stoeckle Center teamed up with the Schwartz Center to offer Rounds in Primary Care at MGH. These lunchtime sessions feature caregivers who present a patient case that brought up interesting and important psychosocial issues. Attendees share their own thoughts and feelings related to the day's topic. Unlike Grand Rounds, these sessions are not about clinical problem-solving, but rather about exploring and processing the emotions that come up in the daily work of hospital staff.

*The Kenneth B. Schwartz Center:  
Dedicated to strengthening the relationship between patients and caregivers.*

Primary Care Rounds will be held on the integrate patient and family voices into everything we do integrate patient and family voices into everything we do 4th Wednesday of each month. For more information, visit the Schwartz Center website at [www.theschwartzcenter.org](http://www.theschwartzcenter.org). or the Stoeckle Center website at [www.stoecklecenter.org](http://www.stoecklecenter.org) > Events.

#### Stoeckle Center Collaborates in Cabot Lectures at HMS

The Cabot Primary Care Lecture Series was designed by the Cabot Society, a student and faculty group at Harvard Medical School (HMS), to encourage dialogue about issues important in primary care medicine, such as patient-doctor communication, care of the underserved, community medicine, professionalism, quality of care, and health care policy. The series was founded in 1993, and last October, the Stoeckle Center and the HMS Primary Care Division began collaborating on future lectures.

John Abramson, M.D., Clinical Instructor in Ambulatory Care and Prevention, DACP, Harvard Medical School, is the featured speaker on Thursday, March 26. The series kicked off with a presentation by Dr. Neil Powe, Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology at Johns Hopkins Medical School. Subsequent lecturers were Eduardo D. Bruera, MD, Chair of the Department of Palliative Care and Rehabilitation at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Texas; Rich Roberts, MD, Professor of Family Medicine at the University of Wisconsin; and Susan Dentzer, editor-in-chief of *Health Affairs*, and former correspondent for The News Hour with Jim Lehrer on PBS.

Eight Cabot Lectures are scheduled



for this academic year. See the calendar on the opposite page for details and registration information. All faculty, house staff, and students are welcome.

### Profiles in Primary Care

#### Dr. Suzanne Koven Broadens Her Horizons Through Writing

Suzanne Koven, a general internist at the Bulfinch Medical Group and Assistant Professor of Medicine at HMS, recently received her Master of Liberal Arts (ALM) degree from Harvard University, with a concentration in literature and creative writing. At graduation, she earned the Thomas Small Prize, awarded annually on the basis of "academic achievement and character" to outstanding ALM degree recipients.



This spring, Suzanne is finding ways to combine medicine and writing inside and outside the classroom. She is serving as facilitator for the third "Literature and Medicine" reading and discussion group, sponsored by the Stoeckle Center and the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities. And she is teaching "Narrating Illness," a writing class at the Harvard Extension School. Both groups will examine works by physician-writers like William Carlos Williams, Oliver Sacks, Jerome Groopman, and Atul Gawande and patient-authors such as Joan Didion, Lorrie Moore, and Philip Roth.

We are very pleased that Suzanne will be the speaker at the HMS Cabot Primary Care Lecture on April 16. See calendar on other side for information and registration details.

## Awards, Accolades, and Achievements

### McGovern Award Nominations Due Tuesday, March 31

In 2004, the MGPO created an award to honor the memory of Brian A. McGovern, MD. Brian was a superb physician: dedicated, compassionate, and considerate of patients, staff and colleagues. The award in his memory is presented every 18 months at the MGOO physician recognition dinner, which will be held on May 16.

Physicians in good standing in every clinical department are eligible to receive this award. Ideal nominees will

exemplify the three traits of clinical excellence, quality, and compassion that were so important to Brian.



Please submit your nomination online at: <http://mgpo.partners.org> and click on the McGovern icon.

For additional information, contact Cary Shaw at [crshaw@partners.org](mailto:crshaw@partners.org), 617-643-3985.

## Upcoming Events

### CELEBRATING MICHAEL BARRY'S LEADERSHIP!

Please join us for a party to wish Michael well in his new venture!

Monday, April 6  
Wang ACC Cafeteria  
6-8:00pm; remarks at 7:00pm



### Thursday, March 26 • 4:00-6:00pm Cabot Primary Care Lecture Series & Reception

"Reclaiming the Science (and Soul) of Primary Care: The Commercial Influence on Medical Knowledge and Clinical Care Can No Longer Be Ignored"



**Speaker:** John Abramson, M.D., Clinical Instructor in Ambulatory Care and Prevention, DACP, Harvard Medical School

**Location:** Joseph B. Martin Student Lounge, Vanderbilt Hall, 107 Avenue Louis Pasteur, Harvard Medical School

**Register online at:** [http://ecommons.med.harvard.edu/pub\\_forms.asp?sid=HMS\\_2976](http://ecommons.med.harvard.edu/pub_forms.asp?sid=HMS_2976)  
For additional information contact Nancy Bradley Capasso at [nancy\\_capasso@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:nancy_capasso@hms.harvard.edu) or 617.509.9970.

### Friday, March 27 • 7:45-9:00am Stoeckle Center Seminar

"Reclaiming the Science (and Soul) of Primary Care: The Commercial Influence on Medical Knowledge and Clinical Care Can No Longer Be Ignored"

**Speaker:** John Abramson, M.D., Clinical Instructor in Ambulatory Care and Prevention, DACP, Harvard Medical School

**Location:** Yawkey Bldg, 10th floor, Doerr 10660

### Thursday, April 16 • 6:00-7:30pm Cabot Primary Care Lecture Series & Dinner

"Doctors, Patients, and Stories...The Role of Narrative in Medicine"

**Speaker:** Suzanne Koven, MD; Assistant Professor of Medicine, HMS; General Internist, MGH

**Location:** Ballard Room, 5th Floor, Countway Medical Library, Harvard Medical School

*Invitation forthcoming. For more information contact Dr. William Kormos at [wkormos@partners.org](mailto:wkormos@partners.org).*