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MGH INSTITUTE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF THE BOSTON GRADUATE SCHOOL FOUNDED BY MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

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Forty for 40 Graduates Making a Difference
IHP Highly Ranked by U.S. News & World Report

We are proud that all our eligible programs* have received high marks from U.S. News, confirming what we already knew: that the IHP is one of the best health professions graduate schools in the country.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
✓ 1st in New England
✓ Tied for 7th in U.S.

DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
✓ 1st in New England
✓ Tied for 8th in U.S.

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE
✓ 3rd in New England
✓ Tied for 50th in U.S.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING
✓ 6th in New England
✓ Tied for 63th in U.S.

*The Doctor of Occupational Therapy and Master of Physician Assistant Studies programs are not yet eligible to be ranked.
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Paula Milone-Nuzzo, PhD, RN, FHHC, FAAN, arrived on campus August 15 to begin her term as the MGH Institute’s sixth president.

“I am thrilled to have the opportunity to provide leadership to the MGH Institute,” said Dr. Milone-Nuzzo, who also will hold the position of John Hilton Knowles Professor. “The focus on interprofessional education and practice as well as team science has positioned the Institute to be a leader in the improvement of health care. I look forward to working with the community in creating that future.”

Dr. Milone-Nuzzo spent the past 14 years in leadership roles at the College of Nursing at The Pennsylvania State University, serving as dean and professor since 2008. She is a widely published and nationally recognized nursing leader who led the college to new heights in research activity and academic reputation.

“I am thrilled to have the opportunity to provide leadership to the MGH Institute.”

“Dr. Milone-Nuzzo’s national reputation as a collaborative program builder and as a recognized leader in helping to shape health professions education makes her the ideal choice to lead the MGH Institute into a new era,” said MGH Institute Board of Trustees Chair George E. Thibault, MD, president of the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation.

She succeeds Janis P. Bellack, PhD, RN, FAAN, ANEF, who led the IHP from 2007–2017.

Workforce development and health care careers have been the focus of Dr. Milone-Nuzzo’s scholarly activities. Shortly after her arrival at Penn State in 2003, then-Governor of Pennsylvania Ed Rendell appointed her to the Pennsylvania Center for Health Careers, where she served on the Leadership Council for six years. In 2015, she was named chair of the advisory board for the Pennsylvania Action Coalition of the Future of Nursing: Campaign for Action—an organization whose goal is transforming the nursing profession to better meet the nation’s health needs.

Prior to Penn State, Dr. Milone-Nuzzo served as associate dean for Academic Affairs and professor of Nursing Management and Policy at Yale University School of Nursing, and before that was on the nursing faculty at Southern Connecticut State University for nine years.

Among her many awards are the Distinguished Colleague Award from the Pennsylvania Higher Education Nursing Schools Association, the Service Award from the Pennsylvania Center for Health Careers, the Beverly Koerner Outstanding Alumni Award for Education in Nursing from the University of Connecticut, the Nightingale Award for Excellence in Nursing, and the Leader of Leader Award from the National Student Nurses Association.

She is a Fellow of the National Association for Home Care and Hospice, and a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, for which she currently serves as treasurer and board member.

During her career, Dr. Milone-Nuzzo has been awarded more than $2.2 million in external funding to support her research in home health care, primary care nursing, and care for the elderly.

Before arriving at the IHP, she was a member of the Board of Directors at Mount Nittany Health System, chairing its Medical Center Board of Directors.

Dr. Milone-Nuzzo received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Boston College, Master of Science in Nursing in Community Health Nursing and Education from the University of Connecticut, and PhD in Higher Education Administration from the University of Connecticut. She also completed an invitational post-doctoral seminar in Gerontological Research at the Hartford Institute at New York University.
Jeanette Ives Erickson, DNP ’11, RN, FAAN, is Chief Nurse and Senior Vice President for Nursing & Patient Care Services at Massachusetts General Hospital, a position she has held for the past 21 years. She is responsible for clinical practice, research, education, and community service, serving 5,600 nurses, health professionals, and support staff.

Dr. Ives Erickson holds faculty appointments as instructor at Harvard Medical School, and professor at the MGH Institute. A 2011 graduate of the Institute’s Doctor of Nursing Practice program, she has served on the IHP Board of Trustees for the past eight years. She also chairs the Chief Nurse Council of Partners HealthCare.

As you get ready to step down from your current role at Massachusetts General Hospital, what accomplishments are you most proud of?

Jeanette Ives Erickson: There are so many important outcomes that have been achieved because of the magnificent people I have been blessed to work with. The success of the interprofessional care delivery model and supporting infrastructure have led to improvements in patient outcomes, patient and staff satisfaction, and numerous improvements in safety. I have experienced an amazing amount of joy working with clinicians and support staff who care so deeply about the health and well-being of people. In addition, through dissemination of our work via presentations and publications, we have impacted care delivery, education, and research nationally and internationally.

What are you planning for the next chapter of your MGH career?

JIE: Where do I begin? I have several areas I want to focus on including work in the hospital’s international efforts, Partners 2.0, and fundraising. In addition, I’ll have the opportunity to expand my program of research which has focused on studying components of strong, professional practice environments for all members of the health care team. I am honored to be the inaugural incumbent of the Paul M. Erickson Endowed Chair in Nursing at Mass. General, named after my husband Paul, to be able to have funding for the expansion of this research.

How do you see health care changing in the next five years?

JIE: One only needs to read the important words guiding Partners 2.0 to understand the future: Reinventing clinical care for better individual and community health, modernizing education, and accelerating science and discovery to provide greater understanding of human disease, better clinical care, and improved patient health. As we make redesign decisions, we must always keep our eyes on the patients and families to guide us.

As someone who has worked with many Institute graduates, what stands out to you about them?

JIE: IHP graduates are known for being smart, innovative, and forward-thinking clinicians and leaders. Massachusetts General is fortunate to partner with the IHP in many areas including clinical training, classroom education, and in the arena of research.

“The IHP is a world-class organization with an opportunity to address the changing health care landscape with new models to modernize education.”

As the Institute transitions to a new leader, what opportunities do you see?

JIE: Always with a new leader there is an opportunity to step back, listen, question, and work with others to generate new ideas. The IHP is a world-class organization with an opportunity to address the changing health care landscape with new models to modernize education. Its future is bright.
The first classes in the MGH Institute’s newest programs, and the retirement of several key members of the community, were among the highlights at the 2017 Commencement ceremonies.

Students in the Doctor of Occupational Therapy and Master of Physician Assistant Studies programs were among the 557 new graduates—the largest class in school history—at the May 6 event at the Boston Convention and Exposition Center. (Story, page 7.)

The day-long ceremony also was the final graduation for President Janis P. Bellack, who retired in June after leading the IHP since 2007.

In her keynote address, Dr. Bellack implored the new graduates to follow the school’s mission to become everyday leaders, both professionally and personally. “Embrace differences in the people you encounter in life—people whose appearance, life experiences, beliefs, values, status, social class, culture, and viewpoints are different than yours,” she said. “See these as opportunities to learn about and from them, and seek to understand them. In doing so, you will not only broaden your perspectives, you will become a person richer in spirit.”

She also said, “Being an everyday leader means having the courage to take risks, and the agility to navigate complexity, ambiguity, and uncertainty. You will have to design your way forward, using your best critical-thinking and clinical judgment skills to make evidence-based practice decisions in the best interest of your patients.”

Board Chair Dr. George Thibault lauded Bellack when presenting her with the title of President Emerita. “Your decade of leadership has brought us to a place we could not have imagined when you assumed the helm in 2007,” said Dr. Thibault. “Throughout your time as president, you have always kept your attention focused squarely on the students we are educating to become tomorrow’s health care leaders, and on the faculty and staff who make the Institute such a special place and assure its continuing excellence. I’m confident saying that the many students, faculty, staff, alumni, and trustees have all benefited from your vision, wisdom, and enduring commitment to the Institute.”

Dr. Charles A. Sanders, who helped found the MGH Institute in the 1970s as general director of Massachusetts General Hospital, received an honorary Doctor of Science degree. His daughter, Trustee Elizabeth “Trish” Joyce, accepted the award in his absence.
The Opportunity to Be Trailblazers

For Sarah Nowak and Cora Finley, choosing to attend the MGH Institute was the proverbial offer they couldn’t refuse.

After all, the two women would be members of the school’s two newest programs, Finley in the three-year Doctor of Occupational Therapy starting in 2014, Nowak in the two-year Master of Physician Assistant Studies starting in 2015. And while they could have taken a safe approach and gone to more established programs in their respective fields, they choose to be trailblazers.

“It was a chance to help build the foundations of a great PA program,” explains Nowak. “That’s something I wanted to be a part of.”

“Being able to be a part of shaping the OT program in its infancy was half-exciting and half-terrifying,” adds Finley with a laugh. “But it was cool to be on the front lines and definitely worth it.”

Finley, Nowak, and their classmates are taking their respective fields’ board exams in preparation for landing their first jobs, meaning that the first wave of OT and PA graduates soon will be representing the IHP along with the school’s more than 7,200 other alumni.

Finley arrived at the IHP with a dual degree in Spanish and art history from Saint Lawrence University, after having spent several years working at Boston-area nonprofits, where she felt a sense of not being completely fulfilled. That changed the moment she started the OT program.

“[Chair] Lisa Connor and [Director] Regina Doherty really listened to our suggestions, and that was a great feeling,” she says.

Nowak had been a dietitian for a decade after receiving her undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. She had been impressed throughout the years interacting with physician assistants, so she made the decision to leave the familiarity and comfort of her home state and move in 2015 to Boston where she didn’t know a soul.

“When I interviewed at the IHP and met [Director] Lisa Walker and the other faculty, it felt like a natural fit,” she says. “Being in a PA program at a school located in the heart of medical education and part of the Partners HealthCare system was a huge draw. It was the right decision for me.”

Nowak and Finley both noted several commonalities, including the importance of being exposed to the interprofessional IMPACT Practice curriculum, the small class sizes, the rich and varied backgrounds of their classmates, the excellence of the faculty, and a general esprit de corps among fellow students who embraced being trailblazers.

“We felt we were all in it together, that we could make a difference. And when we walked up on the stage during Commencement, it was clear we had done what we came to do.” — New PA graduate Sarah Nowak

The Opportunity to Be Trailblazers

Nowak received the Student Excellence in Service Award.

Finley received the Award for Student Excellence.
On a Mission to Engage

For Jack Gormley, it’s all about engagement.

Gormley, who has been dean of student and alumni services since January, is committed to enhancing the connections between the MGH Institute’s 1,600 students and its 7,200 graduates.

“We want our students and alumni to recognize the lifelong relationships they can develop, both with their classmates and with the IHP,” says Gormley, who has worked in education and student development for 15 years, most recently as dean of students and Title IX coordinator at Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology in New York City. “There’s a whole range of opportunities, such as career development support, continuing education courses, networking, and other benefits, and we’re working to ensure everyone can access these.”

He and his dedicated team assist students with off-campus housing, transportation, co-curricular student life, leadership development opportunities, international student advising, disability services, and career counseling.

The Rhode Island native, who will complete his doctorate of education this fall from Saint John Fisher College, also serves as the Institute’s Title IX coordinator. Working with Human Resources Director Sarah Welch, he leads efforts to raise awareness of gender-based discrimination and misconduct.

“There’s a lot that goes into ensuring all of our students feel welcome and supported both on and off campus,” he says, adding that this responsibility aligns with his lifelong commitment to inclusion, respect, and safety for all. “It’s something everyone at the Institute takes very seriously.”

Upon hiring an alumni/ae affairs manager this fall, Gormley expects to develop a robust plan to support alumni and encourage them to stay connected to their graduate school alma mater.

“I know our alumni recognize how important the Institute is in their professional life,” he says. “We’re going to make it easier for them to take advantage of the connection they started when they took their first class.”

U.S. News, Chronicle Give IHP High Marks

The Institute fared quite well in recent rankings by two national publications.

The Master of Science in Nursing and the Doctor of Nursing Practice programs attained their highest rankings ever in the U.S. News & World Report 2018 Best Graduate Schools list.

Released in March, the rankings placed the direct-entry nurse practitioner program sixth among New England direct-entry master’s programs, fourth for Massachusetts, third for Greater Boston, and 63rd in the country. The post-professional DNP ranked first in Greater Boston, second in Massachusetts, third in New England, and 50th nationally.

“We are thrilled that our faculty, students, and curriculum in the School of Nursing have been recognized for their excellence,” said Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Alex Johnson.


The school’s Doctor of Occupational Therapy and the Master of Physician Assistant Studies will be eligible for future rankings now that they have graduated their first class.

Also, for the second consecutive year, the IHP was the only school in the city of Boston named to The Chronicle of Higher Education’s Honor Roll in the magazine’s prestigious 2017 “Great Colleges to Work For” survey. This is the fourth year in a row the IHP has been named to the honor roll, and the eighth straight year it has been named a “Great College.”
Along the Waterfront

**Students Increase Volunteer Activities**

It was Thanksgiving Day in 2015 when Doctor of Physical Therapy classmates Valerie Rucker and Kaitlyn Burnett started talking while they were volunteering at a soup kitchen. Before the end of their shift, they agreed that it would be a good thing to have an outlet where other students could give back. Fast forward a few months and the IHP Acts of Service student club became a reality.

“We realized there was a need for an outlet like this at the IHP,” says Burnett, who like Rucker will graduate in 2018, “and there’s been a great response.”

The pair, along with fellow executive board members Adriana Saldana DPT ’18, Desiann Anglin, DPT ’18, and Misha Gabrielyan, DPT ’19, has organized monthly events where dozens of students, despite their intensive classroom and clinical responsibilities, have volunteered with kids and adults.

“We want to be able to make these efforts sustainable so a good working relationship can be developed where students will be able to continue volunteering for years to come,” notes Rucker. “We’re happy to have put in the legwork to make that happen.”

Other volunteer-oriented clubs have formed in recent months. IHP Cares for Kids promotes awareness of pediatric health care topics through community involvement. A chapter of Best Buddies International was formed to work with people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities. Students have also begun an informal association working with burn patients from Shriners Hospital who stay at the Constitution Inn, located adjacent to the IHP campus.

**Students Increase Volunteer Activities**

The club, which includes students from all the school’s disciplines, has done such things as prepare and serve a meal at Common Care soup kitchen in Cambridge, host a game night at AstraZeneca Hope Lodge Center in Jamaica Plain for people receiving cancer treatment, and work with the state Department of Conservation and Recreation’s adaptive winter sports program at the Weston Ski Track. They also tapped into organizations that the Institute regularly visits during the annual Community Impact Day event each September.

“‘We want to be able to make these efforts sustainable so a good working relationship can be developed where students will be able to continue volunteering for years to come,” notes Rucker. “We’re happy to have put in the legwork to make that happen.”

**Formulating New Ways to Help ALS Patients**

More than two dozen experts came to the MGH Institute campus this spring to develop a new clinical tool for assessing speech and swallowing difficulties due to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

Hosted by Professor Jordan Green, the Northeast ALS Consortium (NEALS) Bulbar Symposium brought together more than two dozen neurologists and speech-language pathologists from the U.S. and other countries. The working group discussed creating standards to establish diagnostic protocols, which researchers and clinicians can use to monitor speech and swallowing deficits, a condition known as bulbar disease progression, in people with ALS.

The group has developed a draft of protocols it plans to distribute to a wider group of clinicians in the coming months.

“Our goal is to standardize data collection across sites and reduce patient and clinician burden, since ALS patients already undergo clinical testing from multiple health-related disciplines, all of whom consider the disease from their perspective,” says Dr. Green, whose focus is ALS research in the IHP’s Speech and Feeding Disorders Lab. “Developing a reliable and valid bulbar motor assessment that is also brief, inexpensive, and easy to use in clinical settings will go a long way toward improving early diagnosis and ultimately extending the quality of life for our patients.”

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**Green speaks to symposium participants.**

**Rucker (front) with fellow Acts of Service members (l-r) Meghan McKinney, Desiann Anglin, and Adriana Saldana at a recent community event.**
It was in 2012 that the Master of Science in Health Professions Education accepted its first class of scholars into the post-professional program. In the ensuing five years, it has grown to be one of the more successful of its kind in the country.

The program, which takes an interprofessional focus on preparing people to excel in educational leadership, research, and innovation, is part of the Institute’s Center for Interprofessional Studies and Innovation. With the Class of 2017, it has graduated 75 scholars since its inception.

Physicians, nurses, physical and occupational therapists, and speech-language pathologists have completed the online/on-campus hybrid program, using its low-residency format to allow them to continue working full-time and to apply learning immediately where they work.

“One of the wonderful things we’ve done is to develop a common language, if you will, that goes across multiple disciplines,” says Deborah Navedo, the program’s director, who is also a certified nurse educator and whose PhD is in the area of higher education administration. “There is a long history of physicians teaching physicians, and nurses teaching nurses, but there was a need to develop an interprofessional approach so that health professionals can work together more easily.”

Collaborations with two prestigious Boston-area organizations, the Harvard-Macy Institute and Center for Medical Simulation, have allowed students from all three programs to take courses and increase their exposure to different kinds of knowledge.

The program has always had a solid international component. About two thirds of the program’s graduates live in the United States, while the remainder are from other countries, which include Singapore as well as several in the Middle East.

“We’ve continued to grow even though dozens of new programs have started in recent years,” says Dr. Navedo, adding that she expects the fall 2017 class to exceed more than 20 scholars from an increasingly competitive applicant pool. “It’s certainly exceeded our expectations.”

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**New Trustee to Add Business Acumen**

When Jim Canfield became Boston real estate firm McCall and Almy’s representative to the MGH Institute, little did he know the depth of the connection he would make.

Canfield, who advises the IHP in various real estate matters, is the newest member of the school’s Board of Trustees and will bring 30 years of business acumen to the table.

He was on the school’s Gala committee in 2015 and 2016, where he really began to understand the school’s mission. So when he was approached about becoming a trustee, it was an easy decision.

“I had the opportunity to see how the Institute is educating some of the best health care professionals in the country,” Canfield said. “I’m really looking forward to helping better position the Institute for the future.”

He has been chair of the Greater Boston Real Estate Board, president of the Real Estate Finance Association and Business Associates Club, and has held several leadership positions at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston, where he currently serves as a director.

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**Health Professions Education Program Observes Its Fifth Anniversary**

Some of the program’s 75 graduates were among those who attended June’s celebration.

Canfield has 30 years of business experience.

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**Along the Waterfront**
Interprofessional Education with a Global Perspective

In the latest example of the MGH Institute advancing interprofessional education, eight students from the school’s five academic programs spent a month in India’s southwestern state of Karnataka this past January, learning with and from each other. Led by School of Nursing Associate Professor Elissa Ladd and Department of Occupational Therapy Associate Professor Mary Hildebrand, the students experienced how their counterparts at Manipal University and affiliate Kasturba Hospital rely on ingenuity, book smarts, and practical skills to treat patients with far fewer resources than what’s available in the United States. Although students observed health care practices within their respective disciplines, throughout their stay they routinely shared details of their experiences with one another and furthered their team-based education from a perspective they began on the Charlestown campus.

“This experience was similar to our intensive IMPACT 2 course,” noted DPT student Lea Noonan, referring to the IHP’s interprofessional curriculum. “I came to better understand and respect the goals and practices of health care professionals in disciplines different from my own, all the while expanding my own knowledge and skill base to a greater degree than I had when I first arrived in India.”

Joining Noonan were Jaime Tirrell and Xiaomeng Wang (SLP), Adam Carreiro (PAS), Caitlin Mahoney and Katy Shea (MS-Nursing), and Ellie Coffin and Jennifer Evans (OTD).

“Students who made the trip to India (l-r): Katy Shea, Jennifer Evans, Ellie Coffin, Caitlin Mahoney, Xiaomeng Wang, Jaime Tirrell-Hassey, Lea Noonan, and Adam Carreiro.

Celebrating the Institute’s 40th

The MGH Institute’s Founders Celebration event in May was an opportunity to commemorate the school’s 40th anniversary.

It featured remarks from Dr. George Thibault, chair of the Institute Board of Trustees; Cathy Minehan, chair of the MGH Board of Trustees; Dr. W. Gerald Austin, chair of the MGH Chiefs’ Council; and Dr. Roman DeSanctis, director emeritus of clinical cardiology.

“We gather tonight to recognize, acknowledge, and celebrate not just the moment of its establishment, but the truly visionary nature that was the very idea of a graduate school of health professions that would educate health care leaders through the integration of theory and clinical practice in an interprofessional environment,” said Minehan, a former Institute trustee.

She lauded IHP founders Dr. John Hilton Knowles, Dr. Charles A. Sanders, and MGH leaders for overcoming the objections of universities in Boston who were against a hospital-based school.

“The Institute that we know and support today proves, as they say, that all who have accomplished great things have had a great aim and have fixed their gaze on a goal that was a high one,” said Minehan. “In its 200-year history of patient care, research, and teaching, the Massachusetts General Hospital has made many significant contributions to health care. We count among them the founding of the Institute.”

Minehan lauded the IHP’s founders for their vision.
WORKING TO AVERT A GLOBAL HEALTH CRISIS

Rita Olans takes a lead role in including nurses in national efforts to prevent antimicrobial resistance.

By Joanne Barker

It was 2011, and Rita Olans had just enrolled in the MGH Institute’s Doctor of Nursing Practice program after four years of STD, TB, and HIV prevention work in the Virgin Islands with her husband, Richard. Richard Olans, the co-chair of antimicrobial stewardship at Hallmark Health Systems, was talking with a colleague about national efforts to make stewardship the norm for all hospitals when she cut into the conversation.

“You need to get nurses involved,” she told them. “Nurses monitor patients 24/7. They do the triage and take the cultures. They take that all-important allergy history. It is the nurse that puts the infectious patient in isolation. This is standard nursing practice, so why aren’t nurses included in the planning?”

Alfred DeMaria Jr, MD, the colleague with whom Dr. Olans’ husband had been speaking, is medical director and state epidemiologist at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. “Rita had this insight that became obvious to us once she identified it,” Dr. DeMaria says. “No one had talked to nurses about the whys and wherefores of stewardship. It was just assumed that nurses would do these things.”

Olans has made the inclusion of nurses in antimicrobial (more commonly known as antibiotic) stewardship programs a cornerstone of her professional work. Using the topic as her capstone project to complete her DNP, the 2013 IHP graduate increasingly has pursued her mission to ensure that nurses—who comprise 80 percent of health care workers—have a seat at the table as experts work to figure out how to prevent a looming crisis of multidrug resistance.

“Part of what drug companies are in business for is to make money, and they do that making Viagra rather than an antibiotic that could become multi-resistant by the time it comes to market,” says Olans, who has been an assistant professor in the School of Nursing since earning her DNP.

Antibiotics revolutionized medicine in the 1940s, providing a cure for infections like tuberculosis and gonorrhea and making complex procedures like organ transplant and open-heart surgery possible. But over time, their healing powers have waned through widespread misuse and overutilization. Superbugs, resistant strains of bacteria impervious to available treatments, have become a serious global threat responsible for 2 million infections and 23,000 deaths in the U.S. each year. The United Nations has compared antibiotic resistance to a slow-motion tsunami. Meanwhile, pharmaceutical companies are devoting ever-fewer resources to developing new antibiotics, citing rising costs and an inability to produce a drug that rapid bacterial mutations don’t render obsolete by the time it is developed.

“This is a looming crisis,” Olans says, her normally smiling face becoming serious. “We have to do something about this quickly because if we don’t there is the possibility that without effective antibiotics, surgery becomes more risky, chemotherapy becomes more risky, and even giving birth becomes more risky.”
**Misuse Runs Deep**

The roots of antibiotic misuse stretch far and wide, into physician’s offices and nursing homes. But some of the most lethal forms of resistance proliferate in hospitals. Up to half of all patients in U.S. hospitals receive antibiotics, but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has determined that more than a third of those prescriptions are inappropriate or unnecessary. “The organisms we’re most concerned about, the ones that have no treatment options, occur in hospitals,” says Arjun Srinivasan, MD, the CDC’s associate director for health care-associated infection prevention programs in its Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion.

This is where antimicrobial stewardship comes in. It is an interdisciplinary approach that engages key players throughout the hospital— infectious disease specialists, pharmacists, microbiologists, physicians—to ensure antibiotics are used thoughtfully, with a close eye on patients’ changing conditions, to prevent resistant strains from developing or spreading.

In 2015, Olans drew on her capstone research in an article for nurse educators. Her co-authors included DeMaria, School of Nursing faculty colleague Dr. Patrice Nicholas, and Diane Hanley, associate chief nursing officer at Hallmark. Later that same year, Olans, her husband, and DeMaria published an article, “The Critical Role of the Staff Nurse in Antimicrobial Stewardship—Unrecognized, but Already There.” in the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases*. It caught the eye of Dr. Srinivasan.

“I read her article and thought it was fantastic,” says Srinivasan, who was heading up a two-year project with the National Quality Forum to develop recommendations for hospitals to implement antimicrobial stewardship programs. “We’d engaged pharmacists, physicians, infectious disease specialists, but not nurses. The article did a wonderful job outlining all the things nurses were already doing on a daily basis.”

Srinivasan emailed Olans and subsequently invited her to Washington, D.C. to participate in a meeting, which culminated in the creation of the National Quality Forum’s landmark “Playbook: Antibiotic Stewardship in Advanced Care.”

Olans speaks regularly to infectious disease physicians, pharmacists, microbiologists, hospital associations, administrators, and nurses across the nation. In 2016, she spoke to the Pew Charitable Trusts and the Colorado Hospital Association about nurses’ roles in stewardship programs, presented at the annual conference of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, and led a meet-the-professor session at the annual scientific meeting of the Infectious Diseases Society of America. She also spoke at the annual meeting of the Society of Healthcare Epidemiology of America this past spring.

She also has joined forces with the American Nurses Association, which had been doing its own work to raise awareness around antibiotic resistance. “Dr. Srinivasan brought Rita’s work to the ANA’s attention,” says Sharon Morgan, the ANA’s senior policy advisor. Morgan considers Olans a kindred spirit: “We are both very interested and outspoken about how nurses can be a bridge between all aspects of care.” With funding from the CDC, the ANA convened an antimicrobial stewardship working group and is using Olans’ work as a framework to better define nurses’ contributions to stewardship efforts. The CDC/ANA will soon publish the joint white paper defining nurses’ role in antimicrobial stewardship.

All of this momentum is good news for health professionals and their patients. “Every time I give a talk, I close it with a photo of my grandson,” says Olans. “Antibiotic resistance is not just a health hazard, it threatens our future. It is going to take every health professional, whether working in acute, long-term care or outpatient care, to address this crisis. This is a local, national, and global imperative. We need to make sure future generations will have ways to manage infections successfully.”

“We have to do something about this quickly because if we don’t there is the possibility that without effective antibiotics, surgery becomes more risky, chemotherapy becomes more risky, and even giving birth becomes more risky.”
hen MGH Institute of Health Professions approached the 40th anniversary of its 1977 founding, it was obvious that every one of the school’s almost 7,200 graduates has a story to tell of how they are making a difference in the world of health care and beyond.

It’s about volunteering in underserved communities, conducting breakthrough research, developing pioneering innovative patient care delivery approaches, leading teams of health professionals.

It’s also about the myriad interactions with patients, clients, and their families—many of which go virtually unnoticed—that mark the impact of our alumni.

The speech-language pathologist helping a person with aphasia relearn how to speak or a pupil overcome reading difficulties. The registered nurse assisting a family whose loved one is gravely ill. The physical therapist urging a person recovering from a knee replacement to finish the day’s rehab by taking just one more step. The physician assistant developing a treatment strategy before a patient returns home. The occupational therapist showing an elderly person better ways to negotiate a new apartment. The nurse practitioner performing a check-up on a youngster or prescribing medicine to an adult.

To all our alumni and current students, we hope you see a little part of yourselves in these 40 profiles. So many of these successes are built on the MGH Institute’s commitment to excellence and interprofessional care. To our friends and supporters, we hope you gain a better understanding of how everyone in the IHP community is making a significant impact in the overall quality of life of patients in the communities in which we work and live.

As we celebrate our first 40 years and look to the future, it’s clear the MGH Institute is poised to continue its mission of educating tomorrow’s health care leaders.

BY JOHN SHAW
Joan Clifford, DNP ’16, RN, FACHE, NEA-BC

Joan Clifford has spent her professional career caring for the country’s veterans. After 37 years in various positions within the Veterans Health Administration, she was appointed in January 2017 as the deputy assistant deputy under secretary for Health for Access to Care for the Veterans Health Administration. This follows her roles as the acting deputy chief nursing officer and the acting deputy assistant deputy under secretary for Health for Access.

A graduate of the VA’s executive career field development program, Dr. Clifford was the deputy nurse executive in the VA Boston health care system for many years, where she became a recognized leader in systems/flow improvement and coaching in nursing leadership at the local, regional, and national levels.

Dr. Clifford is certified as a Fellow in health care management by the American College of Healthcare Executives and as an advanced nursing executive by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. She also was president of the Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs.

Matthew Gallagher, PT, DPT ’08

As a track and cross-country runner in college, Matthew Gallagher knew what it was like to need physical therapy. His experience as a patient motivated him to pursue a career where he could use his experience to help others recover from their injuries.

Nine years after graduating from the IHP, Dr. Gallagher is director of rehabilitation therapy services at the University of Colorado Hospital in Aurora. He oversees a staff of more than 200 physical and occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, and support staff that work in an academic medical center with a 600-bed acute care hospital, 12-bed rehabilitation unit, and four outpatient therapy clinics that in total provide over 160,000 therapy visits annually.

Gallagher, who has an MBA in Health Administration from the University of Colorado Denver, has worked on improving the patient flow on the acute rehab unit, and implementing a quality improvement project in the medical ICU that focused on providing early and intense PT to critically ill patients.

Julie Burrows, MS-SLP ’03, CCC-SLP

Bermuda is a healthier place because of Julie Burrows’ efforts.

Since returning home after earning her Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology degree, Burrows has held a series of positions in which she has advocated for and promoted the importance of identifying and treating communication disorders.

As an SLP at the Department of Health, she has screened the speech and language skills of children between 3-5 years of age, provided speech and language services to preschool, elementary and middle school pupils, informed aging populations about stroke and aphasia, and promoted to high school students the benefits of becoming a speech-language pathologist.

Burrows also has investigated issues pertaining to workplace environment as a Health and Safety Officer at the Department of Health, reviewed standards of practice and codes of ethics specific for practice in Bermuda as a member of the Board of Bermuda Speech-Language Pathology, and also is a clinical fellowship supervisor who mentors new SLP graduates.
Jessica Hennessey has spent her career working to improve the quality of life for children, adolescents, and their families who deal with emotional, behavioral, or developmental disorders.

She is the managing partner for the New England Center for Healthy Minds, which she started in 1988. The Center works to promote a better understanding of mental health, remove the stigma often associated with the condition, and help families bridge the gaps in the mental health system.

A certified medical practice executive and pediatric nurse practitioner, she has generated multi-million dollar revenue growth and exceeded patient care standards through the strategic application of state-of-the-art technology, patient-focused service, and streamlined management practices across a spectrum of health care organizations.

She also is managing director at MetTrimMD in Acton, MA, which works with people to lose excess weight.

Jessica Hennessey, MS-Nursing ’97, RN, CPNP

Nicolette Blanc spent the last three years in the Doctor of Occupational Therapy program doing more than just learning to be an OT from expert faculty.

Blanc was an editor of the Student Occupational Therapy Association’s newsletter, was a panelist at a Schwartz Center Educational Rounds discussion, and was among the first OT students in the school’s S-IHP’s CAP interprofessional program working with aphasia clients at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital.

She also helped launch the OT Center for Learning, Participation, and Rehabilitation (OT CLiPR), a student-led, faculty supervised community clinical center, and was the student speaker at the program’s Commencement award ceremony.

“Nikki distinguished herself very early in the program as a leader among her peers, which the faculty recognized as she advocated for her fellow students and clients,” said OT Chair Lisa Connor. “We appreciate her contributions to our inaugural class and can’t wait to see where her career takes her.”

Nicolette Blanc, OTD ’17
Kathleen Belmonte has devoted her nursing career to helping people thrive while living with diabetes. A certified family nurse practitioner and certified diabetes educator, she has used these skills to lead substantial clinical operations in providing care and support for those living with diabetes and chronic kidney disease.

Belmonte is vice president of clinical services for Fresenius Kidney Care, the dialysis services division of Fresenius Medical Care North America. She leads clinical operations for the largest division of the most comprehensive integrated renal care network in North America and the continent’s leading provider of kidney care products and services.

Prior to joining Fresenius, she served as chief operating officer for Immediate Care LLC, managing platforms for both primary and urgent care facilities in Massachusetts.

Roya Ghazinouri, PT, DPT ’07, MS ’99

Roya Ghazinouri has spent her professional life pioneering new programs and implementing innovative approaches to the delivery of health care.

Dr. Ghazinouri, a native of Iran, is the strategic program manager for the Center for Healthcare Delivery Sciences academic research center at Brigham and Women’s Hospital. She also is the chief operating officer of the non-profit Operation Walk Boston. Each year since its 2008 founding, she has led a multi-disciplinary team of health care providers who perform surgery, provide rehabilitation care, and conduct research at the Plaza de la Salud Hospital in the Dominican Republic.

“It’s the most gratifying thing because we can help so many people improve their quality of life,” she said. “At the end of a mission, you feel pure joy mixed with exhaustion but I can’t wait to go back.”

Kimberly Russell, Certificate-Medical Imaging ’06

Kimberly Russell has had a steady upward trajectory at Massachusetts General Hospital since graduating from the IHP with a post-baccalaureate certificate in medical imaging.

Russell, who was in the program’s inaugural class, began as an outpatient X-ray technologist. Four years later, she decided to move into a management role and was hired as a technical manager at Mass General West Imaging in Waltham, where she managed X-ray, ultrasound, MRI, CAT scan, bone density, and nuclear medicine in addition to administrative personnel in the center.

In 2016, she returned to MGH’s Boston campus as the operations manager of its state-of-the-art breast imaging center.
Alexia Marcous, BSN ’15, RN

It was while volunteering in Haiti in 2012 that Alexia Marcous first decided to become a nurse.

Fast forward three years, and Marcous had received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the Institute. By that time, she had established the Bodhicitta Practice Foundation, funding the charity after selling her interest in Dharma Merchant Services, her family’s green/socially conscious financial services firm in San Francisco that she co-founded with her father.

She has been to the impoverished Caribbean nation 15 more times since that first visit, most often with the Women and Children’s Hope Foundation where she focused on the four things that motivate her: children’s education, women’s health and empowerment, environmental sustainability, and spiritual well-being.

Marcous, who previously worked in software, is a medical-surgical nurse at Brigham and Women’s Hospital. She has spearheaded several initiatives praised by the hospital’s nursing leadership, including a “Guide to Eating After Surgery” for patients and several training programs for her nursing peers.

Dan Dyrek, PT, DPT ’03

One could say that Dan Dyrek was as responsible for championships by Boston professional sports teams as the players themselves.

Dr. Dyrek, a former IHP faculty member for 12 years, was instrumental in keeping Celtic great Larry Bird on the parquet floor of the old Boston Garden, Bruin Patrice Bergeron on the new TD Garden ice, New England Patriots wide receiver David Givens on the field at Gillette Stadium, and Red Sox slugger David Ortiz in the batter’s box at Fenway Park. The athletes all captured their respective sports’ championship, thanks in large part to Dyrek’s behind-the-scenes work.

The founder of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Services in Wellesley, Dyrek also has worked with thousands of professional, Olympic, and collegiate athletes during his 40-year career. For more than two decades, his practice has had a waiting list of over a year, and patients regularly have travelled from across the country for weekly treatments. He continues to consult with professional athletes and teams, and patients throughout the United States and abroad.

Marie Jette, PhD, MS-SLP ’06, CCC-SLP

For Marie Jette, discovering more about local tissue characteristics that cause or contribute to laryngeal inflammation is what drives her research in assessing and treating voice disorders.

Her motivation began as an SLP student in the Massachusetts General Hospital Voice Center, where she developed an interest in medical speech pathology and instrumentation. After graduating from the IHP, she became a practicing clinician and researcher at the MGH Voice Center before going on to earn a PhD in Communication Sciences and Disorders from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Dr. Jette is currently investigating the function of chemical detecting taste buds in a person’s larynx and the role they play in laryngeal inflammation as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. This fall, she will become an assistant professor in the school’s Department of Otolaryngology, where she will divide her time among research, clinical work, and teaching.
For the past several years, Massachusetts Coalition of Nurse Practitioners President Stephanie Ahmed has lobbied the state’s Legislature to pass a bill that would improve overall patient care, greatly reduce the length of time it takes someone to see a medical professional, and potentially save billions of dollars in health care costs over the next decade.

“It will modernize the statutes for Massachusetts advanced practice nurses and allow nurse practitioners and certified registered nurse anesthetists to practice to the full extent of their education and training,” says Dr. Ahmed, who has filed the bill again. “It will improve patient care, and in the end that’s what everyone should be striving for.”

Dr. Ahmed, who was one of the first three graduates of the IHP’s Doctor of Nursing Practice program, has been director of Ambulatory Nursing at Brigham and Women’s Hospital since 2011. She received the President’s Award in April 2017 from the American Nurses Association of Massachusetts.

For her work, Sports Illustrated bestowed its highest honor on Davisson and her foundation in 2012 in its “10 Who Care” series. She also received a prestigious National Collegiate Athletic Association Inspiration Award.

Today, Kelly is president of the foundation’s board of directors, is a pediatric nurse practitioner in her native Vermont, and continues her active lifestyle—including recently skiing Tuckerman Ravine on Mount Washington, an impressive feat for any skier.
Athletes at Boston College are safer thanks to Kathleen Gill-Body and her colleagues at Newton-Wellesley Hospital.

One aspect of her specialty outpatient practice focuses on rehabilitating the school’s athletes who get concussions, a problem that has become a major national concern for youths, weekend warriors, and professionals alike.

Dr. Gill-Body has spent her entire career at Partners HealthCare. Following clinical roles at Massachusetts General and Spaulding Rehabilitation hospitals, in 1989 she became a full-time faculty member at the Institute, where she developed the initial Doctor of Physical Therapy neurologic curriculum. During her 14 years at the school, she also was the clinical lead on numerous research grants with former IHP Professor Dr. David Krebs.

For the past 10 years, she has been the only faculty member on the editorial board of Physical Therapy, the profession’s preeminent scholarly journal.

Kenya Palmer’s enthusiasm for healthy living and well-being permeates her work as a nurse practitioner at Boston Medical Center.

Working in the Department of Endocrinology, Diabetes, Nutrition and Weight Management, she uses her 14 years of experience as a personal trainer and strength and conditioning coach to address obesity with her patients, especially those from underserved populations.

Rehabilitated, a German business, and began treating children out of her home for three years until she and her family moved back to the States. She founded a company that taught parents and child care workers about speech and language development in young children, and also served the birth-to-three population at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Walk opened a full-time private clinic when the family returned in 2013 to Germany. Each week, she and her team of three SLPs see more than 70 children and provide education and support for families trying to navigate living overseas with a child who has communication difficulties.

When Jennifer Walk first moved to Germany in 2007 with her U.S. Army husband, she discovered that there were very few English-speaking communication disorders services for the more than 80,000 Americans living in and around Ramstein Air Base.

Kathleen Gill-Body, PT, DPT ’02, MS ’86

Jennifer Walk, MS-SLP ’03, CCC-SLP

Adam Carreiro, MPAS ’17

Completing the Master of Physician Assistant Studies program has fulfilled Adam Carreiro’s lifelong dream of becoming a medical provider.

Carreiro, who was in the two-year program’s first graduating class in 2017, had set his sights on becoming a PA since graduating in 2009 from the University of Massachusetts Amherst with a master’s degree in kinesiology. He then spent several years working as a home health aide for adults with intellectual disabilities, an EMT, and as an Emergency Room technician at Brigham and Women’s Faulkner Hospital.

“We invited Adam to join our inaugural cohort because of his maturity and compassion,” said Director Lisa Walker. “With these traits and combined with his newly acquired skills and knowledge as a PA, he will be an incredible asset to our communities just as he was to our program.”

Kenya Palmer, MS-Nursing ’13, FNP-BC, CSCS

Palmer, who received her bachelor’s in rehabilitation counseling from Boston University and a master’s in exercise science from Syracuse University, has developed programs that address nutrition and weight management for families and promote awareness of the social determinants of health.

A board-certified family NP, she received an Excellence in Nursing Award in February 2017 from the New England Regional Black Nurses Association.

Forty for 40

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Twenty | MGH Institute of Health Professions
Having speech or cognitive issues can make learning overwhelming for young students. Kristen Jacobsen (left) and Sarah Ward have pioneered a way to help overcome those problems.

The speech-language pathology alumni have worked together since 1997 when they founded Cognitive Connections in Concord, MA. Their innovative treatment model, the 360 Thinking Executive Function program, received the Innovative Promising Practices Award from Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD). Using this evidence-based research, they tailor individual plans to help children and adolescents successfully complete daily and long-term goals such as scheduling time for homework. “We help students see the future, say the future, and feel the future,” they say.

The pair has presented to and consulted with over 575 public and private schools across the United States, providing new and improved ways to deliver effective executive function-based instruction.

MaryEllen Graham is the first clinical quality improvement manager for Florida Blue, the state’s largest insurer. She utilizes data to develop incentives to convince reluctant customers that preventative measures such as regular checkups, breast cancer screenings, and flu shots can keep them healthier and out of the hospital.

Graham is the epitome of a late-career changer. After 20 years working as a police officer in Rhode Island, she completed two IHP programs—the certificate in medical imaging followed by the Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Since then, she has been manager of clinical services for Senior Home Health in Cambridge, a clinical consultant for Neighborhood Health Plan, and a home care nurse for Partners HealthCare. And earlier this year, she earned an MBA from Southern New Hampshire University.

Kevin Whitney is the chief nursing officer and senior vice president for Patient Care Services at Newton-Wellesley Hospital.

Dr. Whitney previously was associate chief nurse at Massachusetts General Hospital from 2011-2016, where he was responsible for its surgical, orthopedics, and neurosciences services.

Before joining MGH in 2011, he spent much of his career working in acute care, which included 20 years at Emerson Hospital. There he served in key clinical and leadership roles, including Emergency Department staff nurse, nurse manager of Emergency Services, and chief nursing officer and vice president for Patient Care Services from 2006–2010.
This past April proved to be a great month for Jarrad Van Stan. Dr. Van Stan was awarded a three-year, $171,000 Early Career research grant co-funded by two centers at the National Institutes of Health that will focus on refining and testing a voice therapy taxonomy.

A researcher in the Massachusetts General Hospital’s world-renowned Center for Laryngeal Surgery and Voice Rehabilitation, he works with the IHP’s Director of Research Programs, Robert Hillman, who enticed him to join the first cohort of students in the school’s PhD in Rehabilitation Sciences program. “Once I saw Dr. Hillman was involved, I knew I had to go to the Institute,” said Van Stan, who was among the first two graduates of the program.

Van Stan also is a co-investigator with Dr. Hillman on a five-year, $11,305,665 Clinical Research Center Grant from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders.

Ellen Starr, MS-Nursing ’85, RN, WHNP

As clinical director at Vermont-based Grounds for Health, Ellen Starr helps the non-profit’s mission to reduce cervical cancer among women in the developing world.

Starr oversees its clinical prevention practices in the coffee regions of Latin America and Africa, managing an operation that has screened more than 70,000 women, treated 5,000 of them, and trained nearly 460 health care providers.

Since graduating in 1985 in the IHP’s first Master of Science in Nursing class, Starr has specialized in gynecology, family planning, and abortion services. She was vice president of Health Center Operations during 2007–2010 for Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, where she continues to work as a nurse practitioner.

Phyllis Cox, Certificate-Social Work ’83

During her 35 years in social work, Phyllis Cox has helped thousands of people improve the quality of their life. Cox, who was in the Institute’s third graduating class, already was working in the field but wanted to add a strong academic background to become a licensed social worker. So when her husband, a physician, transferred to a Boston-area hospital, she found that the Institute’s new program was a perfect fit.

In addition to working in public schools, nursing homes, hospice care and hospitals, she spent several years as a member of the Massachusetts Board of Registration for social workers, ensuring that her peers provided to their patients the same kind of high-quality care she administered throughout her career.

Jarrad Van Stan, PhD ’16, CCC-SLP

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David Hajjar has specialized in helping children and adults with complex communication needs improve their social and communication skills across recreation and leisure settings including paddling, skiing, and cycling activities. His research focuses on supporting individuals with disabilities and their diverse network of communication partners.

Focusing on augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) to create opportunities for meaningful social interactions, Dr. Hajjar worked with clients for nine years at the Crotched Mountain Foundation in New Hampshire. He then earned his doctoral degree in speech and hearing science in 2016 from Ohio University, and starting in fall 2017 he will be an assistant professor at Ithaca College in New York, where he also will start an AAC research lab to continue his work.

Previously, during a two-year assignment in Grenada as a member of the Peace Corps, he assisted the Ministry of Education in developing and expanding special education services there.

Amanda Hitchins Lee, MS-SLP ’12, CCC-SLP

Amanda Hitchins Lee is showing how a small amount of money can make a huge impact.

She used $2,000 in donations to build the first soundproof auditory testing room in 2014 at the Centre for Education and Community Based Rehabilitation, a non-profit residential school that serves developmentally and physically challenged students in the eastern section of the Democratic Republic of Congo. “While we have a very long way to go in optimizing hearing, speech, and language services for the children, this was a wonderful and sustainable first step,” she says.

She plans to return in 2018 to work on projects that will provide running water and build an accessible bathroom at the school.

Patricia Engel, MS-Dietetics ’85, RD, LDN

Patricia Engel’s career as a registered dietitian has come full circle.

It began during her internship at Massachusetts General Hospital when she was a student in the MGH Institute’s Master of Science in Dietetics program. Today, she is director of the hospital’s Dietetic Internship Program, where she passes on her expertise to a new generation of student dietitians.

Engel has held various leadership positions in professional organizations including the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Before MGH, she was manager of nutrition services at Tufts University’s Health Services and nutrition director at Child Health Services in New Hampshire. Engel, who has been a faculty member at Tufts and at the University of New Hampshire, also has run her own business, PFE Nutrition Services Consulting, for the past 27 years.
Rebecca Stephenson, PT, DPT ’05, MS ’06, WCS, CLT

Rebecca Stephenson has played a major role in improving the treatment of women with severe back and pelvic pain during the early stages of their pregnancy.

Her research debunked the prevailing wisdom of the time that the pain would subside after a woman’s baby was born. “Evidence shows the pain will continue and as a result some women may not choose to have children,” said Dr. Stephenson, who recently joined the rehabilitation and clinical leadership team at Newton-Wellesley Hospital as a clinical physical therapy specialist.

One of just 300 board-certified specialists in women’s health within the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties, she was lead author of Obstetric and Gynecologic Care in Physical Therapy. Considered the authoritative textbook on the subject, it helped spur interest in establishing women’s health as a separate, specialized practice; it is now one of eight clinical specialties of the American Physical Therapy Association.

Romiya Barry, MS-Clinical Investigation ’07

Romiya Barry has had a passion for science and medicine for as long as she can remember.

After earning a bachelor’s degree in biology and biotechnology from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Barry began her career in research and development. She recognized her true calling was to guide scientists through industry regulations to successfully launch new medical products and assist clinicians looking to bring the interventions to their patients.

Focusing on improvements to trial operations and management, Barry has provided oversight to several global studies. Her work has supported developing medical devices for patients with critical care health issues, chronic diseases such as HIV infection and Type 2 diabetes, and thrombotic and bleeding disorders. “Clinical research marries my interest in science and technology,” said Barry, who is currently pursuing a PhD in translational health sciences from George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Katie Barron, MS-Nursing ’08, RN

Katie Barron has focused on infectious disease since graduating from the MGH Institute in 2008.

As director of nursing working for the Boston-based Partners In Health in 2014–2015, she implemented clinical care in 16 treatment units, playing a key role in halting the Ebola outbreak in the west African nation of Sierra Leone.

She also represented PIH dealing with international leaders in the United Nations, World Health Organization, and United Kingdom military.

After the outbreak was contained, she remained to assist strengthening two government hospitals where she focused on community-based and hospital care services and systems including HIV and TB, primary care, surgical care, malnutrition, and maternal/child health services.

Currently, Barron is working as an infectious disease nurse practitioner at Flagstaff Medical Center in Arizona. Previously, Barron was the nursing manager in the Massachusetts General Hospital Infectious Diseases outpatient unit and worked as a nurse practitioner with Boston Health Care for the Homeless program.
Laura Gull, PT, DPT ’08
Laura Gull is using the evidence-based education she received at the IHP to ensure that her team of physical therapists remain on the cutting edge of rehabilitation care.

As vice president of clinical operations for Ramsey Rehab, a six-clinic private practice in central Massachusetts, Dr. Gull spends much of her time sifting through new research methods and rehab techniques, as well as providing direct patient care. She then develops an individual plan with each therapist to improve their weaknesses and reinforce their strengths so patients can receive the best possible services.

A softball player as an undergraduate at Gordon College in Wenham, MA, she has initiated a program working with area high school athletes. She previously was a senior PT at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and a staff PT at UMass Memorial Medical Center. She currently is chief delegate to the House of Delegates for the Massachusetts chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association.

Naomi Jay, PhD, MS-Nursing ’89, RN
Anal cancer rates among people living with HIV have been rising in recent years. Naomi Jay is working to reverse that trend.

Dr. Jay is a nurse practitioner who works in the Anal Neoplasia Clinic Research and Education Center at the University of California San Francisco, from where she earned her doctorate. She is part of a team conducting the eight-year ANCHOR study, funded by the NIH, to determine if anal cancer among HIV positive men and women can be prevented, and convince medical professionals and insurers that patients considered at risk for anal cancer deserve the same screening and treatment options shown to prevent cervical cancer.

She helped pioneer the use of the colposcope for anal human papillomavirus (HPV)-related diseases in the anal canal, adapting gynecologic procedures to create a procedure now known as high-resolution anoscopy (HRA).

Jay is president of the International Anal Neoplasia Society, and serves on the board of the American Society for Cervical Colposcopy and Pathology.

Janet Callahan, PT, DPT ’13, MS ’00, NCS
Janet Callahan already had developed a national reputation in vestibular rehabilitation by 2012 when she decided she wanted to help prepare the next generation of physical therapists and became an assistant professor at the MGH Institute.

“Teaching had become more and more of what I was doing, so it was a natural move to make,” said Dr. Callahan, who will retire from the IHP at the end of 2017.

She has received several awards during her 39-year career, including the Award for Clinical Excellence in Neurology from the American Physical Therapy Association’s Neurology Section, the Outstanding Achievement in Clinical Practice award from the Massachusetts chapter of the APTA, and the Stephanie M. Macaluso, RN, Excellence in Clinical Practice Award from Massachusetts General Hospital, where she was a clinical specialist responsible for mentoring and educating therapists involved in neurologic practice, and a consulting member of the Partners Dystonia Clinic and Movement Disorders groups.
Forty for 40

Jennifer M. Bottomley, PT, PhD, MS ’86

For more than 40 years, Jennifer Bottomley has strived to ensure that the elderly are treated with dignity and respect. Dr. Bottomley is president of the International Association of Physical Therapists Working with Older People, a section of the World Confederation of Physical Therapy. She has served on advisory boards for the Office of the Surgeon General and the Office on Women’s Health in the Department of Health and Human Services, and on several White House panels that focused on long-term care, aging, and medical reform issues.

An associate professor at Simmons College and adjunct professor at the MGH Institute, Bottomley also coordinates services in Boston homeless shelters for the non-profit Committee to End Elder Homelessness/HEARTH.

Jenifa Lewis, BSN ’15, RN

Although Jenifa Lewis had been working as a registered nurse for less than two years, Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital chose her to be a super user during the 2016 implementation of the EPIC medical records system. Lewis spent several months training her nursing peers on the traumatic brain injury unit, temporarily removed from her usual role of providing direct patient care. She arrived at the IHP knowing she eventually wanted to work on a neuro rehabilitation floor after graduating, the result of seeing her mother struggle to recover from a stroke.

Lewis, who also is a member of the hospital’s Nursing Professional Prevention Council, earned her BA in classical piano from Atlantic Union College in Massachusetts.

Rosanna Kirkendall-Azer, PT, DPT ’08, OCS, PCS

Having run track and cross-country at California State University, Northridge, Rosanna Kirkendall-Azer has spent much of her career working with young athletes. She has volunteered at the 2016 Southern California Youth Track and Field Championships, sponsored pre-season injury prevention/concussion testing and athletic training services for a local professional development soccer team, and provided pre-season medical clearance and injury prevention screens. The California native also has conducted multiple injury-prevention screens to local high school track and field and cross-country teams.

Dr. Kirkendall-Azer is president and co-owner of Two Trees Physical Therapy & Wellness, Inc., in Ventura, CA, which has grown to four locations since its 2013 opening. She became a board certified clinical specialist in pediatrics and orthopedics in 2016.
Mashael Faisal Al Saud, PhD, MS-SLP ’02, CCC-SLP

Mashael Faisal Al Saud has played a major role in improving the lives of thousands of people in Saudi Arabia with communication and swallowing difficulties.

After graduating from the IHP, Dr. Al Saud was hired as just the third speech-language pathologist at King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Centre in Riyadh. Soon she became acting head of the speech language pathology service, where her efforts led to a quadrupling of SLPs at the hospital. She was also a founding member of the Saudi Society of Speech Language Pathology & Audiology as well as the first ALS multidisciplinary team in the Gulf region.

After earning a PhD in communication disorders, she returned to the hospital as head of the speech department overseeing a staff of 15 SLPs covering various specialties, and advisor to the director of clinical services overseeing more than 1,200 staff members.

Sophia Harden, BSN ’11, RN

Compassionate care has been a hallmark of Sophia Harden’s career as a registered nurse.

She received from Massachusetts General Hospital its Disability Champion Award for her work with colleagues in making her unit more welcoming for adult patients with autism spectrum disorder.

Harden also has exported her passion overseas. She was granted a travel award from the hospital’s Center for Global Health to travel to La Rosa, Honduras as part of a medical mission team that helped empower villagers to provide more long-term health care. In addition, she spent eight weeks in Mbarara, Uganda as a Global Nursing Fellow during which she taught skin and wound care techniques.

Sandhya Venugopal, MD, MS-HPEd ’16

Cardiology classes at the University of Kentucky School of Medicine were what Sandhya Venugopal enjoyed the most. This passion has led her to being director of the Heart Station at the University of California Davis health system, its cardiac care center where she has developed and led several new initiatives including the Adult Congenital Heart Disease Clinic.

A non-invasive cardiologist and specialist in the use of frontline assessments to determine cardiac health, Dr. Venugopal is an associate professor of internal medicine, associate director of the Cardiology Fellowship Training program, and a master clinician educator.

This summer, she was appointed associate dean of Continuing Medical Education responsible for CME activities across UC Davis Health, expanding her responsibilities in curriculum development.
A Gift for Today and Tomorrow

It wasn’t long after Ann W. Caldwell became president of the MGH Institute in 1997 that she recognized the importance of its board chair, Dr. Matina S. Horner.

Twenty years later, Caldwell chairs a committee to create an endowed fund in Dr. Horner’s name as the IHP honors Dr. Horner’s 27 years of service to the Institute.

Caldwell is an invested participant in the Matina S. Horner Professorship. In addition to leading the initiative, which has already raised 75% of its $2 million goal, she has personally established a charitable gift annuity that will provide her with an income during her lifetime, and will contribute to the fund in the future.

“This gift feels like a wonderful opportunity on so many levels,” says Caldwell. “It’s a way for me to express my deep appreciation to Matina for all she has done for the Institute and being a role model for women leaders throughout her career.”

According to Betsy Rigby, the IHP’s chief development officer, charitable gift annuities benefit both the donor and the IHP. The gift is set up so the donor transfers cash, marketable securities, or other marketable assets to the Institute in exchange for a partial tax deduction and a lifetime stream of annual interest income; the corpus of the gift is received by the IHP after the donor passes. “Charitable gift annuities are one of the many instruments available to generous supporters of the IHP like Ann Caldwell,” Rigby says. “Our office is here to assist our supporters structure gifts that help them realize multiple financial and philanthropic goals.”

Caldwell’s connection to the IHP is as strong now as it was 20 years ago when she became the school’s fourth president and led it back to financial stability. Since retiring in 2007, she has continued to be one of the IHP’s most ardent champions. She regularly attends campus events, including one that was recently named in her honor, the annual Ann W. Caldwell President’s Lecture: Interprofessional Rounds, which is held each winter.

Caldwell was a renowned fundraiser when she arrived at the Institute in 1997. She had been vice president for resources at Wheaton College and then moved to Brown University, where she was the first female chief development officer in the Ivy League. She was hired by Dr. Horner and the IHP board to improve the school’s then-precarious financial condition, and she did an exemplary job during her 10 years as president.

Most notably, she helped secure a $2 million gift from the Catherine Filene Shouse Foundation that was used to acquire Building 36 in the Charlestown Navy Yard in 2001. The Shouse building was the IHP’s first permanent campus; today, the Institute is housed in seven buildings.

Caldwell is now a resident scholar at Brandeis University’s Women’s Studies Research Center and is writing a biography of Catherine Shouse. She intends to return to campus this fall for the opening of the IHP’s interprofessional clinical care center. “I am excited to continue being part of the growth and development of the Institute,” she says.

For more information, contact Stephanie Argyropoulos at (617) 726-3141, or sargyropoulos@mghihp.edu.

Charitable Gift Planning

A charitable gift annuity is created when a donor makes a gift of cash, securities, or other marketable assets to the Institute in return for a lifetime fixed-income stream. When the gift matures, the remaining assets are used by the Institute to support the purpose(s) chosen by the donor.

All planned gifts, large or small, are vital to advancing the MGH Institute’s commitment to improving health care through education, leadership, research, and community involvement.
**Class Notes**

The following abbreviations are used in Class Notes: BWH – Brigham and Women’s Hospital; MGH – Massachusetts General Hospital; NWH – Newton-Wellesley Hospital; NSMC – North Shore Medical Center; SRN – Spaulding Rehabilitation Network.

**Communication Sciences and Disorders**


Zara Waldman Deluca, PhD, MS ’11, is a visiting assistant professor and interim director of the undergraduate program in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at New York University. She recently earned her doctorate from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

Leila Denna, MS ’16, became a research assistant in the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences at MIT in March 2017. Previously, she had worked as a speech-language pathologist in the Watertown public schools.

**Nursing**

Mark Press, MS ’99, has been named clinical medical director for the Mosaic Medical East Bend Clinic in Bend, OR. He has worked at the clinic since 2005 and has extensive experience working in community health.

The Seattle Cancer Care Alliance has appointed Theresa M. McDonnell, MS ’05, DNP ’13, as vice president of clinical operations and chief nurse executive. Previously, she was director of cancer center clinical services at MGH.

J. Aleah Nesteby, MS ’07, is working in western Massachusetts at Northampton Family Practice as the new director of LGBTQ Services for Cooley Dickinson Health Care. Nesteby had worked the past decade at Baystate Health.

Daisy Goodman, DNP ’10, is the project manager for a new toolkit that aims to improve medical treatment for women with opioid addiction and their affected babies. The kit, which currently is being tested, was developed as part of a three-year, $127,000 grant that Dartmouth-Hitchcock’s Perinatal Addiction Treatment Program received from the March of Dimes.

Kevin Knoblock, MS ’10, recently became a nurse practitioner in the inpatient oncology unit at MGH. Previously, he had worked in the gastroenterology unit at Boston Medical Center.

Komal Kenkare, MS ’16, recently received the Nurse Practitioner Excellence Award for the state of Massachusetts from the American Association of Nurse Practitioners. She works at the Westwood Lodge Partial Hospitalization program in Massachusetts.

Heather Nisbet, MS ’16, has joined an obstetrics and gynecology practice in Warwick, RI.

Rachel Salloway, MS ’16, is now working at Randolph Primary Care clinic in Gifford, VT. Most recently, she had worked at Hale House Assisted Living and SRH.

Dillon Young, MS ’17, has accepted a position at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in neurosurgery. He also will be working at Dartmouth Medical School where eventually he will be instructing medical students.

**Physical Therapy**

Patricia Sullivan, DPT ’02, is the founder and president of Rehab Nepal Inc., a nonprofit aimed at improving rehabilitation and vocational services to victims of the Nepal earthquake and landslides.

James Zachazewski, DPT ’04, announced that he recently returned to active clinical practice when he joined Cape Cod Rehab in June 2017. He is working out of its Mashpee office.

Daniel Hoppe, DPT ’15, is working at St. Helena Physical Therapy Center in Clearlake, CA.

We invite you to submit your news and photos to alumni@mghihp.edu, or at www.mghihp.edu/alumni.

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**Alumnae Run for Team IHP**

April 17 was warmer than expected, but that didn’t prevent the members of Team IHP from completing the 2017 Boston Marathon.

In doing so, the three alumni (l-r in photo)—Nina Freitas, DPT ’16, Kristin Camera, MS-SLP ’11, and Michaela Deasy, MS-Nursing ’14—raised more than $16,000 to support the MGH Institute.

Camara, a speech-language pathologist in home care and inpatient rehabilitation with the VNA of Boston, finished the 26.2-mile course in 04:36:10. She ran to support the Christopher Norman Educational Fund, which honors 2007 Communication Sciences and Disorders graduate Christopher Norman, who unexpectedly passed away in 2010. The fund has helped students recruit participants for research and thesis projects, purchase research-related software, enroll in leadership conferences, and conduct an international stuttering research project.

Deasy, a nurse practitioner at Massachusetts General Hospital’s Crohn’s and Colitis Center, completed the race in 04:17:30. She ran to support student scholarships at the school.

Freitas, a physical therapist at Emerson Hospital’s Center for Rehabilitative and Sport Therapies, also ran to support student scholarships. An avid soccer player who was frequently sidelined due to various orthopedic injuries, she finished the race in 04:03:44.

Since 2011, Team IHP has raised more than $100,000 to support various causes.
Lessons from a Curmudgeon

My brother-in-law, Ron, was a curmudgeon: grumpy, sullen, even downright mean at times.

Ron didn’t become a curmudgeon overnight. He grew up in extreme poverty and had a very difficult childhood. When he was young, he’d been mistakenly thought to have a developmental delay and had been institutionalized for a short time. Nevertheless, for his entire adult life Ron had worked and lived independently.

We happened to be visiting him during one of his frequent hospitalizations for his breathing when his attending physician came calling. Immediately upon entering the room, the doctor carefully backed up to the wall opposite Ron and leaned against it, her arms and legs crossed. Seeing this, I knew right away that she’d felt the sting of Ron’s discontent at some point.

“How are you today, Mr. Scudder?” she asked warily.

“Lousy!” Ron snapped. “When can I go out for a cigarette? This place stinks!”

“Mr. Scudder, you’ve been hospitalized because your COPD has flared up,” she said impassively. “People who have lung disease shouldn’t smoke.”

I winced at her cool tone and well-rehearsed words.

Ron must have felt the chill too. He looked at me, then said, “Lisa, give her that piece of paper I gave you earlier today.”

I handed it to the doctor, knowing that I was giving her something very precious—something that Ron had written a decade earlier, in his mid-fifties. Here’s what it said:

Ronald Scudder’s Story: Learning How to Read

All I wanted to do was to learn how to read. I spent 15 years trying to learn with different organizations. This time was a stepping stone. I learned a little, but not a lot. Finally, I wound up at the First Congregational Church of Old Lyme. I got two tutors. About two years later I was reading. About a year later, I learned to write. Then I wrote my first poem.

Lord, you made the earth
And raised us from it
You brought the winds from the four corners
And gave us the breath of life
You gave us wisdom of life. love and compassion
Lost loved ones causes sadness.
So please Lord, allow the branches of the willow
To bend and weep for our sadness
Allow the drops to flow to the sea
And wash away our sadness of our lost loved ones
So we can love again
Lord, we know your love will be there to see us through
Thank you, Lord.

As the doctor read, I watched her expression soften and her body relax. When she was done, she looked down at the floor and was very quiet for a moment.

“Mr. Scudder, may I make a copy of this and put it at the nurses’ station?” she asked softly.

True to form, he snapped, “Sure, do whatever you want. I don’t care.”

I still carry that paper with me, tucked in my wallet. It’s become ragged and worn, because every year I pull it out when I share this story with my physician assistant students.

I tell my students, “Like Ron’s physician, you’re going to encounter patients with sharp edges. You’re going to bump into those edges, and you might get your feelings hurt. But if you take it personally, you’re missing something very important. Those sharp edges weren’t always sharp; They grew out of somewhere—often out of very painful experiences and significant life challenges.”

In sharing this story, I hope to make my students aware that beneath Ron’s sharp edges was a beautiful soul and a man of faith who loved deeply, so that they may recognize the same in the curmudgeons they will undoubtedly encounter in their own future practice. I will always be grateful to Ron for honoring me with his story.

Lisa Walker, MPAS, PA-C, is an associate professor and director of the Department of Physician Assistant Studies. A version of this story was originally published in the online journal Pulse: Voices from the Heart of Medicine.
Support the Future of Health Care Education

The MGH Institute’s new clinical care center brings together students from across the health professions to learn and practice in teams and to deliver essential free care to the community.

The 15,000 square foot facility allows the Institute to significantly increase the 10,000 hours of free care—valued at more than $1 million—currently provided to Charlestown and Boston area residents.

This innovative new center:

- Doubles the number of therapy rooms
- Expands the adult rehabilitation therapy room
- Adds new dedicated children’s rehabilitation therapy resources
- Includes a 70-seat community health education room

Clinical Care Center Naming Opportunities:
The Institute will recognize donors who give at the following levels with permanently named spaces within the Center:

$5,000
- Stations in the Adult Physical Therapy Room (10)

$10,000
- Treatment rooms (25)
- Faculty Observation Room
- Collaboration Space
- Health Assessment Exam Rooms (2)

$25,000
- Reception Area Waiting Room (2)
- Adult Rehab Gym
- Pediatric Sensory Room
- Pediatric Rehab Gym

$50,000
- Community Room
- Physical Therapy Center
- Speech, Language, & Literacy Center
- OT Center for Learning, Participation, & Rehabilitation

MAKE YOUR GIFT HERE:
www.mghihp.edu/newcenter
Save the Date
Thursday, October 19, 2017
6:00-8:30 P.M.

Invited Guest
Boston Mayor, Martin J. Walsh

Please visit www.mghihp.edu/center for more information.