

## IN THIS ISSUE

Retirees thanked .....	p. 4
Names in the news .....	p. 5
Construction update .....	p. 6
JGH earns high marks .....	p. 9

## "I am proud to embrace the challenge ahead"

Dear friends at the JGH,

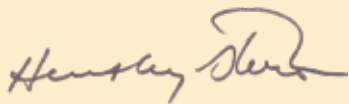
I have accepted the honour of becoming the new Executive Director of the Jewish General Hospital with great humility and excitement. The humility stems from the knowledge of the outstanding leadership that previous Executive Directors have given the hospital over many years, in particular that of Henri Elbaz. Their accomplishments are evident in the impressive and dynamic growth in quality people, in new programs, and in the expanding physical plant.

The excitement arises because I know these achievements are the result of a team effort.

Without the vigorous participation and leadership of the physicians, nurses, allied health staff, volunteers, donors, and administrative staff, nothing this great could have been accomplished—and these people are still here as the core and heart of the hospital. Moreover the unique commitment of the Board of Directors, the Foundation and the Jewish community at large is unsurpassed by any academic health sciences centre that I have come across. The JGH stands for excellence, is a partner with McGill University that stands for excellence, and resides in one of the most beautiful and interesting cities imaginable.

With this solid foundation, I am proud to embrace the challenges ahead. I will be working very hard to assimilate as quickly as possible the information needed to help take the JGH forward with a new vision, building on its strengths and positioning the hospital to be recognized in Quebec and Canada for its outstanding achievements. I commit myself to honouring the values of this venerable institution, values cherished by those who work in it and for it. I will do so in a style of transparency and fairness. My door will always be open to those who bring creative ideas to solve problems and improve the hospital in any way shape or form. I eagerly look forward to meeting you as soon as I can.

Sincerely,  
Hartley Stern, MD




On March 10, Dr. Hartley Stern officially became the new Executive Director of the Jewish General Hospital.

# Pulse

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
SIR MORTIMER B. DAVIS  
JEWISH GENERAL HOSPITAL

## Got a question about relationships?

**Dr. Frasier Crane**  
*is listening!*

On April Fool's day, the Department of Public Affairs and Communications will launch a new web page on JGH.ca, featuring podcasts by radio personality **Dr. Frasier Crane**, a staff physician in the JGH Department of Psychiatry. Just e-mail your questions to Dr. Crane and then listen for his answers online.



**Dr. Frasier Crane**

Looking for more April Fool's news? Just turn to pages 2 and 3.

## "Paging Dr. da Vinci!"

The Jewish General Hospital has entered a new age of leading-edge surgery by acquiring and implementing Canada's most advanced surgical robot. This milestone was announced on Feb. 18 at aJGH press conference, where physicians said the da Vinci robot, the only one of its kind in Quebec, will allow surgeons to carry out delicate procedures with unprecedented surgical precision. For patients, the result is less blood loss and a decrease in possible complications. For surgeons, it means in shorter operation times and less fatigue when performing difficult procedures.

Despite what its name may suggest, the da Vinci surgical robot does not perform surgery on its own. Rather, it is a highly developed tool for an advanced form of laparoscopic (minimally invasive) surgery. First, small incisions are made in the patient's body, and into these openings are inserted a light source (a wire-thin flash-light), a tiny video camera and the robot's long, narrow surgical arms.

Cont'd on page 4



# Care For All.



On prend soin de François MI TÖRÖDÜNK A SÀNDORRAL Խնամել Յակոբը Aalagaan ka naming ng mabuti Corazon  
Ми бринемо о Јовани Cuidamos de José My opiekujemy się Marysią לדאג לַאַרִיאָל We care for Allison  
Chūng Tōi chām sóc-Lam PRAN SOUIN GRAN'N LAMÈCI Θεραπεύουμε τον Γιώργο Noi ne ocupăm de Dino  
זארגן פאר גרשון ЗАБОТА ОБ ИБАHE PRENDIAMO CURA DI CARLA Salud para Miguel 我们照料李宁

Cont'd from page 1

Next, the surgeon sits at a special console in a corner of the operating room and looks into a viewer, which provides a real time, three-dimensional panorama of the patient's interior. By manipulating a pair of hand-operated joysticks and two foot-pedals on the console, the surgeon can move the slim surgical arms inside the patient, with the da Vinci system translating the surgeon's gestures into much tinier movements. Aside from the JGH, only two other hospitals in Canada—in Vancouver and Edmonton—are using da Vinci systems with this degree of complexity. The latest generation is distinguished by the addition of a high-definition monitor that provides superior views of the patient's organs. It also has a fourth surgical arm that enables the surgeon to make exceptionally precise movements. The system is explained in greater detail in a video that was screened at the press conference and can be seen online at JGH.ca. Addressing an audience of journalists, hospital staff and lay leaders, on Feb. 18, Executive Director **Henri Elbaz** said the arrival of the da Vinci system "marks our latest success in making the Jewish General Hospital a focal point for the best medical technology and the most up-to-date facilities in the province."

**Dr. Jacques Corcos**, Chief of Urology and Director of the JGH Robotics Program, said the JGH is now at the forefront in the treatment of prostate and gynaecological cancers. "It has become increasingly evident that prostatectomy (removal of the prostate) performed with robotic technology leads to a significant decrease in the incidence of sexual dysfunction and incontinence, thereby improving our patients' lives." Dr. Corcos added that additional research into robot-assisted surgery will be conducted at the JGH and the findings will be included in the hospital's new robotics program, developed in affiliation with Quebec's six universities.

Also on hand was at the press conference was **John Stella**, one of the first patients to undergo a radical prostatectomy under the da Vinci surgical system. Mr. Stella, a patient of the JGH's **Dr. Maurice Anidjar**, had his prostate removed on Jan. 8. Because of the minimally invasive nature of the surgery, he returned home in just 48 hours. "Afterwards, I only felt a bit of discomfort," Mr. Stella said. "I will indebted to the doctors and nurses for a very long time."

Along with Dr. Corcos and Dr. Anidjar, **Dr. Togas Tulandi** (Chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology), **Dr. Yves Langlois** (Chief of Cardiac Surgery), **Dr. Walter H. Gotlieb** (Obstetrics and Gynecology), **Dr. Susie Lau** (Obstetrics and Gynecology), **Dr. Jacob Garzon** (General Surgery) and **Dr. Shannon Fraser** (General Surgery) received training on the robot in the United States. The first operation was performed at the JGH on Dec. 17, and by late February, there had been approximately 20 successful surgeries.



## Retirees thanked for years of loyalty

A new group of JGH retirees was honoured on Jan. 31 for their years of loyalty in helping the hospital to build on its tradition of excellence. "Your day-to-day concern for the welfare of our patients has earned the JGH the gratitude of everyone it serves," said JGH President **Samuel Minzberg** at the annual retirement lunch.

Guest speaker **Joann Goldapple**, who graduated from the JGH School of Nursing in 1966, shared her memories of the hospital by telling the audience she began her career as a nurse on 4 East in In-Patient Psychiatry. Mrs. Goldapple then left the JGH to pursue her career elsewhere, but returned in 1987 and settled in at the Institute for Community and Family Psychiatry as a part-time nurse in the Out-Patient Psychiatry Unit.

"My work was always been a huge source of satisfaction and my colleagues were always such a precious source of friendship and support," Mrs. Goldapple said. "Best of luck and good health to all of you and a million thanks to everyone who helped make our years at the JGH so meaningful."

Executive Director **Henri Elbaz** reflected on his upcoming retirement and invited everyone to share their knowledge and experience by returning to the JGH as volunteers. "Not only will you make this hospital stronger," he said, "but we will be able to continue a relationship that has given us a great deal of satisfaction." At the conclusion of the reception, each staff member who retired in 2007 was presented with an engraved picture frame as a memento of the hospital. Photos were also taken of each retiree with Mr. Minzberg and Mr. Elbaz.

## Remembering Sonja Liverant Zaritzky Marcu

Some people are so attached to a given place that they become part of its essence. Such was the case with **Sonja Liverant Zaritzky Marcu** who, after 52 years of dedicated service to the JGH, died at the age of 86 last December. Despite the loss, her passion and enthusiasm will be felt for a long time to come—especially in the Department of Psychiatry, where she worked as an occupational therapist.



**Sonja Marcu**

"She was a great colleague and a friend", said **Dr. Khalil Geagea**, Director of Inpatient Psychiatry. "She was resourceful, curious, open-minded, non-judgmental, helpful, generous, caring and confident par excellence! She was always there when you needed her."

Since her beginnings as an occupational therapist in 1956, Ms. Marcu, "was constantly renewing herself and, in the process, redefining what she did," said Dr. Geagea.

After enrolling in various continuing education courses, Ms. Marcu explored many forms of providing help to patients, includ-