

# the Advocate

Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts

winter 2016

## Introducing Dr. Jennifer Childs-Roshak PPLM's New President and CEO

### Dear Friends,

If I had been told when I entered medical school that I'd one day be the chief executive of a leading Planned Parenthood affiliate, it would have been hard to believe. Yet, in so many ways, my career, passions, and experiences have brought me here. And now that I've arrived, I couldn't be more delighted or more optimistic about the work that lies ahead.

The issues I have cared about my entire career mesh perfectly with PPLM's priorities: ensuring access to high-quality, nonjudgmental sexual and reproductive health care; promoting healthy decisions and relationships through innovative education; and advocating

for individual autonomy and control over important personal health decisions. PPLM works tirelessly on all these fronts, and its impact is felt by women, men, and young people throughout the state and nationally.

My own interest in these issues began as a newly minted

Harvard graduate, when I went to work at the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, an organization committed to universal access to reproductive health. During that time I also volunteered at Planned Parenthood of New York City, where I began to understand, at a personal level, the critical role of accessible, affordable health care within our communities. Together these experiences shaped my career and my life's work. By the time I started at Temple University's medical school, I knew I wanted to focus on helping individuals, families, and diverse populations lead healthy, hopeful lives.

Early on, as a family physician in New England, my concern for my patients inspired me to look at the ways in which health care is delivered in our country, and at the policies that govern it. As my interest in management and leadership grew, I expanded my scope to include a focus on patient experience, quality, and community health. After earning an MBA from Boston University, I served as Regional Medical Director for Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates, where I was the personal physician for 1,000 patients while overseeing business operations and strategic planning for the Boston region.

Now I have the chance of a lifetime to combine my experiences as a physician with my experience in healthcare management, and to continue the journey I began as a new college graduate. In the coming months I will be traveling throughout Massachusetts and meeting many of the people who make Planned Parenthood the state's most trusted health care provider – the expert and compassionate staff at our seven health centers, our dedicated supporters, our volunteers, and our patients. I look forward to listening and learning from you. Thank you for this opportunity, and for being part of the PPLM family.



Natasha Moustache

# view from the chair

## unwavering commitment



I always find myself impressed with PPLM's unwavering commitment to provide compassionate, high-quality care to our patients – even in the face of challenges like the latest attacks on Planned Parenthood and reproductive rights. PPLM draws its great strength from its mission, from the dedication of our supporters, and from belief

in the principle of affordable, accessible health care for all. No attack or controversy will ever change that.

In fact, PPLM has never been stronger. As you'll read in these pages, we've just appointed a dynamic new president and CEO – the first physician to hold this post since PPLM was founded nearly 90 years ago. Jen's deep concern for the individual patient, together with her expertise in the complex field of healthcare

management, will bring innovation and strength to both our daily operations and our long-term strategies.

Jen joins us in a year when PPLM's clinical research program is celebrating its tenth anniversary. Congratulations to the remarkable physicians, teachers, and students whose research has done so much to enhance patients' experiences in Massachusetts, nationally, and internationally.

As our work moves forward, our supporters continue to expand our fundraising horizons, as evidenced by our energetic group of Young Friends. Across the state, members of the PPLM family have been gathering in venues private and public to share their passion for our mission. Thanks to all of you, once again, for your support and your commitment to PPLM.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan".

Daniel A. Ginsburg, Board Chair

## advocate spotlight: Young Friends

Play a game of Trivia with friends at your favorite restaurant...Dine at Boston's trendiest venues...Drop in for a tour and talk at PPLM's Boston health center. These informal gatherings offer even more than fun; they are ways to help PPLM ensure affordable access to high-quality reproductive health care for all.

Occasions like these are sponsored by Young Friends (YF) of PPLM, a rising group of people ages 21 to 35. Young Friends come together for events, and work to expand the PPLM family by engaging friends and colleagues in securing the vital funds that support PPLM's work. Megan Evans, a member of the YF Steering Committee, says, "As a physician, I'm concerned about access to reproductive health care for women everywhere. I'm proud to be part of YF, which shares my concerns and takes action to raise awareness and support."

Each Young Friend pledges a minimum monthly donation of \$10 to PPLM; members of the YF Steering Committee make monthly gifts of \$25 or more.

These funds sustain PPLM year-round. Equally important, monthly pledges offer a way for young people to get involved even if they don't have the means to make large one-time gifts.

The Young Friends calendar is always full. Planned Parenthood Action Fund (PPAF) board member Rebecca Roth Gullo recently hosted a spirited kick-off event at her restaurant, The Gallows, in Boston's South End (see "Faces & Places"). Coming up in 2016 is a workshop on self-love and body image, plus the annual Celebration of Choices gala. For more information, or to offer your ideas on how to help, please contact Christie at [ccapone@pplm.org](mailto:ccapone@pplm.org) or 617.616.1661.





## A Decade of PPLM Research

On December 17, PPLM celebrated another milestone in our history of innovative leadership: the tenth anniversary of the Boston-based Clinical Research Program and Family Planning Fellowship. Supporters, participating physicians, current and former fellows, and PPLM board members gathered at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel for the memorable event, which was hosted by Alisa B. Goldberg, MD, MPH, the founder and director of the program.

Dr. Goldberg holds positions at Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and PPLM. Of PPLM's research program, she says, "Our patients are our driving force. We ask and answer questions that address our patients' needs. The studies we've conducted have solidified PPLM's position as a leader in the community of reproductive and sexual health care providers." The research program at PPLM is currently focused on reducing pain associated with surgical abortion, expanding access to medical abortion, and reducing the frequency of unplanned pregnancies through optimizing contraceptive use.

Since its creation ten years ago, PPLM's clinical research department has grown from a single investigator and one research coordinator to a team of nine, and it has overseen 21 clinical trials and prospective studies. The group's results have been presented at numerous family planning conferences and published in prestigious medical journals. By sharing findings with the medical community, the department has not only shaped clinical practice



From left to right: Susan Haas, Paula Johnson, Alisa Goldberg (Director of Clinical Research and Training), and Jennifer Childs-Roshak (President and CEO)

Natasha Moustache

at PPLM, but has had an impact on patient care on a much broader scale.

Essential to PPLM's research department is the Family Planning Fellowship Program, a nationwide, privately funded training program for obstetrician/gynecologists, who receive subspecialty clinical training in abortion and contraception care, as well as training in clinical research methods and public health. Fellows also earn a Masters degree in Public Health and gain exposure to policy, advocacy, and international family planning. The fellowship program is a collaborative partnership between Brigham and Women's Hospital, the T.H. Chan Harvard School of Public Health, and PPLM.

To date, nine fellows have graduated from the program and all incorporate family planning practice, scholarship, and leadership into their current positions. Many

graduated fellows continue to provide services at PPLM, while others are putting their fellowships to work in New York and California. Their research-based perspective, rigorous training, and current leadership roles ensure that patients will receive the most up-to-date, high-quality reproductive health care available anywhere.

Guests at the anniversary event included a generous supporter who recently gave a transformative gift to the program. The \$500,000 contribution will create the Alisa Goldberg Research Fund, which will be used to expand the program's size and scope over the next five years. The donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, is a former PPLM board member who, through her philanthropy, has helped build the research department since its beginnings in 2005.



# faces & places



In recent months, members of the PPLM family showed their support at several lively events in the greater Boston area.



## Save the date!

**February 25:** Celebration of Choices

**May 19:** Newton house party

**June 1:** Dover, Dedham, Westwood house party

We hope you will join us at one of our upcoming events. For tickets and information about these and other gatherings, please email [events@pplm.org](mailto:events@pplm.org) or call 617.616.1661.

Images (top to bottom): 1. Young Friends Kick-Off: host Rebecca Roth-Gullo welcomed Grace Rosenthal of the Young Friends steering committee and other guests to The Gallows, her South Boston restaurant; 2. Guests at the Milton house party included co-chairs Stephen Kruskall and Bebe Williamson, PPLM board member and Interim CEO Sue Kaufman, and co-hosts Elaine Herrmann Blais, Kris Bieker-Brady, and David Brady; 3. Emily Goldman, Vice President of Education and Training Jen Slonaker, and Elaine Craghead at the Milton house party; 4. PPLM board member Alicia Abad, host committee member Cara Hutchins, and co-chair Bill Wasserman at the North Shore house party; 5. Dharma Cortés, host committee member, with North Shore party host Tizzy Hatch. *Image Credits: Conor Olmstead*

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