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She’s less than a week old, but Mary Meredith Jones is already making history. In addition to being one of Boston’s first babies of the new year, she also is the first baby born during MGH’s third century.

While Mary is her official first name, parents Jennifer and Christopher Jones of Woburn, Mass., plan to call her by her middle name, Meredith. They are delighted at the birth of their second child, and their first child, 2-year-old Margaret, is just as excited to be a big sister.

Meredith was delivered Jan. 1 at 5:03 am by Sean Pocock, MD, MPH, a MGH Vincent Obstetrics and Gynecology physician, and weighed 7 pounds and 11.5 ounces. In celebration of Meredith’s important part of hospital history, Peter L. Slavin, MD, MGH president, presented the Jones family with a $200 savings bond and a gift basket of bicentennial-themed baby goods.

“We are so pleased that Meredith and her family were able to provide us with such a happy start to our 200th year,” says Slavin. The first baby boy born at the MGH in 2011 is Justin Leeds, who was born at 6:45 am weighing 7 pounds and 5.6 ounces. He is the third child of Scott and Taryn Leeds of Tewksbury, Mass.

Stacey Kabat, RN, a Vincent Obstetrics nurse, presented the family with a gift basket in honor of his being the first bicentennial boy born at the MGH. The Leeds family has had a close relationship with the hospital over the years, as their daughter Olivia was once a patient at MassGeneral Hospital for Children’s Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Unit. Her cancer is now in remission.

The acknowledgement of the MGH’s bicentennial babies is the first of many bicentennial activities and events planned for 2011. For more information about the MGH’s 200th anniversary, visit www.massgeneral.org/bicentennial.
MGH past and future now highlighted online

IN HONOR OF the MGH bicentennial, the hospital has launched a number of exciting new interactive features that allow the local and worldwide community to join in the celebration of the MGH’s 200th anniversary. MGH Public Affairs, Marketing and the Bicentennial Steering Committee created the concepts and executed the development of the following new online entities:

• an updated MGH homepage at www.massgeneral.org that features both a commemorative 60-second video, which highlights MGH caregivers and researchers and is set to an inspiring instrumental track and a new section highlighting MGH research accomplishments;
• a Facebook application at www.facebook.com/massgeneral where individuals can share their stories about an experience at the MGH as a patient, employee, visitor or friend;
• a new webpage at www.massgeneral.org/bicentennial that links to bicentennial-themed items, such as video greetings by Peter L. Slavin, MD, MGH president, and David F. Torchiana, MD, chairman and CEO of the MGPO; a scrollable storyboard of 2011 news and highlights; and links to the enhanced MGH History and Campaign for the Third Century of Medicine websites; and
• a Bicentennial Toolkit available at http://intranet.massgeneral.org/bicentennial to bicentenlize departmental events, presentations and other activities.

Of the new online features, MGH Chief Marketing Officer Richard Averbuch says that the bicentennial video has captured the spirit and energy of the MGH. “In a one-minute clip, we tried to show – in a visually engaging manner – the most important elements of our longstanding hospital mission and culture. We’ve heard many wonderful comments and positive feedback about the piece. We hope the Mass General community of patients, employees and friends will take a moment to view this video and the larger website as we embark on our bicentennial year, since they are an evocative representation of the hospital.”

Says Slavin in his online video message, “We plan on using this bicentennial as an opportunity to look back over the 200 years, but more importantly, to look forward and see how an institution like Mass General can have as positive an impact on society as possible. We hope you find the bicentennial website interesting and find some information about our past and our future that will be of interest to you, our hospital and health care in general.”

A new year, a new health and fitness commitment

GUESTS AT THE CLUBS AT CHARLES RIVER PARK aiming to meet their New Year’s resolutions to tone up or lose weight now have 12 additional reasons to do so. The wellness center at the MGH has added a dozen new elliptical machines for exercisers to burn calories and strengthen muscles. In addition to these new machines, 15 new spin bicycles have been added, and the club’s website at www.clubsatcrp.com has been upgraded to include an informational exercise-focused blog, improved web scheduling for groups and a free one-week trial membership offer.

“We are ringing in the new year with a number of great enhancements at the Clubs at Charles River Park,” says Cliff Seeto, general manager. “With some great new equipment, our improvements to the website and one-week trial offer, we are pleased to provide the MGH and local community the opportunity to try the clubs and get fit and healthy for the new year.”

Throughout January, the club will host an open house each Friday from 5:30 am to 10 pm, during which interested individuals can speak with club representatives and tour the facilities. Several introductory group fitness classes will be offered for new and returning exercisers. On these Fridays, MGH employees who have not taken advantage of the free week trial can present their hospital ID for a complimentary workout.

For more information about the Clubs at Charles River Park, access www.clubsatcrp.com or call 617-726-2900.

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— Prize
(Continued from page 1)

biomedical research.”

Awarded every third year, the Warren Prize honors scientists who have made outstanding contributions in fields related to medicine and includes a cash award of $50,000. Created in 1871, the prize is named for Dr. John Collins Warren, a co-founder of the MGH who performed the first public surgical operation utilizing ether anesthesia on Oct. 16, 1846. Twenty-two Warren recipients also have received the Nobel Prize.

At a time when researchers investigating the potential of embryonic stem cells focused on directing the process of cellular differentiation, Yamanaka took a different approach – returning differentiated adult cells to the embryonic state. In 2006 his team reported discovering that activation of four transcription factors in adult skin cells converted them into cells displaying many properties of embryonic stem (ES) cells. He named these reprogrammed cells induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs). In subsequent work, Yamanaka’s team confirmed that iPSCs can give rise to any type of mammalian tissue and refined the technology in order to reduce potential hazards associated with the cells.

Long a leader in studies of the regulation of gene expression, Jaenisch was one of the first to replicate and expand on Yamanaka’s work. In 2007 both he and Yamanaka reported generating live mice from iPSCs, and Jaenisch went on to show that iPSCs could be used to correct the genetic defect in an animal model of sickle cell disease. He also has used the cells to treat an animal model of Parkinson’s disease and last year reprogrammed human blood cells into iPSCs. Jaenisch’s group now is investigating ways to overcome the technical limitations of human ES cells, which are much harder to work with than mouse ES cells.
Big heart, big smile, Big Papi

WITH HIS TRADEMARK BIG SMILE and holiday teddy bears in tow, “Big Papi” David Ortiz visited the MassGeneral Hospital for Children (MGH/C) pediatric floor on Ellison 18 on Dec. 22 accompanied by Santa Claus. The Red Sox slugger’s visit was made under the auspices of the “Teddy Bear Tea,” an annual holiday event organized by the Four Seasons Hotel Boston.

“David’s big heart and warmth energized our young patients during the holiday season,” says Katelyn Quynn, MGH deputy chief development officer. “His presence meant the world to them, and we are grateful for the time and effort he devotes to our hospital and our patients.”

Last month, Ortiz had hosted his 3rd Annual David Ortiz Celebrity Golf Tournament at Cap Cana, Dominican Republic, from Dec. 2 through 5. The event benefited the David Ortiz Children’s Fund, which provides critical pediatric services to children in New England and the Dominican Republic. MGH/C is a partner with the fund, and the hospital was represented at the tournament by Peter L. Slavin, MD, MGH president; Denis Bustin, MGH Development senior managing director; and Quynn. Slavin was paired in a foursome with Red Sox knuckleballer Tim Wakefield, and the group took second place in the tournament.

IN MEMORIAM

Michael Linshaw, MD

MICHAEL LINSHAW, MD, a pediatric nephrologist for MassGeneral Hospital for Children (MGH/C), died Dec. 31 at his home in Newton. Linshaw, who worked at MGH/C for more than a decade, was 70 years old.

“Dr. Linshaw was an extraordinary teacher, an exceptional care provider and a wonderful, compassionate person,” says Ronald Kleinman, MD, MGH/C physician-in-chief. “We are all the better for being afforded the opportunity and good fortune to have worked with him.”

“He was a thorough and talented caregiver with tremendous clinical experience,” adds Harald Jueppner, MD, chief of Pediatric Nephrology. “He was known to always go the extra mile for his patients.”

Linshaw was born Dec. 4, 1940, and grew up in Elkins Park, Pa. He received his undergraduate degree from Franklin and Marshall College and his medical degree from Hahnemann Medical College. After completing his residency in pediatrics at Mount Sinai Hospital and his nephrology fellowship at Saint Christopher’s Hospital, Linshaw served for two years as a major in the U.S. Army, practicing pediatrics at Fitzsimmons Army Hospital. He then took an additional research fellowship at Cornell University.

In 1975, he began his academic career at the University of Kansas, where he conducted research and eventually became chief of the department. He later served as chief of Pediatric Nephrology at the University of Connecticut Health Center and at Tufts-New England Medical Center before joining MGH/C in 2000.

“Our father felt very fortunate to have had such a successful career and to have been able to dedicate his life to helping children,” says Charles Linshaw, one of his three sons. “He truly loved the people he worked with at Mass General, and some of the happiest years of his career were spent there.”

Linshaw is survived by his wife, Diane, and sons Charles, Andrew and David. A memorial service was held in his honor Jan. 5 in the MGH Chapel.
Leadership meeting announces budget review process

MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS from across the hospital, as well as those tuning in from off-site locations via satellite, convened in the O’Keeffe Auditorium Jan. 5 for the first leadership meeting of 2011. The meeting revisited issues first touched upon during the Oct. 20 “Case for Change” presentation by Gary L. Gottlieb, MD, MBA, president and CEO of Partners HealthCare, and offered details of a hospitalwide budget review initiative to position the MGH to thrive in the years ahead despite a challenging economy. A link to the Oct. 20 presentation is available at http://intranet.massgeneral.org/intranet/102010leadershipvideo.asp.

Peter L. Slavin, MD, MGH president, discussed why an in-depth, hospitalwide budget review is necessary at this time and emphasized that an increased focus on efficiency does not compete with quality, but actually enhances it. Following Slavin’s remarks, Sally Mason Boemer, senior vice president of MGH Finance, shared details of the off-cycle budget review initiative. Working closely with Finance, department managers will submit worksheets developed to identify potential opportunities for reducing costs in their base budgets. Managers are asked to submit the worksheets by Feb. 4, after which they will meet with a committee to discuss their findings. In closing, Mason Boemer expressed the importance of the MGH community collaborating to reduce costs and increase efficiency, and explained that communications about the budget review process would be ongoing.

For managers and supervisors who missed the Jan. 5 meeting, the information will be presented again by Slavin and Mason Boemer Jan. 12 from 12:30 to 1:30 pm in the O’Keeffe Auditorium.

IN GENERAL

Jeff Bostic, MD, EdD, director of the School Psychiatry Program in the Department of Psychiatry, is the recipient of the 2010 Sidney Berman Award for the School-Based Study and Intervention for Learning Disorders and Mental Illness from the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. The award recognizes Bostic and a team of child and adolescent psychiatrists, educators and parents – including MGHers Lisa Price, MD, Jefferson Prince, MD, and Karen Blumenfeld, MSW, MBA, and former MGHer Mona Patel Potter, MD – for their work in creating www.schoolpsychiatry.org, a resource for parents, educators and clinicians on how to support children and teens with mental health conditions.