

# Traditions

*A publication for friends and supporters of The Miriam Hospital*



## *Voices of Caring Exemplifying The Miriam's Culture of Compassion*

### Meet Dr. Gary Bubly

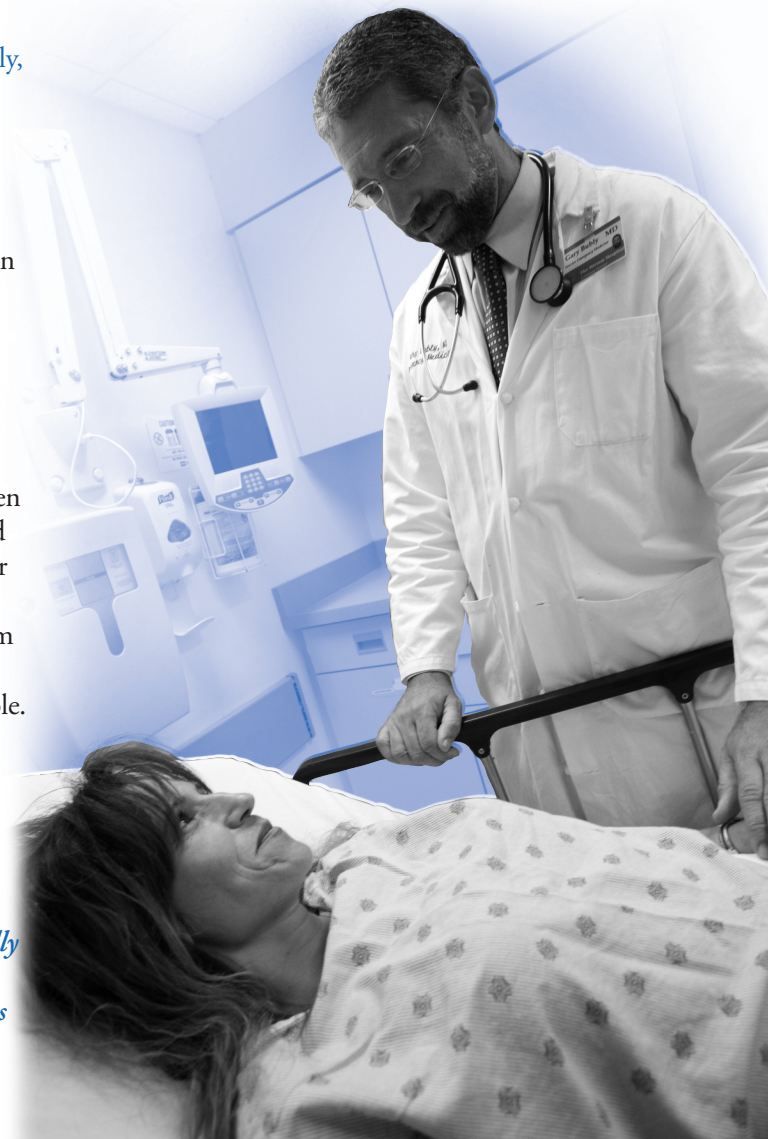
Always a picture of calm and poise while leading The Miriam Hospital's emergency department, which receives upwards of 61,000 patient visits each year, Dr. Gary Bubly couldn't hold back his emotions when talking about what The Miriam means to him.

*"This particular encounter is one that I'll never forget," says Dr. Bubly, a 27-year Miriam veteran who now serves as director of emergency medicine. "I found myself caring for someone who was a living piece of the hospital's history and cared as much about The Miriam as I and my colleagues do."*

Dr. Bubly was working the floor of the ED when a 90-year-old woman presented with shortness of breath. He quickly diagnosed the onset of congestive heart failure. Before admitting her, he gave her a dose of intravenous lasix to stabilize her breathing and blood pressure. As the woman regained strength and became more comfortable with Dr. Bubly, she began to share her family's story.

In the early 1900s, the patient's mother was one of a handful of women who, dedicated to allowing Jewish physicians to practice medicine and creating a place to care for all who were sick, began collecting coins for the hospital's construction. Years later, her mother was instrumental in the fundraising campaign that led to the opening of the first Miriam Hospital in 1926. And now, the woman was receiving care at the hands of Dr. Bubly in the very place her family helped to make possible.

*"I couldn't help but think of all the patient care that's been delivered thanks to the vision of this patient's mother and others to establish a hospital where one did not exist," says Dr. Bubly. "The values of those who established The Miriam have been passed along through the generations, so while we've experienced tremendous growth, we still maintain the community hospital feel and personal touch—I personally feel very lucky to work here. As someone who has also been a Miriam patient, I can speak not only to the care I see our nurses and physicians deliver each day but also from my own experiences. There are a lot of world-class professionals on the team who could be working anywhere in the country, but choose to stay at The Miriam."*



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Gary Bubly, MD, with patient

## Meet Patricia Ignagni

The often simple task of helping others feel comfortable has been the foundation of Patricia Ignagni's career since she started working in the outpatient department of The Miriam's Fain Surgical Center in 1989.

It was a frigid winter day in 2013 when Patricia, who works as a day-shift housekeeper, noticed the elderly couple. The wife, in her 80s, was visibly anxious as her husband was being prepared for cataract surgery. As she has done for countless patients and their family members for more than two decades, Patricia made the woman's comfort her top priority.

Once the husband was brought to surgery, Patricia led his wife to one of the center's waiting rooms where she helped her settle in to watch one of her favorite shows, making her a cup of coffee and covering her lap with a warm blanket. While the woman's kind words of thanks were touching, Patricia's ability to help ease the mind of someone during a difficult time provides all the satisfaction she needs.

*"If there's anything I can do for a patient or their family, I'll do it," Patricia says. "I've worked at other hospitals, but here, it's much more family and community-oriented. You remember the names of patients you've seen before, and it's such a great feeling when they remember you."*

## Meet Maria P. Ducharme, MS, NEA-BC, RN

After 27 years at The Miriam, Maria P. Ducharme is as excited as ever to come to work each day as the hospital's senior vice president, patient care services, and chief nursing officer. Having been mentored by many nurses and physicians over the years, Maria enjoys helping a new generation of Miriam nurses learn their craft and find their place at The Miriam.



Maria P. Ducharme, MS, NEA-BC, RN

*"I wouldn't be where I am today if not for the mentors who impacted my life," she says. "Each of them embodied the culture that still exists today and makes The Miriam such a great hospital."*

In addition to helping her fellow nurses learn and practice the clinical skills necessary to further their careers, Maria also helps foster more subtle skills such as the ability to be fully present with each patient. This "intentional presence" allows a nurse to be acutely sensitive to a patient's physical and emotional needs, which has been proven to enhance the care experience and lead to better outcomes.

*"Our nurses are continuously looking to expand their knowledge and education and are encouraged and expected to have an active voice in critical decisions around their practice," says Maria. "They are the coordinators of care at the bedside with a unique perspective on a patient's specific needs."*

It's comforting to know that Maria's expert mentoring today will ensure that The Miriam's culture of caring will continue for generations of nurses to come.





# Planned Giving Profile:

## Arthur Hurvitz

Maintaining The Miriam's outstanding culture of nursing care means offering the best continuing education opportunities we can for our staff. Few people know this better than Arthur Hurvitz—an invaluable member of The Miriam family for four decades and the 2009 Miriam Hospital Person of the Year—who has become one of our leading champions for nursing excellence, as well as advancement of the hospital overall. Just this year, chief nursing officer Maria P. Ducharme named Arthur an Honorary Nurse at The Miriam, in recognition of his years of dedication.

Arthur and his wife, Joyce, have furthered nursing education at The Miriam by establishing the Hurvitz Nursing Scholarship Endowed Fund, which provides ongoing education for the hospital's award-winning Magnet nurses.

*"Doctors might spend short periods with each patient, but nurses spend all day and night with them. They are the ones who make the hospital feel like home for the patient," Arthur says. "The Miriam nurses deserve all the credit they get—they're the best. And the more education they receive, the better our patient outcomes will be."*

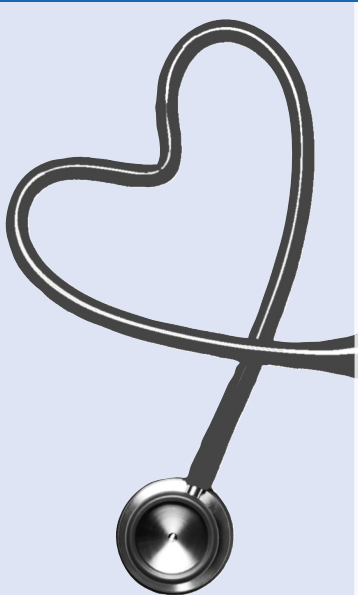
Arthur and Joyce have also included The Miriam Hospital as a beneficiary of their estate plan. Their provision will provide critical future support to ensure that The Miriam will continue to offer highest level of care and commitment, for which we are renowned, to our patients and community.

*"The Miriam Hospital is here to make people well so that they can leave the hospital and go on with their lives. That's what I work for and I hope my gifts will help accomplish," Arthur says.*

**For more information about making a planned gift to The Miriam Hospital, please contact Noreen M. Mitchell, planned giving officer, at 401-444-6311 or [PGInfo@lifespan.org](mailto:PGInfo@lifespan.org). You may also learn more about planned giving at <https://giving.lifespan.org/TMH-Planned-Giving>.**



## Caring Professionals and Patients Who Care.



**O**ur Caring Hearts Program at The Miriam Hospital gives grateful patients and their loved ones the opportunity to support the hospital while paying tribute to caregivers who made a difference during the patient's visit or stay. Each honored Caring Heart provider will receive a letter informing him or her of the thoughtful gift, as well as a custom-crafted lapel pin to wear proudly on their lab coat. Donations to The Caring Hearts Program will support The Miriam Hospital Fund for a New Generation, which provides vital resources to areas with the greatest funding needs, including patient care services, educational programs, and innovative research projects.



**For more information, please contact Nicole Purcell at 401-793-2152 or email her at [npurcell@lifespan.org](mailto:npurcell@lifespan.org). You can also visit our website at [giving.lifespan.org/Caring-Hearts](https://giving.lifespan.org/Caring-Hearts)**

## Intensive Care Unit Receives Beacon Award for Excellence



The Intensive Care Unit at The Miriam Hospital has earned a silver-level Beacon Award for Excellence from The American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN). The three-year award recognizes the hospital for its exceptional patient care and improved patient outcomes, and practices that follow the AACN's Healthy Work Environment Standards.

*"Receiving the Beacon Award affirms the remarkable commitment The Miriam Hospital nursing staff and the entire interdisciplinary team provide to the critically ill patients we serve,"* says Maria P. Ducharme, MS, NEA-BC, RN, senior vice president, patient care services, and chief nursing officer at The Miriam. *"This consistent emphasis on improved quality of care naturally leads to improved patient outcomes, and that's what we're always striving for."*

## Rhode Island College Athletic Department Supports Cancer Research at The Miriam

Through the sales of Anchor Strong bracelets, pins and "play for the cure" T-shirts at men's and women's basketball games, the Rhode Island College Athletic Department raised \$2,000 to help support cancer research at The Miriam Hospital. At a check presentation in April, senior Stephanie Prusko of the women's basketball team and freshman Austin Cilley of the men's basketball team gave Dr. Anthony Mega and Dr. Jodi Layton of The Leonard and Adele R. Decof Family Comprehensive Cancer Center at The Miriam Hospital the donation. The funds were also raised during this winter's Prostate Cancer Awareness Day and Breast Cancer Awareness Day.



L-R. Freshman guard Austin Cilley, Drs. Jodi Layton and Anthony Mega of The Leonard and Adele R. Decof Family Comprehensive Cancer Center at The Miriam Hospital, and senior guard Stephanie Prusko