10.18.19

MGH HOTLINE

A PUBLICATION FOR EMPLOYEES AND STAFF OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

Rockin' ribbons

RELATIVE NEWCOMERS and seasoned hospital veterans were recognized Oct. 11 at the annual Ether Day Celebration. The event – which occurs on the Friday closest to the anniversary of the first successful public demonstration of surgical anesthesia at the MGH on Oct. 16, 1846 – celebrates the service milestones of employees in increments of five years. This year, 3,652 employees were honored – with 27 of those individuals celebrating 50, 55 or 60 years of employment.

"As I walk around the hospital today, I am struck by the number of pins and ribbons I see," said Jovita Thomas-Williams, senior vice president for Human Resources. "It highlights the love and passionate commitment employees have for MGH."

The Ether Day Dancers once again marked each momentous milestone by dancing to each year's top hit. Featuring tunes by Pitbull, Ricky Martin, R.E.M. and Michael Jackson, the talented dancers from Human Resources and Buildings and Grounds Twisted and Shouted, Guitar Boogie Shuffled, YMCA'd and Tootsie Rolled to the delight of all attendees.

MGHers celebrating milestones of 20 years or more also were invited to attend a special Ether Day Dinner Oct. 16.

View all the honorees and event photos on Apollo, the MGH intranet, at *apollo.massgeneral.org/etherday*. ■

Pink Power Pop-Up pleases patients

THE MGH'S Avon Foundation Comprehensive Breast Evaluation Center – on the second floor of the Wang Building – installed its inaugural Pink Power Pop-Up Art Exhibition Oct. 8 in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The display features the work of Boston-based artist Liz Roache, a breast cancer survivor who was treated at the hospital, who understands the importance of a welcoming waiting room.

"We are thrilled to have Liz's work on display for our inaugural pop-up exhibition," says Helen Anne D'Alessandro, MD, staff radiologist and curator of the Avon Breast Center Art Collection. "Liz's sense of color and design are incredibly bright, uplifting and cheerful and will help us in our mission to create a more healing and caring environment for our patients and staff."

Established in 2002, the Avon Breast Center Art Collection typically showcases art purchased from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University during its annual fundraiser. "We always wanted to host a solo exhibit featuring a local artist, and since pop-up exhibits have become an emerging trend in the art world – as well as in Boston – it made sense for us to try this format," says D'Alessandro. "I discovered Liz's work by chance while visiting the Boston Design Center and was drawn to her beautiful prints and fantastic use of color."

Roache was a student and colleague of Ati Gropius Johansen, the daughter of Walter Gropius who founded the Bauhaus movement, an influential modernist art school and design movement in the early 20th century.

Her exhibit features five pieces, including a large flower collage entitled "Joy," and "Beautiful Couples," a series of paired colors which complement each other.

"The aim was to celebrate the beautiful power of pink in a very joyful way," says Roache. "I chose the pieces to help lighten the air as well as the experience of waiting in a hospital's waiting room – kind of like hopeful windows of optimism. I structured this so each work

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ROACHE

Easing accessibility to navigate the MGH

THE MGH OFFERS several disability resources to assist patients, staff and visitors navigate the hospital, including wheelchair lifts, video phones and sign language interpreters for deaf patients, screen reader software for visually impaired patients, accessible shuttles, patient escorts and information desks staffed by volunteers.

In recognition of October as national Disabilities Awareness Month, the Maxwell & Eleanor Blum Patient and Family Learning Center and the MGH Council on Disabilities Awareness hosted an Oct. 10 Physical Accessibility Panel, featuring representatives from the MGH Disability Program, Volunteer Services and Partners HealthCare Transportation Services.

"Everyone from these departments has gone through trainings to work with patients with disabilities," said Zary Amirhosseini, Disability Program manager in the Office of Patient Advocacy. "We want to make sure all of our staff is sensitive to the needs of our patients."

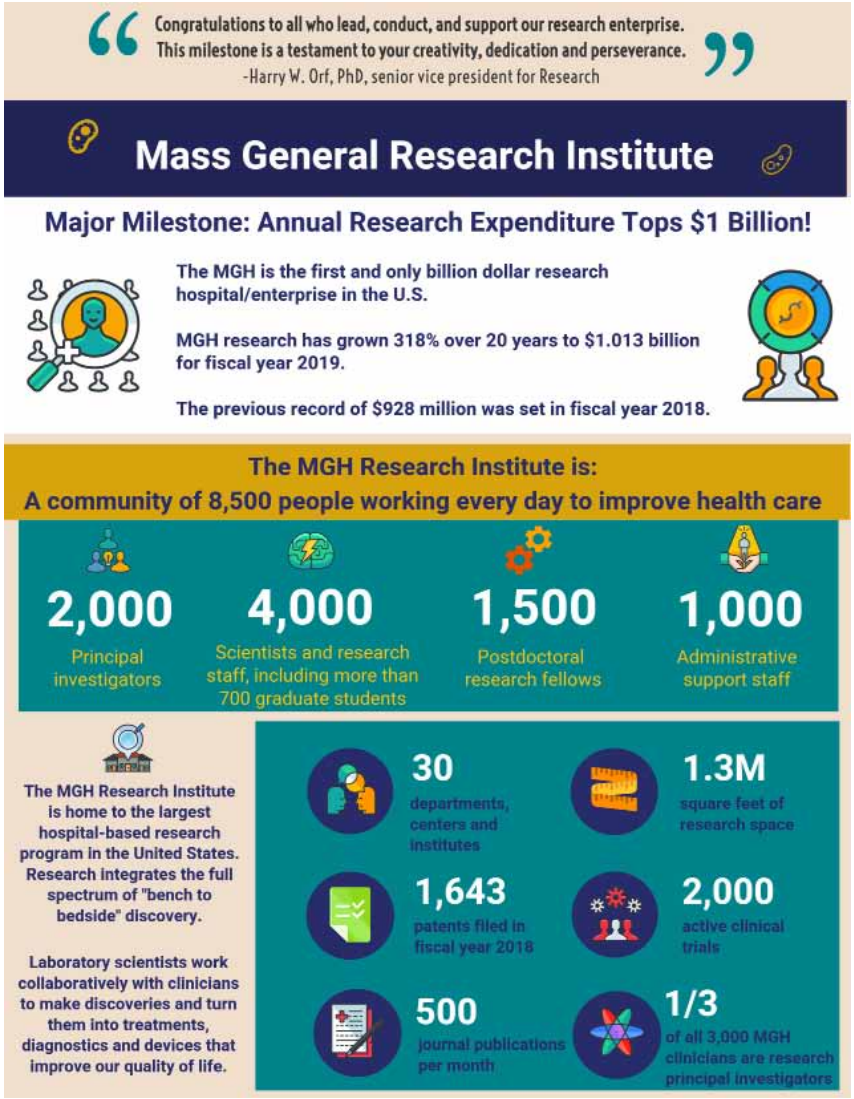
The MGH Council on Disabilities Awareness aims to create a safe, welcoming, comfortable and inclusive environment for all members of the MGH community. The group works closely with Amirhosseini and other departments to continue to identify and address areas of improvement.

"Sometimes things come up as the result of a patient experience that we may not have known about before," said Amirhosseini. "Our job is to advocate on behalf of our patients to make services available to more easily accommodate their visits."

The council also hosted a Disability Awareness Month table Oct. 15 in the White corridor, with information and resources about accessibility, service animals and details about the Blum Center's Assistive Technology Center.

"I would like to emphasize that if you have a disability, call MGH Registration and Referral Services and self-identify as having a disability," said Amirhosseini. "This allows us to be more proactive in advance of your visit and gives us the opportunity to make sure accommodations are ready for your visit. Know that you can ask for reasonable accommodation for yourself when needed."

Visit *www.massgeneral.org/visit/accessibility/* for more information. Staff also can visit Apollo, the MGH intranet, at *apollo.massgeneral.org/accessibility/* for a complete list of resources and equipment. ■



– Pink Power Pop-Up

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plays off 'Joy.' 'Beautiful Couples' was chosen not just for its uplifting color combination, but because I know there are a lot of couples that come to the waiting room together. Additionally, I custom-created the three-color studies nearby to fit right with the others in color and spirit."

D'Alessandro says she has already received a fantastic reaction from patients, families and staff. "As breast imagers, the visuals we interpret daily are black, white and shades of gray, so the burst of color on our walls is a welcome diversion."

Roache says she will donate 25 percent of the proceeds from each piece sold to the center.

'JOY'

"I am completely honored to have my work on display at the very place I was treated for breast cancer and still continue to come to for care," she says. "If I can give a patient even one moment's break in what can be a serious and confusing time, then that would be my whole point of having my artwork there. My experience being treated at MGH was one of real hope." ■

HubWeek 2019: Safe space, accessible space, outer space

THE MGH JOINED Harvard University, MIT and *The Boston Globe* to host the fifth annual HubWeek, a yearlong civic collaboration and ideas festival. For the first time, Boston's Seaport was home to the event, which featured panel discussions, parties and an escape room.

MGH clinicians were panelists and presenters during the Oct. 1-3 programs. "Bodies in Space" featured Jonny Kim, MD, a NASA astronaut and former MGH Emergency Medicine resident. Clinical experts from the MGH Transgender Health Program discussed pathways to "A More Inclusive Future" during a transgender health and health policy panel. The MGH Aspire Program highlighted the benefits of a neurodiverse workforce, and Think:Kids helped audiences understand how to change behavior. Another MGH program covered hopeful approaches to rare genetic diseases.

For more information, visit *www.hubweek.org.* ■

Pears prime for the picking

FALL IS KNOWN AS the season of the harvest – and this was evident earlier this month at the MGH/North Shore Center for Outpatient Care. MGH Buildings and Grounds staff plucked dozens of pears from the famous denizen of Danvers, the centuries-old Endecott Pear Tree, known as the oldest-living fruit tree in North America. The tree is named for John Endecott, who served as governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in the 17th century. MGH/North Shore is built on Endecott's original farm. Elena Sierra, RN, executive director for MGH/North Shore, says the pears are not what is found in today's grocery stores. "They're small and hard and were originally used to make brandy in the 1600s."

Fill 'em up

THE MGH HAS INSTALLED an ADA-compliant water bottle fill station at the exit of the Eat Street Cafeteria. "We are extremely excited to introduce this new unit," says Joan Shea, director of Nutrition and Food Services. "This is one of the many steps the hospital is taking to becoming more environmentally friendly. We hope that staff and patients find this to be an excellent resource to help us reduce the use of plastics throughout the hospital."

NOMINATE

YOUR COLLEAGUES OR CO-WORKERS FOR THE 2019

PARTNERS HEALTHCARE IN EXCELLENCE AWARDS

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NOMINATION CATEGORIES:

COMMITMENT TO AN EXCEPTIONAL PATIENT EXPERIENCE
Providing quality, coordinated and compassionate care

OPTIMIZING COLLABORATION
Among and across individuals, teams and the system

ENHANCING EFFICIENCY
Achieving outstanding outcomes with resourceful approaches

ADVANCING INNOVATION & PROGRESS
Leading the development and implementation of new ideas

FOSTERING COMMUNITY
Improving the health and well-being of our colleagues and neighbors

INTEGRATING DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION
Engaging each other in everything we do and enriching our work environment

NOMINATIONS DUE OCTOBER 31, 2019

NOMINATE ONLINE AT: pulse.partners.org/pienominations

For questions, contact Partners Human Resources at 857-282-9743 or partnersinexcellence@partners.org

MGH 1811 MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

In another's shoes

STEP RIGHT UP: Under the Bulfinch Tent on Oct. 7, the MGH Transgender Health Program hosted the "Walk in My Shoes Experience," made by the creative science team at Playground of Empathy. MGH staff "walked in the shoes of another gender" during the 30-minute experience, gaining more detailed perspectives about patient care.

SPOOKY EDITION

Coming October 25, 2019

Be sure to check out next week's **special *MGH Hotline* Halloween edition.** It promises to be hauntingly good!

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