



NEWTON-WELLESLEY HOSPITAL
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

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Upcoming 2016 Events

Monday, April 18, 2016	Boston Marathon
Saturday, May 7, 2016	17th Annual Gala, Westin Copley Place 6:00 PM - 11:00 PM

To attend any of the events or if you have any questions, simply email Maryann Zschau at mzschau.partners.org or call (617) 243-6712.

All dates are subject to change. Please contact (617) 243-6243 or NWHCF@partners.org for more information.

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Our Community Our Hospital

Elfers Cardiovascular Center Opens with Slotnick Family Procedure Suite Bringing Premier Services To Our Community

Under the leadership of Dr. George J. Philippides, Chief of Cardiology, the new Elfers Cardiovascular Center at Newton-Wellesley Hospital (NWH) is poised to be one of the premier cardiovascular centers in New England, offering expanded cardiovascular services previously not available at Newton-Wellesley Hospital. Additionally, the Elfers Center will operate as a clinical collaboration with Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), assuring streamlined access to MGH for our patients needing the most advanced tertiary or quaternary care.



Pictured from left to right at the ribbon-cutting and opening of the Slotnick Family Procedure Suite at the Elfers Cardiovascular Center are Neil Foster, Nancy Slotnick Foster, Ellen Slotnick and Will Slotnick.

Interventional Radiologist, to conduct more complex and life-saving surgical cases at NWH, that until now had to be referred downtown to major academic medical centers. Dr. Moussa Mansour, Director of the Cardiac Electrophysiology Laboratory at MGH, and Dr. Brenda Corrigan are now able to implant new pacemakers in the Slotnick Family Procedure Suite and refer their patients to the new Breazanno Device Clinic just steps away to have their devices monitored and serviced as needed. And because lifestyle is a critical component of long-term cardiovascular health, the

Side B of the Elfers Cardiovascular Center opened in November 2015. This welcoming facility expands services to NWH patients for which they previously had to travel to downtown Boston. The Center's new state-of-the-art Slotnick Family Procedure Suite expands capacity for Dr. Christopher J. Kwolek, Chief of Vascular Surgery, and his colleague, Dr. Edgar Casado,

Elfers Center will soon be home to a specialized NWH Cardiac Rehabilitation Center. When Side A of the Elfers Center opens just down the hall in the fall of 2016, the 20,000-square-foot center will be complete with a new Diagnostic Testing Suite and wing containing Cardiovascular Exam Rooms and physician offices. ♥



Featuring Dr. Christopher J. Kwolek

Dr. Kwolek recently sat down with the Newton-Wellesley Hospital Charitable Foundation to discuss the new Elfers Cardiovascular Center and how it will impact his work in transforming patient care.

Q What drew you to Newton-Wellesley Hospital?

CK: I came to Newton-Wellesley Hospital (NWH) eleven years ago because it has a great reputation as a community hospital providing world-class care in a community setting. NWH's cardiovascular and disease management programs are highly respected and there is a spirit of collegiality with leadership working together to take the program to the next level. It is also a nimble organization which is fertile ground for novel approaches. This culture embraced the new minimally invasive vascular procedures I brought with me, which made it a tremendously fulfilling opportunity.

Q Why did you decide to specialize in vascular surgery?

CK: Vascular disease has emerged as a central health issue that affects increasing numbers of patients. The incidence of vascular disease continues to rise and will grow as our population ages. Often existing with co-morbidities, including high cholesterol and hypertension, vascular disease can affect many aspects of one's life.

As a vascular surgeon, I have the privilege of caring for patients long-term, developing relationships with them and seeing the difference that good medical care makes in the quality of a patient's life. It is extraordinarily gratifying to save a life or to provide life-altering care. I also direct the clinical training program that trains future vascular and endovascular specialists and find it rewarding to have the opportunity to teach others.

Q How has vascular surgery changed over the years?

CK: During my career, I have seen tremendous changes take place in vascular surgery, including the use of catheterization and balloon stent procedures. These new, less invasive procedures are associated with better survival and quicker recovery. Not long ago, repair of a ruptured aneurysm meant an open surgical procedure, followed by a seven-to-ten day hospital stay and long recovery. A less invasive approach is



Dr. Christopher J. Kwolek, pictured in the new Slotnick Family Procedure Suite

much easier on patients, and most importantly, this minimally invasive approach improves our chances of saving these individuals. The hospital stay for a patient treated for an aneurysm has decreased dramatically from seven to ten days to as little as one day. They can return to their regular routines in as little as four to six weeks, instead of four to six months.

Q What is happening in cardiovascular medicine at Newton-Wellesley Hospital?

CK: It is a very exciting time here at Newton-Wellesley. Our vision is to change the paradigm for primary cardiovascular care in our community. The Elfers Center will be a premier cardiovascular center, offering services to our patients that many hospitals simply don't offer. Healthcare is moving to providing more routine care in the community, saving the most complex cases for the academic medical centers. We are reshaping our entire approach to treatment while ensuring that our patients receive the very best multidisciplinary care.

In clinical collaboration with Massachusetts General Hospital, the Elfers Center is dedicated to the early evaluation, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of patients who have cardiovascular disease. The Elfers Center will bring together teams from different clinical areas in the Hospital, all coming together in a cohesive and collegial way to ensure the best treatment plan for patients. The team approach combines our collective strengths in many clinical areas to achieve the best outcome for the patient.

Q What services will The Elfers Cardiovascular Center offer?

CK: We will now be able to offer an array of services that builds upon the work of our highly regarded cardiovascular clinicians and programs. This includes cardiac ultrasound, MRI, treatment of problems with circulation throughout the body and electrophysiology, which includes management of abnormal heart rhythms.

The new Elfers Center facility will span 20,000 square feet on the second floor of Newton-Wellesley Hospital and will expand the Hospital's capacity to perform more complex peripheral endovascular procedures and also implant pacemakers and defibrillators routinely right here in the community. This eliminates the need for many patients to be transferred downtown and allows us to perform hybrid vascular procedures in the new Slotnick Procedure Suite in the Elfers Center.

Our team is committed to changing how we assess, treat and mitigate the potential effects of disease. The Elfers Cardiovascular Center will offer a first-rate prevention program customized to fit the specific needs of individual patients.

The Elfers Cardiovascular Center will change the landscape of healthcare for Newton-Wellesley Hospital's patients and community. Under the leadership of Dr. George Philippides, Chief of Cardiology, the vision is to be a premier cardiovascular

center that offers services that others do not. "We will become a destination for cost-effective, high quality patient-centered care. As we save lives and offer life-altering treatment, we will continue to build longitudinal relationships with our patients—and that makes all of us better doctors. Our patients enrich our lives and inspire us."

Dr. Christopher Kwolek, Chief of Vascular Surgery at Newton-Wellesley Hospital, also serves as Director of the Vascular and Endovascular Training program at the Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Kwolek graduated from the University of California, San Francisco Medical School and completed his general surgery training at the Harvard/Deaconess Surgical Service and Vascular Surgery fellowship at MGH. An Associate Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School, Dr. Kwolek has been listed by Castle Connolly as one of America's Top Doctors in Vascular Surgery for the past 9 years. He leads over 10 clinical trials investigating minimally invasive methods and new technology to treat vascular disease. Dr. Kwolek has served as the MGH site principal investigator for trials involving thoracic aortic stent grafting for the repair of degenerative aneurysms, aortic dissection and traumatic injury to the thoracic aorta. A recent segment of *Save My Life: Boston Trauma* featured Dr. Kwolek's diagnosis of a dissecting aortic aneurysm and the emergency life-saving vascular surgery that he performed on the patient. 🇺🇸

One Patient's Story

Today, Mel Marcus is at Newton-Wellesley Hospital to deliver his signature banana bread to Dr. Kwolek and the vascular surgery team, as he has done every anniversary of the day that Dr. Kwolek saved his life. Four years ago, Mel's wife rushed him to the Emergency Department at Newton-Wellesley Hospital (NWH) after he collapsed. Waiting for Mel at the door, the ER doctors rushed him to imaging and presented Mel's wife, Elaine, with a stark reality: the images revealed the presence of a ruptured aortic aneurysm that measured a massive 11.5 centimeters. Mel's only chance of survival hinged on vascular surgeon, Dr. Christopher Kwolek, and his team.

“I am alive today because the stars aligned that day,” says Mel.

Fortunately, Dr. Kwolek was available. After immediately assessing Mel, Dr. Kwolek told Elaine that they had a ten-minute window of time to save Mel's life. Dr. Kwolek performed an emergency 3-hour surgery and used novel, minimally invasive techniques to put a graft in and repair the rupture.



Fewer than 1% of people survive a ruptured aneurysm the size of Mel's. It was one of the largest that the NWH team had ever seen. Today, Mel is back to a full and vibrant life, even enjoying strength training. "I owe everything to Dr. Kwolek. My case was the worst and Dr. Kwolek pioneered the graft that saved my life. I was so lucky that the one doctor who

was trained in this way was on the premises at the right time to treat me for a catastrophic event. I know that most people are not so lucky! I am forever grateful to Dr. Kwolek."

The Elfers Center expands capacity for Dr. Kwolek and other endovascular specialists to conduct complex procedures right here at NWH in the new Slotnick Procedure Suite. Now others in the community will also be able to count on Dr. Kwolek and his team. 🇺🇸

From Philosophy To Trailblazing Medicine: A Conversation with Dr. Edgar Casado

If you are a patient with an abdominal aneurysm, or in need of a mediport implanted for chemotherapy treatment or experiencing potentially catastrophic post-partum bleeding, Dr. Edgar Casado, an interventional radiologist at Newton-Wellesley Hospital, is ready to help. He recently spoke about his career and work and how the new Elfers Cardiovascular Center will help patients.

Interviewer: Your father was a surgeon. What influence did he have on your decision to practice medicine?

EC: Growing up in New York City and observing my father's demanding schedule, I actually decided in high school that becoming a doctor was not for me! I had always been interested in philosophy and that is what my undergraduate degree is in.

Interviewer: How did you go from philosophy to interventional radiology?

EC: Looking at my options after graduation, I decided that combining medicine with philosophy could make for an interesting career. Initially, I studied neurology and then had a remarkable experience during my third year of medical school. An elderly patient, whose hypertension was fully controlled with medication, experienced deteriorating kidney function. Her renal artery into the kidney had narrowed, a possible cause of her high blood pressure and hypertension. I brought the patient to interventional radiology and stayed there, watching, as the radiologist placed a stent into the patient's renal artery. Over time, the patient's blood pressure went down and her kidney function improved. It was an incredible experience to see such a significant change in a patient's quality of life. When I saw that a minimally invasive procedure could so improve a life, I decided, then and there, that I wanted to do that.

Interviewer: What is an interventional radiologist and how is it different from what Dr. Kwolek does? (Interview with Dr. Kwolek, page 2.)

EC: An interventional radiologist specializes in surgery that uses less invasive methods, such as X-Ray's, MRI, and other types of imaging, to guide a catheter in the body, usually in an artery, to treat the source of the disease. Interventional radiologists have invented many procedures across a broad spectrum of clinical areas, including angioplasty – the repair and unblocking of blood vessels, often in the coronary artery – and the catheter-delivered stent that is used in the heart and blood vessels.

I recently had a patient with an abdominal aneurysm and used imaging to place a stent graft into the patient to redirect blood flow and relieve the pressure from the aneurysm. We use the same technology to treat maternity patients who have potentially catastrophic bleeding and cancer patients who need a mediport through which anti-cancer drugs are administered. Many procedures that once required surgery can be performed by an interventional radiologist without general anesthesia or incisions, which means that patients often can go home the very same day as surgery. In the new Elfers Cardiovascular Center, I work very closely with Dr. Kwolek on certain procedures. However, Dr. Kwolek also performs major surgery that involves entering the body.

Interviewer: What does the Elfers Cardiovascular Center mean to you?

EC: It is an amazing space and there is nothing else like it in our community! It will be so much better for our patients, who now will get advanced care close to their home. Our clinical collaboration with MGH means that patients will have the benefit of a tremendous breadth and depth of combined expertise in the community, which is how healthcare is evolving. We use multiple modalities when we treat patients with vascular and other types of diseases and now everything is in one location: CT scans, preop and recovery.

Interviewer: What do you want donors to know about the Elfers Cardiovascular Center?

EC: Being close to your home is much more comfortable and is a better environment for patients. Communication among the clinical staff takes place face-to-face and there is a real foundation of collaboration and teamwork. Here, everyone works together, often in the same room, and we analyze and problem-solve in a consultative way that benefits our patients. Newton-Wellesley is a community hospital that has the mentality of an academic medical center. The Elfers Center is a multidisciplinary and unifying force that benefits, most importantly, our patients. Thanks to our donors, Newton-Wellesley Hospital is leading the way. ❤️



Dr. Edgar Casado in the Slotnick Family Procedure Room.

A Vascular and Interventional Radiologist at NWH since 2002, Dr. Edgar Casado is a board-certified radiologist with a special added qualification in Vascular and Interventional Radiology. Dr. Casado graduated from Albert Einstein College of Medicine in 1996 with distinction in research. Following a transitional internship at St. Vincent's Hospital in New York City from 1996 to 1997, he attended the Albert Einstein/Montefiore residency in diagnostic radiology from 1997 to 2001 and completed his fellowship in Vascular Radiology at MGH from 2001 to 2002. Currently the Chief of Interventional Radiology at NWH and the clinical director of Vascular Ultrasound at NWH, he also serves on the Admissions Committee for Tufts University School of Medicine.

Ribbon-Cutting for the Slotnick Family Procedure Suite



Pictured from left to right in front of the Cardiovascular Device Clinic, funded by the Breazzano Family Charitable Trust, are William Reinert, Dr. George Philippides, Chief of Cardiology, Craig McKibbin, Rosalie Green, Edward Andrade and David Breazzano.



Pictured from left to right are Deborah and Bill Elfers, Trustee, and Jane Elfers Muther and Kurt Muther. The Elfers Family gave the leadership gift to the Center.



The Slotnick Family Procedure Suite in the Elfers Cardiovascular Center.



Tricia and Scott Scarpato, whose generosity funded the Cardiovascular Nurses Station, and Anne Morrisey, Nurse Manager of the Center.

\$850,000 Raised At Annual Gala

The Stork Club Gala, chaired by John and Tracey Cannistraro, drew a crowd of more than 700 guests at the 16th annual Gala on Saturday, May 9, 2015 at the Westin Copley Place. More than \$850,000.00 was raised to benefit Newton-Wellesley Hospital's Obstetrics Program. The evening included cocktails, silent and live auctions, dinner and dancing.

Annually, over 4,500 babies are born at Newton-Wellesley Hospital (NWH), making it the third largest birthing site in Eastern Massachusetts and the fourth largest in the state. With the broad range of services that NWH offers to mothers and newborns, the demand for obstetrical services at the Hospital continues to grow. Recently, an expanded Mother and Baby Unit opened, which added 12 private postpartum rooms and a 13-bed nursery, bringing the total number of rooms to 48 and increasing capacity by 33%. 🏡



Gala Co-chairs John (Char. Fd. Dir.) and Tracey Cannistraro at Newton-Wellesley Hospital's 16th annual Gala. The Cannistraro's five children were all born at Newton-Wellesley Hospital.



Ellen and James L. Kaplan, NWH Trustee.



Meghan and Greg Buscone, NWH Overseer, are shown pictured with their six children, and Dr. Thomas L. Beatty Jr., Chair of the Obstetrics/Gynecology Department. Dr. Beatty delivered all six of the Buscone children.



Dr. Al Hamner and Lisa Hamner, pictured with their guests at the Gala.



Rosie Reyes and Ed Mank, Overseer For Life at NWH.



Dr. Frank Carrano, a physician in the Emergency Department at Newton-Wellesley, pictured at the live auction after learning that he was the winning bidder for the trip to Italy.



Lise Olney and Timothy Fulham, who were the winning bidders for the shopping spree at Shreve, Crump and Low.

Annual Golf and Tennis Tournament Scores With \$205,000 Raised For *The NWH Fund!*

Newton-Wellesley Hospital Charitable Foundation's annual Golf & Tennis Tournament, chaired by Jeff Thomas, took place with a capacity group of participants on Monday, September 21st at the Wellesley Country Club. The Golf Committee included Dr. Heidi Angle, Richard Barnett, Dr. Mark Belsky, Dr. Caroline

Block, Dr. Mark Lemons, Dr. Steve Miller, Ellen Moloney and Bob Richards. This perennially favorite event raised \$195,000 for *The NWH Fund*, which helps Newton-Wellesley Hospital meet its most pressing operating budget needs. The day included a buffet lunch, a cocktail reception and presentation of awards. 🏌️



Left: David Patrick, Ed Bickford, Bruce Freedman, (NWH Trustee) and Bill Fink.



Right: Gary Lockberg, John Maloney, Bruce Epstein and Jeff Thomas, (Tournament Chair and NWH Trustee Emeritus).



Left: Beth Keane, Alicia Abad, Vicky Hadden and Susan Frontero.



Right: Dennis Stone, Mark Jussaume, Richard Barnett, (Committee Member) and Ron Gorham.

HOPEWALKS

Raises More Than \$210,000 For Cancer Patients

HopeWalks, Newton-Wellesley Hospital's annual 3.5 mile neighborhood walk that benefits cancer patients and their families, took place on Sunday, October 4th. The sixth annual HopeWalks was an extraordinary day when patients, families, caregivers, friends – including four-legged companions — and survivors transformed NWH's campus and sent a strong message of hope to those fighting cancer. Emmy award-winning journalist and WCVB-Channel 5 anchor Phil Lipof, HopeWalks' Master of Ceremonies, inspired attendees with his own personal story and words of encouragement. By the end of the day, more than 500 walkers had raised over \$210,000 for the Integrative Support Services Program offered at the Vernon Cancer Center. ♥



Melody Tortosa and Dr. Mark Belsky (Chair, Charitable Foundation). Melody's team – Bodies by Melody- raised over \$22,000, taking 1st place.



Phil Lipof, WCVB-Channel 5 News Anchor and our Master of Ceremonies.



Tina Moss of Bristol-Myers Squibb, Silver Sponsor for HopeWalks



Alan Steinberg and his grandchildren with Dr. Jeffrey Wisch, Chief of Hematology/Oncology, who is holding the Bell donated by Alan. Patients ring the bell upon completing treatment.



Refreshments for the walkers, hosted by the National Charity League of Wellesley.

Fund Year 2015 Closes On A Successful Note

Exceeding the goal of \$8.5 million, the Newton-Wellesley Hospital Charitable Foundation (NWHCF) reports a total of \$9.9 million raised this past fund year which closed on September 30, 2015. This includes *The NWH FUND*, which raised \$1.3 million for unrestricted operating budgets. The total of \$9.9 million raised in 2015 is 22% higher than the previous year.

Since its founding in 2000, the NWHCF has raised over \$112 million to support the Hospital's operating budgets, clinical and capital programs. Of all the capital projects undertaken in the last 15 years, the NWHCF has contributed anywhere from 25% to 50% of the capital costs.

Currently, we are continuing to raise funds for the new Elfers Cardiovascular Center, which will fully open in 2016.

Approximately \$30 million of the \$112 million raised has built significant Endowments that support key programs and positions. These various endowed funds contribute in the range of \$1,350,000 each year to the Hospital and will continue to do so in perpetuity.

“The generosity of our community, and the connection they have to Newton-Wellesley Hospital, is truly extraordinary and inspiring,” remarked Joan Archer, President of the NWHCF.

“The generosity of our community, and the connection they have to Newton-Wellesley Hospital, is truly extraordinary and inspiring,” remarked Joan Archer, President of the NWHCF. “Without this support, so much of what has been accomplished would not have happened. It’s wonderful that so many are invested in wanting the best medical care possible in their community.”

NEWLY ESTABLISHED The Ilene Beal Endowed Chief of Hematology and Oncology



Former Trustee and friend of NWH, Ilene Beal, made an extraordinary gift of \$500,000 to honor Dr. Jeffrey S. Wisch, Chief of Hematology and Oncology at Newton-Wellesley Hospital and Clinical Director of the Vernon Cancer Center (VCC). Shortly before her death on August 1, 2015, Ilene wanted

to do something important for Newton-Wellesley Hospital to honor her dedicated physician and recognize the compassionate care she had received at the VCC. Several conversations with Ilene led to her establishment of The Ilene Beal Chief of Hematology/Oncology. She gave the lead gift which will support the Chief's position and clinical research programs. Ilene Beal grew up in Connecticut and graduated from

Wellesley College in 1967. A trailblazer who went on to have an impressive career in the banking industry, Ilene was a former NWH Trustee, Overseer and Trustee Emerita. During her two decades of service in many different capacities, Ilene never wavered from her goal of working to make the Hospital a better place for her community. Missed by all who knew her, Ilene was described by a friend as a “powerhouse with a big heart”. Indeed, that is an apt description. Ilene's legacy lives on at Newton-Wellesley Hospital.

The Charitable Foundation has now embarked on a campaign to raise the additional funds to fully endow this position at the \$1.5 million level. Gifts of all sizes are important and will help us to reach goal. Gifts can be pledged and paid over a 3 to 5 year period. For additional information, please contact: Amy Hurley at the Charitable Foundation, by phone at (617) 243-6438 or by email at alhurley@partners.org.

Louise Slotnick: A Compassionate and Generous Heart



Louise Slotnick and her children, Ellen Slotnick, Will Slotnick and Nancy Slotnick Foster.


Louise always will be remembered as a visionary who made a difference in the lives of many.

Walk through the hallways of Newton-Wellesley Hospital (NWH), and you will see evidence of the great and generous heart of Louise Slotnick. Helping countless individuals over the course of her life, Mrs. Slotnick was a supportive friend and philanthropist to many. Known for her intelligence, engaging wit and energy, Louise had an especially deep and enduring connection to Newton-Wellesley Hospital.

"I first remember meeting Louise in 1998," recalls Joan Archer. "Little did I know that first meeting would result in such a strong, personal friendship. It was nothing but a pleasure to know Louise. She was always looking outward, wanting to know how she could help others in small and big ways, from timely donations to struggling individuals to making significant leadership gifts for key initiatives at NWH."

In 2005, Louise gave the leadership gift to establish the Fast Track area in the Blum Emergency Pavilion. Then, in the fall of 2009, the Hospital opened the Louise and Alvin

Slotnick Inpatient Pavilion, equipped with 24 state-of-the-art private rooms. Just this past October, the dedication of the Slotnick Family Procedure Suite in the Hospital's new Elfers Cardiovascular Center took place.

Mrs. Slotnick's contributions to the community were broad in scope. In 2008, she received the George L. White Award from NWH for her work in establishing the grief support group Moving On. Following the death of her husband, Alvin, Louise had come to understand there were few bereavement groups available in the community, and she approached NWH to start one. In addition to founding and sponsoring the group, she actively participated and co-managed it for several years. Mrs. Slotnick's children, Will, Ellen and Nancy, are still involved in the Hospital and are continuing her legacy of devoted service. We miss our dear friend, Louise, and are deeply grateful for her generosity and support. She always will be remembered as a visionary who made a difference in the lives of many. 

Ronald McDonald House Charities Supports Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Program



Pictured in the CAPS space are RMHC of ENE Board Members Karen Driscoll-Montague, Christina Hilton, Steve Rima, Hank Shafran, Paula Wright (RMHC of ENE President) and Joan Archer, Vice President of Development at Newton-Wellesley Hospital.

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Eastern New England (RMHC of ENE) recently presented Newton-Wellesley Hospital Charitable Foundation with a gift of \$100,000 for the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Service (CAPS) at Newton-Wellesley Hospital. Dr. Susan Swick, Chief of CAPS, spoke about the importance of the program and how the generous gift will help those who often have no place to turn for counseling. "The mental health of our children has been identified as the number one health issue in our communities. Twenty percent of our children will need some type of counseling, and yet only twenty percent of those who need counseling will receive it. We are most grateful to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Eastern New England for their support, which will provide help to kids in our communities who so desperately need it." 🇺🇸

RN to BSN Program Funded by The Newton-Wellesley Hospital Charitable Foundation

The Institute of Medicine reports that the quality of nursing care is significantly improved if delivered by a majority of nurses who hold a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree (BSN). The Institute has recommended a nationwide effort to increase the percentage to 80% by 2020.

Currently, 50% of Newton-Wellesley Hospital's nurses hold a bachelor's degree. In order to meet the goal of 80% by 2020, a 30% increase, the Hospital is requiring that external candidates under consideration for open positions hold a BSN. Additionally, the Newton-Wellesley Hospital (NWH) Charitable Foundation is funding an initiative with Framingham State University to hold on-site classes at NWH for our nursing staff to take the eight required courses to advance from an RN to a BSN degree. The NWH Charitable Foundation's funding is at a 75% subsidy level with nurses paying 25% of the cost of each course. Information sessions were held last spring and over 50 nurses expressed interest in attending. Following the

application process, 23 nurses were accepted into the program. This first cohort started classes on September 1st. These nurses also will need to obtain a varying number of general education credits, which can be acquired in a variety of ways.

One nurse expressed her gratitude to the NWH Charitable Foundation by saying "Thank you for helping me achieve my goals . . . when I chose to embark upon this BSN journey, I honestly had no idea how I would meet this educational expense. I am humbled and forever grateful to the NWH Charitable Foundation for this generosity."

"The cost for 23 nurses to complete the 8 nursing courses is \$144,000," said Joan Archer, Vice President for Development. "We are thrilled to provide this medical education for our nurses, who do so much at the bedside to provide the best care for our patients. We look forward to their success, which will move us closer to the 80% standard." 🇺🇸