All about PIE

HUNDREDS OF MGH staff gathered at the 22nd annual Partners in Excellence (PIE) Awards April 27 to celebrate outstanding contributions to the hospital. This year, 196 individuals and 96 teams were honored with PIE Awards and had the opportunity to have their photo taken with Peter L. Slavin, MD, MGH president, and Gregg Meyer, MD, MSc, chief clinical officer of Partners HealthCare, during the event. Recipients were commended for their work in one of six areas: quality treatment and service, operational efficiency, leadership and innovation, teamwork, outstanding community contributions and sustainability. For a full list of honorees, visit Apollo at http://apollo.massgeneral.org.

Flying high: MGH researcher teams up with superheroes to fight cancer

MARCELA MAUS, MD, PHD, stands with her family beneath a custom-wrapped American Airlines A321T plane featuring her photograph alongside superheroes Thor, Iron Man and Black Panther from the movie “Avengers: Infinity War.”

The plane, unveiled earlier this month, is now in service, traveling between Los Angeles and New York. The plane is part of a public service campaign, which also includes print, radio and digital messages to raise money and awareness for cancer. The first-of-its-kind collaboration joins together Stand Up To Cancer (SU2C), American Airlines and Marvel Studios.

“I definitely didn’t expect that being a physician/scientist would put me in the same league as the Marvel superheroes,” says Maus. “I’m so grateful to SU2C, not just for funding our cancer research work, but also for their intellectual and programmatic support for the public service they do by raising awareness of cancer research and the progress that doctors and scientists are making in treating cancer.”

Maus is a 2017 Innovative Research Grant recipient from SU2C for her work in novel, next-generation CAR-T cell immunotherapies and for her work with blood cancers such as myeloma, lymphoma and leukemia. Alongside other researchers, the campaign also features American Airlines staff who have fought cancer and those who currently are battling the disease.
30x30 Stop Stroke Challenge: Exercise 30 minutes for 30 days

THE MGH HAS KICKED OFF its second annual 30x30 Stop Stroke Challenge, aimed at helping prevent stroke and increase physical and mental well-being. In honor of Stroke Awareness Month, the Neurology Department has challenged hospital staff to exercise for at least 30 minutes per day, every day during the month of May.

"Exercise should be a regular part of every day," says Lee Schwamm, MD, executive vice chair of the MGH Department of Neurology and director of the MGH Comprehensive Stroke Center. "While we're emphasizing that May is Stroke Awareness Month, we're also trying to jumpstart people's re dedication to exercise. We don't want people to do this once. We want it to become part of their everyday routine."

Schwamm says exercise is important in preventing stroke because it helps the heart and blood vessels relax more easily, especially if blood flow is reduced. It also decreases inflammation and therefore the likelihood of blood clots forming.

MGH employees can participate in the challenge as individuals or form a team. A tracking form can be downloaded at http://www.masseneral.org/stopstroke/welcome/30x30.aspx and submitted at the end of the month to be entered to win a free month's membership at the Clubs at Charles River Park. Club members who log 30 days at the gym in May also will be entered to win a free month's membership. Several stroke prevention-related events are slated, including a group fitness class at 8 am on May 29 on the Bulfinch Lawn.

"If you don't believe in it, you can't walk the walk, and you can't be as effective in convincing your patients of its importance," says Schwamm. "If we're going to make a difference and make a dent in diabetes and obesity and vascular disease and dementia, we must start taking an active role in this. It's about engaging in health."

MGH Research Institute the focus of SAC meeting

THE 70TH MEETING of the MGH Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) focused on the MGH Research Institute, which was founded in 2015 as an organizational home for the more than 8,500 MGHers in 30 departments, centers and institutes who make up the largest hospital-based research program in the U.S. The March 29 meeting, following the preceding day's Celebration of Science, began with a keynote talk by Donald Ingber, MD, PhD, founding director of the Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering at Harvard University. Ingber described the institute as a model for academic-industrial collaboration.

In the overview of the Research Institute's first three years, Harry Orf, PhD, MGH senior vice president for Research, described how the institute was developed out of the research strategic planning process to address challenges, including the shrinking and shifting of federal support for biomedical research and the difficulties of bringing research findings into clinical practice. Along with working to increase unrestricted support for research, the local and national visibility of MGH research, and engagement with industry, the Research Institute has recently added programs to improve communications with MGH researchers – including face-to-face meetings and presentations and a new iSuggest system.

"We thought that – with three years under our belts – this would be a good time to make the Research Institute the focus of SAC," says David Louis, MD, chief of Pathology and outgoing chair of the Executive Committee on Research. "We have made progress in a number of areas, all of which were subjects of discussion at the meeting, and it was heartening that SAC felt we were doing things right. Their suggestions were primarily about continuing to improve communicating the value of the Research Institute to our investigators."

Read more about this year's event in Hotline online.

AWARD-WINNING RESEARCHERS PRESENT AT CELEBRATION OF SCIENCE

This year's Celebration of Science featured 224 research posters, 12 of which were chosen as posters of distinction after oral presentations from 24 finalists. A highlight of the day was presentations by the winners of the MGH's top research awards.

Mo Motamedi, PhD, of the Department of Medicine and the MGH Cancer Center, received the Goodman Fellowship for his investigation of a population of tumor cells that remain in a dormant, treatment-resistant state. In a yeast model, his team has identified proteins that act as a switch, enabling cells to enter this protective state, that may present a new target for cancer treatment.

Florian Eichler, MD, of the Department of Neurology and the Center for Genomic Medicine, received the Martin Prize for Clinical Research for his New England Journal of Medicine paper describing a gene therapy treatment that has halted symptom progression in boys with cerebral adrenoleukodystrophy, the first successful gene therapy for an otherwise-fatal brain disease.

Miguel Rivera, MD, of the Department of Pathology and the MGH Cancer Center, received the Martin Prize for Fundamental Research for his Cell paper describing a newly discovered mechanism by which a genetic abnormality leads to development of the pediatric bone cancer Ewing sarcoma, findings that may be relevant to other cancers and lead to new treatment strategies.

The evening reception featured announcement of the 2018 MGH research scholars: Ingrid Bassett, MD, MPH, Department of Medicine, Medical Practice Evaluation Center; Daphne Holt, MD, PhD, Department of Psychiatry, Martinos Center for Biomedical Imaging; Eric Liao, MD, PhD, Department of Surgery, Center for Regenerative Medicine; Karen Klahr Miller, MD, Department of Medicine, Neuroendocrine Division; and Alexander Soukas, MD, PhD, Department of Medicine, Center for Genomic Medicine.
Thank you, MGH nurses

In honor of National Nurses Week, May 6-12, MGH Hotline asked staff to submit their messages of appreciation to the many MGH nurses who have touched lives, inspired others and provided hopeful, constant, compassionate and dedicated care to MGH patients and families. From the staff at Hotline – and all those below – we thank you, nurses, for all that you do every day.

I want to shout out a huge thanks to the nursing team in the Labor and Delivery Unit. They provided the best possible care for us in a cheery, supportive and always professional way this January when our daughter was born.

— Lilla Z.

“I want to thank the cardiac nurses for the feeling of togetherness they created with their care, dedication, enthusiasm, and joyfulness each day at work.”

— Carl G.

“Dear Team, I am truly in awe of you each and every day. I am honored and humbled to work beside and with you!”

— Hitam N.

“To Our PEDI GI and Pedi Liver Transplant nurses: Dedicated, kind, compassionate, deeply committed and caring. Courageous, exemplary, generous, and so loving. Proactive, creative, thoughtful and comforting. Our backbone, our pillars, our team. Where would be without you? In gratitude, always.”

— Your Division

“I want to give a shout out to Alisa Arakelian, RN, in the emergency department! She made me feel so at ease and explained everything that was happening. Go Alisa! We need more nurses like her!”

— Leigh S.

“To all the most wonderful Pediatric nurses on the inpatient floors, the PICU, outpatient, Pedi OR and Pedi ER. We are indebted to you and send you our appreciation and gratitude. You amaze us with your grace, your commitment and your profound professionalism. We celebrate your achievements, your integral contribution to the care of patients as well as the team. In you, we find, superb colleagues who demonstrate integrity, caring, intellect and utmost service. Indebted, we are.”

— Pediatric GI

“I would like to thank Alyssa Hurley, an RN on Ellison 17, for the fantastic care she provides her patients. She is always calm and cool under pressure. She is very knowledgeable about the patient population. She is amazing with patients and family. She also has a great sense of humor. She always has a smile on her face and it is a pleasure to work with. Thanks for all you do!”

— Andrea T.

“A special thank you for the Norman Knight Nursing Center for Clinical and Professional Development, the Maxwell and Eleanor Blum Patient and Family Learning Center, the Yvonne L. Munn Center for Nursing Research, the Center for Innovations in Care Delivery and the programs and initiatives that are part of the PCS Institute for Patient Care. The nurses who lead or are a part of these programs are world class, the best and the brightest. They are part of the infrastructure that supports exemplary patient care. We are so fortunate to have them as our MGH nurses!”

— Gaurdia B.

“As part of a busy internal medicine primary care practice, I am writing to commend three nurses with whom I work – Annette Moore, RN; Mary Ryan, RN; and Cathy Weaver, RN. Daily they give excellent care to our patients both during triage and onsite visits. They serve with compassion, efficiency, clarity and never with any complaints. Additionally, the three of them are true team players who interact well with the clinical staff and administrative staff both professionally and personally. Kudos to our nurses – they’re the greatest!”

— Donna C.

Cordones named as Pamela Ellis Award winner

“She is solution oriented, never casts blame and she is the epitome of a team player.”

“His dedication to service excellence is refreshing.”

“She goes above and beyond the responsibilities of the unit coordinator role, which has a notable impact on the work load of the nursing staff and as a result the level of patient care.”

THESE WERE JUST a few of the wonderful sentiments shared about the 78 nominees for this year’s Pamela J. Ellis Memorial Secretarial Award during the April 25 Administrative Support Staff Day luncheon. Yocein Cordones, administrative coordinator in Pediatric Cardiology, was honored as this year’s recipient.

“She is a star,” her nomination read. “She is extremely bright, hardworking and goes above and beyond to make sure that our department is running smoothly and efficiently. I have never heard her say no. Her answer is usually ‘Yes, of course,’ or if it is something she does not know, it is, ‘Don’t worry, I will figure this out.’”

The names of all 2018 nominees will be featured on a plaque on the Employee Recognition Wall outside of the MGH General Store in the Blake corridor, where it will remain for the duration of the year.

“Oftentimes over the course of our busy lives we don’t remember to say thank you enough,” said Peter L. Slavin, MD, MGH president. “But we notice, and we thank you. You are essential to the MGH family and without you we couldn’t deliver on the promises we have made to our patients and their families.”
NATALIA SALGADO QUINTERO knows firsthand that hard work, paired with education and determination, allows for continued growth at the MGH. Three years ago, the native of Colombia – who came to the United States in 1999 – began her career as an administrative coordinator in the MGH Center for Faculty Development.

“I was happy in general being at MGH,” says Quintero. “My experience with the Center for Faculty Development was so positive and they were supportive every step of the way with my career development.”

Part of that journey included Quintero’s manager encouraging her to apply for the Support Service Employee Grant, a program available to non-exempt employees in administrative, clinical, service or technical support roles. Quintero was selected as a grant recipient, and the funds are helping her to pay for her classes at Northeastern University, where she is enrolled in the Healthcare Management Program with an expected graduation date in spring 2019. As an additional benefit, the grant also paved the way for Quintero to participate in several informational interviews to learn more about the many departments within the hospital and possible jobs of interest for the future.

Two months after a meeting with the Development Office, an opening that Quintero was very interested in became available, and she was hired as a coordinator last October.

“Natalia is a truly wonderful addition to our team,” says Carol Taylor, executive director of Development.

Applications for the 2018 MGH Support Service Employee Grant will be accepted through May 16 at 5 pm. For information about the grant, the Tuition Assistance program or financial aid workshops, email MGHTraining@partners.org.