MGH moves up in national rankings

MOVING UP ONE SPOT from last year, the MGH ranks second nationally on the 2011-12 U.S. News & World Report Honor Roll in the annual “Best Hospitals” guide. It is the highest ranking ever achieved by the MGH. The hospital also is ranked number one in the Boston metro area.

The MGH came in among the top U.S. hospitals in each of the 16 specialties the survey addresses (see table below) and qualified for the Honor Roll in 15 of these specialties. For the 16th consecutive year, the MGH Department of Psychiatry was ranked the leading program in the country. The MGH’s placement in several specialties – ear, nose and throat; ophthalmology and rehabilitation – reflects its close affiliations and coordination of care with the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary (MEEI) and Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital.

The “Best Hospitals” guide showcases 720 hospitals – 17 of which made the Honor Roll – out of approximately 5,000 nationwide. The rankings are based on numerical data, quality measures, procedure volume and death rates, as well as responses from a national physician survey. The rankings were published online July 19 and will be available in a printed guidebook Aug. 30.

Pediatric specialties are ranked separately from adult specialties, and in this year’s pediatric results, which were published in May, MassGeneral Hospital for Children ranked nationally in six specialty areas.

For more information about the rankings, visit www.usnews.com/besthospitals.

U.S. News & World Report MGH Rankings

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<th>Specialty</th>
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<td>Cancer</td>
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<td>Cardiology and Heart Surgery</td>
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<td>Diabetes and Endocrinology</td>
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<td>Ear, Nose and Throat (MEEI/MGH)</td>
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<td>Urology</td>
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What is … the MGH?

“Jeopardy!” features MGH category

MGHERS TUNING IN to the July 19 episode of “Jeopardy!” were sure to know the answer to one of the clues, which showed video taped in the Ether Dome and referenced the chemical used in the first successful public demonstration of anesthesia. Along with a chorus of members of the MGH community watching from the hospital or at home, contestant Tom Vaughan, a plastic surgeon from Maine, correctly answered: “What is ether?”

The clue was one of five video clues featured in a “Massachusetts General Hospital” category during the first round of the episode. In honor of the bicentennial, the clues were filmed last February by the “Clue Crew” in the Ether Dome, in laboratories in the Charlestown Navy Yard and the Jackson Building, and in the Francis H. Burr Proton Therapy Center.

The first clue selected was for $400 and described the technology that, combined with positron emission tomography scanning, created the first-in-the-nation 3-D brain images at the MGH. Christine Janson of Maryland correctly answered with MRI or magnetic resonance imaging. The clue about the ether demonstration was the next clue chosen, followed by a $600 clue about a procedure that may become obsolete as machines like the one depicted are used to find circulating tumor cells in the blood. Vaughan quickly buzzed in with “What is a biopsy?”

The $800 clue, which turned out to be the “Daily Double,” asked for the type of changes looked for in genetic testing. The answer “What are mutations?” stumped Vaughan, who to his dismay had wagered $2,800. The last clue for $1,000 sought the name of the particles used in a certain type of targeted radiation treatment and also left contestants guessing. “What are protons?” chided host Alex Trebek.

After the MGH category was completed, Trebek thanked the MGH for allowing the Clue Crew to film on campus and acknowledged the hospital’s bicentennial. Additional MGH-related clues are expected to air during future episodes.
George S. Richardson, MD

George S. Richardson, MD, a longtime MGH surgeon and former acting chief of Gynecology, died of cancer July 1 at age 89. Richardson was a staff member at the MGH for more than 50 years.

Richardson’s family legacy at the MGH can be traced back to the late 19th century. He was born in the Phillips House on Dec. 1, 1921. His mother, Clara, was the daughter of well-known physician Francis Cheever Shattuck, MD. His father, MGH surgeon Edward Pierson Richardson Sr., MD, was the son of MGH chief surgeon Maurice Howe Richardson, MD. He also had two brothers, one who would become an MGH neuropathologist and the other an MGH trustee.

Joining the long line of family members before him, Richardson graduated from Harvard Medical School in 1946. After completing a fellowship in physiology and spending two years in the Army, including a tour in Japan, he returned to Boston to serve his residency at the MGH. In 1955 he became a staff member of the Vincent Memorial Hospital, the MGH division for women’s health. At the Vincent, Richardson focused on how hormones work in women, and he dedicated his career to researching and performing surgery on various reproductive cancers. From 1985 to 1988 he served as acting chief of the Vincent.

Although he retired in 1995, Richardson stayed connected to the hospital through his work on the Vincent Quality Assurance Committee and the Ethics Committee as well as the Treadwell Library Committee. He also was active outside the MGH, writing for and editing various Harvard alumni publications, returning to school to study physics and poetry, and joining a local church choir. In 2010, he published a book of poems, “Dance with Me.”

“He was a true renaissance man,” says Isaac Schiff, MD, chief of Vincent Obstetrics & Gynecology. “He knew the arts; he knew the humanities; he knew medicine; he knew science; he knew how to speak to people. Being in his presence and listening to him talk about anything was just a joy … I’ve never met anybody like him and probably never will.”

Richardson is survived by his wife, three sons and their wives, three grandchildren, and his sister-in-law.

PHMI and PIMS combine to form Partners International

PARTNERS HARVARD MEDICAL INTERNATIONAL (PHMI) and Partners International Medical Services (PIMS), two Partners HealthCare programs focused on global health care, recently aligned to form a new, integrated program: Partners International. Through the combined program, Partners and its affiliates — including the MGH – can more effectively collaborate with health care institutions abroad.

“Both PHMI and PIMS have a long history of engaging Partners-affiliated clinicians to help develop global collaborations and provide world-class medical care to international patients,” says Gilbert H. Mudge Jr., MD, vice president for Partners International and a cardiologist at BWH. “As an integrated Partners International, we will create even more opportunities for MGH and all Partners caregivers to play an active role in international programs.”

One example of these programs is a collaboration between physicians at MassGeneral Children’s Hospital (MGH/C) and their counterparts at Asan Medical Center in Seoul, South Korea. Last year, clinicians from the newly developed Asan Medical Center Children’s Hospital exchanged visits with a team led by Ronald Kleinman, MD, physician-in-chief of MGH/C. Their focus was on assisting the

Asan Medical Center Children’s Hospital with benchmarking its success.

“This has been a wonderful pairing of two hospitals within hospitals,” says Kleinman. “We are delighted to work with colleagues in Korea to share ideas across cultures about ways to enhance care.”

This fall, MGH/C faculty will travel to Seoul to participate in a joint symposium on pediatric nursing. Experts from Asan and MGH/C will present lectures and lead discussions to address challenges and opportunities faced by pediatric nursing and administrative leaders in Korea and globally.

“Developments at Partners International will see that projects like this one evolve and strengthen,” says Mudge.

For more information about Partners International, access www.partners.org/international.
Fans were thrilled on July 8 when the Boston Red Sox scored eight runs in the first inning against the Baltimore Orioles and went on to win 10-3. The excitement, however, had started even before the first pitch at Fenway Park. During an on-field, pregame ceremony, officials from the Red Sox Foundation and the MGH celebrated a $1.1 million national grant awarded to the Red Sox Foundation and Mass General Home Base Program by the McCormick Foundation and Major League Baseball (MLB). The two-year grant, which is part of the McCormick Foundation and MLB’s “Welcome Back Veterans” initiative, will expand clinical and support services provided by Home Base to veterans in New England who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan and suffer from combat- and deployment-related stress issues as well as traumatic brain injury (TBI). Home Base also offers community education about and research into combat stress and TBI.

Since the program was founded in the fall of 2009, Home Base has served veterans and family members mostly from the Greater Boston area. With the help of the grant, Home Base will increase accessibility for veterans beyond Greater Boston through telemedicine. After being evaluated by Home Base caregivers at the MGH, select veterans and family members can receive their ongoing care via appointments and consultations in their home or at a remote telemedicine location.

“Home Base is committed to breaking down barriers to care, like geography, for veterans and their families,” says John Parrish, MD, director of the Home Base Program. “For veterans with combat stress or traumatic brain injury, getting to Boston can compound their stress. This generous grant will remove one obstacle standing in the way of veterans and families getting the care they have earned and desperately need.”

In recognition of all of Home Base’s efforts to support veterans and their families, on July 7, leadership from the Red Sox and Home Base accepted the Seven Seals Award from the Massachusetts Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) during another pregame ceremony at Fenway Park. The Seven Seals Award, named after the seven branches of military service, recognizes an individual or organization that demonstrates leadership and initiative in support of the men and women in the armed forces. It is one of the highest awards given by the ESGR.
**WHAT'S HAPPENING**

**Save the date for R. William Gange Lecture**
The MGH Wellman Center for Photomedicine will host the annual R. William Gange Lecture on Dec. 1 at 5:30 pm in the Simches Research Center, Room 3.110. A reception will begin at 5 pm. Tayyaba Hasan, PhD, of the Wellman Center for Photomedicine and director of the MGH Office for Research Career Development, will present “Exploiting cellular molecular responses for enhanced Photodynamic Treatments.” For more information, contact Nicole DeVoe at ndevoe@partners.org.

**CPE fellowships**
The Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare is offering three fellowships in its Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Program. The fellowships are open to clinicians from any discipline who work directly with patients and families or staff and wish to integrate spiritual caregiving into their professional practice. The CPE Program is a part-time program with group sessions on Mondays from 8:30 am to 5 pm. The winter program starts Jan. 9 and runs through May 18. Applications are due by Sept. 15. For more information contact the Chaplaincy at 617-726-4774 or Rev. Angelika Zollfrank at 617-724-3227.

**IN GENERAL**

**Victor Lewis, MD,** of the MGH Chelsea HealthCare Center, was honored with the Massachusetts League of Community Health Center’s Outstanding Physician of the Year Award in June at the league’s annual gala. The award is given to an individual who demonstrates consistent support of and devotion to the delivery of community health care services through his or her clinical practice. Lewis was recognized for his many years of work caring for HIV/AIDS patients at the MGH Chelsea HealthCare Center as well as his efforts with patients in the Suboxone Program.

**Ronald Kleinman, MD,** physician-in-chief of MassGeneral Hospital for Children, is the recipient of the first annual Nelson Mandela Children Champion Award for his work on behalf of children. This award recognizes those who have consistently helped improve the lives of children while introducing Nelson Mandela Children’s Fund to the Boston community. Nelson Mandela founded the fund to provide for South Africa’s children and youth and ensure they have healthy and prosperous lives.

The Japan Society of Boston honored

**N. Stuart Harris, MD, MFA, Kohei Hasegawa, MD, and Takashi Shiga, MD,** of the MGH Department of Emergency Medicine, with the John E. Thayer III Award during the society’s annual dinner held June 9. The award was established to recognize the achievements of individuals or organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the friendship between the people of the United States and Japan. The three physicians were honored for their relief efforts in Japan after the March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

**David Blumenthal, MD, MPP,** of the MGH/Partners Institute for Health Policy and the Samuel O. Thier Professor of Medicine and Health Care Policy at HMS, has been named chairman of the Commonwealth Fund Commission on a High Performance Health System. The commission’s members are a distinguished group of experts and leaders representing every sector of health care, as well as the state and federal policy arena, the business sector, professional societies and academia. The group is charged with developing recommendations to promote a high-performing health care system that provides all Americans with affordable access to high-quality, safe care while maximizing efficiency.