Spotlight on Molly Higgins, RN, nurse, inventor, innovator

Staff nurse, Molly Higgins, RN, Lunder 10 Hematology/Oncology/Bone Marrow Transplant Unit, was ahead of her time when she invented the Grab-a-Lab collection system in 2018. Says Higgins, “My idea was inspired by a need for a streamlined process of obtaining specimens that was clean, safe, and time-efficient. With the support of the IDEA Grant program, I invented Grab-a-Lab, a device that allows clinicians to collect samples and place them in a bag outside the patient’s room without touching the bag, eliminating the potential for cross-contamination.”

As you can imagine, Grab-a-Lab has been especially useful during the COVID pandemic, as preventing contamination and the spread of infection has been paramount.

Says Higgins, “I had the pleasure of working with Hiyam Nadel, my mentor, whose guidance helped me develop the prototype. Now we’re working with a team from Springboard Studio who’ve helped us improve the design. I’m excited to share that we now have the next 50 prototypes in production.”

The ‘art’ of Nursing

When Nurse Week was put on hold earlier this year, Bonnie Michelman, executive director of Police, Security & Outside Services, came up with a way that she and her department could pay tribute to nurses despite the COVID pandemic. She enlisted the help of security officer, Jay Mulligan, an accomplished artist. Says Michelman, “I asked Jay to try to capture our admiration and support of these ‘angels,’ the love we and our patients have for them, our diversity, and the challenging times we’re in. I think he managed to do just that.” The vibrant blue of the painting recalls the night that MGH and other buildings shone blue in tribute to first responders and healthcare workers. The painting can be viewed in the Lunder display case in the Main Lobby.

Please send any photos, comments, questions, or potential content for the COVID-19 newsletter to Susan Sabia at: ssabia@partners.org