



News from
BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER

AUGUST 2008

EVENTS

MORE BMC NEWS

MAKE A GIFT

Donate Online
Gift of Stock
Honor & Remember
Bequests

- > BMC Helps Susan Battle Cancer With a Smile
- > Dempsey Center for Digestive Disorders Gives Hope to Patients With IBD
- > BMC Receives Patient Safety Award from NAPH
- > Elizabeth Grady Day of Beauty Gives Cancer Patients Much Needed Rest and Relaxation
- > MDPH Awards BMC \$1.5 Million for Preventive Health Services
- > BMC in the News

DEVELOPMENT HOME

OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT
801 Massachusetts Avenue
1st Floor
Boston, MA 02118

617-638-8990
philanthropy@bmc.org
<http://development.bmc.org>

BMC HELPS SUSAN BATTLE CANCER WITH A SMILE

Susan Curry isn't your typical 73 year old. The mother of nine is vice president of her community board, focused on providing neighborhood children safe activities and is often seen walking through the neighborhood visiting with everyone and anyone, in hopes of passing on her happiness. Known as "happy feet" by her grandchildren, Susan likes to keep busy and always has a smile on her face.



Susan Curry (right) smiles with her sister Betty at a 2008 Fourth of July celebration.

Susan's activities came to a halt when in early 2006 she noticed pain in her jaw. This nagging pain led her to Boston Medical Center where Scharukh Jalisi, M.D., assistant professor of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery and Neurosurgery, diagnosed her with adenoid cystic cancer, a cancer located in the roof of her mouth and spreading into her skullbase. Surgery and radiation would be needed to battle the cancer.

Surrounded by her supportive family and faith, Susan recalled she wasn't scared. "Dr. Jalisi explained everything that could happen during the surgery, including the possibility of having to make several cuts on my face in order to reach the cancer," says Susan. "He looked into my eyes and said, 'we'll get it all out.'"

After a five-hour surgery, Susan woke up, looked in the mirror and found no signs of incisions. "I held my face in my hands and was so grateful," she recalls through tears. "I can't put it into words, but I know God has given Dr. Jalisi the hands to heal and I am just so grateful I found him."

The skullbase resection Jalisi performed posed challenges, mainly because Susan's cancer was extending from her mouth to the base of her skull, which made the location of the cancer difficult to reach. Fortunately, BMC is one of the few hospitals in New England that offers surgical expertise in skullbase surgery.

"We were able to successfully reach the cancer without any cuts to Susan's face," explains Jalisi. "BMC has a special expertise in skullbase surgery that allows us to aggressively treat cancer, while maintaining the quality of life for our patients."

Since her successful surgery and radiation, Susan has been cancer-free. She is back to her normal activities, highly involved in her community and sharing her sparkling spirit.

"BMC has given me another reason to smile," says Susan enthusiastically. "My wish is to touch people and lift them up the way I've been lifted up by the care and warmth at BMC."

> [Back to top](#)

DEMPSEY CENTER FOR DIGESTIVE DISORDERS GIVES HOPE TO PATIENTS WITH IBD

Imagine if eating your favorite food was followed by intense abdominal pain, diarrhea or a trip to the operating room. This is the reality that more than 1.4 million people with ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease face each day.

At Boston Medical Center, the Dempsey Center for Digestive Disorders sees more than 12,000 patients annually who suffer from gastrointestinal diseases or disorders. The Center is a national leader in the diagnosis and treatment of serious conditions such as Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. In addition, BMC is one of the top hospitals in the nation for federal research funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Led by Co-Directors, Francis A. Farraye, M.D., MSc, and Stephen M. Sentovich, M.D., the Dempsey Center for Digestive Disorders offers comprehensive care – from diagnostics through medical and surgical treatment to ongoing disease management – in one location, with one team.

Jana Ziegberman, Au.D., pediatric audiologist and newborn hearing screening coordinator at BMC has dealt with Crohn's disease for more than 10 years. Ziegberman decided to get her care at BMC's Dempsey Center for Digestive Disorders in part because of the national reputation of the Center and its many physicians.

"Dr. Farraye and Dr. Sentovich are very well known nationally so when I was looking for a doctor in Boston, I knew right away that I wanted to be seen by the best in the field," explains Ziegberman. "Being an employee and patient at BMC, I have the unique perspective of not only working with many talented physicians, but also interacting with them from a patient standpoint. Having both perspectives only increases my opinion of the staff at BMC and at the Dempsey Center for Digestive Disorders."

In partnership with Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM), BMC physicians are performing ground-breaking



Co-Director of the Dempsey Center for Digestive Disorders, Francis A. Farraye, M.D., MSc and Chairman of the Division of Surgery, James M. Becker, M.D.

work by researching new endoscopic techniques to diagnose and treat cancer and pre-cancerous conditions in patients with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). Surgical approaches to the management of patients with IBD have been developed by the surgical staff in the Dempsey Center for Digestive Disorders.

"We take great pride in the high level of care we offer our patients," explains Farraye. "No matter who walks through our doors, we are proud to be able to provide top-notch, comprehensive care that can have a positive influence on how patients live, eat and cope with ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease."

> [Back to top](#)

BMC RECEIVES PATIENT SAFETY AWARD FROM NAPH

This June, the National Association of Public Hospitals (NAPH) presented Boston Medical Center with the Patient Safety Award, honoring its success in dramatically decreasing the threat of surgical site infections to patients, post-surgery.

Chief of Anesthesiology, Keith Lewis, M.D., was present at the 2008 Annual NAPH Conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico to accept the award on behalf of BMC.

"I was honored to represent BMC at the NAPH awards ceremony," comments Lewis. "We work extremely hard to ensure patient safety and this award speaks volumes to the many staff, physicians and nurses who worked tirelessly to reach our goal."

To achieve such an honor, a multidisciplinary team of BMC leaders led by Dr. Lewis, crafted a meticulous methodology of key actions and measures that would prevent the occurrence of surgical site infections. The team targeted elective surgery patient categories that demonstrated a higher prevalence of infection (cardiac, vascular, colorectal and orthopedic surgeries) to amass valuable data that illustrate directly the sources of infections and methods to address them effectively.

As a result of its diligent actions, BMC showed dramatic improvement in its compliance rating, improving from 80 percent to 97.83 percent in less than one year, and increased compliance further to 98.3 percent by July 2007. The Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) reports that no other institution has achieved such impressive results.

> [Back to top](#)

ELIZABETH GRADY DAY OF BEAUTY GIVES CANCER PATIENTS MUCH NEEDED REST AND RELAXATION

"After months of treatment, losing all of my beautiful hair and feeling tired, the Day of Beauty really boosted my self esteem. By the end of the day, I felt pretty again," reflects Judy Gabriel, a colon cancer survivor originally from Trinidad, who receives her cancer care at BMC.



Pictured L-R: Mark Finucane, Program Sponsor, Ernst & Young LLP; Keith Lewis, M.D., Chief of Anesthesiology at BMC; Gene Marie O'Connell, CEO, San Francisco General Hospital Medical Center and Chair, NAPH Executive Committee; and Larry Gage, President, NAPH.



Tony Murrell, prostate

cancer survivor, enjoys a relaxing day at a recent Elizabeth Grady Day of Beauty.

She is referring to the Elizabeth Grady Day of Beauty that takes place multiple times throughout the year. John Walsh, CEO of Elizabeth Grady, sought to support BMC in a way that he felt could help recovering cancer patients feel better about themselves and their image, after what is often months of chemotherapy and radiation. Working with Kathleen Finn, R.N., ANP, Director of Cancer Support Programs, Walsh set up the Day of Beauty that helps these patients feel refreshed and rejuvenated.

Groups of 20 men and women that have completed their cancer treatments are invited to a Day of Beauty at Elizabeth Grady in Medford. Technicians assess each patient's skin type, provide facials, massages, make-up demonstrations, skin products, and an ultimate, much-needed day of relaxation.

In a recent outing, a group of cancer survivors gathered in the Moakley Building to depart for their day of pampering. Nervous smiles covered the faces of the many first-timers, not sure what to expect.

It was "unbelievable and unexplainable," comments Melvin Mark, a prostate cancer survivor, on his first trip to Elizabeth Grady. "I had a facial, a massage and it was out-of-this-world relaxing!"

Sandy Allten, R.N., a nurse in the cancer care center that helps promote the Day of Beauty to patients notes, "I'm elated to see how happy each patient is after their day at the spa. What John Walsh and Elizabeth Grady do for our patients is truly special and unique. To see their bright smiles as they walk off the bus is amazing. You can see how much better they feel about themselves!"

Walsh's incredible generosity recently made him a nominee for Boston Business Journal's Partner of the Year award. His unwavering kindness gives recovering cancer patients a day to relax and recollect, something that while dealing with treatments, uncertainty and doctor appointments, cancer patients need more than ever.

> [Back to top](#)

MDPH AWARDS BMC \$1.5 MILLION FOR PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES



The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) recently awarded Boston Medical Center \$1.5 million over the next three years for the Women's Health Network and the Men's Health Partnership, state developed programs that offer preventive health services to the uninsured – a cause directly aligned with the hospital's mission to provide exceptional care, without exception.

Both programs offer preventive services to uninsured men and women between the ages of 40-64, or people who are at 200 percent below the Federal Poverty Level. These

preventive services include cardiovascular screening, health education, patient navigation and case management for those with breast, cervical, colon or prostate cancer.

With funding from MDPH, BMC will expand preventive services and establish patient navigators at three clinical locations on campus and at one of BMC's community health center partners, Dorchester House Multi-Service Center. In addition, BMC will implement a proactive system of coordination to promote early screening and identification of cancer and other chronic diseases at the primary care level.

BMC patient navigators play an extremely important role in working with patients who are being treated for cancer. Navigators are there to routinely check in with patients and help with both medical needs, such as booking appointments, and non medical needs, such as transportation and housing issues.

"This funding is important because it will not only allow us to expand preventive services that are much needed for low-income and uninsured patients in order to prevent or delay the onset of chronic disease," said, Chava Chapman, MbBch, M.P.H., primary care physician and principal investigator of the grant. "But it will also support our patient navigators who are dedicated to working with and ensuring these patients follow treatment recommendations and are comfortable throughout the process."

> [Back to top](#)

BMC IN THE NEWS

Improving Understanding of Epilepsy

> [Read more](#)

Living to 100 Doesn't Mean Living Poorly

> [Read more](#)

Efforts Mount to Improve Black Breastfeeding Rates

> [Read more](#)

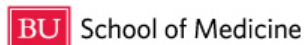
Doctors at BMC Offer Tips for Packing Healthy School Lunches

> [Read more](#)

HRSA Awards \$1.3 Million to BMC

> [Read more](#)

> [Back to top](#)



*Boston Medical Center is
the primary teaching affiliate
of Boston University School
of Medicine.*