Charter milestone
Feb. 25 events and activities commemorate bicentennial of charter signing

TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO, on Feb. 25, 1811, the Massachusetts State Legislature convened to decide upon “An act to incorporate certain persons by the name of Massachusetts General Hospital.” The act, approved in a vote of 132 to 26, marked the official formation of the MGH and McLean Hospital.

Next week, on Feb. 25, 2011, leadership from the MGH and McLean will join with state and city officials for a ceremonial renewal of the 200-year-old charter. The event will take place at the Massachusetts State House and is one of many bicentennial-themed events, programs and activities set for Feb. 25 both on and off campus. For a description of Feb. 25 highlights, see page 2.

Lunder Building to “Go Live” this summer

IN PREPARATION for the summertime transition of several hospital programs and services to the Lunder Building, the MGH Go Live Group for the new facility was established under the auspices of Jean Elrick, MD, senior vice president for Administration. Led by Andrea Paciello, executive director of Radiation Oncology, and Ed Raeke, director of Materials Management, the committee includes representatives from services that will occupy the Lunder Building – the Emergency Department, Neurosciences, Perioperative Services, Radiation Oncology, Central Sterile Processing and Supplies, Materials Management and Patient Care Services. As a team, representatives are coordinating and implementing pre- and post-move operational logistics related to their services. Some of the issues the Go Live group is addressing are safety, orientation, code call response planning, way-finding, patient flow and communication.

“The Go Live Group is critical in our planning and coordinating a smooth and efficient move of patients and services to the Lunder Building,” says Raeke. “The group is intentionally small to allow for focused and meaningful discussion and clear accountability. Leaders from support services will be invited to participate as guided by the agenda.”

Adds Paciello, “The Lunder Building will provide a wonderful facility for staff, patients and families, but ultimately, it’s the people that will make the care and operations in the new space successful. The Go Live Group is focused on transitioning the Lunder Building from a construction site into a vibrant core of the MGH campus teaming with people, spirit and life. We look forward to productive and informative dialogues as delegates from each area share concerns, plans and solutions related to this comprehensive project.”

In keeping with the “green” nature of the building, each Go Live member was presented with an MGH bicentennial flower pot filled with bulbs and seeds that will blossom and come to life over the next several months. The gift was a gesture of appreciation for their participation, symbolizing the work and the care required to make the Lunder Building “come to life” this summer.

To report concerns or issues related to the Lunder Building, contact Raeke at eraeke@partners.org or Paciello at apaciello@partners.org. For more information about the Lunder Building, access www.massgeneral.org/lunderbuilding.
Multicultural Affairs Office hosts first alumni reunion

IN CELEBRATION of the MGH bicentennial year, the MGH Multicultural Affairs Office (MAO) hosted its first Alumni Reunion Feb. 11 and 12 with more than 160 underrepresented in medicine (URM) current and past faculty and trainees, MAO representatives, friends and colleagues. The reunion kicked off with an evening gala at the Hotel Marlowe with remarks by Peter L. Slavin, MD, MGH president; Winfred W. Williams, MD, founding director of MAO and co-chair of the MAO Advisory Board; and Joan Reede, MD, MPH, HMS dean for Diversity and Community Partnership. At the gala, MAO debuted a two-year history project, “The Untold Story: URM Pioneers at MGH,” which shares the stories of URM physicians who were “firsts” in their departments or the MGH.

The next day guests attended several activities at the Richard B. Simches Research Center, including a networking roundtable and two informative panel discussions featuring distinguished MGH alumni.

Giving personal reflections on their career paths were Edward M. Barksdale Jr., MD, chief of the Division of Pediatric Surgery of the Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital in Cleveland; Paula O’Connor, MD, senior medical director of Onyx Pharmaceuticals; Vivian W. Pinn, MD, director of the Office of Research on Women's Health at the National Institutes of Health; and Jonathan Woodson, MD, assistant secretary of Defense for Health Affairs. Williams moderated the lively discussion that shed light on the varied career paths of the former MGHers, whose expertise range from academic leadership to industry to national health care policy and government.

The second discussion focused on health care reform in the MGH bicentennial era. Notable MGH alumni who participated were J. Emilio Carrillo, MD, MPH, president and chief medical officer of New York-Presbyterian Community Health Plan; Alice A. Tolbert Coombs, MD, FACP, president of the Massachusetts Medical Society; and The Honorable Louis W. Sullivan, MD, former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services and president emeritus of Morehouse School of Medicine. The panel reviewed how health care reform may affect the health care workforce and delivery and focused on the impact on equity and disparities. Joseph Betancourt, MD, MPH, program director for Multicultural Education at MAO and director of the MGH Disparities Solutions Center, moderated the discussion.

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Feb. 25 events and activities

**Blood drives**

Blood drives will be held on campus at the MGH Blood Donor Center and at MGH bloodmobiles at the State House from 8 am to 2 pm and at McLean Hospital from 8:30 am to 2 pm.

**History book preview**

The Paul S. Russell, MD, Museum of Medical History and Innovation will host a presentation by Webster Bull, co-author of “Something in the Ether: A History of Massachusetts General Hospital 1811 to 2011,” from 12:30 to 1:30 pm in the Ether Dome. Bull will read a selection from the book – which will be available this spring – and be interviewed by Peter Johnson, director of the museum. Space is limited. The museum also will present a preview of its special collections in a display in the White Lobby.

**Commemorative employee pins**

Commemorative bicentennial pins will be available for employees the morning of Feb. 25. Details about the pins will be announced via the Daily Announcements e-mail during the week of Feb. 21.

**Food giveaways**

Bicentennial-themed food will be for sale in all MGH retail food areas. In addition, wassail – a hot, spiced cider beverage – will be given away at Eat Street Café, Riverside Café, Simches Cafeteria, 149 Eat Street and Tea Leaves.

**History channel launch**

A closed-circuit MGH history channel will launch on channel 25 on MGH televisions. The channel will feature highlights of 200 years of medicine at the MGH, including other celebrations of departmental milestone years.

**“Share a Story” application**

MGH Marketing will host a table in the White Lobby from 10 am to 4 pm to provide information about the new Facebook application “Share a Story,” which offers staff, patients, visitors and other members of the community the opportunity to share stories about how the MGH has touched their lives. To find the application on Facebook, search for “Massachusetts General Hospital.”

**MGH logo merchandise discounts**

The MGH General Store will offer a 20.11 percent discount on all MGH logo and MGH bicentennial logo merchandise, such as water bottles, canvas totes and fleece jackets.

**Commemorative poster**

**MGH Hotline**, published the afternoon of Feb. 25, will feature a commemorative mosaic poster of the Bulfinch Building made up of hundreds of small portraits of MGH staff, visitors and patients, as well as photos of MGH events and buildings.

The Feb. 25 events, programs and activities are only a few of those taking place throughout the bicentennial year. For the most up-to-date information about the events and the MGH’s bicentennial, access www.massgeneral.org/bicentennial. A Bicentennial Toolkit for MGH employees also is accessible at http://intranet.massgeneral.org/bicentennial.
MLK event speaker offers insight on education reform

IN ADDITION to honoring a legendary civil rights leader, Partners HealthCare’s annual event, “A Celebration of the Legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.,” aims to inspire the Partners and MGH communities to uphold King’s values of equality and justice for all people. This year’s event, held Feb. 11 in the Richard B. Simches Research Center, featured award acknowledgements, musical selections and remarks by keynote speaker Geoffrey Canada. President and CEO of the Harlem Children’s Zone, a New York City–based nonprofit organization that offers educational, social and medical services for underserved children and families, Canada was prominently featured in “Waiting for Superman,” a widely acclaimed 2010 documentary film about the U.S. education system.

Jeff Davis, senior vice president of Human Resources, welcomed guests to the morning event and served as master of ceremonies. As a highlight to the annual celebration, Carlyene Prince-Erickson, director of MGH Employee Education and Leadership Development, acknowledged three of this year’s six Partners YMCA Achievers: William Anim, a histology supervisor in MGH Pathology; Joan C. Brown, a project specialist in the MGH Department of Anesthesia, Critical Care and Pain Medicine; and Lonzenar Toppin, a unit coordinator at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital. The Achiever Awards honor exemplary employees from diverse backgrounds for both their professional achievements and dedication to community service.

Following the recognition of the three award recipients, attendees were treated to musical performances by the James P. Timilty Middle School Chorus and Kelby Khan, the chorus leader. Gary L. Gottlieb, MD, MBA, president and CEO of Partners HealthCare, then introduced Canada.

In his talk, Canada – whose first teaching job was in downtown Boston – discussed the struggles faced by poor children and the need for education reform. “There is a group of kids who get behind from birth,” he said. “And the evidence is clear – if you start behind, you stay behind.”

As one example of the obstacles faced by underprivileged children, Canada shared research findings that children from poor backgrounds were exposed to 13 million words by the time they entered school, while children from middle- and upper-class backgrounds were exposed to 45 million.

Despite obstacles like these, Canada affirmed that every child is capable of learning and being successful in school. He stressed that learning and being successful in school do not depend on socioeconomic background or inherent ability but on the resources and opportunities made available to students through the education system and the time and understanding invested in them by educators, administrators and parents.

He ended the presentation by reading his poem, “Don’t Blame Me,” which poignantly emphasized the need for everyone to take responsibility for ensuring the success of America’s youth. To close the event, Davis thanked Canada on behalf of the hospital and presented him with a desk box featuring an image of the Bulfinch Building.

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A lifesaving gift

THE MEETING of 50-year-old Erin Cortright with 28-year-old Carrie Atkins, surrounded by a team of MGH caregivers from the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit, brought tears to many eyes. The story began more than two years ago, when Cortright – so sick with leukemia that she did not qualify for a stem cell transplant – was living in a New York hospice facility with little hope of recovery.

To the surprise of her medical team, Cortright recovered enough to seek the help of the MGH and met with Eyal Attar, MD, of the MGH Bone Marrow Transplant Unit. Attar suggested that his team treat Cortright using an experimental stem cell transplant usually used for patients who have achieved remission.

As luck would have it, her sample was a perfect match for Cortright, and she soon found herself traveling to Washington, D.C., where her stem cells were procured.

“I was more than happy to help,” says Atkins. “Many people are under the misconception that this is a difficult surgical procedure, but it was easy. I had to be on medication for five days to increase my white blood cell count and then spent only one day as an outpatient, during which they took my blood and processed it through a machine to obtain only the right stem cells that might help Erin.”

The stem cell transplant took place at the MGH, and Cortright has been cancer-free for more than two years now. Only recently did the two women connect by telephone, and on Feb. 11, Cortright and Atkins shared a face-to-face meeting at the MGH with the medical team that helped bring Cortright back to good health.

“She was only 50 years young, so vibrant and wanted so much to live,” says Attar. “We had nothing to lose and for her, everything to gain.”

Atkins had registered in 2001 as a stem cell donor while stationed at a Florida military base with the U.S. Air Force. As luck would have it, her sample was a perfect match for Cortright, and she soon found herself traveling to Washington, D.C., where her stem cells were procured.

“She was only 50 years young, so vibrant and wanted so much to live,” says Attar. “We had nothing to lose and for her, everything to gain.”

For information about the MGH Bone Marrow Transplant Unit, access www.massgeneral.org/cancer/team/bmt.aspx.
JUST IN TIME FOR VALENTINE’S DAY, the MGH Heart Center and Corrigan Women’s Health Program brought attention to hearts everywhere by celebrating “Go Red for Women” month with a series of events and activities to raise awareness of heart disease in women.

“Although more than 80 percent of women between the ages 40 to 60 have one or more risk factors for heart disease, only 13 percent of women consider heart disease to be their greatest health risk,” explained Malissa Wood, MD, co-director at MGH Corrigan Women’s Heart Health Program.

On Feb. 4, Maria Vivaldi, MD, also of the Corrigan Women’s Heart Health Program, presented “Women and Heart Disease,” offering facts about heart disease and women and advice on prevention measures. She stressed the importance of knowing one’s own heart disease risk factors and taking the necessary steps to reduce those risks. For instance, one-third of adults are not aware they have high blood pressure, which Vivaldi referred to as the “silent killer.”

“Heart disease is the number one health threat to society,” said Vivaldi. “The good news is that heart disease is preventable. We just need to create more awareness.”

The MGH Heart Center continued to spread awareness by hosting “National Wear Red Day” also on Feb. 4. All MGH departments were encouraged to wear red in honor of heart disease prevention. Robert Helms, of the MGH Heart Center, won a free lunch for participating in the festive photo shoot.

A heart-healthy cooking demonstration was held Feb. 8 in the East Garden Room with Danisa Sanborn, MD, MMSc, MGH cardiologist; Deborah Krivitsky, MS, RD, LDN, MGH dietician; and Al McPhee, MGH chef. Participants learned how to make heart-healthy turkey chili and curried shrimp and garlic with rice.

Cooking demonstrations as well as health screenings, children’s activities and more were held at the health care centers in Charlestown, Chelsea and Revere, where MGH Community Health Associates hosted “Circle of Red Women’s Night Out” events for members of the communities. Also participating was MGH Everett, which hosted a Go Red for Women’s Heart Health Resource Table on Feb. 17. MGH North End will host an information table on Feb. 24 from 11 am to 3 pm. All of these events are supported in part by a $5,000 Circle of Red Community Impact Grant from the American Heart Association. For more information, visit www.massgeneral.org/red.

HEART HEALTHY COOKING:
From left, Krivitsky, Sanborn and McPhee

**WHAT’S HAPPENING**

**MGH Senior HealthWISE**
MGH Senior HealthWISE will offer a free hypertension screening for seniors ages 60 years and older Feb. 28 from 1:30 to 2:30 pm at the West End Branch, 151 Cambridge St. For more information, call 617-724-6756.

**Mindful eating**
The Benson-Henry Institute for Mind Body Medicine at the MGH will offer a four-week class, “The Art and Science of Mindful Eating,” beginning March 14 at noon at the Benson-Henry Institute. Led by Peg Baim, NP, the program will teach participants about using a mind body, nondiet approach to weight loss and maintaining a healthy weight for the long term. For more information or to register, contact Sue Clough at 617-643-6054 or e-mail sclough@partners.org.

**Heart Center education class**
The MGH Heart Center is holding its monthly patient and family education class, “Self Care Techniques for Heart Failure,” March 2 from 10:30 to 11:30 am in the Yawkey Center, Room 4-820. This month’s class will be taught by Annie Borden, RN, and Mary Orensole, NP, both of the Heart Center. For more information or to register, call 617-643-1452.