

# BWH Bulletin

*For and about the People of Brigham and Women's Hospital*

## Q&A with the President

January 16, 2009



Gary Gottlieb meets a young patient at a Partners In Health clinic during his visit to Rwanda in November.

**Q:** You traveled to Africa last year and visited some of the Partners In Health clinics in Rwanda, where our faculty, residents and nurses are providing care. What struck you most about the facilities, our clinicians and the patients?

**A:** We have exceptional, tremendously dedicated and thoughtful people who bring experience, dedication and knowledge that isn't otherwise available in that environment.

The patients we serve in these areas live in abject poverty and extreme need as a result of the long-term effects of genocide, lack of preventive care and adequate supplies of medications and food. The PIH model brings tremendous hope by training and paying members of the community to be health workers. As such, they extend services to people who wouldn't otherwise receive them, including daily visits to people who are HIV- and tuberculosis-infected and monthly visits to everyone else in the local health district.

The fact that our physicians, residents, nurses and others are going there and to other places in need around the world will inspire yet another generation to follow this calling while improving the quality of care remarkably.

PIH's partnership with local people, physicians, nurses, health workers and government has reflected enormous change over a short period of time with regard to the quality of care, and access to services.