Nurses continue tradition of giving

Funds earmarked for celebration directed to worthy causes

At this year’s festive Nursing Awards Ceremony, the caring, generous spirit of BIDMC nurses was in evidence as a gift on behalf of all nurses was presented to a worthy cause. Laurie Bloom, RN, associate chief nurse for professional development and research, says that the practice of donating funds to charity during National Nurses Week has become a kind of tradition within the BIDMC nursing community. She explains that, for many years, a portion of the funds available for nurse recognition have been set aside for some kind of nursing gift. Clinical staff on the Retention and Recruitment Council, who represent their peers throughout the medical center, determine how the funds are spent. Notes Bloom, “In the past, funds have been used to purchase small tokens of appreciation for each nurse. That changed in 2008.” That year, the sudden death of labor and delivery nurse, Meg Ninos, RN, prompted the nurses on the council to change their approach. They decided to honor all nurses by making a contribution, in memory of Ninos, to BIDMC’s cancer peer support program, “Patient-to-Patient, Heart-to-Heart.”

The rest, says Bloom, is a wonderful history of how nurses embraced the charitable spirit of that initial donation. In 2009, a donation went to a special BIDMC “Staff Support Fund,” which had been set up as a way for staff to support the hospital during a fiscal crisis. The fund helped reduce layoffs. In 2010, money went to the Greater Boston Food Bank, and in 2011 to the relief efforts in Japan, following the tsunami of that year. The donation in 2012 went to the Wounded Warriors program, and in 2013, staff supported a contribution to The One Fund Boston, to help victims of the Boston Marathon bombings.

Bill Entwistle, RN, and Bobbie Carney, RN, co-chairs of the Retention and Recruitment Council, report that when the council met in March to discuss allocation of this year’s funds, the decision, was, sadly, an easy one. That same month, two firefighters had been lost battling a blaze in Boston’s Back Bay. Entwistle says there was unanimous agreement that the funds should go to the Lieutenant Walsh-Firefighter Kennedy Memorial Fund.

Entwistle believes that the $35,000 that have been donated to date says something about the nurses at BIDMC. He shares, “The tradition of donation is a reflection of the caring and compassion that is at our core as nurses.” Bloom agrees, noting, “I’m very proud that our nurses have been so generous over the years. It’s evidence of an overall culture of caring that extends beyond the walls of the medical center and into the broader community and the wider world.”

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Bill Entwistle, RN, and Bobbie Carney, RN, co-chairs of the Nursing Retention and Recruitment Council, presented a check to the Lieutenant Walsh-Firefighter Kennedy Memorial Fund on behalf of BIDMC nurses. Colleagues of Walsh and Kennedy from the Boston Fire Department’s Engine 33 accepted the donation. Shown are Entwistle; Firefighter Peter Starkey; Firefighter Brandon Finn; Firefighter Timothy Freda; Carney; and Marsha Maurer, RN, senior vice president for patient care services and chief nursing officer.
Awards

Nursing scholarship awards

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Nursing Scholarships

Nearly 50 staff members were awarded BIDMC Nursing Scholarships. Awards are given to nurses pursuing academic advancement and to other staff members studying for an initial nursing degree. To receive an award, candidates must demonstrate a track record of academic excellence. Scholarship support is made possible by generous donors to nursing at BIDMC.

Alexander and Brenda Tanger Nursing Scholarship in honor of Mary M. Fermental, RN

This annual award, presented in honor of BIDMC nurse Mary (Maggie) Fermental, RN (left), was given this year to Barbara Rosato, RN/NP, who is studying for a doctor of nursing practice degree at Duke University.

C. Rose Finkelstein Nurse Scholarship

Tracey Pollard, RN (right), unit-based educator in labor and delivery, received the C. Rose Finkelstein Award, named in memory of a longtime and beloved employee and volunteer in obstetrics. She is shown with Phyllis West, RN, associate chief nurse for the east campus.
Support for continuing education
For a number of years, the Beth Israel Hospital Nurses’ Alumnae Association has provided funding to support continuing education opportunities for staff. Among the many recent beneficiaries of this generosity were Suzanne Joyner, RN (center left), who attended the Joyce C. Clifford Leadership Seminar 2014, sponsored by the Organization of Nurse Leaders of Massachusetts and Rhode Island; and Leslie Ajl, RN (center right), who participated in a conference on eating disorders, sponsored by the Multi-Service Eating Disorders Association. Alumnae Association co-presidents Ronna Krozy, RN, EdD (far left) and Beryl Chapman, RN (far right) are shown above.

Aron and Celia Steinberg Endowed Scholarships
Laurie Bloom, RN, associate chief nurse for professional development and research, was on hand to congratulate Dipan Patel, one of the recipients of the Aron and Celia Steinberg award. Currently a patient care technician on Farr 9, Patel is studying to become a nurse practitioner. Osmar Dasilva, patient care technician on Farr 9, and Kenton Whitsey, mental health associate on Deaconess 4, were additional recipients of this award.

Boston Red Sox Nursing Scholarships
Seven staff members received scholarships that are funded through raffle sales of tickets made available by the Boston Red Sox. Shown from left to right are Shelley Cavallo, RN; Hieu Tieu, RN; Ann Marie Darcy, RN; and Kara May, RN. Additional awardees were Elizabeth Kinsella, RN; Jill Renehan; and Jill Sullivan, RN.

New England Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association Scholarship
Donald McLeod, RN, received a scholarship from the New England Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association. Laura Ritter-Cox, RN (right), the association’s president, presents the award to Lisa Hird, RN, McLeod’s nurse manager, who accepted on his behalf.
Nursing practice awards

Edward and Marilyn Schwarz Awards for Excellence in Nursing Practice
Addie Schwarz, RN/NP (left), granddaughter of the late Edward Schwarz, helped congratulate the recipients of excellence awards initially established by her grandfather to honor the memory of his wife, Marilyn. Shown above with Schwarz are Paul Egan, RN, Schwarz awardee; Jayne Carvelli Sheehan, RN, senior vice president for ambulatory and emergency services; awardees Virginia (Ginny) May, RN; Claire Cruz, RN; Elizabeth Berkowitz, RN; Maura Harrington, RN; Karen Legere, RN; Joanne Cullen, RN; and Claudia Bisognin, RN; and Marsha Maurer, RN, senior vice president for patient care services and chief nursing officer. In inset, Schwarz posed with additional awardee, Gary Cruz, RN.

Department of Anesthesia Faculty Hour Award
Brett Simon, MD, former chair of the department of anesthesia, critical care, and pain medicine, presented Kirsten Kilduff, RN, with an award that honors a nurse for excellence in collaboration and quality improvement.

Gitta and Saul Kurlat Award for Nursing Excellence
Celebrants were saddened to learn of the recent passing of Gitta Kurlat, who, along with her husband Saul (pictured above), has been honoring nurses with an excellence award for many years. Mr. Kurlat is shown with this year’s awardee, Patricia Sorge, RN.
Joseph Ensign Lovejoy Exemplary Nursing Awards from the Joseph E. Lovejoy Family Gift

Joan Lovejoy (center), wife of the late Joseph Ensign Lovejoy, celebrated with the two recipients of this year’s Joseph Ensign Lovejoy Award, given to a nurse and a patient care technician who provide exemplary, compassionate care. Mrs. Lovejoy is shown with awardees Nancy Cormier, RN (left), and Guilhermina (Fatima) Monteiro, PCT.

Excellence in Medical Critical Care Nursing Awards

Two nurses received awards for excellence in medical critical care nursing. Shown is one of the recipients, Pamela Haus, RN, along with Peter Clardy, MD, director of medical critical care. The additional awardee was Christine Kebler, RN.

Excellence in Psychiatric Nursing Award

Velecia (Vee) Prall-Major, RN (left), received an excellence award in psychiatric nursing. She is shown with Cristinel Coconcea, MD, medical director on Deaconess 4.

Excellence in Advanced Practice Awards

Awards for advanced practice were presented to Wendy McHugh, RN (center left), nurse ethicist, and Meghan Connolly, RN/NP (center right), nurse practitioner in the acute patient service. They are shown with Jayne Carvelli Sheehan, RN (far left), senior vice president for ambulatory and emergency services, and Marsha Maurer, RN, senior vice president for patient care services and chief nursing officer.
Awards

**Internal Medicine Residency Nursing Excellence Award**
Monica Oliveira, RN, was this year’s recipient of an excellence award presented by residents in internal medicine.

**Colette Cantin Obstetric Excellence Awards**
Named in memory of a beloved obstetric nurse at BIDMC, this award honors nurses for their excellence in obstetric nursing. Shown are Phyllis West, RN, associate chief nurse for the east campus; Jane Smallcomb, RN, clinical director of the perinatal service; awardees Sharon Frank, RN, and Christine Fiorentino, RN; and Hope Ricciotti, MD, chair of obstetrics and gynecology.

**Environmental Champion Award**
New in 2013, this award recognizes a nurse who works to make nursing practices more environmentally sustainable. This year’s awardee is Kimberly Rosen, RN, shown above with Robert Cherry, senior vice president for support services.

**William D. Cochran Award for Excellence in Neonatal Nursing**
The longest standing departmental award for nursing excellence, the Cochran award was presented this year to Jeanne Hanlon, RN (center right). She is shown with Phyllis West, RN, associate chief nurse for the east campus; Jane Smallcomb, RN, clinical director of the perinatal service; and Hope Ricciotti, MD, chair of obstetrics and gynecology.
Excellence in Nursing Leadership Awards
Four longtime nurse leaders at the medical center were honored for excellence in a leadership role. Shown above are Jayne Carvelli Sheehan, RN, senior vice president for ambulatory and emergency services; awardees Leslie Ajl, RN; Joanne Devine, RN; Janet Lewis, RN; and Susan Dorion, RN; and Marsha Maurer, RN, senior vice president for patient care services and chief nursing officer.

Gastroenterology Nursing Excellence Award
Linda Veglia, RN, was recognized for excellence in gastroenterology nursing. She is shown with Ram Chuttani, MD, director of endoscopy and chief of interventional gastroenterology.

Clinical nurses honored at luncheon
As part of National Nurses Week celebrations, clinical nurses who were advanced in the last year to clinical nurse III or clinical nurse IV were honored at a luncheon on May 6. Nurses apply for advancement by submitting a portfolio demonstrating progression of clinical and leadership skills. Leslie Ajl, RN (far left in top photo and third from left in bottom photo), psychiatric clinical nurse specialist and chair of the review board for the Clinical Advancement and Recognition Program, and Laurie Bloom, RN (second from right in top photo and far right in bottom photo), associate chief nurse for professional development and research, posed with clinical nurse III (top) and clinical nurse IV honorees who attended the event. Congratulations to all!
Awards

Excellence in Emergency Nursing Awards
Two awards for emergency nursing are given each year, one honoring a veteran nurse and the other a novice. Shown above are Jayne Carvelli Sheehan, RN, senior vice president for ambulatory and emergency services; Jane Dufresne, RN, nurse manager in the Berenson Emergency Department; novice awardee Jillian Baker, RN; veteran awardee Kellie Glynn, RN; Richard Wolfe, MD, chief of emergency medicine; and Kirsten Boyd, RN, director of emergency services and associate chief nurse for ambulatory and emergency services.

CVI Excellence in Cardiovascular Nursing Award
John Whitlock, RN (center), was honored with the 2014 award for excellence in cardiovascular nursing. He is congratulated by Kamal Khabbaz, MD, chief of cardiac surgery, and Cindy Phelan, RN, associate chief nurse for the CardioVascular Institute.

Harris Yett, MD, Award for Excellence in Orthopaedic Nursing Care
Nikita Hanley, RN/NP, was the recipient of the excellence award in orthopaedic nursing.

Excellence in Surgical Critical Care Nursing Award
Alan Lisbon, MD (left), executive vice chair of anesthesia, critical care, and pain medicine, presented an award for excellence in surgical critical care nursing to Ben Thomas, RN.

Excellence in Neuro Critical Care Nursing Award
Erica Rivituso, RN, was congratulated by Khalid Hanafy, MD, co-director of the neuro intensive care unit, for being this year’s recipient of an excellence award for neuro critical care nursing.
Excellence in Hematology/Oncology Nursing Awards
Lauren Czapla, RN/NP (center), was one of two recipients of an excellence award for hematology/oncology nursing. She is shown with Jayne Carvelli Sheehan, RN, senior vice president for ambulatory and emergency services, and James Levine, MD, clinical director of the bone marrow transplant/hematologic malignancy service. Also receiving this award was Amanda Brennan, RN.

Appointments
Kirsten Boyd, RN, director of emergency services and associate chief nurse for ambulatory and emergency services, has announced two nursing leadership appointments.

Shelley Calder, RN, has been promoted to program director of ambulatory and emergency nursing education. Calder came to BIDMC eight years ago as the clinical nurse specialist in the Berenson Emergency Department. In that role, she has provided leadership on numerous initiatives, including the ED electronic nursing record, comprehensive staff orientation and competency-based training, and myriad Lean improvement projects. In her new role, Calder will oversee competency-based training for nurses throughout the ambulatory division, and will provide key leadership in policy and practice development. Boyd notes, “I have full confidence that Shelley will be successful in this work as she partners with me in continuing to grow our ambulatory nursing practice.” Calder shares, “I am passionate about nursing education and thrilled to impact the quality and delivery of nursing care at the service line level. I look forward to partnering with frontline staff and leadership to create an educational framework that will be both standardized and sustainable for all ambulatory and emergency nurses.”

Michelle Sheppard, RN, has been appointed nurse manager of the Digestive Disease Center. Sheppard was formerly nurse manager for the West Procedural Center, and most recently has been working on Lean process improvement projects through the Office of Business Transformation. Before coming to the medical center as a clinical nurse in 2006, Sheppard was the director of nursing at Hebrew Senior Life at Orchard Cove. She is looking forward to bringing her varied skills to her new role, commenting, “I am taking the skills I learned from the Lean experience to my new position as nurse manager. We have many improvement projects underway. I hope to help lead the continued growth and improvement efforts in the unit for the benefit of both patients and staff.” Says Boyd, “We are excited Michelle has returned to nursing leadership within the ambulatory division. She brings a strong nursing clinical foundation with a talent for operational leadership and efficiency.”

Department of Surgery and Joseph M. Koufman Foundation Awards for Excellence in the Care of Surgical Patients and in Perioperative Care
Elliot Chaikof, MD, surgeon-in-chief and chair of the Roberta and Stephen R. Weiner Department of Surgery, presented awards for excellence in surgical and perioperative care to Ruth Adomunes, RN; Darlene Sweet, RN; and Mary (Mimi) Gallo, RN/NP.
Support staff honored with awards

Nurses once again gathered to honor the work of two groups of staff who provide critical support for patient care at the medical center, and to recognize individual staff with excellence awards. Unit coordinators received awards on April 23 in the categories of Patient and Family Experience, Spirit, and Overall Excellence. Patient care technicians (PCTs) gathered on June 20, and awards were presented in the categories of Environmental Champion, Spirit, Patient Advocate, and Overall Excellence. Six PCTs were also recognized for longstanding service to the medical center, representing a combined 210 years of service! Congratulations to all!

Marie Voltaire (center), PCT on Reisman 12, was named this year’s PCT Environmental Champion. Reisman 12 nurse manager, Gina Murphy, RN (left), and Marsha Maurer, RN, senior vice president for patient care services and chief nursing officer, presented the award.

Martha Clinton (center), PCT on Reisman 12, received an award for Overall Excellence. She is shown with her nurse manager, Gina Murphy, RN (left) and Marsha Maurer, RN, senior vice president for patient care services and chief nursing officer. Natalie Dixon, PCT on CC7A, also received an Overall Excellence Award.

Suzanne Joyner, RN (far left), nurse manager in the SICU, joined Marsha Maurer, RN (far right), senior vice president for patient care services and chief nursing officer, in congratulating Spirit Award winners Raysa Acosta (center left) and her sister, Jazmin Acosta, who are both PCTs in the SICU. Kate (Cookie) Randall, PCT on Farr 3, also received a Spirit Award.

Two PCTs were recognized by colleagues for being outstanding patient advocates. Shown are Sheri Paquette, RN, clinical advisor on Farr 3; Pam Browall, RN, CCU/Farr 3 nurse manager; awardee Lydie Tchiewa, PCT on Farr 3; awardee Nadia Voltaire, PCT on Reisman 12; Gina Murphy, RN, nurse manager on Reisman 12, and Marsha Maurer, RN, senior vice president for patient care services and chief nursing officer.
At the PCT awards event in June, six of the longest-serving PCTs were recognized for a combined 210 years of commitment to quality patient care at the medical center.

Angelina Santa (center), unit coordinator on Feldberg 7, was recognized with the Patient and Family Experience Award. Congratulating Santa are Nancy Cormier, RN (left), resource nurse on Feldberg 7, and Chris Garabedian, RN, nurse manager on Feldberg 7.

Two unit coordinators were honored with Spirit Awards. Shown are Barbara DiTullio, RN, nurse manager in the OR; Jaclyn Glenn, RN, clinical nurse in the OR; awardee Lynn Jones, unit coordinator in the east campus OR; Deborah Kelley, unit coordinator on Farr 2; and Denise Corbett-Carbonneau, RN, nurse manager on Farr 2.

Barbara Bennett and Pedro Teque, both PCTs in the CCU, were also honored for their years of service. Bennett has been at the medical center for 35 years, and Teque for 42.
S
he entered my care that Friday night. As her stretcher wheeled by, her gray curls bounced around her otherwise youthful face. While I could see how her whole face grimaced, she politely attempted a smile as she saw me – a smile that announced her kind and giving nature. I knew right away that I would need to contact the admitting hospitalist for pain medication.

When I went to greet this 45-year-old woman, I learned that for nearly two years she had been treating herself with high doses of ibuprofen for gradually worsening abdominal pain. Although she had gone to an outside primary care provider when the pain first started, she had not completed a workup and had not returned when the pain got worse.

It was obvious that she was ill, and I worried about what may actually have been transpiring. I alerted the hospitalist to come as soon as possible as I kept her comfortable with pain medication and emotional support, and prepared her for the many tests that would ensue.

As we talked, she confided that she was afraid of being sick and that she had never been one to put herself first. She worked as an aide for an elderly neighbor, and she was afraid of how her hospitalization would affect her job and her family members, who depended on her income. She worried about her client and who would care for her. She worried about her husband. She worried about her drug-addicted son, for whom she provided financial support. She feared that if she got sick, her son could end up on the streets. The more she spoke, the more it became clear that she was the glue holding many lives together. I could tell that I needed to help her coordinate resources and a support network to care not only for her own needs, but also those of her dependents. This was the only way she would be able to focus on herself for a change.

She was a caretaker by career and by nature. When asked about the increasing pain she endured over the last months, she’d say, “I would just ignore the pain because everyone needed me.” I listened to her, validated her fears, and connected her with the social worker and case manager to help talk about her situation and consider her options during her hospitalization. I helped her arrange for a relative from out-of-state to come in to help her family members at home. I helped her think through what she would say to her elderly client.

As we continued to build a plan, I held her hand, small-framed, tender. It was this gentle hand that I held as her test results came back. She was found to have advanced colon cancer, which had spread to the lungs and liver. As the news came forward, I held her as she cried. When I left the room briefly so she could rest, I saw the attending surgeon. He shared, “It’s a shame. If only this had been caught sooner, her life may have been saved. It’s too late now.” Later, I sat with her as she reviewed her options for treatment, and we talked about how she could tell her family what was happening. She summoned amazing strength and agreed to have palliative surgery and chemotherapy. Despite all of our work and dedication, what we could not do was eradicate

"It is the desire to un-write this patient’s story that led me to enroll in a graduate nursing program that will prepare me as a family nurse practitioner."
the reality that hung even heavier: early screening and treatment could have saved her life.

I replayed the words of the surgeon in my mind: “Too late now.” I thought: What prevented her from following up on her initial complaint? How could this have happened? How could this be prevented? Her life could have been saved. I know how to be an inpatient nurse. I monitor my patients closely, know the signs and symptoms to look for, and know how to proactively prevent adverse effects. I know how to actively listen, to sort through the minute clinical judgments to see the big picture, and how to collaborate with my colleagues. I have saved lives by catching the early signs of bleeding or bowel perforation and have advocated for the comfort and peace of mind of my patients. But what this moment solidified for me was that even though I can be very effective as an inpatient nurse, I can only help my patients once they are already sick. This patient helped me realize that despite all of my health promotion interventions, I cannot go back in time and prevent a patient’s admission in the first place.

Or can I?

It is the desire to un-write this patient’s story that led me to enroll in a graduate nursing program that will prepare me as a family nurse practitioner. My graduate program and the immense learning I gain each day on Stoneman 5 have allowed me to further mature as a nurse. I no longer look at my patients merely in terms of their admitting diagnoses. I now look at each patient’s whole self, thinking: How can I help improve this person’s entire health? How can I prevent the next hospitalization?

My patient taught me the importance of not taking anything for granted. She deserved to have a full work-up, to have a better understanding of what was happening to her, to feel like a partner in her health care, and to be part of a system in which she could feel comfortable speaking up about her own needs. After devoting herself to others, she taught me how each and every person deserves this dignity and that each of us in health care cannot assume someone else is going to fulfill this role. I will always thank this amazing woman for her service and what she has done to help me strive to be the provider that perhaps could have put her life on a different course. And I will always thank Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center for giving me the support and learning to become part of this solution.

Identifying details in this case have been changed to protect patient confidentiality.

Beth Kinsella is a 2014 recipient of a BIDMC Red Sox Scholarship, which supports select staff pursuing academic degrees in nursing.

“I no longer look at my patients merely in terms of their admitting diagnoses. I now look at each patient’s whole self, thinking: How can I help improve this person’s entire health? How can I prevent the next hospitalization?”

Beth Kinsella, RN
Academic progression in nursing

BIDMC supports a continuum of nursing studies

In 2010, the Institute of Medicine issued its landmark report, The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health.¹ The report highlights the need for transformative improvements in the US health care system, and outlines the critical role nurses should play in this process. It goes on to say that improvements in the system as a whole will require “transforming the work environment, scope of practice, education, and numbers of American nurses.”

One of the key recommendations put forth to achieve this aim was: “Nurses should achieve higher levels of education and training through an improved education system that promotes seamless academic progression.” Laurie Bloom, RN, associate chief nurse for professional development and research, says the longstanding culture of excellence and scholarship at BIDMC has led to robust support of academic advancement for nurses, which dates back to before the IOM report. She notes, “I think BIDMC is really a model for the nation on this issue. We’ve been out ahead of the curve on this, providing monetary, logistical, and moral support for so many staff pursuing nursing degrees at all levels.”

Here are profiles of just four of the many staff who have recently benefited from this support.

Oran Barber, RN

Oran Barber, RN, first came to the medical center 17 years ago as a photographer in radiology. A graduate of the New England School of Photography, he was one of two photographers hired by the radiology department to work on a number of projects related to photos and images. “This was before digital photography,” he recalls. “Radiology is all about imaging, and they really needed people who understood imaging in order to help with things like making slides of x-rays and CT scans, or helping make prints that the radiologists would use for publications.” Barber’s work eventually moved to media services at BIDMC, where he continued to gain experience in health care settings. He recalls, “I did a lot of work with nurses, photographing them at events or at their work. I could tell they were very invested in the job and genuinely enjoyed it.” Barber’s move to nursing came during a time when the medical center’s office of workforce development, in partnership with patient care services, was offering a pipeline program that would lead to an initial nursing degree. He took the leap and changed careers. He says, “Given my personality and what I’d seen of the profession, I thought I would enjoy it.”

Barber completed his associate’s degree at Bunker Hill Community College in 2010, and began working on Farr 9 a few months later. Not long after starting the job, he was encouraged to continue his education by pursuing a bachelor’s degree in nursing at UMass Boston. Although busy learning the ropes as a new nurse, and with a wife and young children at home, he enrolled. In addition to tuition reimbursement, he received an Aron and Celia Steinberg Scholarship, and the BIDMC career-development Chayet Scholarship in 2013. Currently in his final semester, Barber says he has learned a lot, and has encouraged others on his unit to apply for scholarships. He says, “It seems like everybody is back in school, which is what I think the scholarship program is designed to do. But what’s best about it is that it’s not just helping the individuals at the medical center; it’s helping the profession as a whole.”
Romelyn Higgins, RN, got her initial nursing degree at a community college in Alabama. She came to Boston on a travel assignment – a stop that was meant to be “the first of several” assignments with the travel agency. But plans changed for Higgins when she started working on MICU-7. She recalls, “BIDMC was my second assignment. I loved it so much, I just stayed.” She became part of what she calls an “amazing” staff. She says, “The environment here is very nurturing. There is camaraderie. We celebrate all of each other’s achievements. Once you’re here, you want to stay.” In 2009, Higgins became a student at UMass Boston, studying part-time for her bachelor’s degree. After completing the bachelor’s program, she felt the tug to go on. She says, “We have a really good group of experienced nurses who really know their practice. Our clinical nurse specialist, Sharon O’Donoghue, is wonderful. She is always up to date on whatever research is out there. Working with all these nurses just started to stoke the fire for me. I really want to understand more about what I’m doing. I’m very proud of being a nurse. I felt like with a master’s degree, I could do more.” With the help of BIDMC scholarships and the support of her colleagues, Higgins recently graduated from UMass Boston and will take the licensing exam for nurse practitioners in July.

Higgins has been amazed at how she has been surrounded by BIDMC nurses during her educational journey. Maura Brain, RN/NP, nurse practitioner in Healthcare Associates, mentored Higgins in her master’s program. And Higgins’s capstone project was related to care of underserved populations and the work of Eileen Stuart-Shor, RN/NP, PhD, a nurse practitioner in preadmission testing at BIDMC and associate professor of nursing at UMass. Higgins traveled with Stuart-Shor to Kenya in 2013 to participate in Stuart-Shor’s ongoing work in that region to improve cardiovascular outcomes in the local population. As for the future, Higgins’ next steps are a prime example of so-called “seamless academic progression.” She is set to begin a doctoral program at Northeastern University in the fall.

A graduate of Fairfield University, Barbara Rosato, RN/NP, a nurse practitioner in Healthcare Associates (HCA), first came to the medical center in 1991 as a clinical nurse on Farr 9, which was the vascular unit at the former Deaconess Hospital. She cared for a lot of patients with diabetes, which would come to influence her future practice. While still working at the Deaconess, she enrolled in a master’s degree program at Northeastern University and became an adult nurse practitioner. She has worked in primary care at the Deaconess since that time. Rosato has also been very involved in advocating for nursing in the broader professional arena. She served as president of the Massachusetts Coalition of Nurse Practitioners (MCNP) from 2011-2013, and in 2013 received that organization’s Distinguished Nurse Practitioner of the Year Award. Currently, she is serving on the Scope of Practice Committee of the Massachusetts Action Coalition – one of the 50 state-level groups charged with implementing the Future of Nursing recommendations at the local level.

Upon finishing her term as president of the MCNP, Rosato began exploring doctoral programs in nursing. She says the impetus was an increasing love for teaching, noting, “Ideally, I see my career blending clinical work and teaching. I enjoy the educator role. After serving several

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“I love academics,” says Maura Brain, RN/NP, a nurse practitioner in Healthcare Associates and a student in the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program (DNP) at UMass Boston. “I’m one of those people who can always be taking a class.” Brain, who received the Alexander and Brenda Tanger Scholarship in 2013 and a BIDMC Nursing Scholarship in 2014, got her initial nursing degree from the University of Pennsylvania. While in school, the Boston-area native began hearing about the implementation of primary nursing at the former Beth Israel Hospital. She remembers thinking, “That’s right in my backyard,” so she made plans to interview for a summer job following her junior year at Penn. She came on board to work as a nursing assistant and loved the work, which led to her applying for a job as a nurse after graduation.

Brain says she went back for her master’s degree at UMass Boston not long after, and received a dual certification as an adult and geriatric nurse practitioner. It was during a trip to a conference in 2011 that she had what she calls her “a-ha” moment with regard to further nursing education. The conference was given by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement and was about primary care. “Primary care can be very difficult,” she shares. “It’s very challenging to see 10 patients in a row, for 20 minutes each. I went to this meeting, and I was listening to people talk about changes in primary care and reimbursement. It was about making things better. It was an amazing experience.” Back home, she spoke to one of her professors from UMass about the experience and was encouraged to take an online course in quality improvement. She did so, and recalls, “I really got fired up about the power of education to effect real change in healthcare. I started to think about health care in a new way. I was thinking about the broader scope.”

“I really got fired up about the power of education to effect real change in health care. I started to think about health care in a new way. I was thinking about the broader scope.”

1. Institute of Medicine. 2010. The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health
“Boosting” efforts to reduce workplace injuries

Can you help with a boost?” It’s a safe bet that every nurse in practice has heard or said these words, typically many times in the course of a week or even a single shift. Staff team up to “boost” the patient into a more comfortable position in bed, or to lift patients from stretcher to bed and back. But all this is changing at BIDMC as part of the “Safe Patient Handling” initiative, designed to prevent staff lifting injuries while keeping patients safe during moves and position changes. All units now have access to either installed ceiling lifts or portable lifting devices. But Jacki Chechile, PT, and colleague Meghan Church, PT, clinical coordinators for the initiative, say that installing equipment is only part of the solution. A critical element to the program’s success involves having nursing leaders and identified RN and PCT champions working with the staff on what is essentially a change in the culture of care.

Robin McLaughlin, RN, unit-based educator on CC7, is one such leader. She has helped spearhead work on her unit to increase the use of the lifts. When CC7 saw a spike last year in injuries related to patient handling, McLaughlin and her job-share partner Suzanne Burger, RN, redoubled their education efforts, working directly on the unit with staff to more strongly imprint the practice change. New champions were trained, increasing the pool of expert resources. “It was all about building more awareness,” McLaughlin says. “It really is a culture change. You have to convince nurses that it’s going to prolong their nursing careers.” Chechile says this is a serious concern. She reports that research from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health shows that repeatedly lifting more than 35 pounds can cause microfractures in the vertebrae, leaving the lifter prone to a career-ending back injury that can come on at any time – even if no back pain has been present.

On CC7, there hasn’t been a single staff injury related to patient handling since October, when the renewed education efforts were launched. Amanda Brennan, RN, resource nurse on Reisman 11, is now part of a unit-based team working on establishing the same kind of success story on that unit, where ceiling lifts were just recently installed unit-wide. She says that, like the effort on CC7, helping staff to resist the urge to “just boost” the patient requires frequent reminders, but is starting to yield results. Her mantra is simple: “We are protecting ourselves while providing exceptional patient care.”

Nurse leaders from Haiti visit BIDMC

In June, four nurse leaders from Haiti spent one day a week at BIDMC, as part of an innovative program administered by Regis College. The Regis College Haiti Project is an international development project, designed to improve the health care system in Haiti through the education of nurse leaders. Nurses from Haiti participate in an advanced education and leadership program, culminating in a master’s degree. During their time at BIDMC, the visitors observed patient care, focusing largely on how nurses leverage their expertise to improve care at the individual and systems levels. They also observed the use of innovative clinical informatics and technology. Left, BIDMC nurse educator Jenny Thomas, RN (far right), demonstrates eMAR, BIDMCs new electronic medication administration record. Visitors are (left to right) Manuchka Alcime, RN; Emmeline Leonidas, RN; Nicole Sully-Guerrier, RN; and Carine Jean-Baptiste, RN.
Spotlights

Professional activities of nursing staff (listed in bold)

Presentations

Rosanne Buck. The NICLIP experience: a multidisciplinary approach to improvement and costs in prevention of NICU CLABs. 17th Annual Neonatal Advanced Practice Nursing Forum, Washington, DC.

Elena Canacari, Barbara DiTullio, Femino M, and Gupta A. Remembering the third Monday in April. AORN Surgical Conference and Expo, Chicago, Ill.


Elena Canacari and Mews P. Perioperative efficiency. AORN Surgical Conference and Expo, Chicago, Ill.

Elena Canacari, Dorothy Sarno, Graue R, and Simon B. Predictive model to improve OR efficiency. AORN Surgical Conference and Expo, Chicago, Ill.


Jean Christoffersen. Best faculty practices when teaching the accelerated second-degree BSN student: educators across the United States share their wisdom. American Psychiatric Nurses Association, New England Chapter, Newport, R.I.


Charlotte Guglielmi. Patient safety…progress and insights; and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center response to the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings. Texas Council of Operating Room Nurses, Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas.

Charlotte Guglielmi, Banschbach S, Graling P, Dort J, and Paige J. Sustaining a culture of safety: are we one step forward or three steps back? AORN Surgical Conference and Expo, Chicago, Ill.

Charlotte Guglielmi and Robinson A. Evidence-based value analysis: an objective assessment of costs. OR Manager, OR Business Manager Conference, New Orleans, La.


Media appearances

Daniel Nadworny appeared on WGBH news in April 2014, speaking about the hospital’s response to the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing.

Professional leadership and consultation

Patricia Bourie is participating in a National Coalition for Alarms Management.

Donna Clarke was appointed visiting scholar at Curry College.

Barbara DiTullio was elected to the Board of Directors for AORN Massachusetts Chapter 1.

Barbara Donovan was appointed visiting scholar at Curry College.

Patricia Fleck was appointed clinical faculty at Northeastern University.

Charlotte Guglielmi was elected president of the AORN Foundation Board of Trustees.

She was elected president of AORN Massachusetts Chapter 1.

She was appointed to the 2014-2015 AORN Simulation Task Force.

Madeline (Nena) Hicks was elected to the Nominating Committee of AORN Massachusetts Chapter 1.

Jodi Purches was appointed clinical Instructor at Boston College.

Eternal Degrees

Priscilla Boyer, bachelor of science in nursing, Regis College

Julia Cowell, master of science in nursing, Emmanuel College

Romelyn Higgins, master of science, University of Massachusetts Boston

Jeffrey Keane, bachelor of science, University of Massachusetts Boston

Lynn Mackinson, master of science, Boston College

Katherine Rielly, bachelor of science, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

Elizabeth Rose, bachelor of science in nursing, Simmons College
Emily Silver, master of science, University of Massachusetts Boston

Judy Sinclair, bachelor of science, University of Massachusetts Boston

Hieu Tieu, bachelor of science in nursing, MGH Institute of Health Professions

Certifications

Julia Cowell was certified in holistic nursing.

Linda Garrity was certified in emergency nursing.

Alison Woods was certified in critical care nursing.

Awards/honors

Lorraine Britting was nominated as Senior Fellow in Hospital Medicine by the Society of Hospital Medicine. She was nominated to the Membership Committee of the Society of Hospital Medicine.

Elena Canacari and Barbara DiTullio received grants from the AORN Foundation to attend the Inaugural Executive Nurse Symposium held at the AORN Surgical Conference and Expo, Chicago, Ill.

Patricia Fleck received a grant from the National Association of Neonatal Nurses to fund her doctoral research entitled, Mother’s Lived Experience During Repair of Long-gap Esophageal Atresia: A Phenomenological Inquiry.

Marie Mahony received a full scholarship to attend the Thrombosis and Hemostasis Summit of North America in Chicago, Ill.

Robin McLaughlin was named a regional finalist in the category of clinical nursing, inpatient, for the 2014 New England Gem Award, sponsored by Nurse.com.

Publications


Community leadership, consultation & outreach

Nicole Roux was the nurse representative at the Wells Maine High School Career Day, Wells, Maine.

Clinical advancements

To clinical nurse III

Joelle Bent, RN
Amy Calkins, RN
Kendra Conlon, RN
Stephanie Ferrara, RN
Kacy Gillis, RN
Elizabeth Kinsella, RN
Barbara Luker, RN
Aimee Milliken, RN
Lisa Mirabella, RN
Khara Sylvester, RN

To clinical nurse IV

Alice Bradbury, RN
Lilian Castillo, RN
Jaclyn Glenn, RN
Jenny Jones, RN
Jeffrey Keane, RN
Bonnie Lake, RN
Karen Legere, RN
Bridget Scanlon, RN
Sheryl Smith, RN

Nursing News Brief

An update on professional nursing from the Lois E. Silverman Department of Nursing at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

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Kudos

Congratulations to Marsha Maurer, RN, senior vice president for patient care services and chief nursing officer, and Jane Foley, RN, associate chief nurse for critical care and medical/surgical services, west campus, on being elected to office in the Organization of Nurse Leaders (ONL) of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Maurer was elected as Boston regional representative to the ONL Board, and Foley to the Nominating Committee. Both will serve two-year terms. ONL is the local affiliate of the American Organization of Nurse Executives.

Marsha Maurer, RN
Jane Foley, RN
Giving back

I think for most of us, nursing was something we chose in order to do good in the world. We wanted to make a difference. Yes, we were excited to learn the science and skills that come with the job, and we found it immensely satisfying to bring that knowledge to bear in our work. But I think that core nugget of wanting to do something for others is what got most of us started, and remains a prime motivator for all we do.

My message in this space for the last few issues has concerned the idea of what it means to be accountable professionals, and how this translates to a professional mandate to provide both internal and external leadership on matters that impact our care for patients and families. I think an additional component of this idea concerns the notion of “giving back;” the idea of staying in touch with the core value in nursing that is all about doing good, for its own sake. We are accountable at the bedside, and we provide leadership in the broader professional world. And threaded through this work is evidence of our commitment to making the world a better place.

This is our celebratory “awards” issue of Nursing News Brief, and examples of that commitment abound. For the last seven years, BIDMC nurses have chosen to forgo receiving a personal gift from the hospital during National Nurses Week, and have instead directed that funds set aside for that gift be donated to worthy causes in our community. That’s doing good for its own sake. We are accountable at the bedside, and we provide leadership in the broader professional world. And threaded through this work is evidence of our commitment to making the world a better place.

We’re going on press with this issue just after our July 4th holiday. It reminds me of how fortunate we are as a nation, and how that fortune extends to the enormous privilege we have of working side-by-side with extraordinary professionals in conditions that would be the envy of so many in our wider world. It gives me great pleasure to know that we, as a nursing community, do not take these gifts for granted. I’m proud that we are finding so many ways to extend our capacity as caring professionals to spread goodness in the world.