Catwalk for cancer

DANIEL A. HABER, MD, PHD, director of the MGH Cancer Center, and Kate Robbins, a 10-year survivor of advanced stage lung cancer, were among the many models who walked the runway at the Friends of the Mass General Cancer Center Fall Benefit: Couture for Cancer Care at the Revere Hotel in Boston. Featuring MGH caregivers and their patients, the annual fashion show celebrates survivorship and raised more than $285,000 for supportive care programs at the center.

“Dr. Haber wanted me to walk with him because he was the one who figured it all out,” said Robbins. “It has been a wonderful opportunity. It is a celebration of not only my life but also the life others can have through this discovery.”

Robbins’ dramatic response to an experimental drug in 2004 led Haber and his team to identify a genetic target within her cancer that was sensitive to the drug. This discovery helped launch the field of targeted cancer therapy.

“There are so many challenges dealing with cancer,” said Haber. “But this is a chance to have fun and celebrate the successes and the relationships that are built between patients and their caregivers.”

The Nov. 12 event, which attracted nearly 350 guests, was co-chaired by Cheryl Clarkson, Sylvia Fernandez-del Castillo and Remy Stressenger, and sponsored by Santander Bank.

Scott Wahle, a former WBZ-TV anchor, and David Ryan, MD, clinical director of the Cancer Center, served as emcees, sharing the models' inspiring stories while also showcasing designs from fashion and beauty partners NIC+ZOE, North River Outfitter, Moxie, Fulham Salon and Giorgio Armani Beauty.

For more information about the Friends of the Mass General Cancer Center and Couture for Cancer Care, visit mghfriends.org.

The Partners eCare Enterprise Premiere at the MGH

THE PARTNERS eCARE Enterprise Premiere will run 7:30 to 11:30 am on Dec. 10 and will be streamed live online to the MGH community. A Partners eCare ambassador will be present to facilitate a question-and-answer session following the fully integrated demonstration of the complete system in the primary viewing location, the O’Keeffe Auditorium. (Full story on page 4)
Marking a milestone in Neurosurgery

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO in October 1939, the MGH Neurosurgical Service was formally established at the MGH, and William J. Mixter, MD, was named its first chief. During the following decades, Mixter, his colleagues and their successors brought a greater focus and discipline to brain and central nervous system surgery. Today, the MGH neurosurgical staff performs more than 3,000 procedures in its four dedicated operating rooms as well as in the hospital’s proton center and endovascular suites.

“We have come a long way from our roots when surgeon John Collins Warren first cut open a patient’s skull to treat head injuries and epilepsy,” said Peter L. Slavin, MD, MGH president. “Whether investigating the use of stem cells to repair damaged tissues or using deep brain stimulation to treat epilepsy or exploring gene therapy to treat brain tumors, we hope that the coming decades will bring practical applications for all of our research promise.”

At the Oct. 18 MGH Neurosurgical Services Scientific Symposium – one of a series of events celebrating the 75th anniversary of the service – Slavin highlighted the services’ clinical care and research growth from the 1930s to today.

“This is a celebration of our incredibly rich history,” said Robert Martuza, MD, chief of MGH Neurosurgery Service and director of the Stephen E. and Catherine Pappas Center for Neuro-Oncology. “During the past three-quarters of a century, we have become one of the most highly regarded neurosurgical departments in the world, known for our groundbreaking research, our commitment to patient care and our dedication to teaching.”

The symposium in the Ether Dome was followed by an alumni lunch in the Paul S. Russell, MD Museum of Medical History and Innovation. The celebration concluded with a black tie dinner at the Boston Seaport Hotel.

Metlay appointed Peter L. Gross, MD, Chair in Medicine

AN MGH CHAIR REPRESENTS one of the highest honors bestowed upon a physician, providing a significant benefit to the department, to the recipient and to patients. On Nov. 3, a reception at the Paul S. Russell, MD Museum of Medical History and Innovation celebrated the establishment of the Peter L. Gross, MD, Chair in Medicine and the appointment of Joshua P. Metlay, MD, PhD, chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine, as the inaugural incumbent.

The evening event was attended by members of the Gross and Metlay families, colleagues, friends and donors. Peter L. Slavin, MD, MGH president, offered opening remarks followed by Katrina Armstrong, MD, MSCE, physician-in-chief of the MGH Department of Medicine.

“This chair offers a fitting legacy to Dr. Gross, who for more than 40 years has dedicated his career to providing expert and compassionate care to thousands of patients and families in his uniquely personal way,” said Slavin. “I am confident Dr. Metlay will carry on this superb work.”

Gross recently retired from his clinical practice at MGH Internal Medicine Associates and is winding down his role at the Executive Health Program, where he served as medical director for nearly 27 years.

“Our goal with this endowed chair is to support clinician educators who will inspire and mentor the next generation of primary care physicians,” said Gross. “We will focus on both the patient and physician experience with innovative approaches to practice design, physician training and patient advocacy.”

Like Gross, Metlay is dedicated to education, mentorship and improving the practice of primary care. His research covers two major areas – the epidemiology of drug resistance among common respiratory bacterial pathogens and the development and evaluation of interventions to improve the quality of treatment decisions for respiratory tract infections. This research has led to numerous federal grants and leadership roles on national committees in the area of infectious diseases epidemiology. His current work is focused on development, implementation and evaluation of interventions to improve the quality of health care and reduce medical errors.

“The MGH has a remarkable history of leadership in primary care, and our program in general medicine is making important advances in the care of patients both locally and nationally,” said Metlay. “This chair celebrates our great tradition in primary care and emphasizes our commitment to this important work in the future.”

Fundraising to honor Gross was overwhelmingly successful, raising enough to establish two chairs. The second recipient will be named following a national search.
Anthony Rosenzweig, MD, named chief of Cardiology Division

ANTHONY ROSENZWEIG, MD, has been named chief of the MGH Division of Cardiology and co-director of the Corrigan Minehan Heart Center in the Institute for Heart, Vascular and Stroke Care. Beginning Jan. 1, 2015, Rosenzweig will succeed G. William Dec Jr., MD, who led the division since 2001 and will continue to be an active member, focusing on clinical excellence in heart failure care, network development and mentorship.

“We owe much of the success of the transition to the Institute to Bill Dec’s calm and focused approach, his steady hand, fairness and commitment to improving the care of the patient with systemic vascular disease,” says Michael R. Jaff, DO, medical director of the MGH Fireman Vascular Center and chair of the Institute. “We are thrilled that Bill will remain active at the MGH, seeing patients with advanced congestive heart failure and continuing to train our fellows how to be excellent cardiologists.”

Rosenzweig is currently director of Cardiovascular Research and associate chief of Cardiology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. Rosenzweig earned his undergraduate degree from Harvard College and his medical degree from Harvard Medical School. His appointment marks a return to the MGH, where he completed his internship and residency in the Department of Medicine and a clinical and research fellowship in the Cardiology Division. From 1994 to 2006, Rosenzweig was an independent investigator in the MGH Cardiovascular Research Center, where he also served as the director of the Program in Cardiovascular Gene Therapy.

“We are so excited to welcome Dr. Rosenzweig back to the MGH community,” says Katrina Armstrong, MD, MSCE, physician-in-chief of the MGH Department of Medicine. “His commitment to mentorship and collaboration has already invigorated and inspired the many members of the Division of Cardiology, the Department of Medicine and the MGH at large who dedicated their time to this critically important selection process.”

Rosenzweig’s research, focusing on the molecular pathways underlying cardiac disease, has been consistently funded by the National Institutes of Health and led to more than 140 peer-reviewed publications. A professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School since 2008, Rosenzweig also has received multiple awards and recognitions for his accomplishments, including election to the American Society of Clinical Investigation and American Association of Physicians.

“I’m excited and humbled by this opportunity and deeply touched by all the expressions of support from friends and colleagues,” says Rosenzweig. “We live in an era of both daunting challenges and unprecedented opportunities for academic medicine. I look forward to working with the remarkably talented members of the MGH community – both within and beyond the Cardiovascular Division – to find creative solutions to these challenges.”

MGH book celebrates ‘wit, wisdom and untold tales’

A TEAM OF FOUR MGH PHYSICIANS AND STAFF has published a book about MGH history. Voices of the Massachusetts General Hospital 1950–2000: Wit, Wisdom and Untold Tales is a compilation of humorous and serious quotes, wise sayings, words of advice and touching anecdotes from more than 100 past and present physicians and nurses dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in caring for their patients, families and colleagues. The book details a fascinating time in history – the years following World War II and the days before the influx of incredibly advanced technology in health care.

“We want readers to get a sense of our tradition,” says Voices editor Lloyd Axelrod, MD, MGH internist and endocrinologist. “I hope people see – for these incredible physicians and nurses – this is not a job. It truly is a calling.”

Thousands of residents, physicians and nurses were asked to share memories of their time practicing or training at the hospital. “The response was so overwhelming and there were so many meaningful and memorable quotations we wanted to share them with a wider audience,” Axelrod says. “We realized we had a moving and instructive portrait of the daily life of the institution, suitable for a wide audience. The responses are a remarkable display of the respect, admiration and affection that the doctors and nurses of the MGH have for one another.”

Many of these recollections now fill the 170-page hardcover book. Intertwoven throughout are historical photographs and portraits featuring the MGH and its clinicians. “We want readers to get a sense of our tradition,” says Axelrod. “We also hope that MGH patients, past and present, will read the book to understand better what motivates and inspires those who care for or cared for them.”

Urologist Stephen Dretler, MD, served as chairman of the project, and Georgia Peirce, special projects manager in MGH Patient Care Services, as a co-editor. Voices of the Massachusetts General Hospital 1950–2000: Wit, Wisdom and Untold Tales retails for $24.95 and is being distributed by Lamprey & Lee. It is available at the MGH Gift Shop, on Amazon and Barnes & Noble and also as an e-book.
OVER THE LAST YEAR AND A HALF, more than 500 MGH and MGPO employees have participated in the design of the Partners eCare system. On Dec. 10, Partners eCare will host an Enterprise Premiere, featuring a fully integrated demonstration of the complete system and specialty area breakout sessions. More than 1,600 staff across the Partners HealthCare system have been invited to attend the live event at the Boston Sheraton Hotel.

The MGH also will host live stream viewings of the event’s integrated demonstration session, which runs from 7:30 to 11:30 am, and the afternoon breakout sessions. (Please see front page for times and locations.) All sessions will be recorded and made available shortly after the event.

“The session will include a comprehensive overview of major clinical tracks,” said Kathryn Kukla, MGH Enterprise Premiere coordinator. “Attendees also will watch live demonstrations of detailed patient stories to illustrate the value of systemwide connectivity. Discussions during the specialty breakout sessions will focus on the future of Epic at the MGH.”

Last July, the MGH launched the revenue cycle of Partners eCare, which replaced systems that supported Registration, Scheduling, Admitting, Coding and Billing. Leaders now are preparing for the project’s second phase – the clinical implementation – which has a scheduled go-live date of March 2016. This includes outpatient and inpatient medical records, computerized physician order entry, as well as dedicated applications for departments including Pharmacy, Radiology and Transplant.

More information about Partners eCare can be found by visiting partnersecare.partners.org. Session agendas for the Enterprise Premiere can be found at https://partnersecare.partners.org/premiere-mgh.

Afternoon breakout sessions
Afternoon sessions will run from 12:30 to 4 pm.

Ambulatory staff are invited to view their specialty breakout session in the Haber Auditorium; Bulfinch Medical Group Room 508; Wang Room 230; Murphy Conference Room, Bigelow 838; North End Waterfront Health, third floor; MGH Revere Health Center, Sweet Conference Room; MGH Everett Health Center, Room 174; and, MGH Charlestown Health Center, Basement Conference Room.

Emergency staff are invited to view their specialty breakout session in Founders House, Room 130 and the Trauma Surgery Conference Room at 165 Cambridge Street, Room 803.

Inpatient/Hospitalist staff are invited to view their specialty breakout session in the O’Keeffe Auditorium; Bulfinch Conference Room 015; 50 Staniford Street, Room 503; and, Cath Lab Conference Room, Blake 989.

Perioperative/Surgery staff are invited to view their specialty breakout session in the Bigelow Amphitheater and Lunder Building, Room 234.