MIT Medical administered 13,492 flu vaccines in 2012

Many still do not receive vaccine; annual MIT walk-in clinics starting Oct. 2 on third floor of W20

In addition to changing leaves and cooler temperatures, October brings with it the official start to flu season. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the flu season can last until May. In response, MIT Medical will once again hold free flu vaccination clinics.

Undergraduate students, graduate students, and alumni waited to enter the Fall Career Fair in a line that went from the Z-Center, down Mass Ave and onto Amherst Street. The career fair provides opportunities to find internships and full time positions, as well as collect lots of free “swag” from companies.

By Rosa Ruiz

This was the second year of the First Year Residence Exchange (FYRE), the process allowing freshmen to switch their dorm assignments. FYRE opened on Sept. 15 to 115 to 124 students. Of this year’s students, could no longer move into the dorm. Hall during FYRE, but the total number of move-ins increased from 6 to 107.

As in previous years, Baker house was the most popular dorm with 30 first choices for the 124 students who entered the lottery. Simmons followed with 22 first picks, and MacGregor with 16. In last place, with two move-ins for the dorm this year, students could no longer move out. Of these, only two lived in cultural houses.

The MIT Panhellenic Association held secretory recruitment for the First Year Residence Exchange (FYRE), the process allowing freshmen to switch their dorm assignments. FYRE opened on Sept. 15 to 115 to 124 students. Of this year’s students, could no longer move into the dorm. Hall during FYRE, but the total number of move-ins increased from 6 to 107.

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Boston's police commissioner plans to step aside

BOSTON — Edward Davis, the Boston police commissioner who rose to national prominence after the marathon bombings in April, said Monday that he was stepping down voluntarily from his job at the end of the month.

The announcement touched off speculation that he might be in line for a higher post, perhaps with the Department of Homeland Security, which has been without a leader since Secretary Janet Napolitano left that month.

Davis has been one of the nation's most visible police officials, but he had received "several offers" and it would take him a couple of months to sort them out. He has also been offered a fellowship at Harvard's Institute of Politics and hopes to accept it.

Davis said he had been hamstrung by certain court rulings. He urged the police staff were "people of color and diversity," but he also said he had been hamstringing by certain court rulings. He urged the city's future mayor to "keep diversity high on the list of priorities.

Davis’ tenure has been an issue in the mayor’s race, with several of the dozen candidates saying he has not placed enough minority officers or women in the top ranks of the department. He has been criticized for not hiring enough minority officers.

Davis drew wide praise for his role in the police response to the Boston Marathon bombings, which killed three people and injured more than 200 on Boylston Street.

By Katherine Q. Seelye and Jene Bidalood, The New York Times

Former FBI agent pleads guilty in leak to the AP

WASHINGTON — A former FBI agent has agreed to plead guilty to leaking classified information to The Associated Press about a foiled bomb plot in Yemen last year, the Justice Department announced Monday. Federal investigators said they identified him after obtaining phone logs of Associated Press reporters.

The retired agent, a former bomb technician named Donald Sachtleben, has agreed to plead guilty to one count of July, 2009.

The Justice Department court filing claiming that Sachtleben had disclosed the fact that the Central Intelligence Agency had foiled a bomb plot in Yemen to an unnamed reporter — The Associated Press was not identified in the filing — on May 2, 2012. The news service broke the news that a plot had been foiled in Yemen on May 7.

A year later, it became known that the Justice Department had secretly subpoenaed phone companies for calling records for 20 phone lines of Associated Press officers and reporters, without providing any advance notice to the organizations so they could negotiate over the scope of the effort or a judge to quash the subpoenas.

The disclosure helped set off a furor among journalists and members of Congress over the Justice Department’s aggressive methods in carrying out leak investigations, and Holder, who was recused from that investigation, later issued new guidelines. Tightening the circumstances by which investigators could force reporters’ information.

The calling records proved crucial to identifying Sachtleben, the AP wrote in its report. An official with the investigation said the FBI had made more than 550 interviews at that point but had not been able to identify a suspect. The records showed communications between the reporter and Sachtleben, who became a suspect.

"Sachtleben was identified as a suspect in the case of this unauthor- ized disclosure only after toll records for phone numbers related to the reporter were obtained through a subpoena and to other evidence collected during the leak investigation," the Justice Depart ment said in a statement.

Former FBI agent pleads guilty in leak to the AP

By Charlie Savage

The United Auto Workers health care trust has the legal right to cash out its stock in Chrysler — as the company did with General Motors shares — if the Obama administration doesn’t get its way. The proposed ＄3.2 billion deal is supported by Sergio Marchionne, the chief executive of both Fiat and Chrysler, which today stands at 41.5 percent overall shares. The offering is an- other sign of how Chrysler — as well as General Motors — has recovered from the threat of bailout and bankruptcy in 2009. But the company’s filing for the offering, which came late on Monday, is hard- ly a moment of triumph.

Chrysler is taking the step only under pressure from its second-largest shareholder, a trust set up to provide medical coverage for 155,000 retired auto workers and fam- ily members. And while the offering would generate needed cash for the trust, it would also push plan sponsor Fiat, Chrysler’s Italian parent, to ac- quire full ownership of the American automaker.

The Detroit automakers have large financial responsibilities to their retirees. On Monday, General Motors said it would raise money in the bond market to buy preferred stock in the company owned by its retiree health-care trust at a cost of ＄1.2 billion.

Chrysler’s offering arises from an unusual conflict of interests, made more complicated by the recent turnarounds in those companies. The United Auto Workers health care trust has the legal right to cash out a big chunk of its stake in Chrysler, which today stands at 41.5 percent and is a legacy of a deal brokered in 2009 by the Obama administra- tion’s auto task force. At the time, the deal was seen as a last-ditch effort to get Chrysler, automaker, which also preserving labor peace with the UAW. Now, with profits flowing again and the trust in need of cash, it has formally requested that Chrysler reg- ister for a public offering covering about 36 percent of the company’s overall shares. The offering is another sign of how Chrysler — as well as General Motors — has recovered from the threat of bailout and bankruptcy in 2009. The offering, however, is not supported by Sergio Marchione, the chief executive of both Fiat and Chrysler, who became a suspect.

Marchione is eager to merge the two companies into one international- auto giant. And to do so, he needs to acquire the trust’s entire 41.5 per- cent stake. But there is a wide gap between what Fiat wants to pay for the shares, and what the trust’s administrators believe they are worth. After months of unsuccessful negotiations, the trust wants to establish the shares’ value in the stock market — and reap a windfall for a portion of its stake.

By Bill Vlasic

DETROIT — Chrysler’s plan for a public stock offering would ordinar- ily be cause to celebrate the automak- er’s return to health, as well as the remarkable turnarounds in both Fiat and Chrysler, which today stands at 41.5 percent overall shares. The offering is another sign of how Chrysler — as well as General Motors — has recovered from the threat of bailout and bankruptcy in 2009. The offering, however, is not supported by Sergio Marchione, the chief executive of both Fiat and Chrysler, who became a suspect.

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Pakistan Christians demand peace after church bombing

By Declan Walsh

LONDON — With its Muslim-style burqa and a large black cross, the All Saints Church in Peshawar, Pakistan, has had more than a century of a storied architectural expression of Muslim suppression of Christian cohabitation.

The attack that the Taliban de- nounced as its second major attack this week against the Pakistani church, hit on Monday, is the latest in a series of attacks over the past year.

The death toll had risen to 85 by Monday evening, when Christians attacked the Pakistani church, killing 14 churchgoers and injuring more than 500 pro-Morsi demonstrators. The church attack comes after mass shootings of the Brotherhood in the suppression of the group, and the government protection, while also side, the other just outside.

The New York Times

CAIRO — An Egyptian court on Tuesday ordered the dissolution of the Muslim Brotherhood and the banning of all its activities.

The country's highest court, the State Newspaper Al Ahram, ordered the group to be dissolved, saying that the group was involved in the armed struggle.

The state newspaper Al Ahram

Cyril Almeida, a writer with Dawn, said on the nuclear dispute, which has been ongoing for more than a decade, has reached a new stage, with the United States and China taking the lead.

Cyril Almeida, a writer with Dawn

The New York Times

The New York Times

The New York Times

Record cocaine haul in France raises security questions

PARIS — A record cocaine haul, found in glowing, bright suitcases, on a case at Air France from Venezuela, is raising a multitude of questions about the security of the baggage scanning system and the possibility of collusion either by airport or airline staff, both in Venezuela and France.

The state newspaper Al Ahram

Cyril Almeida, a writer with Dawn

The New York Times

The New York Times

The New York Times

After re-election, Merkel moves to form new German government

BERLIN — Chancellor Angela Merkel took steps on Monday to form a new government, after she scored a stunning personal triumph in German national elections that cemented her position as the country’s most powerful woman.

The surprising show of strength for Merkel and the Christian Democrats — even their own polls had suggested 41.5 percent of the vote — was short of an absolute majority, according to preliminary results published Monday. No chancellor has achieved an absolute majority since Konrad Adenauer in 1957.

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An illusory trade-off

Is working for a corporation a selfish or compliant use of an MIT education? Not necessarily.

By Jacob London

In Friday’s issue of The Tech, Madeline O’Grady ’36 asserts that MIT students should be “better than the career fair” instead of settling for comfortable, lucrative corporate jobs with corporations, she writes, we should aspire to solve the world’s most challenging problems. O’Grady goes on to lament the fact that students are not only settling for these jobs, but many seem even to prefer them to more altruistic career paths.

The problem with O’Grady’s argument is that it ignores the contributions corporations have made to expanding opportunity for millions of people and also the role corporations have played in trying to solve the problems that have come with expansion. Have the interests of large corporations and private companies always aligned with the best interest of society as a whole? Of course not. But what should not be overlooked is the fact that profit-driven corporations and industries have contributed in significant ways to addressing many of the challenges that have confronted societies since the onset of the industrial era.

Just a cursory浏览 through the career fair brochure yields a variety of companies that are all addressing important societal challenges. Google has transformed the way people and businesses connect and share information. IBM has driven hardware and software innovation for over a century. And in the face of dwindling public investment in spaceflight, SpaceX has grabbed the futon in an attempt to sustain our collective reach for the stars.

True, some major investment banks have exploited lax regulation and consumers’ lack of information to trigger the great recession. But for the sake of argument, let’s assume those students who elect to pursue careers in academia. After all, that’s where they would suggest that many real world problems are solved. But money for this research has come from somewhere. Between corporate re- search and development, and contributions to universities, businesses do a great deal to support applied research — all the more important at a time when federal fund- ing (the livelihood of post-doctoral scientific research) is being eroded by the sequester. Moreover, universities are built and funded by major gifts from corporations and wealthy capitalists who become philanthropists. Ultimately, O’Grady raises an important question — to what extent can we balance our individual need for some measure of financial security with a selfish drive to solve the world’s problems? I commend O’Grady’s idealism, but I think the answer is always a trade-off.

Unfortunately, there is so much in this world that needs to be improved. Fortunately, there are plenty of ways to go about improving it.
Somewhere on the Search for Meaning by Letitia Li

Tuesday, September 24, 2013 The Tech

A random sampling of people you’ll meet during a typical dinner at The Tech:

Derek, Course 1
Sarah, Course 2
Annia, Course 3
Dohyun, Course 4
Elijah, Course 5
Deborah, Course 6
Kali, Course 7

Chris, Course 16
Anne, Course 17
Leon, Course 18
Jack, Course 19
Stan, Course 20
Stephen, Course 21/CMS
Keith, Course 22

Meet your new pset support group

I can’t believe these angry reviews!
They’re saying my weddings
were as well-organized as
the entrance to the career
fair!

Imagine that! People are upset
that you ruined the most
important event of their lives
right after graduation and
winning Mystery Hunt.

I need to prove them wrong... but I forgot to
order a white dove release for tomorrow!

You have to help me!

I’m not surprised...

...and if you don’t hold the
release during the reception...

Q.E.D. (Quite Easily Done) by Erika Trent

The crosswalk light is blinking!!

Should you make a run for it?

When is your next class/appointment?

In >5 min

In <5 min

How’s the weather?

Rainy/Snowing

Sunny

Cloudy

Are there people watching?

Yes

No

How much sleep did you get last night?

<5 hrs

>5 hrs

Have you exercised lately?

No

Yes

Will your advisor be at your next class/ADP?

No

Yes

But wait!

Those who don’t matter, don’t mind

6048 some caffeine

On your way

Sorry, it’s such a disaster in here.

My room never looks as nice as the
rooms other people apologize for.

My God! I’ve destroyed my data!

Sorry | let my class do what they can.

We do Calculus by Paulette Powell ‘13

No punch line?

A webcomic of romance, sarcasm, math, and language
by Randall Munroe

[1267] Mess

Established 1881

Derek, Course 1
Sarah, Course 2
Annia, Course 3
Dohyun, Course 4
Elijah, Course 5
Deborah, Course 6
Kali, Course 7

Chris, Course 16
Anne, Course 17
Leon, Course 18
Jack, Course 19
Stan, Course 20
Stephen, Course 21/CMS
Keith, Course 22

Meet your new pset support group

Established 1881
Hacking my way home
Finding my place on campus at my first MIT hackathon

By Erica Swallow

Walking into last week’s t=0 hackathon, the first official hackathon of the school year, I was well aware of my status as a Slamoonie, that species of MIT grad student prone to business plan writing and jargon slingin’.

As a first-year Course 15, I was still settlin’ in and gettin’ to know my place on campus, a puzzle that I was incredibly anxious to solve. I had arrived on campus a few weeks earlier to scope out the scene, meet new people, and get involved in campus entrepreneurship before orientation week, but still, two weeks into classes, I didn’t have a grasp of where I’d fit in (or stand out) among my peers.

As the hackathon kicked off, more than 100 students graced the stage, armed with 30-second idea pitches. Among the lot, I pitched my concept of a peer-to-peer delivery service that enables locals to connect and help each other out with pickups and drop-offs — such as grocery shopping, dry cleaning, and FedEx runs — that fit into their daily routines.

The quality of ideas was high, with students proposin’ projects that ranged from storytelling apps for children to sunrise-simulating sleeping masks. The anxiety began to kick in. Did anyone like my idea? Was it innovative enough for MIT? Or had I just totally embarrassed myself during the hackathon of the first month of school?

I had come to the hackathon with one teammate, Kiho Suh, a user experience designer from the Rhode Island School of Design. Kiho and I had met two months prior at another MIT startup event, and he had expressed interest in my idea, which I had also pitched at that event. The two of us, excited to get started, staked out a table togeth-er, drew a sign so that interested hackathon goers could find us, and started strategizin’. Before long, classmate Ana Villanueva approached us, mentioning that if she didn’t find a team for her social music app idea, she’d love to join us. A glimmin’ of hope flashed before my eyes and I felt butterflies in my stomach — was Ana our next teammate? After about 10 minutes, fate had its way, and indeed, Ana joined the cause. I was excited to have her on our team as we had vol-unteered together prior the week at the demo day for Global Found- ers’ Skills Accelerator, MIT’s summer startup accelerator. We spent that day prepping startup foundin’-ers before they stepped on stage to demo — through that experien’ce, I had learned that Ana was highly interested in fashion and music technology, worked well in a team, and had a way of making everyone feel happy and moti-vated. I could already tell that this was going to be a fun weekend of hacking.

At about that time, another classmate, Thomas Iljic, a French-man who had lived in Japan for the past seven years, stopped by our table to check the situation. “Are you guys all on a team?” he asked. Ana beamed and explained the concept behind Deliverish, the name I had come in with for the project. By the end of the conversa-tion, we had another almost-con-sidered project. By the end of the conversa-tion, we had another almost-con-sidered project. By the end of the conversa-tion, we had another almost-con-sidered project. By the end of the conversa-tion, we had another almost-con-sidered project. By the end of the conversa-tion, we had another almost-con-sidered project. By the end of the conversa-tion, we had another almost-con-sidered project. By the end of the conversa-tion, we had another almost-con-sidered project. By the end of the conversa-tion, we had another almost-con-sidered project. By the end of the conversa-tion, we had another almost-con-sidered project. By the end of the conversa-tion, we had another almost-con-sidered project. By the end of the conversa-tion, we had another almost-con-sidered project. By the end of the conversa-tion, we had another almost-con-sidered project. By the end of the conversa-tion, we had another almost-con-sidered project. By the end of the conversa-tion, we had another almost-con-sidered project. By the end of the conversa-tion, we had another almost-con-sidered project. By the end of the conversa-tion, we had another almost-con-sidered project. By the end of the conversa-tion, we had another almost-con-sidered project. By the end of the conversa-tion, we had another almost-con-sidered project. By the end of the conversa-tion, we had another almost-con-sidered project. By the end of the conversa-tion, we had another almost-con-sidered project. By the end of the conversa-tion, we had another almost-con-sidered project. By the end of the conversa-tion, we had another almost-con-sidered project. By the end of the conversa-tion, we had another almost-con-sidered project. By the end of the conversa-tion, we had another almost-con-sidered project. By the end of the conversa-tion, we had another almost-con-sidered project. By the end of the conversa-tion, we had another almost-con-sidered project. By the end of the conversa-tion, we had another almost-con-sidered project. By the end of the conversa-tion, we had another almost-con-sidered project. By the end of the conversa-tion, we had another almost-con-sidered project. By the end of the conversa-tion, we had another almost-con-sidered project. By the end of the conversa-tion, we had another almost-con-sidered project. By the end of the conversa-tion, we had another almost-con-sidered project. By the end of the conversa-tion, we had another almost-con-sidered project. By the end of the conversa-tion, we had another almost-con-sidered project. By the end of the conversa-tion, we had another almost-con-sidered project. By the end of the conversa-tion, we had another almost-con-sidered project. By the end of the conversa-tion, we had another almost-con-sidered project. By the end of the conversa-

At the first hackathon of the semester, I was joined by a room of creators and doers — it was exactly what I had expected of MIT and was something I had missed among all the introduc-
tory events. I sauntered, for example, attending the mandatory career development events, which were targeted at those interested in recreat-
ing, not the group of MBAs interested in starting their own businesses.

With many hackathons and startup competions ahead of me this year, though, I now know that there will be many opportunities ahead to get my hands dirty. I’m looking forward to digging deeper into MIT’s hacking culture and aiming to further spread that ethos to Sloan, where modes and theory reign king. Men’s et Ma-

For Deliverish’s pitch at t=0, see http://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=L1ue_645TQQ.
By Dohyun Lee
STAFF COLUMNIST

Introduction
Welcome to the world of fashion. Sketch Your Look will cover the basics of menswear, such as fit, color, fabric, etc., in a detailed manner. I’m sorry to say I have little knowledge in clothes for women, so I won’t be writing articles specifically for women. However, I believe that women can get inspiration from menswear too.

This series is not meant to teach you how to wear specific clothing, but to encourage you to realize how much fun getting dressed can be. For the already stylish, this article might seem redundant, but I am sure that you will enjoy it. For beginners, dressing up may seem strange at first, but you will slowly realize how greatly you’ve improved fashion-wise. You will ultimately see the result from your peers or from yourself.

This upcoming series will be mostly based on my personal opinions and data that I have accumulated for several years. So, feel free to disagree with my opinions and try your own style.

Sketching 101
For guys, shopping is usually considered a nightmare. It seems boring, difficult, and tedious. Right now, I want to eliminate the “difficult” part of shopping. My method of buying clothes is quite straightforward. I always think of three things: function, style, and comfort. Any type of clothing, even accessories, should satisfy at least two of the three. Then you will rarely go wrong. Pretty neat, isn’t it?

Unfortunately, sometimes we can’t buy things because of cost. But a limited budget shouldn’t be a barrier. There are thrift stores, second-hand shops, and most importantly, you have the internet. You can always find a good alternative through these ways.

I always think of three things: function, style, and comfort.

Let’s take a look at my personal experience. About a year ago, my expensive watch broke when I fell from my skateboard and hit my wrist on asphalt. So, I went to a local mall to buy a new watch, but this time, I did not want to break the bank. After rummaging through multiple racks, I found a beautiful watch, but its price tag scared me away.

Dismayed, I went back home and searched without much hope of finding a sale. And, a miracle! I found an auction on Ebay in which somebody was selling his like-new watch that was one fifth of the original price. The deal seemed great, so I bought it right away, and I was really happy with the condition of it when I received it. As you can tell, there is always an alternative way to purchase items.

However, shopping through the internet or second-hand does not always guarantee a good deal. Many times, pre-owned items can be defective or fake. The worst situation might be that they are worn out too much that they can fall into pieces in a matter of days.

I find these issues very common, so be very cautious when entering this method. But, even if you are being cautious, you are liable to sometimes get defective items through these ways. So, you must check beforehand if the sellers offer a refund system. If they don’t, then never buy it.

There are so many different methods for purchasing things, so you should find your own best way. If you are being cautious and active, then I am sure that you will find your own best-fitting items in next to no time.
of House 3, said that some houses within New House don’t have very many returning upperclassmen. “When freshmen get back here, the houses look vacant,” said Orona, “which turns a lot of freshmen off.”

Orona emphasized, though, that the number of freshmen trying to switch out of has gone down from over 60 percent three years ago, to 51 percent, to 44 percent, and now 24 percent. REX events incorporating every house, coupled with a bigger emphasis on REX and CPW, have contributed to the decrease, said Orona.

Additionally, New House is also in the peculiar position of having many open rooms, according to Orona, when some other dorms have forced triples. Hemenway stated that when students move out of New House, those rooms are then made open to students wanting to move in. “When you are talking about building vacancies, you also have to look at the demand for the building,” said Hemenway.

—Bruno Faviero

FARE, from Page 1

At work building the world
GE works to build, power, move, and cure the world.

GE leaders are easy to recognize: you’ll find them at every level of the company.

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Unfortunately for all children living in some of the poorest countries in the world, it takes more than facing rates on a wall.

Childreach, one of the oldest and largest child sponsorship organizations, measures growth by the number of hospitals, wells for clean water, and self-help programs we build in partnership with the great families and communities where our sponsored children live.

So when you become a Childreach sponsor and receive pictures and letters that speak of hope, you’ll know that you have helped make a real difference in the lives of a needy child, families, and communities overseas.

For more information about Childreach, please call 1-800-752-3400 or send in the coupon below.

Sandra A. Romero
Executive Director
Childreach International
Childreach helps sponsored children in Peru, Africa

Got Something to Say?

Now you can! Introducing comments on The Tech’s website

Make your voice heard

General Electric (GE) Info Night

September 26, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Green Building 54-100

Learn more about the various exciting career opportunities GE can offer you on September 26th. Food, drink and a raffle included.
New MIT innovation effort
Initiative seeks to involve manufacturing industry

Innovation from Page 1

tive, which began during Susan Hockfield’s presidency, the new Innovation Initiative will connect related efforts at MIT under a name and mission intended to bring in money from corporate sponsors, philanthropists, foundations, and the government, according to associate provost Martin Schmidt in a phone interview with The Tech. MITEI has attracted $100 million from the oil and gas companies BP, Eni, Saudi Aramco, and Shell alone, according to its website.

“We are eager to engage our industry allies in the challenge of shortening the time to market,” Reif said, referring to the time it takes to develop and commercialize a new idea. “Making this vision real will give innovators a competitive advantage.”

The initiative will support engineering research into areas such as continuous pharmaceutical manufacturing, which streamlines drug synthesis. It will also oversee policy research for innovation incentives.

The study contests the idea that manufacturing has no place in a high-wage economy.

Programs like the Gordon-MIT Engineering Leadership Program and the MIT in Manufacturing offered by MechE would fall under the purview of the initiative’s educational “pillar,” according to Schmidt. Reif also said there could also be a role for edX, the online education initiative founded by MIT and Harvard.

To help MIT “walk the talk,” Schmidt also said that the initiative would join the Martin Trust Center, the Deshpande Center, and contests like the 100K Competition in boosting entrepreneurship at MIT. This effort is analogous to MITEI’s campus energy efficiency programs in that it promotes the initiative’s vision through programs on campus.

Details about the initiative will be announced “in the next few weeks,” Reif said. “I can tell you now that this will be a serious effort, and I believe it will make an important difference.”

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Experimental treatment for muscular dystrophy

Treatment uses exon skipping to counteract genetic errors causing muscular dystrophy

By Andrew Pollack

Terri Ellsworth is convinced that her 12-year-old son Billy, who has Duchenne muscular dystrophy, is being helped by an experimental drug that counteracts the genetic mutation causing his disease.

His ability to walk has not deteriorated in the two years he has been on the drug, whereas many boys with the disease would be in wheelchairs by his age, she says. And, for the first time, Billy opens a Gatorade bottle by himself recently, leaning from ear to ear. He even took RNA down an uneven dirt road without falling.

“Never would have done that, ever,” said Ellsworth, 55, a kitchen and bath designer from Coraopolis, Pa., outside Pittsburgh. “Without this drug, he would not be walking today.”

Such anecdotal reports, and data from small clinical trials, have raised hopes that a new genetic technique called exon skipping may slow the progression of Duchenne muscular dystrophy, a disease that currently has no cure. Scientists say the technique or related ones might also point the way to treatments for other inherited diseases, including Huntington’s.

The idea behind exon skipping is an ingenious one: a disease can be cured, or at least ameliorated, not by replacing a defective gene, as is done in gene therapy, but by correcting it.

“We’re sort of manipulating what the gene is ultimately making,” said Terri Ellsworth of those Jerry Lewis telethons. “We’re sort of manipulating what the gene is ultimately making.”

The chemical units in RNA, typically represented by the letters A, C, G and U, are read three letters at a time, with each three-letter combination specifying a particular amino acid, the building blocks of proteins. Sometimes, a three-letter combination starts in one exon and continues into the next.

Duchenne, which affects as many as 12,000 Americans, mainly boys, is the most severe common form of muscular dystrophy, the focus of those Jerry Lewis telethons.

There is no good treatment, though steroids help. Boys with Duchenne are typically in wheelchairs by their early teenage years and die from cardiac or respiratory failure in their 20s.

People with Duchenne have a genetic mutation that prevents their bodies from producing dystrophin, a protein that is a sort of coiled spring and acts as a shock absorber for muscles.

Genes contain the recipes for the body’s proteins. They exist in chromosomes in discrete segments called exons that are spliced together in RNA to form templates for proteins. Mutations resulting in missing exons can lead to the wrong proteins being produced, or none at all.

The main measure used to assess the progression of Duchenne is how far a boy can walk in 12 seconds. The chemical units in RNA, typically represented by the letters A, C, G and U, are read three letters at a time, with each three-letter combination specifying a particular amino acid, the building blocks of proteins. Sometimes, a three-letter combination starts in one exon and continues into the next.

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MIT Field Hockey wins 3-2
Engineers stay undefeated with NEWMAC win

By Mindy Brauer

Michelle H. Teplensky ’13 and Molly K. Duffy ’13 accounted for all of MIT’s scoring in a 3-2 NEWMAC field hockey victory over Springfield College on Saturday afternoon. Teplensky produced two goals and an assist while Duffy had one goal and an assist for the nationally-ranked No. 19 Engineers (7-0, 1-0 NEWMAC).

The Pride controlled play during the early stages as it opened the scoring in the 12th minute following four penalty corners and its fifth shot. MIT responded with a pair of goals by Teplensky that gave it a lead it would not relinquish. Her first marker came off a rebound in the 16th minute while her second effort was set up by Duffy just over four minutes later. The remainder of the frame was a defensive battle as the Engineers were awarded four penalty corners but could not convert while keeping Springfield out of its offensive zone.

Duffy-Teplensky connection resulted in what proved to be the game-winning goal.

Faced with a new goalie in the second stanza, MIT immediately tested her with two shots on goal before the Duffy-Teplensky connection resulted in what proved to be the game-winning goal after five minutes elapsed. The momentum began to shift to the hosts following their own timeout in the 46th minute. Springfield recorded eight shots, five of which were on goal, and four penalty corners before cutting its deficit in half [3-2] with 10:53 on the clock. The Pride kept the pressure on down the stretch courtesy of a trio of penalty corners while its two attempts at tallying the equalizer were turned away by sophomore Evie S. Kyritsis ’16 with 2:59 and 1:10 remaining in regulation.

Kyritsis finished the day with six saves while the Engineers were credited with two team saves. For the game, Springfield had a 15-14 edge in shots and an 11-6 margin in penalty corners.

MIT continues its roadtrip on Thursday, Sept. 26 when it visits its non-conference foe Endicott College.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, September 24
Women’s Volleyball vs. Mount Holyoke College
7 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Thursday, September 26
Sailing vs. Midweek Firefly Invite I
6 p.m., Charles River