A look back at...
Colleagues,

It hardly seems possible that a year has passed since our last annual-report issue of *Caring*. As I look through these pages, every picture brings back memories, and every memory evokes a sense of pride.

I’m struck by the breadth and diversity of your accomplishments. But perhaps what impresses me most is the sense of joy I get as I look at the faces in these photos. Not only do I see an extraordinary team of clinicians and support staff striving for excellence in everything they do, I see a community of individuals helping and supporting one another so that we can deliver the best possible care to our patients and families. I’m truly blessed to be part of this team.

I can’t wait to see what we’ll achieve together in 2020 as we work to make health care all it can be for every person who comes through our doors. I hope you enjoy this special issue of *Caring*.

Debbie Burke
January 23, 2020 — Caring Headlines — Page 3

A look back at...

2018

2019
Ditomassi inaugural holder of MGH Trustees Endowed Chair in Nursing and Patient Care Professional Practice (see story on page 4)

Alison Hoffnagle at first Munn Center Research Nurse Forum.

Sparky the Fire Dog.

2019 YMCA Achiever Award recipients and nominees.

A new blanket warmer on the White 6 Orthopaedics Unit

Sumner Redstone Burn Center hosts burn-prevention awareness booth in Main Corridor.

Addictions Consult Team celebrated 5-year anniversary of Substance Use Disorders Initiative.

Cardiac nursing visiting scholar: Christopher Lee, RN

Excellence in Action Award to multiple departments for exemplary care of patient with autism.
Global health nurse, Jennifer Duran, RN, at Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital in Uganda and in the NICU at MGH.

Medical nursing educational series focuses on geriatric certification.

New England Regional Black Nurses Association Nursing Excellence Award recipients, Chantal Kajitesi, RN (above), and Saheeda Mohammed-Kelly, RN (below), with friends and family.

Staff throughout PCS Go Red for women's health.
March 2019

Caring
Headlines
March 31, 2019

Child life specialists
integral members of the healthcare team, helping children and families overcome some of life’s most challenging events

Child life specialist, Katie Spillane, CCLS, makes learning to breathe into an anesthesia mask fun for 3-year-old Cooper McClelland in the Pediatric Pre-Op Area.

Spiritual Care Department serves up a spot of tea during Resiliency Rounds in the Neonatal ICU.

Images of the MGH General Store circa 1940, the MGH Ladies Visiting Committee celebrated its 150th anniversary.

Child life specialists, Eva Mintz Bacon, CCLS (above) and Kaitlyn Wallace, CCLS (below), promote coping, pain-management, and provide distraction for young patients.

Images of the MGH General Store circa 1940, the MGH Ladies Visiting Committee celebrated its 150th anniversary.
March 7, 2019 —
Caring Headlines

The MGH Pet Therapy Program

Mass General Hospital for Children celebrated an impressive, year-long stretch without any central-line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI).

MGH pet therapy dog, Daisy, and handler/owner Phyllis Kassels, visit patients on Ellison 12 Medical Unit.

With the help of Caring for a Cure, a fund created by a group of MGH nurses, staff of Phillips House 21 planned a wedding for a patient and her long-time beau.
Staffing the Patient Safety information table in the Main Corridor are (l-r): Sandra Thomas; Mary-Ann Walsh, RN; Claire Paras, RN; Kristin Tuiskula, RPh; and interpreter, Zeina Tabbaa.

Ribbon-cutting as Images Boutique opened at its new location on Yawkey 2.

Lunder-Dineen Time to Ask team supported community access to substance-use and recovery resources.

16 nurses were recognized for completing the New Graduate Critical Care Nurse Residency Program.

Ribbon-cutting as Images Boutique opened at its new location on Yawkey 2.

In a tribute narrative, Jeanmarie Fallon, RN (center) described the efforts of fellow nurses in responding to a code on the Ellison 19 Thoracic Unit.

Kathryn Post, RN, and Kim Francis, RN, presented at Nursing Research Grand Rounds.

Pet Therapy
Meet the MGH pet therapy dogs

Lula
Weezie
Henry
Zipi
Daisy
Ella
Augie
Heidi
Tucker
Kip

The MGH Pet Therapy Program provides comfort and emotional support to patients, families, and staff with visits from specially trained dogs and their handlers. Since 2003, pet-therapy dogs have made more than 88,000 visits to inpatient and outpatient units, bringing smiles to the faces of everyone they encounter.

All dogs are screened by Pets and People Foundation for safety assurance. For information or to schedule a visit with a pet-therapy dog, call Jackie Nolan, director, Volunteer Services, at 617-724-1753.

Twinkie
Maddie
Phoebe
Ollie

April
April
Heather Fraser, RN, received the Molly Catherine Tramontana Award in recognition of exemplary care on the Labor & Delivery Unit.

Endoscopy Unit celebrated GI Nurses and Associates Week.

Pediatric occupational therapist, Christina Cossa, OTR/L, works with patient at the MGH Chelsea Health Center.

We celebrated National Certified Nurse Day with a presentation by Peg Bain, RN, of the Benson-Henry Institute for Mind Body Medicine.

Yawkey 8 Infusion Unit hosts members of the PCS Diversity & Inclusion Committee.

We celebrated Patient Safety Awareness Week with a visit from guest speaker, Patricia Dykes, RN, program director, Center for Patient Safety Research and Practice, BWH.

January 23, 2020 — Caring Headlines — Page 9
Standing against racism

an ongoing forum to promote understanding and inclusion

May 9, 2019

Caring Headlines

May 9, 2019

Nursing & Patient Care Services

Massachusetts General Hospital

Lani Peterson, psychologist and storyteller (above left), and panelists (l-r): John Robbin, executive director, Massachusetts Council on American-Islamic Relations; Adam Serwer, senior editor, The Atlantic; Shaykh Yasir Fahmy, Imam at the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center; and Firdosh Pathan, RPh, pharmacist and MGH community Muslim leader, discuss diversity and inclusion and how we can all make a difference every day.

See story on page 6

Hundreds of Muslim employees, patients, families, and friends came together for the 19th annual MGH Iftar celebration.

Spiritual Care held a mechirat chametz—a sale of chametz (leavened food) to non-Jewish individuals—for the duration of Passover.

Liza Nyeko, program director for Office of Patient Experience/CQS, presented at joint meeting of MGH patient-family advisory councils.

Pediatric nurses took self-care to ‘new heights’ with a caregivers retreat at The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp in Ashford, Connecticut.

Hundreds of Muslim employees, patients, families, and friends came together for the 19th annual MGH Iftar celebration.
2019

Nurse Week 2019

Physical and Occupational Therapy recently partnered with the MGH Youth Scholars Program to introduce students to careers in health care.

Knight visiting scholar, Rachel Walker, RN.

Members of the PCS Ethics in Clinical Practice Committee staff annual advance care planning booth.

Many PCS teams and individuals were recognized for their efforts to improve the patient experience at this year’s MGH Patient Experience Awards.

MGH volunteers were acknowledged for their selfless service at this year’s Volunteer Recognition event.

Educational presentations, research poster display, and nursing research awards marked another successful Nurse Week celebration.
One simple question can open the door to untold possibilities of patient-focused care

For more, see pages 4-5

MGH Men Against Abuse held their 14th multi-faith Father’s Day service, themed, “Anyone can be a father; it takes someone special to be a Dad.”
CSI (Clinical Scene Investigator) teams (l-r): “Ambulation Nation” (Bigelow 11 General Medical Unit); “Blanket Bolus” (Blake 7 Medical ICU); and “Together We Can” (Wang 3 Center for Perioperative Care).

Carol Ghiloni, RN (left) and Mandi Coakley, RN (second from right); with this year’s Ghiloni oncology nursing fellows.

Clinical Support Staff Week
(See Debbie Burke column on page 2)

A good time was had by all at this year’s MGH Employee Summer Picnic, complete with the annual ‘Operation’ game to benefit My Giving Helps, and a guest appearance by former New England Patriots offensive lineman, Max Lane.
Rest is essential for maintaining physical and emotional health—and that is especially true for patients during times of illness. Frequent interruptions, crowded rooms, unpleasant sensory stimuli, harsh lighting, and loud noises all interrupt sleep and interfere with a patient’s ability to rest.

In January, three work groups were formed to prioritize improvements to promote a quieter, more restful care environment. Some of the proposed interventions include:

**Patient Care Operations Work Group**
- revising visitation guidelines to ensure a standard approach across units
- introducing Quiet Kits to reduce noise in patient-care areas
- requiring the use of headphones, earbuds, or closed-caption television in non-private rooms
- decreasing the default volume setting on bedside alarms
- developing hospital-wide communication and signage to help raise awareness

**Environment of Care Work Group**
- labeling light switches in patient rooms so that only desired lights are turned on (especially at night) reducing the likelihood of unnecessarily waking patients
- applying noise-reducing, foam padding to pneumatic-device landing areas
- converting doors to prevent them from slamming and eliminating unnecessary card-reader beeps
- eliminating squeaky/noisy wheels on trash receptacles
- replacing noisy metal food carts with quieter plastic carts

**Clinical Care Work Group**
- developing guidelines and checklists for caregivers to facilitate bundling of care at night to reduce unnecessary disruptions

Promoting a quiet, restful care environment—by Cindy Sprogis, senior project manager

In the coming months, these interventions will be rolled out on all patient-care units. We're calling on all members of the MGH community to champion this effort to promote a quieter, more restful environment. Be mindful of how loud you're speaking and whether your conversation can be heard by patients nearby. Small changes can make a big difference when it comes to cultivating a restful environment for patients.

For more information, contact Cindy Sprogis, senior project manager, at 617-643-5982.
Caring Headlines

September 19, 2019

Recovery Month at MGH

Spiritual Care leadership and CPE educators with this year’s class of Clinical Pastoral Education graduates.

The Lunder-Dineen Health Education Alliance of Maine held its fifth Maine Nurse Preceptor Education Program.

Respiratory therapists and others on the MGH ECMO Team received the Gold Award of Excellence from the national Extracorporeal Life Support Organization (ELSO) for the third consecutive time.
Collaborative governance committees and others shared their work at the annual Collaborative Governance Fair.

Medical Interpreter Services celebrated 40th anniversary by honoring language access champions: David Ebh, MD (left), and Ernesto Gonzalez, MD, for their long-standing support and collaboration with medical interpreters.

With their generous gift, the family of Michael Sureau helped launch the MGH Transplant Peer Mentoring Program, providing support and guidance to young transplant patients.

Pat McGrail Nurse Mentor of Distinction Award recipients, Angela Pagliuca, RN (left), and Emily Patel, RN (right) with members of the McGrail family.
Annual Collaborative Governance Fair
sharing the work of our dedicated collaborative governance champions

Representatives of the PCS Clinical Practice Committee; Diversity and Inclusion Committee; Ethics in Clinical Practice Committee; Informatics Committee; Patient Education Committee; Patient Experience Committee; Quality and Safety Committee; Research and Evidence-Based Practice Committee; and others shared information and interactive activities showcasing the work they’re doing to keep patients and staff safe. See story on page 4.

Albert H. Brown Medical Nursing Visiting Scholar, Mark Lazenby, RN.

IDEA Grant recipients: Ryan Carroll, MD, Kimberly Whalen, RN; and Lara Hirner, SLP.

CSI (Clinical Scene Investigator) teams: “Kick it in the Pedi ED” (Pediatric Emergency Department); and “Sleep Well, Be Well” (Ellison 8 Cardiac Surgery Step-Down Unit).

With the support of our donors, Patient Care Services provided 44 scholarships this year—the most ever presented by Patient Care Services in a single year.
The day after a storm that resulted in long delays on the commuter rail, physical therapist, Badia Eskandar, PT, exited her train, ran back to her car, then ran 12.6 miles to get to work.

Norman Knight visiting scholar, Patrice Nicholas, RN.

Jerome and Celia Reich oncology nursing visiting scholar, Margaret Barton-Burke, RN.

MGH physical therapists at Functional Movement Disorders Conference (left), and at annual conference of the Massachusetts chapter of APTA.

Patient Care Services promoted alternative transportation options such as biking to help alleviate traffic and parking issues on and around the main campus.

CSI (Clinical Scene Investigator) teams: “Don’t make a peep; patients need to sleep” (White 11 Medical Unit); and “Doves Nest” (Obstetrics, Labor & Delivery, Antepartum, and Complicated Postpartum Team.

The Gray Surgical Family Waiting Area relocated to its newly-renovated home in the Yawkey Building above the Riverside Café.

CSRs (Clinical Scene Investigators) teams: “Don’t make a peep; patients need to sleep!” (White 11 Medical Unit); and “Doves Nest” (Obstetrics, Labor & Delivery, Antepartum, and Complicated Postpartum Team.

Norman Knight visiting scholar, Patrice Nicholas, RN.

Jerome and Celia Reich oncology nursing visiting scholar, Margaret Barton-Burke, RN.

MGH physical therapists at Functional Movement Disorders Conference (left), and at annual conference of the Massachusetts chapter of APTA.
The Lunder & Neuroscience ICU held a reception for volunteers of the Neighborhood Pace Program of East Boston to thank them for donating more than 900 hand-made blankets for patients.

April Lynn Kim, RN, displays hand-crocheted hats that she gives to newborns on her unit.

We celebrated Spiritual Care Week with guests, MC Sullivan, RN, and Nancy Kehoe, RSCJ.

The Bigelow 7 Medicine Teaching Unit (formerly ED Observation Unit) opened after a complete refurbishing of the physical environment.

Physical Therapy Month at MGH

Choose more movement
Choose better health
Choose PT

(See story on pages 4-5)
Sullivan first holder of MGH Trustees Endowed Chair in Physical and Occupational Therapy

(See story on page 4)

“Just think what this department will look like in twenty years. Imagine the possibilities.”

— Michael Sullivan, PT, director of Physical & Occupational Therapy, inaugural holder of the MGH Trustees Endowed Chair in Physical and Occupational Therapy.

The MGH food donation program helping others always leaves a good taste in your mouth

MGH has teamed up with the Cambridge-based, Food for Free program, to donate excess food from our cafeterias to help feed people in the Boston area in need of healthy meals.

Due to a variety of factors, such as inclement weather, reduced foot traffic on the main campus, or simply having more leftovers than expected, we often have a surplus of food at the end of the day.

According to Joan Shea, director, Nutrition & Food Services, “We’re always looking for ways to help the hospital’s sustainability efforts. So we were thrilled to partner with Food for Free this past November.”

Says Sara Swiatlowski, manager of Retail and Revenue Operations for Eat Street Café, “The program has the added benefit of being easy to participate in.” Food for Free sends a refrigerated truck to pick up leftover food from MGH and other participating businesses and transport it to their kitchen in Cambridge where it’s processed and transformed into nutritious, new dishes.

Says Shea, “It’s been extremely rewarding to see staff of Nutrition & Food Services so enthusiastic about this program.”

Our collaboration with Food for Free is just one way MGH is advancing its sustainability efforts. Nutrition & Food Services has long worked with AgriCycle, a food waste collection service, to compost excess food into clean energy. An ADA-compliant water bottle filler has been installed in Eat Street Café, and more stations will be added in the coming months.

Says Shea, “Sustainability has quickly become part of our culture. People are proud to be part of a program as noble as Food for Free.”

For more information, contact Joan Shea at 617-643-0993.

At Transgender Day of Remembrance, Asher Bruskin, LICSW; Alice Cabotaje, director, Spiritual Care & Education; and (below): Hannah Shefsky, music therapist; Erica Long, spiritual care provider; and Tom Reid, Hebrew College associate director.

At this year’s annual Cardiac Nursing Visiting Scholar session (l-r): Emily Clarke, RN; Rebecca Faulks, RN; Elizabeth Trearchis, RN; Ellen Robinson, RN, and cardiac nursing visiting scholar, Melissa Uveges, RN.
2019

At NP forum, (l-r; top to bottom): Inga Lennes, MD; Kelly Ann Jeffries, NP; Sue McDermott, NP; Darlene Sawicki, NP; and Julie Marden, NP, presents flowers to first MGH nurse practitioner, Barbara Chase, NP, who retired this year.

Sara Stevens, NP, received the inaugural Norman Knight Advanced Practice Nurse Award, pictured above with her family and Scott Knight.

Members of the MGH Clinical Research Nurse Steering Committee.

The Clinical Pastoral Education program celebrated its 85 anniversary at MGH.

Staffing the Pressure-Injury Prevention display table in the Main Corridor (l-r): Virginia Capasso, RN; Jacquie Holmberg, RN; and Jean Stewart, RN.
MGH celebrated IV Nurse Day.

A visit to Beacon House.

The Blake 12 ICU team.

Staff of the Ellison 16 Medical Unit.

Staff of the Surgical ICU.

At ANA meeting, Julie Cronin, RN, sworn in as new president.

Jane Flanagan, RN (left), received ANA Excellence in Nursing Education Award.

Anne-Marie Barron, RN, was honored as a Living Legend in Massachusetts Nursing.

Chief digital health officer for Partners HealthCare, Alistair Erskine, MD, spoke at an open forum while front-line clinicians provided real-time, electronic feedback during the session.

Gaurdia Banister, RN (left), and Allyssa Harris, RN, at AONE conference in San Diego.

Friends and colleagues bid farewell to associate chief nurse, Dawn Tenney, RN.

Critical care nurses attended New England Donor Services conference.

Staff of the Lunder 9 Oncology Unit.
MGH nurses, therapists, social workers, physicians, and others participated in this year’s marathon, raising money to support MGH programs. Others were on hand at the finish line to treat injuries, provide massages, and generally help runners as they completed the 26.2-mile race from Hopkinton to Boston.
PCS photo gallery

Some scenes from our first celebration of Clinical Support Staff Week at MGH.
Ellison 17 Pediatric Unit got into the “What Matters to You?” spirit.

September 11th ceremony of remembrance on the Bulfinch Lawn.
Staff of the Blake 13 Newborn and Ellison 13 Obstetrics units.
Our incredible disaster response team on Grand Bahama Island after a devastating hurricane.

Staff of the White 9 Medical Unit.
At the Magnet Conference in Orlando, Florida.
My sister, Sandra Brown, RN, and I welcomed our niece, Caroline Ward, RN, to MGH.
Staff got into the Halloween spirit.

Our trip to Apple in California.
Staff of the Neonatal ICU.
Fund-raiser organized by O’Halloran family and friends to raise money for breast-cancer research at MGH.
Our Patient and Family Advisory Council.
(July–December)

Anne Marie Thompson, RN was recognized by MHA for her efforts during the Question #1 ballot campaign.

Caring for a Cure nurses raised more than $1 million since forming their grass-roots charity.

Samih El Mounir was named WEEI Sports Radio’s ‘Everyday Amazing Health Professional of the Game.’

Great team effort contributed to the successful move of the ED Observation Unit to Bigelow 12.

Staff of the Pediatric ICU.

Staff of the Ellison 17 and 18 pediatric units.

Excellence in Action Awards went to the Ellison 10 Cardiac Step-Down team (left); patient services coordinator, Kiara Pierce (center); and Fatbardha Plaku and Ying Sun, RN, of the neurosciences (right).

Staff at the Charlestown Health Center.

As featured in the *The New York Times*, staff of the Lunder 9 Oncology Unit celebrated Thanksgiving at work.

White 8 Medical Unit observed Thanksgiving with festive hats and a fun-loving attitude.

Staff of the Radiation Oncology Unit.
Special thanks to Jeffrey Andree, Paul Batista, Kate Flock, Sam Riley, and Michelle Rose, who took many of the photos that appear in this issue of Caring; and Maria Lopez and Kathy Grady for their efforts behind the scenes.

(Caption: Photo by Kate Flock)