



PULSE PLUS

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

High-tech breakthrough!

JGH to replace wheelchairs with airborne cruisers

In a pioneering effort to forge new directions in ground breaking healthcare technology, the Jewish General Hospital has launched an innovative program to develop, implement and patent the world's first hovering, wheel-less wheelchair.

The revolutionary cruiser glides on an invisible, frictionless electromagnetic cushion that delivers a remarkably smooth ride, free of bumping, jostling or rattling. It also boasts pinpoint maneuverability with none of the physical exertion that is needed to push a normal wheelchair.

Since the cruiser is in the experimental stage and lacks some supplementary features, it must still be pushed. However, after the basic technology is finalized later this

year, work will immediately begin on an upgraded version that enables the user to propel and steer the cruiser with fingertip controls that are built into the armrests.

"It felt like I was floating on a cloud," exclaimed exuberant patient Annie De Ceiver after riding the cruiser in a testing facility in the basement of the Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research. "It's so much calmer on my nerves. Even when I had to travel over uneven surfaces, I didn't feel those little jolts of discomfort that I usually experience in a conventional wheelchair."

The cruiser operates on the "mag-lev" principle, already in use in high speed trains in parts of Europe and the Far East. Its framework is studded with powerful electromagnets that are attuned to a unique cable embedded beneath the hospital's floor. When the cable is charged with electricity, the cable and the electromagnets repel each other so forcefully that the cruiser is pushed up as high as a metre into the air.

Although commonly called a "cruiser" or "glider", the device is

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Stephanie Malley glides along in an anti-gravity wheelchair, pushed by oncology pharmacist Anh Nguyen.



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Jokes 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 לראיאל 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 ИВАНЕ PRENDIAMO CURA DI CARLA Salud para Miguel 我们照料李宁

Here's what's *really* happening at the JGH



Now that the Côte-des-Neiges entrance has reopened with new high-traffic doors, the main Côte-Sainte-Catherine entrance will close from mid-April to mid-2008 to facilitate renovations to the Division of Radiation Oncology. During this period, Côte des-Neiges will be the hospital's main entrance and will provide all services including valet parking and security. The hallway on the first floor of Pavilion B will remain open.

Happy Passover

The 71st annual Passover Seder for patients and their families will be held on April 2 at 7:20 p.m. in the cafeteria. The Seder is free for patients and one guest per patient. Additional guests and visitors are welcome at \$12 per person. Info/tickets: Local 4341.

Passover snacks - coffee, juice, sandwiches, pastries and more—will be available from the coffee cart in the Atrium on April 4, 5, 9 and 10 from 7:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Please note that the Café de l'Atrium, Second Cup, Link, Flower Corner and Maison de la Presse will be closed at noon on April 2 and all day April 3, 4, 6, 9 and 10.

Easter service

An Easter service will be held April 10 in the Solarium (Pavilion B, 6th floor) at 11:00 a.m. All are welcome.

Medical Grand Rounds

The Department of Medicine presents *Prophylactic HPV Vaccines: Potential for a Sea Change* with Dr. Alex Ferenczy (JGH Department of

Pathology). When: April 2, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Where: Block Amphitheatre (Room B-106). Info: Local 8274.

The Department of Medicine presents: *Targeting Abdominal Obesity for Optimal Management of Global Cardiovascular Disease Risk* with Dr. Jean-Pierre Després (Université Laval). When: April 16, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Where: Block Amphitheatre (Room B-106). Info: Local 7538.

Research Day

The Department of Psychiatry's Second Annual Research Day will explore *Ensuring Equality Through Respecting Difference: Access to Health Care for a Diverse Population*. Lecture topics include the role of computers for people with disabilities, cultural diversity and mental health care, and disparities in breast cancer treatment based on age. These English-language lectures are open to all healthcare professionals. When: April 27, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Where: Block Amphitheatre (B-106). Info: Local 5258 or 4626.

Close-up on glaucoma

Need a clear view of glaucoma? If so, check out the McGill Glaucoma Patient Education Centre's free English information sessions covering a wide range of topics on glaucoma and its treatment. When: April 16, 4 p.m. Where: Samuel S. Cohen Auditorium (Room A-102). Info: Local 4954.

New Patient Admitting System

The new Windows-based Patient Index and Admitting system goes into effect April 1, with interface trials and staff training scheduled before April 1. This highly versatile and user friendly system is compatible with other systems, but your patience is requested as start up ad-

justments are made. Experts will on site on April 1 to ensure a smooth transition.

JGH Mini-Med School

Registration is open for the English language session of the JGH Mini-Med School, April 11 to May 16. Speakers include Dr. Michael Dworkind (Family Medicine), Dr. Tina Kader (Endocrinology), Dr. Mark Miller (Infectious Diseases) and Dr. Michael Pollak (Oncology). Register at www.jgh.ca or local 3337. A discount is available for JGH staff and volunteers (registered with the Volunteer Services Department) who sign up in A-106.

And don't forget the JGH Mini-Med DVD! Looking for tips on staying healthy and fit? Miss any of the original Mini-Med lectures? Need a practical gift? The Mini-Med DVD is just what the doctor ordered. For information or to place your order, visit www.jgh.ca or Room A-106.



Weekend to End Breast Cancer

Don't miss the next JGH orientation session for the Weekend to End Breast Cancer! It's a fun, informative meeting with answers to all of your questions about the event. When: April 16, 6:30 to 8 p.m. (English session). Where: Block Amphitheatre (Room B-106). Info: local 2296.

You can support the "Physio in Motion" team by purchasing bracelets (\$10), keychains (\$5) and cell phone chains (\$6) in Room D-2. Info: local 8238. You can also help the "Healing Resources" team by buying chocolate bars for only \$1 in the Human Resources office (Room B-017). Info: Nec-taria, local 8265.

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officially known among JGH researchers as an **Atom-Powered Recliner that Incorporates Levitation and Futuristic Ultra Light Engineering (APRIL-FULE)**.

Hospital scientists sometimes also refer to it as a **High-tech Ambulatory Hovering Apparatus (HA-HA)**.

Plans call for electro conducting cable to be strung beneath floors throughout the JGH during 2007. This will provide the cruisers and their users with access to all parts of the hospital, including examining rooms, washrooms, cafeterias and elevators.

A JGH technical crew is also negotiating with officials in Montreal's Department of Public Works to embed **APRIL-FULE** cable in parking lots and under lawns and sidewalks in the immediate vicinity of the hospital. This would allow patients to glide outdoors for a healthy dose of sun and fresh air, or to float without interruption from the hospital to their cars.

"Just think of all of the wonderful ways this technology can be used," says JGH spokesman Robert Bluffer. "We can put it into gurneys in the Emergency Department and into carts that transport meals from the kitchen to patients' rooms. We can even reduce floor level obstructions in operating rooms by putting the technology into operating tables and into the carts that hold surgical instruments."

Mr. Bluffer noted that since the JGH has already patented all aspects of the **APRIL FULE** technology, the hospital expects to reap an eventual windfall of hundreds of millions of dollars in royalties from the international manufacture and sale of cruisers and cable. "It's a little early to start making plans," he says, "but I think it's safe to say that the Jewish General Hospital will soon be able to afford every life saving program, service, treatment or therapy that its patients could ever need."

SIR MORTIMER B. DAVIS
JEWISH GENERAL HOSPITAL

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The Jewish General Hospital wishes you
a happy Passover, a joyous Easter
and an utterly bizarre April Fool's Day!