



The new AMIGO suite

Frank Siteman

AMIGO launches a new era in medicine

The days of patients undergoing multiple surgeries to ensure complete removal of tumors may be ending. When the Advanced Multimodality Image Guided Operating (AMIGO) suite opened on May 4, Brigham and Women's Hospital became the first facility in the world to give physicians immediate access to a full array of imaging devices for real-time guidance during interventional and surgical procedures.

Under the leadership of Ferenc Jolesz, MD, director of the Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Division, and Clare Tempany, MD, vice chair of Research, AMIGO comprises a three-room operating suite combining six imaging methods: X-ray fluoroscopy, 3D ultrasound, high field MRI, computed tomography, positron emission tomography, and optical imaging.

With state-of-the-art guidance systems supplementing the imaging methods, AMIGO will help physicians localize, target, and treat cancers more completely. Currently, 40% of all breast cancer patients who have surgery require a second operation to completely remove the tumor. These successive surgeries delay additional therapies, and increase the risk of scarring and infection.

Initially, procedures in the AMIGO suite will focus on improving treatments for brain tumors, breast cancer, prostate cancer, and suspicious lesions in the pancreas. Additionally, practitioners will explore minimally invasive treatments of tumors using image-guided freezing or heating, along with new imaging approaches for treating cardiac arrhythmias.

"AMIGO is a testbed for new applications of advanced imaging technologies in interventional radiology and surgery," said Jolesz. "Our goal is to develop more minimally invasive approaches that will result in better outcomes with fewer complications." ♦

BW/F recognizes its benefactors with new display

Donor Wall is a tribute to the hospital's most generous donors

This past January there was a definite buzz in the 75 Francis Street lobby of Brigham and Women's/Faulkner Hospital (BW/F) for the unveiling of its first Donor Wall. An engaging exhibit of pictures, videos, and names, the Donor Wall honors and recognizes many of the loyal supporters who have made BW/F a philanthropic priority over the years.

Visitors to the lobby will be able to interact with two separate wall displays. A third wall, from Communication & Public Affairs, highlights different health topics throughout the year. The Donor Wall comprises the Benefactor Wall, which acknowledges cumulative lifetime giving, and the Societies Wall, which honors members of the Legacy Society, the Hippocrates Society, and annual donors to the Pillar Society.

Both displays feature touch-screen monitors for visitors to peruse and learn more about the power of philanthropy at BW/F. Videos, photos, and print feature our donors telling compelling stories about why they give to the hospital. "The lobby's displays will become a destination for patients, families, and the healthcare community, as well as current and future donors," said Director of Stewardship Tina Lang-Stuart. "We hope passersby will interact with the screens and learn why giving to BW/F matters." ♦



Frank Siteman

The Donor Wall features interactive touch-screen monitors, like the one to the left in the photo.