Institute Expands Research Efforts

School Receives Largest Grant in Its History

Professor Jordan Green, PhD, CCC-SLP, has received a $2.975 million award—the largest research grant in the history of the MGH Institute—from the National Institutes of Health’s National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, to develop a way to more effectively identify amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and allow patients to communicate for a longer period of time.

Dr. Green, who joined the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders in July 2013, and his team of researchers plan to use artificial intelligence approaches to detect the onset of abnormal speech movements in persons with ALS, a neurodegenerative disease that attacks neurons and weakens muscles over time.

About 30,000 Americans suffer from ALS, more commonly known as Lou Gehrig’s Disease. This technology may help physicians and other health care professionals diagnose patients earlier.

“We hope our research will improve early detection and prognostic accuracy,” Green said.

New Center Provides Much-Needed Lab Space

The MGH Institute has added more than 14,000 square feet of space to accommodate its rapidly expanding research efforts.

The new Center for Health & Rehabilitation Research in Building 79/96, located at the east end of the Charlestown Navy Yard, provides necessary laboratory space for the school’s growing cadre of faculty researchers in speech-language pathology, nursing, and physical therapy.

“This space is intended to inspire faculty, provide more opportunities for our students, and complement the existing research community in the Navy Yard,” Board of Trustees Chair George E. Thibault, MD, told the audience during the official opening in December 2013. “This is an incredible moment in the history of the Institute.”

Thibault said the Center fulfills a commitment made three years ago by the Board of Trustees to significantly raise the Institute’s research profile.

The decision has allowed the school to launch a PhD in Rehabilitation Sciences program, as well as recruit several internationally known researchers to join the faculty during the past 18 months.

The new researchers, along with their teams of managers, post-doctoral fellows, and PhD students, are using research grants from public and private sources to support their efforts:

• Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders Professor Tiffany Hogan, PhD, CCC-SLP, directs the Speech and Language Literacy Lab (SAIL Literacy Lab). It is part of a research consortium studying how language affects reading skills for children from pre-kindergarten through third grade;
• The Fatigue-Related Symptom Lab, led by School of Nursing Amelia Peabody Chair in Nursing Research Lisa Wood, PhD, RN, FAAN, focuses on cancer treatment related fatigue.
President’s Corner

Creating a Road Map for 2014-2017

The MGH Institute community currently is engaged in the process of creating a new strategic plan. Our 2011-2014 strategic plan has been instrumental in guiding our work and allocation of resources over the past three years, and there has been significant and substantial progress in accomplishing the priorities first announced in 2011. We have fulfilled or are close to fulfilling the majority of those aims, although some priorities are likely to carry over into the new 2014-2017 plan.

It is remarkable what the Institute has accomplished during the past three years, especially in this era of heightened scrutiny of both health care and higher education. Our Board of Trustees, senior leaders, faculty, and staff have been prudent and accountable stewards of our resources, a core value we collectively hold. This has allowed us to set and meet realistic goals for new initiatives and programs, grow student enrollment in response to demand for careers in health care, add talented faculty and staff to support academic and administrative needs, invest in research, expand our facilities to support student learning and faculty work, and engage more with the community.

Further, our new and innovative IMPACT (Interprofessional Model for Patient and Client-centered Teams) program that was launched in fall 2013 is helping us more fully realize one of the Institute’s long-cherished values of preparing graduates for team-based practice in a rapidly changing health care world.

I am especially pleased with the progress and improvements we’ve made reaching out to our nearly 5,000 alumni, which includes adding valuable services such as access to library resources and a new career services office. Exponential growth in our social media presence has further enhanced connections and networking with our alumni as well as with current and prospective students, and is helping us attract a more diverse array of students as we seek to educate health professionals who reflect the increasing diversity of the population.

We’ve been gathering input from our many stakeholders to identify the Institute’s major strengths, areas for change and improvement, and key strategic priorities on which to focus our efforts and resources in the coming three years. With the assistance of TSI Consulting Partners, we have held several focus groups of faculty, staff, senior leaders and external clinical partners, and surveyed a stratified random sample of alumni and currently enrolled students. The excellent response by our alumni and students will help assure their voices are represented as we craft a new strategic plan. Using this input, the Board of Trustees will set the Institute’s direction and strategic priorities for the coming three years, which will be available on our website upon completion.

I hope you will continue to follow our progress, and visit us virtually or on campus, to experience first hand the Institute’s ongoing development as a premier graduate school fulfilling our mission of educating the next generation of health care leaders. I encourage you to share your thoughts about the Institute’s future as we continue our journey.

President and
John Hilton Knowles Professor

Janis P. Bellack, PhD, RN, FAAN

MISSION STATEMENT

As an independent graduate school of health sciences, MGH Institute of Health Professions prepares health professionals and advances care for a diverse society through leadership in education, clinical practice, research and scholarship, professional service, and community engagement.
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences Continues to Grow

The MGH Institute was created in large part to focus on interprofessional education, to provide an opportunity for health professions students to learn with and from each other, preparing them to provide team-based patient care upon graduation.

While faculty members from all disciplines have stressed interprofessional education over the decades, this effort was strengthened in 2009 when the departments of Communication Sciences and Disorders and Physical Therapy became charter programs in the newly created School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (SHRS).

Now, with a new Doctor of Occupational Therapy program set to begin in June, and plans to add a Master of Physician Assistant Studies program beginning in May 2015, the school has moved closer to its founding mission of interprofessional education.

“The Institute has always been at the forefront of health professions education,” said President Janis P. Bellack, PhD, RN, FAAN. “Adding programs to meet the growing demands of the marketplace is a continuation of educating health professionals who can lead in the design and implementation of team-based health care.”

“The Institute is a much more comprehensive school than it was even two years ago,” said SHRS Dean Leslie Portney, PT, DPT, PhD, FAPTA. “As the programs in SHRS continue to grow, and as we integrate learning with the School of Nursing, we have been able to create learning experiences that broaden our students’ perspectives on patient-centered care and provide them with a rich opportunity to truly understand health and human function.”

Several recent reports have emphasized that teams of health professionals improve health care and the health outcomes of patients. The Institute has made great strides in this arena in recent years, starting with the development of the Center for Interprofessional Studies and Innovation in 2011. During the 2013-2014 academic year, a new initiative called the Interprofessional Model for Patient and Client-centered Teams, or IMPACT, was launched, creating student teams from SHRS and the School of Nursing who work together on semester-long projects.

Over the past two years, SHRS has also created an innovative case rounds series, where faculty and clinicians from a variety of disciplines present a patient who has complex health care needs. Students have a chance to learn about the patient’s rehabilitation journey, and to talk about implications for their different professional roles.

“Our commitment to interprofessional education is intended to foster innovation and collaboration and be a bridge to coordinate efforts across all disciplines and curricula,” said Dean Portney. “This approach can only strengthen each discipline and provide students with the opportunity to learn from each other—all in the spirit of excellent patient-centered care.”

Physician Assistant Studies Program Is Developed

The Massachusetts Board of Higher Education recently approved the Institute’s application to add a Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) program* beginning in May 2015.

The 25-month, full-time MPAS program was created by the Institute to help produce needed primary care practitioners who can treat the country’s growing population. And with the implementation of the Affordable Care Act in the coming years, the shortage of practitioners is anticipated to become even more acute.

The Department of Physician Assistant Studies will be part of the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, which also includes the departments of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy.

“The opportunities for interprofessional education with other disciplines at the Institute, combined with training in the nation’s preeminent health care institutions in the greater Boston area, will offer a unique educational experience for our students,” said Program Director Lisa Walker, PA-C, MPAS. “Graduates of the PA program will be highly effective members of the health care team, prepared to meet the needs of patients and employers in a variety of settings.”

Forty students are expected to be accepted into the first MPAS class. In addition to an undergraduate degree, applicants must have a minimum of 1,000 hours, or six months of full-time employment, performing hands-on patient care.

*The MGH Institute of Health Professions has applied for Accreditation - Provisional from the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA). The Institute anticipates matriculating its first class in May of 2015, pending achieving Accreditation - Provisional status at the September 2014 ARC-PA meeting. Accreditation - Provisional is an accreditation status for a new PA program that, at the time of its initial accreditation review, demonstrated its preparedness to initiate a program in accordance with the accreditation Standards. If Accreditation - Provisional is not awarded at the September 2014 ARC-PA meeting, the Institute will not be permitted to enroll the class anticipated to matriculate May 2015.
Annual Interprofessional Rounds Features Boston Marathon Survivor

There’s one thing that stands out in Heather Abbott’s mind about recovering from the loss of the bottom half of her left leg at the 2013 Boston Marathon: the team of health care providers at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital that literally put her back on her feet.

Abbott was a member of a panel during the MGH Institute’s annual Interprofessional Rounds. The 2014 event was entitled “Healing Trauma: Interprofessional Care of a Boston Marathon Bombing Victim.”

“All the survivors pushed us to look beyond what we normally would do on a daily basis,” said Guilbert. “It brought everyone at Spaulding together,” added Chiong-Oglesby, “because we all had to work as a team to give the survivors the care they needed to move on with their lives.”

She was joined by several Spaulding health professionals, many of whom are Institute graduates: physical therapists Dara Casparian ’13, PT, DPT, and Jessica Guilbert ’11, PT, DPT; speech-language pathologist Kate Mulrane ’05, MS, CCC-SLP; Cara Brickley, PT, DPT, Director of Physical Therapy; Nurse Manager Suzzette Chiong-Oglesby, RN; and occupational therapist Marissa Osborne, OTR/L.

The Rounds program stressed how the team-based approach students learn at the Institute can be applied with patients. Examples provided by the panelists include:

• Listening to the patient to find out what meaningful recovery means to them;
• Allowing yourself to cry or be silent with a patient;
• Bringing in mental health experts to prepare for patients’ and caregivers’ emotional needs;
• Having a sense of humor and flexibility in providing care; and
• Putting the patient first and the media second in high-profile cases.

In the case of Abbott and the other survivors who did their rehabilitation at Spaulding, it took the coordination and cooperation of professionals in all the health care disciplines to maximize the healing process. Abbott has recovered so well that the Rhode Island resident plans on running the 2014 Marathon with her prosthetic leg.

“IT was a real team effort,” Abbott told the audience of 300 second-year students, faculty, and staff. “They had a genuine passion and I felt they really cared about me.”

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Mulrane said she spent the initial days after the bombing explaining to survivors and their families how speech-language pathologists would be a part of the recovery process. “We worked with them on subtle things, things that couldn’t be seen but were important in their recovery.”

Casparian was still weeks away from graduation when she became Abbott’s primary physical therapist following the bombing that left three people dead and more than 250 wounded. The two women established a strong bond—so much so that Casparian accompanied Abbott onto the field at Fenway Park to help throw out the first pitch before a Boston Red Sox game less than two months after the tragedy.

“I treasure the relationship we’ve developed,” Casparian said with a smile.
Baugh Visiting Scholar Relates the Benefits of Diversity

It was difficult for a poor minority kid growing up in Harlem to overcome racism and lack of opportunity. Samuel Betances, EdD, defied those odds. A diversity consultant and trainer with more than 40 years of experience, Dr. Betances came from a broken home, experienced the deaths of several family members at an early age, and was a high school dropout. However, he developed a determination that got him admitted into Harvard and set him on a career path in which he has travelled the world, shared a stage with Oprah Winfrey, and been a consultant for three U.S. presidents.

A turning point came when a nurse at the hospital where he worked told the Hispanic-American he needed to quadruple his English vocabulary to achieve success.

“You have words, but not the middle class words you need to succeed,” he recalled, adding that reading memoirs are best “because they’re about people who succeeded who were worse off than you, and it will prevent you from feeling sorry about yourself.”

Dr. Betances addressed how an institutional commitment to diversity can support first-generation college students during his talk, “Diversity Intelligence as a Mission Imperative for Health Care Professionals,” in October 2013 at the Institute’s E. Lorraine Baugh Visiting Faculty Scholar Series lecture.

Even with the gains in inclusion and awareness that have occurred over the past several decades, Dr. Betances said first-generation college students who grow up in poverty still face many obstacles to succeed in higher education. This includes the tendency for them to study alone rather than in a group with their peers. He challenged both students and faculty to identify who needs help and reach out—an action he promised will pay large dividends.

“If you help someone at the Institute, there’s a great chance that you’ll do it in your community and your workplace,” he said. “You’re going into the healing professions, so here’s your chance to take care of someone right here.”

The E. Lorraine Baugh Visiting Faculty Scholars Series was established in 2012. It is made possible by the support of current MGH Institute Trustee Carol M. Taylor and her husband, John H. Deknatel, in honor of the MGH Institute’s first Chair of the Board of Trustees, and current Honorary Trustee E. Lorraine Baugh, MS, RN.

Dr. Samuel Betances overcame language barriers to become a success.

First-generation college students who grow up in poverty still face many obstacles to succeed in higher education.

■ Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders Professor Emerita Pamela Hook received the 2013 Alice H. Garside Award from the Massachusetts branch of the International Dyslexia Association.

■ The Physical Therapy Club raised more than $4,000 during its 8th annual dodgeball tournament to support the Foundation for Physical Therapy’s Miami-Marquette Challenge. Nine teams composed of more than 90 students—including the first-ever team from Communication Sciences and Disorders—participated.

■ Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders Assistant Professor Joanna Christodoulou was named a recipient of the Early Career Award by the International Mind, Brain, and Education Society (IMBES) for 2014.

■ Dr. Alan M. Leichtner ’13, Associate Director of Health Professions Education and Adjunct Professor in the Center for Interprofessional Studies and Innovation, was listed by Boston Magazine in its December 2013 issue as one of the region’s Best Doctors in Pediatric Gastroenterology.
The Graduate

Winter 2014

www.mghihp.edu

ALONG THE WATERFRONT

New faculty hired for the 2013-2014 academic year:

Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders: Clinical Assistant Professor Yael Arbel, Assistant Professor Joanna Christodoulou, Professor Jordan Green, Professor Tiffany Hogan and Clinical Instructor Rebecca Inzana.

Department of Physician Assistant Studies: Director of Academic Education and Clinical Assistant Professor Carla Moschella, and Program Director and Clinical Associate Professor Lisa Walker.

Department of Physical Therapy: Clinical Assistant Professor Sara Knox, and Associate Professor David Selkowitz.

School of Nursing: Assistant Professor Rebecca Hill, Instructor Andrea Mosher, Associate Professor Abraham Ndiwane, Assistant Professor Rita Olans, Assistant Professor Lisa Quinn, Instructor Sheila Swales, and Assistant Professor Malinda Teague.

Provost Alex Johnson Receives Highest Honors from ASHA

Alex F. Johnson, PhD, CCC-SLP, FASHA, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and a renowned speech-language pathologist, has received the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association’s (ASHA) highest award.

Dr. Johnson, who joined the MGH Institute in 2008, received the Honors of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association award for his contributions to the profession.

The Honors is ASHA’s most prestigious award, given each year to a select few members whose work has “changed the course of their profession.”

“Receiving the Honors of ASHA is a humbling experience,” said Dr. Johnson. “I am grateful to my colleagues for this recognition and very proud to be part of this remarkable discipline.”

In addition to being the chief academic officer at the Boston graduate school, Dr. Johnson is also Professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, and on the faculty of the Harvard-MIT Program in Speech and Hearing Bioscience and Technology.

Dr. Johnson, who served as ASHA’s president in 2006, previously was named a Fellow of ASHA.

Originally from Ohio, Dr. Johnson completed his BS and Master’s degrees at Kent State University, and his PhD in Speech-Language Pathology at Case Western Reserve University.

After working as a clinician for several years, he served as Executive Director of the Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center, a university-affiliated comprehensive center at Case Western Reserve.

In 1988, Dr. Johnson was appointed to launch a new division of speech-language pathology in the Department of Neurology at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit Michigan, where he established several subspecialty clinics in voice disorders, stuttering, pediatric communication disorders, swallowing disorders, and stroke rehabilitation.

His funded research while at Henry Ford included studies of communication changes that occurred in the earliest moments after a stroke as predictors of both language and brain recovery. He also participated in the validation of a number of outcomes measures that are now used as qualifiers for payment for speech and language rehabilitation, and was a co-investigator on the development of the Voice Handicap Index, a widely used tool in measuring recovery in persons with voice disorders, as well as the Dysphagia Handicap Index, and the Communication Quality Scale.

In 1999, Dr. Johnson re-entered academia when he was appointed Chair of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Wayne State University in Detroit. During his tenure, the PhD program was expanded, a new Doctor of Audiology program was established, speech-language pathology enrollment increased, and the program was relocated to new facilities.

Dr. Johnson is the co-editor of two textbooks and the author of numerous peer-reviewed articles and chapters. He has continuing clinical and scholarly interests in medical speech-language pathology and the effects of communication and swallowing impairment on the quality of health and life. His interests also include a newer focus on the teaching and scholarly enterprise in higher education, as well as interprofessional education in the health sciences.

Dr. Johnson joins Director of Research Programs Robert E. Hillman, PhD, CCC-SLP, and Professor Howard Shane, PhD, CCC-SLP, as the third member of the MGH Institute faculty to receive the Honors of ASHA award.
As her mother, Jean Nabstedt, looked on, three-year-old Rachel happily played with MGH Institute students in the Charlestown Public Library’s children’s room.

“Rachel can be a bit shy when she doesn’t know someone, but she perked right up with the students,” said Nabstedt, a Medford resident who returns to her native Charlestown regularly. “I’m glad we came.”

More than 320 faculty, staff, and graduate students visited 30 nonprofits and other organizations during the school’s 2nd Community Day in September 2013. It was almost triple the number of locations as last year.

Each team of 10 was composed of students in nursing, physical therapy, and speech-language pathology who were beginning a semester-long class called Interprofessional Model for Patient and Client-centered Teams, or IMPACT, where they would learn to work with each other and lay the groundwork to provide interprofessional patient care during and after their MGH Institute education.

“It’s extremely valuable to know what students in other disciplines do,” said first-year Doctor of Physical Therapy student Sasha Kossak, who was paired with Master of Science in Nursing student Daniel Kahn to play with youngsters at the library.

Students performed a variety of tasks throughout Charlestown, as well as in Beacon Hill, the South End, the North End, and South Boston. These included providing seniors with health tips, cleaning up city parks and housing development yards, doing arts and crafts, running an adaptive soccer clinic for kids with disabilities, and leading a yoga class for high schoolers.

At Zelma Lacey House, speech-language pathology student Dolph Paulsen and resident Warren Spaulding were chatting in the assisted living facility’s den. “I like having all these young people come in and see us,” said Spaulding.

“It’s definitely a chance to get ready to work with a diverse population,” noted Paulsen. “You meet people you wouldn’t normally meet in day-to-day activities.”

Added Associate Provost for Academic Affairs Peter S. Cahn, PhD, “We believe that it is important for future health professionals to understand the communities where their patients come from.”
Annual Gala Raises More than $390,000 for Student Scholarships

Over 300 people attended the Institute’s annual Gala in November 2013, raising more than $390,000 to support scholarships for our students in nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech-language pathology.

During the event, held at the Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel, audience members pledged $82,000 during a live auction.

“The scholarships we are able to award each year promote access to a professional education for a broad spectrum of our students who will go on to make exceptional contributions in their fields and touch the lives of many patients, and their families and communities,” said President Janis P. Bellack, PhD, RN, FAAN.

Since the first Gala in 2007, more than $2 million has been raised for student scholarships.

The evening’s theme, “Transforming Lives: Education that Serves,” highlighted the school’s two pro-bono clinical centers. Located on the Charlestown Navy Yard campus, the centers—the Speech, Language and Literacy Center, which includes the Aphasia Center, and the Physical Therapy Center for Clinical Education and Health Promotion—provide more than $1 million of free services each year to hundreds of children and adults. The centers also serve as clinical education sites for speech-language pathology and physical therapy students.

John M. Connors III, Honorary Trustee and co-founder of the Boathouse Group, Inc., was honored for his 12 years of vision, leadership, and support during his term as a member and vice chair of the Board of Trustees.

Four event sponsors each donated $25,000 to support student scholarships:
- Massachusetts General Hospital
- MinuteClinic
- Putnam Investments
- Dr. and Mrs. Charles A. Sanders

Eight sponsors each donated $10,000: Sumner W. Brown, John M. Connors Jr. and Eileen Connors, John and Larisa Connors, Elizabeth “Trish” and Mark S. Joyce, the Knowles Family, J. Brian and Nancy J. McCarthy, MGH Nurses’ Alumnae Association, and George and Barbara Thibault.

Two members of the MGH Institute Board of Trustees served as co-chairs for the event: Trish Joyce and Angelleen Peters-Lewis, PhD, RN, Senior Vice President for Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer at Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island.

Other members of the Gala Committee were: Pamela D’Arrigo; Kristene Diggins, DNP, MSN, MinuteClinic; Anton Dodek, MD, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts; Margery Eramo, SON ’57, MGH Nurses’ Alumnae Association; Charles Landry, McCall & Almy; John Moore, Navy Yard Bistro; and Anthony Spirito.

The 2014 Gala will be held on November 5.
Nursing Professor Travels to Iraq to Help Mothers and Newborns

School of Nursing Clinical Assistant Professor Mimi Pomerleau, DNP, WHNP-BC, RNC-OB, CNE, recently travelled to Iraq as part of an effort to brainstorm solutions to reduce the large number of maternal and neonatal fatalities in the region.

Dr. Pomerleau, along with Brett Nelson, MD, MPH, global health faculty in the Massachusetts General Hospital Department of Pediatrics and the Department of Emergency Medicine, visited Bint Al-Huda Maternity and Child Teaching Hospital in Nasiriyah in summer 2013 with a team from the International Children’s Heart Foundation (ICHF), a Tennessee-based nonprofit organization that performs heart-saving surgeries on children with congenital defects.

During their stay at Bint Al-Huda, Drs. Pomerleau and Nelson interviewed clinicians and administrators, coordinated small-group educational discussions, and observed maternal and newborn care.

“My goal as a nurse is to improve the health of women and their newborns,” Dr. Pomerleau said. “It shouldn’t matter where you live; every mother and baby deserves good care.”

Among the greatest difficulties, she said, is the hospital staff’s lack of formal training. “They have the resources, but their problem is their education system,” Dr. Pomerleau said. “Brett did a mini-education session and the next day—with a little bit of encouragement—nurses and physicians were changing their techniques. It gave us hope.”

The health care system in Iraq, previously among the best in the Middle East, has been severely weakened over the last few decades because of spending cuts under the former Saddam Hussein regime. These cutbacks have particularly devastated the southern region, which now has some of the worst health conditions in the country.

With the ICHF’s support, Nelson and Pomerleau’s findings will be submitted to the Iraqi Regional Healthcare Directorate in an effort to implement more training, provide better clinical care, and upgrade equipment at Bint Al-Huda.

“Our hope is that we can advocate and build interest in newborn and nursing care in developing countries around the world,” Dr. Pomerleau said.

Marathon Is Focus of Schwartz Rounds

The 2013-2014 Schwartz Center Educational Rounds have reinforced the Institute’s interprofessional approach to compassionate care, as students from different programs have teamed up to present their perspectives on subjects. The topics have centered around the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, including in November when Master of Science in Nursing student Laura Cline, left, who was just 50 feet from the blasts, and Doctor of Physical Therapy student Ayana Robertson presented “Resilience in Caring for Victims of Mass Violence.”

Community Initiative Is Collecting Marathon Stories

A digital archive of stories, photos, videos, social media content, and recorded interviews about the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing is being collected via the outside community project initiative Our Marathon.

Alumni and faculty who cared for the victims, or students who were affected by the event, are invited to share their story by visiting marathon.neu.edu/share. Don’t forget to include a mention that you are connected to the MGH Institute so the public will know of the school’s sizeable reach throughout the Boston health care community, and please send a copy of your submission to alumni@mghihp.edu.
Professor Alan Jette Is Elected to Institute of Medicine

Professor Alan M. Jette, PT, PhD, MPH, FAPTA, has been elected to the Institute of Medicine (IOM)—considered one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine.

Dr. Jette is one of 70 new members and 10 foreign associates elected last fall during the organization’s 43rd annual meeting.

“It is an honor to welcome our highly distinguished colleagues to the Institute of Medicine,” said IOM President Harvey V. Fineberg. “These individuals have inspired us through their achievements in research, teaching, clinical work, and other contributions to the medical field. Their knowledge and skills will deeply enrich the IOM.”

“I am deeply honored to be elected as a member of the IOM,” said Dr. Jette. “This honor would never have been possible without the outstanding contributions made by the many collaborators with whom I have been privileged to work over the course of my career.”

For more than three decades, Dr. Jette has played a seminal role in the MGH Institute and its focus on interprofessional studies and innovation. He was part of the original faculty for the physical therapy graduate program in the 1980s, was the program’s Director in 1986-1989, served as Interim President from 1987-1988, and has been an adjunct member of the physical therapy faculty since 1989.

More recently, Dr. Jette returned to the MGH Institute as a Professor in the Center for Interprofessional Studies and Innovation (CIPSI), where he teaches several core courses in the new Interdisciplinary PhD in Rehabilitation Sciences program. He also serves as an academic advisor and research mentor for PhD students and provides expert advice to the program’s leadership.

An internationally recognized expert in the measurement of function and disability, he also is Professor of Health Policy & Management, Director of the Health & Disability Research Institute at Boston University School of Public Health, and Director of the Spinal Cord Model Systems Center at Boston University Medical Campus.

Dr. Jette, whose research interests include late-life exercise, evaluation of treatment outcomes, and the measurement, epidemiology, and prevention of disability, chaired the IOM project, “The Future of Disability in America.” Building on the 1991 landmark IOM report, “Disability in America,” the IOM panel updated developments since that report’s publication and highlighted future priorities for the nation. The panel’s report was released in 2007.

Established in 1970 by the National Academy of Sciences, IOM has become recognized as a national resource for independent, scientifically informed analysis and recommendations on health issues. Upon their election, members make a commitment to volunteer their service on IOM committees, boards, and other activities.

New Blog Records the Pulse of the Institute

The Institute has created a new blog, called The Pulse, in which students, faculty, staff, and alumni post their thoughts on education, health care, and other related subjects. Alumni who are interested in becoming contributors should contact Alumni Director Kami Crary at alumni@mghihp.edu for more details.

New Clothing Items Available at Bookstore

More than two dozen school-branded merchandise items, ranging from hoodies to fleece jackets to t-shirts, are now available on the Institute’s new official online bookstore, TextbookX.

Check out the options at mghihp.textbookx.com/merchandise.
Dr. Gross Hopes Research Can Reduce Knee Osteoarthritis

Department of Physical Therapy Associate Professor Douglas Gross, ScD, DPT, has received a $250,000 grant to investigate ways to develop or improve footwear to treat and prevent knee osteoarthritis.

The three-year Investigator Award from the Rheumatology Research Foundation, presented by the American College of Rheumatology, will allow him to research whether a person’s foot mechanics contribute to their risk of developing osteoarthritis in their knees.

“We think that certain foot alignments—such as flat footedness or having high arches—may affect how load is distributed on certain parts of the knee,” said Dr. Gross.

He will analyze data from two previous studies: the Shoes and Insoles on Loading at the Knee (SILK) study, which measured the walking medial knee load of 70 baseline participants with medial knee osteoarthritis to evaluate the effectiveness of shoe inserts on knee osteoarthritis; and the Multicenter Osteoarthritis Study (MOST), which included longitudinal knee x-rays of 3,026 older adults who had or were at risk of knee osteoarthritis.

“People develop osteoarthritis or experience worsening osteoarthritis over time,” Dr. Gross said, “so we should be able to find out if flat or high-arched foot mechanics bring about increased loading of certain vulnerable parts of the knee during walking. If so, then similar foot mechanics may also increase the risk of developing osteoarthritis in those same parts of the knee as we age.”

Dr. Gross said existing footwear interventions, such as wedge inserts or insoles of variable stiffness, are not as effective as they could be.

“Both inserts and insoles have demonstrated an ability to change mechanics of loading at the knee, but neither have demonstrated an ability to reduce developing osteoarthritis or even reduce pain,” he said, “so it suggests we could do a better job if we understood how the foot affects loading on the knee.”

The grant, which begins in July and will fund a portion of Dr. Gross’s salaried effort, will allow him to collaborate with biomechanist Howard Hillstrom, PhD, Director of the Leon Root, MD, Motion Analysis Laboratory in New York City; and rheumatologist investigator David Felson, MD, MPH, Director of Clinical Epidemiology, and a Professor of Medicine and Public Health at Boston University School of Medicine.

Alumni Receptions at ASHA and APTA Conferences Attract 300

Alumni, faculty, students, and friends in the departments of Communication Sciences and Disorders and Physical Therapy attended two alumni receptions that were held at the disciplines’ yearly conventions.

In November 2013, 40 alumni were among the 200 people who turned out at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association reception in Chicago to honor Provost Alex F. Johnson for receiving the Honors of ASHA (story on Dr. Johnson is on page 6). During the convention, more than 40 faculty, students, and alumni held seminars and courses, discussed their research, or presented posters.

In February 2014, close to 100 people including several alumni attended the reception during the American Physical Therapy Association’s 2014 Combined Sections Meeting in Las Vegas.

Ten faculty held educational seminars or presented posters during the conference. Leslie Portney, PT, DPT, PhD, FAPTA, Dean of the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences and former long-time Chair of the Department of Physical Therapy, delivered the prestigious Pauline Cerasoli Lecture during the conference.

Pamela Su ’02, left, and PhD in Rehabilitation Sciences student Bridget Bowler at the ASHA reception.

From left: Debbie Canoa ’02, Alexandra Lange ’11, and Marsha Ibanez ’11, at the APTA reception.
Marathon “Marathon” Aims to Support Team IHP During March 26 Fundraiser

The 2013 Boston Marathon tragedy deeply touched the lives of many alumni, faculty, and students in the MGH Institute community. Dozens were directly involved in caring for the survivors in the weeks and months following the bombings.

The three runners of Team IHP were close to completing the 26.2-mile course when the bombings occurred. Fortunately, they were not harmed. Nor were they deterred. Communication Sciences and Disorders faculty members Joanna Christodoulou and Margaret Kjelgaard ’97, and Physical Therapy alumna Kate Breen Grevelding ’00, ’02, vowed to return in 2014 and complete their mission. On April 21, they will be joined by CSD alumna Kara Beckwith Coffin ’11 and Master of Science in Nursing student Matthew Ellam—all five determined to cross the finish line.

To cheer on their athletic efforts, the Institute will hold its first Marathon “Marathon” on Wednesday, March 26. During the daylong event, the goal is to raise $26,200 for the MGH Institute Fund to help support student scholarships, instruction, and research.

Whatever you can contribute—whether it’s $2.62, $26.20, $262,00, or another amount—will send a message to Team IHP that the Institute is supporting them.

What’s more, when combined with the participation of others, your gift will exemplify the team-based approach that is the hallmark of an MGH Institute education and demonstrate the generous spirit of our community.

To read the stories of Team IHP, and to make a gift in their honor, visit www.mghihp.edu/Marathon.

New Center... continued from page 1

syndrome, one of the most common and debilitating side effects of cancer treatment. Dr. Wood is sharing, with investigators from Spaulding Rehabilitation Network, laboratory space equipped to support basic biological research;

• The Speech and Feeding Disorders Lab, under the direction of Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders Professor Jordan Green, PhD, CCC-SLP, is dedicated to improving the understanding of typical and disordered speech and feeding; and

• The Biomotion Laboratory allows researchers in the Department of Physical Therapy to study disorders of movement. Assistant Professor Janet Kneiss, PT, PhD, MS, oversees work in the lab, and will soon be joined by other researchers from the school’s physical therapy and occupational therapy departments.

“These recent additions of research faculty and facilities represent a major step towards the Institute’s goal of becoming a leader in health and rehabilitation research to complement its already stellar educational programs,” noted Director of Research Programs Robert E. Hillman, PhD, CCC-SLP.
School of Nursing Alumna Named President at Maria College in Albany

Lea Johnson ’97 has used her Master of Science in Nursing degree to carve out a successful career in higher education administration.

Dr. Johnson, EdD, RN, was inaugurated recently as president of Maria College in Albany, New York. The appointment is the culmination of a 30-year career in higher education that included stints as assistant dean of nursing at Northeastern University and dean of the American International College School of Business Administration.

That wasn’t the original plan when she decided to switch from marketing to nursing, an idea that was sparked when she observed how well nurses cared for her mother during an illness.

“When I got my degree in 1997, it was during one of those cyclical times when there weren’t a lot of jobs for new nurse practitioners,” recalled Dr. Johnson.

She then saw and applied for a nursing administrative position at Northeastern. Her previous higher education marketing experience at Suffolk University School of Management and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, combined with her new nursing knowledge, proved to be a perfect match.

“It gave me the chance to use my Institute education to work in nursing even though I was not doing direct care,” said Dr. Johnson, who was a board-certified adult nurse practitioner.

She spent 10 years at Northeastern, gaining national recognition for her work in developing successful programs which included a perioperative nursing certificate program that she created in partnership with 12 Boston-area hospitals, a nurse refresher program, and a registered nurse first assistant program (RNFA) that attracted students from Maine to Texas.

During her last three years, she was promoted to division director where she oversaw more than 20 undergraduate and graduate programs and was founding director of the Bouvé Institute for Healthcare Leadership and Professional Development.

Dr. Johnson, who holds an EdD in Higher Education Management from the University of Pennsylvania, moved to American International College in 2008, where she restructured the Springfield school’s MBA and Healthcare Management programs.

Since arriving at Maria College in 2012, Dr. Johnson has overseen a number of substantial changes to both its curriculum and campus. The largest move has been to gain approval to convert the school into a four-year college, which will officially start in fall 2014. She believes this will solidify its future, as she realized that competing with less-expensive public community colleges was not a sustainable operational model at the 1,100-student school.

She is thrilled to be back at a school with a nursing program, which already is planning to add an accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in the near future. It is one of several upgrades she plans as she brings her Institute education full circle.

“If I didn’t have the nursing background from the Institute, none of this could have happened,” said Dr. Johnson. “It allowed me to use my degree as a springboard to a new career path that has worked out quite well.”

www.mghihp.edu
Largest Research Grant ... continued from page 1

of ALS, address the critical need for objective outcome measures for ongoing experimental drug trials, and provide information to develop a novel oral communication device for persons with moderate to severe speech impairment,” explained Dr. Green, Principal Investigator on the grant, “Speech Movement Classification for Assessing and Treating ALS.”

Few studies have focused on the speech impairments, called bulbar symptoms, which affect speech and swallowing. To date, neurologists have relied primarily on observable clinical symptoms and obvious signs of deterioration, while ruling out other causes, to determine if a patient has ALS, a procedure Dr. Green noted is subjective and can take as long as 18 months to diagnose after initial symptoms first appear.

“Only 15 percent of people with ALS have a genetic marker that we can identify, so it’s crucial to have objective ways for clinicians to access the condition as early and accurately as possible,” said Dr. Green, who directs the school’s new Speech and Feeding Disorders Lab. “And since one quarter of ALS patients have speech impairment as an initial symptom, this method could improve how to diagnose the disease.”

The researchers will test 50 people with ALS, and use a control group of 50 healthy people, to compare the differences. Using a 3D electromagnetic articulography system, facial movements of each subject’s lips, jaw, and tongue will be tracked in three dimensions, and intelligent algorithms will be used to develop benchmarks that speech-language pathologists and physicians can use to accurately diagnose the disease. While this approach has been very successful with healthy talkers, Dr. Green believes it can work with ALS patients to improve early detection of speech motor involvement, identify speech motor decline more quickly, and create better options for maintaining oral communication.

The technology developed in this work will also be used to create a “virtual vocal tract,” a novel device that will help persons with ALS sustain oral communication for as long as possible. As the disease progresses, patients often lose the ability to clearly articulate. The device will recognize words directly from a patient’s abnormal lip and jaw movements and convert them into intelligible speech in real time.

“With the ranks of faculty researchers continuing to grow, we anticipate more grants being awarded that can play a significant role in advancing patient care,” said Director of Research Programs Robert E. Hillman, PhD, CCC-SLP.

The five-year grant, which runs through 2018, has subcontracts with Massachusetts General Hospital, the University of Texas-Dallas, the University of Nebraska, and the Sunnybrook Research Institute in Toronto.

Dr. Green also has current funding for two other projects:

• $429,360 from Nestec Ltd, Switzerland, through 2015: “Effect of Food Structural Properties on Infants and Toddlers Mastication Abilities,” Principal Investigator; and

• $2,389,340 from National Institutes of Health’s National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, through 2015: “Bulbar Motor Deterioration in ALS,” Co-Principal Investigator with Yana Yunusova.
In Memoriam: Former Faculty Members

David Krebs, who taught in the Physical Therapy and Clinical Investigation Departments

Former faculty member David E. Krebs, PT, DPT, PhD, passed away in February after a long illness.

Dr. Krebs, a professor who taught in both the Physical Therapy and former Clinical Investigation programs from 1987 until 2006, was 59.

“Dave was the consummate researcher, with hundreds of publications that contributed to the understanding of gait and movement,” said School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences Dean Leslie Portney, PT, DPT, PhD, FAPTA, a longtime colleague. “He was a respected researcher, mentor, and colleague, and he will be remembered for his important contributions to physical therapy and movement science.”

A graduate of Columbia University and New York University, Dr. Krebs received his Doctor of Physical Therapy from the Institute in 2002.

During his 30-year career, he also held academic appointments in orthopaedics at Harvard Medical School and in mechanical engineering at MIT, and was the director of the Massachusetts General Hospital Biomotion Laboratory.

Dr. Krebs was awarded more than $5 million as the principal investigator on federal and foundation research grants, primarily to study the neural and biomechanical constraints of human locomotor control.

He received several awards, including the American Physical Therapy Association of Massachusetts 1989 Research Award, Golden Pen Award for Distinguished Scientific Writing in 1994, the Marian Williams Award for Research in Physical Therapy in 1998, the Chattanooga Research Award in 2001, and the Helen Hislop Award for Outstanding Contributions to Professional Literature in 2003.

Kenneth Stevens, who helped create the Communication Sciences and Disorders Department

Kenneth Stevens, who was instrumental in creating the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders in the 1990s, passed away in August 2013. He was 89.

Dr. Stevens worked with Professor Emerita Julie Atwood Drake and former department chair John Locke in establishing the program, and taught courses during its early years.

“We are grateful for the contributions that Ken, a world-renowned scholar, made to the CSD department when we were just beginning as a graduate program,” said Chair Gregory Lof, PhD, CCC-SLP. “His work and memory will live on for many more generations because of his important scholarly contributions.”

Each year at Commencement, the Institute presents the Kenneth N. Stevens Student Research Award to a graduating Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology student who demonstrates superior performance in conducting research that produces new knowledge about normal or disordered human communication.
Salute an Institute Nurse in *Boston Globe*

Several Institute alumni and faculty in recent years have been included in the *Boston Globe*’s annual Salute to Nurses section, which will be published this year on May 4. We invite you to nominate someone from the Institute community at [www.boston.com/jobs/salute/](http://www.boston.com/jobs/salute/). The deadline is March 21.