

An immortal legacy

Hopkins and the community reflect on contributions of Henrietta Lacks at second annual lecture.

On Oct. 1, more than 650 researchers, health care providers and community members came together to honor a woman who changed the face of modern medicine without ever knowing it.

The second Henrietta Lacks Memorial Lecture was a daylong program to discuss the scientific and social relevance of the now-famous HeLa cell line, developed from tissue that was removed from Mrs. Lacks during her cervical cancer treatment at Johns Hopkins in 1951.

The event, sponsored by the Johns Hopkins Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR), marked the 60th anniversary of the discovery of the properties of HeLa. The first human cell line to constantly reproduce outside of the body, it has been instrumental in the development of the polio vaccine, cancer treatment protocols and AIDS research, among other major scientific discoveries.

Daniel Ford, vice dean for clinical investigation and director of the ICTR, hosted the program, while Harriet Washington, an award-winning medical writer and author of *Medical Apartheid* and *Deadly Monopolies*, delivered the keynote address. "I never thought I'd see Henrietta Lacks honored this way in my lifetime," Washington said of the African-American woman who remained in relative anonymity until the 2010-release of Rebecca Skloot's best-selling book, *The* (Continued on back)

Members of the Lacks family stand with a permanent display recognizing the contributions of Henrietta Lacks.



JOSHUA FRANZOS

Open enrollment: Review your benefit selections

At a time when health care costs are rising faster than inflation and wages, Johns Hopkins Medicine employees can take consolation in their substantial medical benefit packages. Although premiums have risen in some plans, according to Angela Davis, Hopkins Health System benefit specialist, and Heidi Conway, the university's senior director of benefits and human resources shared services, every effort has been made to keep benefits competitive and affordable.

Open enrollment, which begins this month, is the time to review those benefits to ensure that you're getting the coverage that best suits your needs.

Hospital and Health System Employees

For all Johns Hopkins Hospital and Health System employees, open enrollment will take place from **Monday, Oct. 24, through Tuesday, Nov. 8**. After reviewing the coverage and new medical and dental plan rates for 2012, you may make changes and update personal information. Visit www.hopkinsbenefits.org and log in with your JHED ID and password.

For those with limited computer access, there will be opportunities to sign up for benefits in the Human Resources Service Center Benefits Office in Phipps. HR staff will also be on hand for assistance in the

computer lab in Phipps, room 404. And HR staff will be at various locations around the hospital during open enrollment to answer questions. You may also contact the open enrollment help line at 410-955-6754, or send an email to oequestions@jhmi.edu.

Although prices seem to be rising substantially on most other things, says Davis, "Hopkins Hospital continues to offer competitive benefit coverage at a reasonable cost. Because Hopkins pays at least 80 percent of the total monthly benefit premium, employees can keep more of their money for other expenses." She encourages staff to tap into perks, such as discounts on fitness

(Continued on back)

Epic kicks off

With all the talk about Epic, the new enterprise-wide medical record system that the institution is implementing throughout Hopkins Medicine, employees may be wondering about its scope, timeline—and just how it will simplify health records management. On **Wednesday, Oct. 19, at 7:30 a.m.**, in Turner Auditorium, Dean/CEO Edward Miller, M.D., and Ronald R. Peterson, president of The Johns Hopkins Hospital and Health System and EVP of Johns Hopkins Medicine will officially launch the implementation of Epic and explain how it will transform patient care. Others closely involved in the project will also provide insight.

At 9:30 a.m., immediately following the launch, employees from across the institution are invited to Turner Concourse to see demonstrations and presentations of the Epic system. The meeting will provide an opportunity to learn more about the product, deployment strategies and the functionality of the system, says Linda Kline, executive director of the Epic project and senior director of patient finance. Employees will also have a chance to meet the Epic team.

The objective of this event, says Kline, "is to get people excited about this project and share leadership's support and vision."

—Judy F. Minkove

Oct. 19 Epic kickoff agenda

7:30 a.m.: Welcome and Introductions: William Baumgartner, M.D., senior vice president of Johns Hopkins Medicine and vice dean of clinical affairs

7:40 a.m.: Epic and JHM Transformation: Edward D. Miller, M.D., dean of the medical faculty and CEO of Johns Hopkins Medicine, and Ronald R. Peterson, president of The Johns Hopkins Hospital and Health System and EVP of Johns Hopkins Medicine

8 a.m.: Overview of Project Scope, Timeline and Objectives: Linda Kline, Epic executive director

8:15 a.m.: Mission Critical Solution—One Patient/One Record: John Flynn, M.D., Epic medical director

8:30 a.m.: Integrated Patient Care Demonstration: Epic team, Deanna Williams and Patrick Sweeney

9:10 a.m.: Closing Remarks: Stephanie Reel, vice president of information services, Johns Hopkins Medicine

Epic Fair—Turner Concourse

Coffee and snacks

9:30 to 11 a.m.: Meet the applications team at their tables for Q&A

9:45 to 10:45 a.m.: Overview of implementation: Deanna Williams and Patrick Sweeney

Parking and communications top NCB open forum

As the opening of the new clinical buildings rapidly approaches, employees have questions about what will happen to the existing hospital space, parking and more. These concerns took center stage at the recent new clinical building open forum.

Neil Marshall, director of parking and transportation, reminded employees that when the NCB officially opens, the Orleans Garage will replace the McElderry Garage as the designated primary patient-visitor parking facility for the campus. "We need to free up about 800 spaces in the Orleans Garage for this change," he said. As a result, a committee has been soliciting volunteers from among those parking in the Orleans Garage and identifying others—based on work locations—who will be asked to move to McElderry or to other garages.

The targeted time frame to start moving parkers out of the Orleans Garage is late November and early December, when the pedestrian bridge from the Orleans Garage to the hospital will be complete. The process will likely

continue into 2012.

Anyone who has a disability or health problem and wishes not to move, said Marshall, should submit a letter to Occupational Health and then forward it to him. And he reassured staff about safety.

Regarding plans for the existing hospital, Mike Iati, senior director of architecture and planning, described the complicated process of determining how best to use the space. Departments have requested, he said, to expand, refurbish existing areas, or relocate programs. He added that the plan is in "constant flux" and is more challenging than the new building was to pull off. "We have 360,000 square feet available and requests that add up to 900,000 square feet, which we're trying to reconcile." Complicating matters is the probability that certain areas will be demolished by 2020. Still, Iati shared a tentative plan and said that he and others are looking at "miscellaneous moves that make sense logistically."

(Continued on back)

An Immortal Legacy / Continued from front

Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks.

Washington's speech was the first of several discussions on ethics and biomedical research. Following her talk, attendees learned that the HeLa discovery is referenced in a national proposal to change research regulation and how they can have a voice in the process. Breakout sessions allowed for smaller group conversations on topics like bioethics and informed consent, what successful collaboration between community members and researchers looks like and the science and history behind HeLa cells.

Mrs. Lacks' story and her legacy also were told through an art show installed for the occasion. The "HeLa Reflected" image gallery featured shots of a young Mrs. Lacks, present-day pictures of her family and—perhaps most striking of all—prints of fluorescent-stained HeLa cells in glowing shades of neon yellow, red, blue and green.

Other highlights of the symposium included the unveiling of a tall display about Mrs. Lacks that will be housed in Turner as a permanent reminder of her impact. Newborn Holistic Ministries was honored as the recipient of the inaugural Henrietta Lacks Memorial Award—a \$15,000 gift presented by the Johns Hopkins Urban Health Institute to honor the nonprofit's commendable work in an underserved Baltimore community. Hopkins also announced the first Henrietta Lacks East Baltimore Health Sciences Scholarship, a fund for college-bound graduates of Paul Laurence Dunbar High School interested in pursuing a career in health care or science. The Lacks family spoke at the event, announcing the creation of The Lacks Family HeLa Foundation, which will contribute funds to disadvantaged patients battling cancer.

Subroto Chatterjee, a researcher who works in the Hopkins lab where George Gey, then head of tissue culture research, discovered HeLa cells decades earlier, echoed the sentiments of the day in his presentation. "I used to wonder how one person could make a difference that could impact the billions of people in the world," he said. "That's exactly what Henrietta Lacks did."

—Shannon Swiger

Open enrollment / Continued from front

memberships, non-tobacco user discounts and chronic care management plans (for those with chronic illnesses, like asthma), "to help you stay on top of your health—and to reduce health care costs."

University employees

For Johns Hopkins University employees, open enrollment runs from **Friday, Oct. 21, through Tuesday, Nov. 8**. There are no changes to the 2012 benefits, other than rate changes, which take place each year.

Last year, Conway notes, the university spent more than \$113 million on benefits. Though JHU hasn't slashed medical coverage, as some employers have done to lower expenses, "we haven't escaped the burden of rising health care costs." That's why, she adds, "it's important that we all take a more active role in improving our health and making wise health care decisions."

For info on open enrollment and to select a health plan, visit <http://benefits.jhu.edu>. To learn more about JHU's resources to help you get healthier, go to <http://benefits.jhu.edu/wellness>.

—Judy F. Minkove

NCB Open Forum / Continued from front

Amy Goodwin, director of institutional internal communications, encouraged staff to stay informed about the latest NCB developments using various resources. Updates are featured in *The Excitement Is Building* newsletters, plasma screen announcements and posters. But the most comprehensive tool, she said, is insidehopkins.org/ncb, which is updated weekly. The site posts articles and presentations about the NCB, photos, staff transition, orientation and virtual tours.

And Doug Hall, senior director of strategic marketing, informed employees about The Promise of Medicine ad campaign and other external marketing, including a new website about the NCB—ExploreHopkinsHospital.org—designed to engage consumers. Hall encouraged staff to visit the site.

—Judy F. Minkove

To view the Sept. 27 NCB open forum online, visit webcast.jhu.edu.

Noteworthy info and events

Orleans Street crosswalk closure extended

The crosswalk at the Orleans Garage Entrance and the sidewalk at the entrance on the north side of Orleans will remain closed to allow completion of the entrance to the new clinical buildings' courtyard. This closure will extend **until approximately Wednesday, Oct. 19**. Pedestrians should use the bridge from the fourth floor of the garage or the crosswalks at Wolfe or Broadway.

New Faculty Welcome and Orientation

Edward D. Miller, M.D., Johns Hopkins Medicine's dean and CEO, invites all new and interested faculty to attend the 11th annual New Faculty Welcome and Orientation on **Tuesday, Oct. 18, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.** in the Tilghman Auditorium, Turner Concourse. Miller, along with the school of medicine's vice deans, will be there to introduce you to Hopkins Medicine. Meet JHM leadership and hear about faculty policies. This is an important event for professional development at Hopkins.

RSVP to cclark30@jhmi.edu or 410-955-8401.

Answering the call

It's 11 p.m. and you just got a call that your senior loved one is in trouble. Would you know what to do? Whether accompanying your loved one to a doctor's appointment or in responding to a medical crisis, it's critical to have his or her medical information quickly accessible. Join staff from Home Instead Senior Care and the Office of Work, Life and Engagement, on **Wednesday, Oct. 19, from noon to 1**, at the Wilmer Institute, Maumenee 501, to learn how to prepare for and respond to these calls.

Info: 443-997-0360 or www.hopkinsworklife.org

Staff and institutional kudos

Tops in health care equality

The Johns Hopkins Hospital has been named No. 1 in the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's 2011 Healthcare Equality Index for its commitment to quality health care that includes the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community. The Healthcare Equality Index is an annual survey that assesses LGBT-friendly policies and procedures, as well as other nondiscriminatory policies, at hospitals nationwide. Fourteen of the leading 17 hospitals cited in *U.S. News & World Report's* annual "best hospitals" ranking made the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's list.

Patient satisfaction honors

The Department of Service Excellence has announced the inpatient units that have met or exceeded patient satisfaction goals, based on patient satisfaction surveys from the past year. They include: Medicine—**Coronary Care Unit/CCP 5**, Joy Rothwell, nurse manager; Surgery—**Marburg 2 and 3**, Carol Kersch and Carole Blakely, nurse managers, respectively; **Weinberg 4C and 4D**, Joanne Timmel and Elizabeth Lins, nurse managers, respectively; Gyn/Ob—**Weinberg 4B**, Linda Hicks, nurse manager; Oncology—**Weinberg 5A, 5B and 5D**, Gina Szymanski, Tracy Douglas, Nancy Ruth, nurse managers, respectively; Psychiatry—**Meyer 5**, Terry Goodwyn, nurse manager.



Janet Hiller, R.N., M.S.N., C.C.T.C., clinical nurse specialist in the Incompatible Kidney Transplant Program (InKTP) and director of the Kidney Paired Donation Program of the Comprehensive Transplant Center, received two "Best Abstract Submission" awards—one for a paper on abdominal organ transplants and another for a paper on immunology—at the International Transplant Nurses Society's September nursing education conference in Gothenburg, Sweden.

—Neil A. Grauer

Pharmacy Week activities



National Hospital and Health System Pharmacy Week—**Oct. 17-21**, recognizes the valuable contribution that pharmacists and pharmacy technicians make to improve patient care in our nation's health care institutions. The Johns Hopkins Department of Pharmacy invites staff, patients and visitors to the following events:

Wellnet/Pharmacy activities—The Department of Pharmacy has collaborated with Wellnet to provide blood pressure and cholesterol screenings (for employees only), medication counseling opportunities and health information. **Tuesday, Oct. 18, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.**, and **Thursday, Oct. 20, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**, in the Marburg Conference room.

Medication consultation—Come with questions for your pharmacist, bring your medications or a list to review, and verify that you are taking your medications correctly on **Tuesday, Oct. 18, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**, in the Weinberg Outpatient Pharmacy.

Leg Health Day—Receive education on over-the-counter and prescription compression stockings from certified staff. Compression stockings will be available at a discounted rate (20 percent off). Stop by the Monument Street Outpatient Pharmacy on **Wednesday, Oct. 19, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

The Department of Pharmacy will also give a presentation on **Thursday, Oct. 20, from noon to 1 p.m.** in Hurd Hall, titled "Transforming the pharmacy practice model through a readmissions prevention program."

From the editor

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