



SPRINGTIME ARRIVES:

The Spring Bunny greets Hannah, 5, and Kaitlin O'Brien, 3. Right, top photo, Meghan Kleinlein, 12, with physical therapist Lauren Ide, PT. Bottom photo, Ronnie Walsworth, 5, finds an egg.

Springtime once again

FOLLOWING SEVERAL DAYS OF RAIN, the sun finally broke through the clouds for the annual Spring Egg Hunt hosted by the MassGeneral Hospital for Children (MGHfC) Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Unit. Approximately 25 youngsters – MGHfC and Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital patients with their siblings and parents – joined the Spring Bunny April 1 in the Howard Ulfelder, MD, Healing Garden at the Yawkey Center for Outpatient Care.

The children peeked about the grass and plants in search of trinket-filled plastic eggs. Each child carried his or her treats in a colorful, hand-decorated pillowcase donated by the Boston chapter of ConKerr Cancer, a nonprofit organization with a mission to brighten the hospital rooms of children with cancer by making and delivering decorated pillowcases. The Spring Bunny also visited young patients on Ellison 17 and 18 and the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. ■



The MGH leads international study to identify vulnerable coronary plaques



OPTICAL COHERENCE TOMOGRAPHY (OCT) is an intravascular imaging technology that offers the promise of revealing the microscopic characteristics of a vulnerable coronary plaque. Using near-infrared light, OCT creates extremely high-resolution images from within an artery. The images have a resolution at least 20 times better than standard imaging technologies, such as computed tomography.

MGH Heart Center researchers, together with a coalition of 20 international sites, will create the world's largest registry of patients who have had OCT of the coronary arteries. Researchers hope the data will help determine the ability of OCT to identify vulnerable plaques in patients as well as its benefits as a follow-up procedure to stent placement.

When a vulnerable plaque in a coronary artery ruptures, the result can be catastrophic, blocking blood flow to the heart muscle and causing a heart attack. Cardiologists estimate that vulnerable plaques cause two-thirds to three-quarters of all fatal heart attacks. Standard imaging technologies are not able to identify the microscopic characteristics of these at-risk plaques.

The international research team – led by MGH interventional cardiologist Ik-Kyung Jang, MD, PhD, a pioneer in the field of cardiac OCT – will collect data from 3,000 patients who had cardiac OCT during a catheterization procedure and will follow them for five years with the goal of determining the effectiveness
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OCT PIONEER: Jang at the March 13 OCT Registry Symposium

MGH Police and Security remind staff to wear their ID badge



WEARING AN MGH IDENTIFICATION (ID) BADGE

is not just a matter of pride for all hospital staff and employees; more importantly, it is an issue of security and safety, as well as a requirement by MGH Police and Security.

All employees, students, volunteers, contractors and vendors must wear a hospital-issued ID badge while on hospital property, performing hospital duties or engaged in other MGH business. MGH Police and Security provides the proper ID badge to employees, volunteers and students at no charge upon joining the MGH.

The following is important information about MGH ID badges:

- If a badge is lost or damaged by the employee so that it no longer provides electronic key access, Police and Security will charge a \$15 fee for its replacement. Damage can occur if the badge is punctured by a pin or other object or if it is repeatedly bent, causing damage to the interior of the card. Badges do occasionally stop working for no obvious reason other than age or wear and tear, and if that occurs a replacement fee is not assessed.
- If an employee changes departments, has a name change or if the picture on the badge

is no longer an accurate representation or has begun to fade, employees are asked to replace their ID badge. There is no charge in these instances for making the correction, provided that the employee is still in possession of a functioning badge.

- Photo ID staff members will ask any employee seeking a new badge if he or she is satisfied with the current picture or if a new one is preferred. They are requested to insist on a new photograph if the picture currently on file does not accurately represent the employee. Whether the employee requests or is required to have a new picture taken does not determine whether a charge is issued for the badge.

The Photo ID Office is located in the Wang Ambulatory Care Center, Room 232 and is open Monday through Thursday from 7:30 am to 4 pm and Friday from 10:30 am to 4 pm. A satellite office, located in the West Lobby of Building 149 in the Charlestown Navy Yard, is open Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4 pm. For more information, call 617-724-3916 or access www2.massgeneral.org/police/police_services.htm#badge. ■

IN MEMORIAM

Marjorie Ionta, PT

MARJORIE IONTA, PT, former director of MGH Physical Therapy Services, died March 25 at the age of 97 following a brief illness.

“Marjorie was a true visionary and an extraordinary leader,” says Bette Ann Harris, DPT, MS, an MGH physical therapist who was a student of Ionta in the 1970s and now is associate provost for academic affairs at the MGH Institute of Health Professions (IHP). “Her influence at the MGH is still felt today.”

Ionta and her identical twin sister Margaret, who would also become a physical therapist, were born Dec. 20, 1912, in the small town of Mexico, ME. Ionta earned a bachelor’s degree in physical education from Boston University’s Sargent College in 1935. Following graduation, she taught physical education to middle school students in Wellesley and Arlington.

In 1945, Ionta’s career path turned from physical education to physical therapy when she received one of the first training grants from the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. Three years later, after receiving a certificate in physical therapy from Harvard Medical School, she joined MGH Physical Therapy Services.



Ionta worked at the MGH for only a short time before being recruited to George Washington University Hospital in Washington, D.C., and then traveling to Vallejo, Calif., to work at the Kaiser Foundation Rehabilitation Center. In 1958, Ionta returned to the MGH and soon became director of MGH Physical Therapy Services, a post she would hold for the next 23 years.

Ionta was very involved in the establishment of the MGH IHP and was the institute’s first designated professor emerita. In 1981, the IHP created the Marjorie K. Ionta Award for Clinical Excellence, an award presented annually to two physical therapy students. Ionta also was active in many of her field’s professional organizations and is co-author of the book, “Proprioceptive Neuromuscular Facilitation.”

“Ms. Ionta was a principled and visionary leader who demanded excellence from her staff,” says Michael Sullivan, PT, DPT, MBA, director of MGH Physical and Occupational Therapy. “She never

wavered in this belief and created a practice that was professional, centered on the needs of patients and committed to excellence.”

Ionta is survived by her twin sister, her older sister Elizabeth Walker, five nephews and two nieces. A memorial service was held April 5 at Duxbury Bay Maritime School.

Ambulatory Practice of the Future: Meet the medical director

THE ANNOUNCEMENT of the Ambulatory Practice of the Future (APF) has generated overwhelming interest among the MGH employee community. Many have come to APF information sessions and asked questions about the new model of care – available only to MGH employees and their spouses or partners. Those who registered to be a part of this new initiative will hear more in June about the next steps for APF enrollment. Registration has temporarily closed, but will reopen in the future.

Last month's information sessions taught the APF team some of the things that MGH employees are interested in learning more about. David C. Judge, MD, medical director of the APF, answers a few of the most frequently asked questions.

Q. *Who are the physicians and clinical care team members in the APF?*

A. We are in the process of meeting some very qualified and interesting candidates to join our team. At the present time, I will be leading the first care team. I am a board certified internist, who attended UMass Medical School and trained at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York City. I have been a practicing internist at the Bulfinch Medical Group since 1999 and am very excited to be leading the APF. We will be able to share more information on the rest of our clinical staff in the near future and expect to post profiles at www.massgeneral.org/apfpatientregistration once our team is complete. Our goal is to hire an excellent, gender-diverse team that can care for our patients, implement the newly designed care model and who share the same patient-centered values as the rest of the APF team.



JUDGE

Q. *Will I be able to choose my physician and care team members?*

A. I will be leading the first care team. However, as medical director of the practice, I will also have to attend to some administrative duties. Therefore, I am in the process of hiring a second physician to partner with me to care for the patients who initially enroll. If you enroll during the early months of the APF, we will only have one care team hired and seeing patients. You will initially be assigned to one of the two physicians on this team. We'd like for you to meet them both as well as all the members who comprise this care team. If you feel that you connect better with one physician, we will try to accommodate your request to work primarily with that physician.

As the practice grows, we will bring on a second care team and ultimately a third. We expect that over time you'll be able to choose the care team you'd like. We strongly believe in the value of teamwork and would hope that, once you find a team that works for you, you will feel comfortable working with any member of your team.

Q. *Will residents be practicing in the APF?*

A. Initially, all physicians practicing in the APF will be attending internists. However, we believe that the care model in the APF is exemplary, and we'd like to expose both medical students and residents to this model. We expect to eventually welcome both residents and medical students into the practice, but this doesn't mean that residents and students will replace your physician on the APF care team. Your physician will always be available to you.

Q. *Do I need to change all of my medical providers to APF providers?*

A. No. In fact, if you have established relationships with specialists, whether here at the MGH or elsewhere, we welcome the opportunity to work closely with them. The only provider that you will need to change if you join the APF is your primary care physician.

Q. *Will joining the APF affect my and my family's health coverage?*

A. No, joining the APF will not affect your or your family's health coverage in any way. Any services currently covered by your plan will continue to be covered. Your premiums and co-pays also will remain the same.

For more information about the APF, e-mail apf@partners.org.

— OCT

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of the technique in identifying at-risk patients.

In a clinical study in 2002, Jang was the first physician to use OCT technology in a human heart, and he has led several studies of the technology over the years.

Use of cardiac OCT has grown exponentially with more than 10,000 cases performed worldwide last year.

"The MGH OCT Registry is the first international effort to share information about OCT use in cardiac care," says Jang. "This collaboration will bring together a wealth of information and help us facilitate scientific advancement in the field."

The registry was launched during the first MGH OCT Registry Symposium on March 13. The study's international sites in Japan, China, Korea and Australia will begin enrolling patients in June. Enrollment in the United States will begin pending clearance of the technology by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

"The development of OCT

and its rapid adoption are enabling clinicians to capture *in vivo* what was previously seen only through a pathologist's microscope," says Jang. "Of course, the long-term goal is to identify plaques and prevent sudden cardiac death and heart attacks."

For more information, e-mail Iris A. McNulty, BSN, RN, of the Cardiology Division, at imcnulty@partners.org.

Career Information Day highlights health professions

MANY DIFFERENT PROFESSIONS keep the MGH running smoothly, and on March 25, employees had the chance to learn a little more about them during Career Information Day. More than 80 MGHers attended the annual event hosted by the MGH Human Resources Office of Training and Workforce Development. Attendees learned about careers in nursing, medical imaging, medical and surgical technologies, medical coding, radiation therapy, electroneurodiagnostic technology and respiratory therapy. Throughout the day, speakers offered a taste of what the professions entail at the MGH and beyond.

Sandra Woodworth, RTR, CT, spoke about the growing field of medical imaging. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that 30,000 radiologic technologists will be needed by 2016, and in the last year, three new radiologic technology programs have opened in Eastern Massachusetts, reflecting this demand.

Radiologic technologist positions are desirable for a number of reasons, Woodworth said. There are a variety of settings, specialties and schedules that a radiologic technologist can work, depending on his or her interests and scheduling needs, she explained.

Most importantly, radiologic technologists need to have people skills. "Some think it's all about going into a room and pressing a button without ever touching a patient, but that's just not how it is."

People skills also are necessary for those who would like to go into nursing, said Mandi Coakley, RN, PhD, staff specialist for Patient Care Services. Nursing is all about being with patients at the most vulnerable times of their lives.

"There are times when people are sick and feeling miserable," Coakley said. "But you can also be there when they're born and when they get better."

Angela Singleton-Scott, a patient service



CAREER EXPLORATION: John Coco, of Human Resources, discusses MGH training opportunities.

coordinator (PSC), attended Career Information Day to learn more about nursing – a career she's considered for many years.

"I've worked as a PSC in the Cancer Center for seven years but have long desired a career in nursing," she said. "I put my education on hold years ago to care for my children. Now that they are more independent, I feel it's time for me to pursue this."



Submit news tips
and story ideas
to MGH Hotline

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

National Healthcare Decisions Day

The MGH will participate in the third annual National Healthcare Decisions Day by hosting an information table in the Main Lobby April 16. Visitors can learn about designating someone to make health care decisions in the event they are unable to make them for themselves, and Massachusetts health care proxy forms will be available. For more information or to obtain a health care proxy form online, access www.nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org.

MGH Senior HealthWISE

MGH Senior HealthWISE is hosting a free book discussion for seniors ages 60 and older on "Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life" by Barbara Kingsolver April 15 from 3 to 4 pm in the West End Library, 151 Cambridge St. For more information, call 617-724-6756.

Partners in Excellence Awards Ceremony

All members of the MGH community are invited to attend the 2009 Partners in Excellence (PIE) Awards Ceremony April 23 at 3 pm in the Bulfinch Tents. MGH employees will be honored for their outstanding contributions to

Partners last year. The reception will include a photo opportunity with senior leadership for PIE recipients. For more information, call 617-724-9743 or e-mail partnersinexcellence@partners.org.

2010 MGH College Fair

MGH Training and Workforce Development is hosting the 2010 MGH College Fair April 28 from noon to 3 pm in the Bulfinch Tents. Representatives from area colleges will be on hand to discuss education and careers in health care. No registration is necessary. For more information, e-mail mghtraining@partners.org, call John Coco at 617-724-3368 or access http://lis.partners.org/hr/New_Web/mgh/mgh_training.htm.

Nutrition information table

The Blum Patient and Family Learning Center is hosting a nutrition information table April 19 from 10 am to 2 pm in the Main Lobby. Visitors will be able to learn about selecting healthy foods and interpreting food labels as well as enter a raffle. Handouts and pocket guides also will be available. For more information, contact Margaret Arnone at 781-492-6433 or marnone@partners.org.

Free oral, head and neck cancer screening

Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary (MEEI), the Massachusetts Society of Otolaryngology and the Head and Neck Cancer Alliance are partnering to sponsor free screenings during Oral, Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Week. MEEI will provide the screenings April 16 from 9 am to 2:30 pm at the MEEI head and neck clinic. To register, call 617-573-4084.

IN GENERAL

Douglas Mathisen, MD, chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery and program director for Thoracic Surgery, recently was elected president of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons. The Society of Thoracic Surgeons represents nearly 6,000 cardiothoracic surgeons and allied health professionals in North America and internationally. Mathisen has served with the organization as treasurer and on the board of directors since 2001.