There’s always time to fall in love. Even in medical school.

The Wedding Issue
DEAR ALUMNI,

FRIENDS,

AND

COLLEAGUES,

As I reflect on our recent 170th Commencement exercises, during which we launched another 559 MDs, PhDs, and master’s degree graduates into careers in the biomedical sciences and medicine, I recognize that they are becoming physicians and scientists at a time of great discovery, but also great change and uncertainty. We have had epidemics of MERs, Ebola, Zika, and more. Wars and tensions around the world have escalated with a growing number of refugees, many of them in our own patient population. US health outcomes are lower than that of other developed countries, although our health care costs are higher. We hope our creative, resilient, intelligent, and innovative graduates will become the leaders in solving these critical problems.

Just three months ago, our MD seniors celebrated Match Day, which began with class awards and honors as students congregated on the front steps for their class picture. Finally came the countdown to noon, when they learned where they would spend their residencies. All of our students matched in competitive residencies from Maine to California; the top specialties chosen were internal medicine, pediatrics, emergency medicine, OB/GYN, surgery, and radiology, in that order.

While our seniors were busy planning their residencies, a team of eight second-year medical students earned second place in the New England Journal of Medicine SPRINT Data Analysis Challenge (see page 12), placing ahead of 141 other faculty teams from medical schools such as Harvard, Yale, Columbia, and Stanford.

We celebrated the appointments of Dr. Vasan Ramachandran as the Jay and Louise Coffman Professor in Vascular Medicine and Dr. Darrell Kotton as the David C. Seldin Professor of Medicine, and welcomed two new department chairs, Dr. David Greer (from Yale) to chair the Department of Neurology, and Dr. Jennifer Tseng (from Harvard) to chair the Department of Surgery.

In addition to BU Medicine’s typical focus on alumni, faculty, and student achievements, this issue’s feature story celebrates BUSM alumni couples. A quick search of our alumni data documented almost 200 couples who met and married at BUSM since 1950, and we highlight some of these couples who graciously shared their stories (see page 14).

Alumni celebrating five-year reunions visit the Medical Campus each spring to catch up with their classmates and see how medical education has changed (and the important values and missions that remain unchanged). They are part of the School’s rich and diverse legacy, contributing to the history we share. We also celebrated the illustrious careers of Drs. Nicole Gibran, MD (MED’85), and Kevin Tracey, MD (MED’83), at the first Distinguished Alumni Awards Luncheon (see page 28).

Dr. Gibran, professor of surgery and adjunct professor of medicine (dermatology) at the University of Washington (UW) in Seattle, also serves as the David & Nancy Auth Washington Research Foundation Chair in Restorative Burn Surgery and directs the UW Medicine Regional Burn Center at Harborview Medical Center.

Dr. Tracey, professor of neurosurgery and molecular medicine at the Hofstra Northwell School of Medicine, also is president and CEO of The Feinstein Institute for Medical Research and executive vice president for research at Northwell Health in New York.

The Campaign for Boston University continues. BUSM has raised $225 million of our $240 million goal, including $21 million in student scholarships and $4.3 million in Annual Fund support. On behalf of our students, faculty, and staff, I’d like to thank the 2,292 alumni, and many parents and friends who have contributed to our campaign goals for their support.

Please enjoy this issue of Boston University Medicine.
These couples got more out of BUSM than just a top-flight medical education. They found love.
Five, four, three, two, one!”

On March 17, BUSM fourth-year medical students converged at long, white tables covered with carefully arranged white envelopes in alphabetical order. The 159 future physicians quickly retreated to the center of Hiebert lounge, formed small groups, and opened their envelopes—some crying, some hugging, and some jumping up and down with excitement.

An annual rite of passage on the third Friday of March, Match Day marks the moment when graduating medical students around the country learn which residency programs they will attend and where they will spend the next three to seven years of their lives.

“Our students should be very proud of themselves and their hard work. I want them to stop and think about what they’ve actually accomplished,” said Associate Dean for Student Affairs Angela Jackson. “The road has been a long and hard one, and this is a moment when they can shine and look back with great pride at all of the things they have done. The residency programs that have matched them are lucky.”
While BUSM students matched in residencies across the country, nearly one-third are staying in Massachusetts (52), with New York (18), and California (17) the next most popular states. The class matched in a range of programs: 58 chose primary care specialties—which include family medicine, internal medicine, and pediatrics—followed by emergency medicine (15); OB/GYN (14); surgery (13); and diagnostic radiology (12).

There was more to Match Day than opening envelopes and sipping champagne—students also braved the cold to pose on the steps of the Instructional Building for their last class picture and attended the annual student awards ceremony, where they learned that Sam Miller would be their student speaker for graduation.
We come here today, a petri dish of emotions. We’re excited and afraid, proud and uncertain, hopeful and apprehensive. As we acknowledge this huge accomplishment, we recognize the equally vast step we are making into the real world,” said PhD candidate Liz Moses on Thursday, May 18, at the School of Medicine’s 170th Commencement.

Boston University School of Medicine conferred 150 medical degrees, six MD/PhDs, three MD/MPHs, and 46 PhDs. Twenty-three students earned Latin honors, including 16 cum laude and five magna cum laude; Samih Nassif Abudinen and Samuel Miller achieved summa cum laude.

“My classmates constantly remind me that the raw materials for building a great physician are present in all of us,” he said. “They teach, support, listen to, impress, and humble me in countless ways, far beyond what I have listed.”

“You are becoming scientists and physicians at a time of great change and uncertainty. We have had epidemics of MERS, Ebola, Zika, and more. Wars and tensions around the world have escalated with a growing numbers of refugees, many of them in our own patient population. US health outcomes are lower than that for other developed countries and our health care costs are high. You will figure it out. We have great confidence in your creativity, resilience, intellect, and innovation,” Dean Karen Antman told the assembled graduates.

In keeping with tradition, the graduating class selected their graduation speaker: Anthony Fauci, MD, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).
NIAID director since 1984, Dr. Fauci oversees an extensive portfolio of basic and applied research to prevent, diagnose, and treat established and emerging infectious diseases such as Ebola and Zika. NIAID also supports research on transplantation and immune-related illnesses, including autoimmune disorders, asthma, and allergies.

Dr. Fauci discussed the dynamic nature of medicine and the biological sciences.

“You will have one foot in the past as you take gigantic leaps into the future. You will bear witness to a constant and at times seemingly overwhelming evolution of scientific and technologic advances,” he said. “You will feel both exhilarated and intimidated. The evolution in medicine and biological sciences will be beyond your control, but you will be part of it, hanging on seemingly for dear life to keep up with it. Rest assured that being bored will not be a problem for you.

“For in the field of medicine and the biological sciences, we are all perpetual students. We may graduate from whatever institution of learning that we attend, but that is not the endgame. The scope of what we have learned and what we still need to learn is like a giant mosaic, and this mosaic of our knowledge and experiences is eternally unfinished, as well it should be.

“You will leave here today as professionals in a most noble field. You have been privileged, and with this privilege comes responsibilities. May you carry these responsibilities with pride and conviction and I strongly hope that you will experience great joy and satisfaction in our shared profession,” he concluded.

Please see our Facebook page at facebook.com/BUMedicine for images from the event.
Boston University’s Track & Tennis Center was transformed into a warm and friendly commencement setting as master’s degree candidates received diplomas Friday, May 19, surrounded by guests, friends, family, and faculty.

Associate Provost for Graduate Medical Sciences (GMS) Linda Hyman, PhD, presided over Commencement exercises. “We tend to reminisce on this occasion. When you arrived, we welcomed you to a place of collegiality, integrity, and the highest academic standards—and I hope we did not disappoint you,” she told graduates.

Hyman recalled their time at the University.

“There was one very special event that stands out in my mind that occurred just about a month ago, the March for Science,” she said. “Boston’s version was so vibrant, so energized, so civil and respectful. I was reassured that you are committed to evidence-based, data-driven decision making and, more importantly, that you are committed to getting this word out to the public.”

Boston University School of Medicine conferred 354 degrees, including 29 Master of Arts, 302 Master of Science, and 23 dual MS/MPH degrees.

Three students speakers reflected on their GMS experience and the hopes they have for their classmates.

“I am deeply proud and honored to call you my colleagues,” said Rachel Friedman, who received her master’s in Mental Health Counseling and Behavioral Medicine. “Being a counselor is about wearing many hats, living many lives, embracing many roles and, at times, adopting multiple personalities. It’s also about recognizing that what makes us unique is what binds us…and about learning to help others by learning to accept ourselves.”

Sarah Manely, who earned a master’s in Medical Sciences, said, “Our triumphs are not related to some end goal, but rather to how we faced challenges head on, learned to adapt, and treated the people around us. This type of achievement is worthy of celebrating today.”

“Success is often the culmination of a number of failures and relies less on perfection but rather, learning to deal with those failures. The ability to learn from your mistakes and redirect your future is one of the most admirable traits a person can have, and essential to a person’s success,” said Darren Costello, who received a master’s in Oral Health Sciences. “So graduates, follow your passion, work hard at achieving your dreams, and you all will be very successful. I am so proud that the future of medicine will be in your hands, and so proud to call you my colleagues and my friends.”
L–R, Rachel Friedman, Darren Costello, Sarah Manely
More than 100 members of the Medical Campus community gathered in the Hiebert Lounge on January 19 to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. and hear BU’s Associate Provost and Dean of Students Kenneth Elmore, JD, speak about the late civil rights icon.

The event opened with audio of Dr. King’s (GRS’55, Hon’59) famous “I Have a Dream” speech.

“I never would have dreamed I’d be in a position where I get to honor Dr. King—that’s something in which my parents take incredible pride,” Elmore said, adding that his mother was brought to tears when she found out he would be speaking about MLK because “a lot of people fought very hard” to give him such a wonderful opportunity.

Titled, “On the Way We Go: Chaos or Community?” Elmore’s presentation was based on King’s similarly titled book, Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?

“I’m one of those people who thinks a little chaos and a little community can do well by us now,” Elmore said, noting that King felt “Power without love is reckless and abusive and love without power is sentimental and anemic.” He pointed out that this sentiment might characterize our national mood the past few years regarding issues such as war, underprivileged schools, and lack of a middle class. After the tragic 2016 shootings in Dallas, Elmore reached the crossroad of chaos and community, reengaging with people in different ways and reevaluating what his “bubbles” were.

Reflecting on his past, he shared a song refrain from his youth that particularly spoke to him—“Ain’t gonna let nobody turn me around… I’m gonna keep on walk­ing, keep on talking, marching up to freedom land”—that his church congregation sang to members about to take significant steps in their lives; they sang it to Elmore himself when he left for college. The song reminded him of the freedom riders of the civil rights movement, and he realized that when he “saw with history in mind,” he saw all the people who helped move the country forward.

Elmore’s speech was followed by a musical interlude with Margaret Lee, MD, PhD, assistant professor of dermatology, and Moisés Fernández Via, founding director of Arts | Lab @ Med Campus, and a town hall discussion facilitated by Rafael Ortega, MD, associate dean of diversity and multicultural affairs, and Jonathan Woodson, MD, faculty director at BU’s Institute for Health System Innovation & Policy.

To view the event, go to http://bit.ly/2lY8oiw

For optimal viewing, use Firefox, Chrome, or Safari browsers.
Appointments, Awards & Honors

APPOINTMENTS

**David M. Greer**, MD, MA, FCCM, FAHA, FNCS, FAAN, FANA, has been appointed chair of neurology at BU School of Medicine and chief of neurology at Boston Medical Center.

Dr. Greer previously served as professor of neurology and neurosurgery, vice chair of neurology, and the Dr. Harry M. Zimmerman and Dr. Nicholas and Viola Spinelli Endowed Chair at Yale University School of Medicine. He was also the Neurology Department’s director of medical studies and director of the Stroke Service, and co-director of the Neurovascular Center at Yale New Haven Hospital.

His research interests include predicting recovery from coma after cardiac arrest, brain death, and multiple stroke-related topics, including acute stroke treatment and stroke prevention. He is a leader in the Neurocritical Care Society, the Society of Critical Care Medicine, the American Stroke Association, and a well-regarded and dedicated medical educator and clinician.

Dr. Greer received his BA in English Literature from Williams College, MA, MD from the University of Florida, and an MA, privatim, from Yale. He completed an internship in internal medicine and a residency in neurology at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), followed by fellowship training in vascular neurology and neurocritical care, also at MGH. He was an associate professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School and associate neuroscientist at MGH before joining the faculty at Yale.

Among his many honors and awards, Dr. Greer has been named among the “Best Doctors in America” and received the Yale Neurology Residency Program’s Teacher of the Year Award; two Presidential Citations each from the Society of Critical Care Medicine and the Neurocritical Care Society; the Partners Neurology "Superman" Resident Teaching Award from the MGH Department of Neurology; and the Stanley M. Wyman Teaching Award from the MGH Department of Medicine.

Dr. Greer has authored more than 150 peer-reviewed manuscripts, reviews, chapters, guidelines, and books and is the editor-in-chief of both Neurocritical Care Live and Seminars in Neurology. He reviews for several journals, including the New England Journal of Medicine, Annals of Internal Medicine, Brain, Neurology, and Stroke. He is a fellow of the Society of Critical Care Medicine, American Academy of Neurology, American Heart Association, American Neurological Association, and Neurocritical Care Society.

**Jennifer F. Tseng**, MD, MPH, has been appointed chair of surgery at BU School of Medicine and chief of surgery at Boston Medical Center.

An accomplished leader and outstanding surgeon with a record of significant achievements, Dr. Tseng has served as professor of surgery at Harvard Medical School and chief of surgical oncology at the Roberta and Stephen R. Weiner Department of Surgery and clinical co-director for surgery at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC) in Boston. Previously, she was associate professor of surgery, cancer biology and quantitative health sciences at the University of Massachusetts Medical School and an attending surgeon at UMass Memorial Medical Center.

She received her undergraduate degree from Stanford University, MD from the University of California, San Francisco Medical School, and master’s degree in public health from the Harvard School of Public Health. She completed a general surgery residency at Massachusetts General Hospital and a research fellowship in molecular medicine at Harvard Medical School/Children’s Hospital.

**Vaishali Sanchorawala, MD**, has been appointed Director of the Amyloidosis Center and named the Wesley and Charlotte Skinner Professor for Research in Amyloidosis.

Professor of medicine in the Section of Hematology/Oncology and director of the BMC Stem Cell Transplant Program, Dr. Sanchorawala joined the program in 1994 and has served as associate director of the Amyloidosis Center since July 2015. Her many published studies of the treatment of...
Amyloid light-chain (AL) amyloidosis have been adopted as the standard of care for patients. She is currently leading several AL amyloidosis clinical trials, one of which was conducted nationally through the Southwest Oncology Group.

Dr. Sanchowarawala serves on the board of the International Society of Amyloidosis, as an associate editor of *Amyloid, Journal of Protein Folding Disorders*, and as a member of the Executive Steering Committee of Amyloidosis Research Consortium. In 1997, she joined BUSM as an assistant professor of medicine and BMC as an attending physician. She was promoted to associate professor in 2005 and professor in 2011.

**Darrell Kotton, MD, has been named the David C. Seldin, MD, PhD, Professor of Medicine. The professorship honors the late Dr. Seldin, who directed the Amyloidosis Center, the Hematology-Oncology Section, and the Graduate Program in Molecular Medicine. An accomplished investigator, clinician, and teacher, Dr. Seldin was a beacon of hope for his patients, a source of inspiration for his trainees, and greatly admired by his colleagues. David Seldin passed away on June 27, 2015.

Dr. Kotton is professor of medicine (Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, Sleep, and Critical Care) and Pathology and Laboratory Medicine as well as director of the BU-BMC Center for Regenerative Medicine (CReM). He received a BA in psychology from the University of Pennsylvania and an MD from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri. He completed his internship and residency in internal medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and fellowships in pulmonary and critical care medicine at BUSM/Boston Medical Center as well as stem cell biology and genetics at Harvard Medical School.

Upon joining the faculty as an instructor of medicine in 2004, Dr. Kotton rose quickly to professor. He has received numerous accolades, including the Fellow of the Year Award from the Department of Medicine, the L. Jack Failing Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching (2007), and the Robert Dawes Evans Senior Research Mentor Award (2014). He launched two centers on the Medical Campus—the CReM in 2009 with Drs. Gustavo Mostoslavsky and George Murphy, and the Alpha-1 Center in 2012 with Dr. Andrew Wilson, which is dedicated to the care of patients and their families suffering from Alpha-1 Antitrypsin deficiency.

Dr. Kotton is nationally recognized as a leading researcher in lung stem cell biology and for championing a selfless research approach called Open Source Biology in which data and reagents are shared without restriction or exclusivity. CReM currently houses the sole NIH-supported lung disease-specific stem cell bank funded by an R24 grant for national resource sharing. Dr. Kotton has trained nine post-doctoral fellows, six PhD graduate students, numerous medical and undergraduate students, and pulmonary fellows, many of whom have gone on to independent faculty positions.

**Vasan Ramachandran, MD, FACC, has been named the Jay and Louise Coffman Professor in Vascular Medicine, which honors Dr. Coffman (1928-2006) and his wife Louise. Dr. Coffman directed the Vascular Medicine Section and was an internationally recognized clinician investigator in the field of peripheral arterial, venous, and vasculitic diseases. He discovered the principle of oxygen repayment in post-ischemic hyperemia, in the failure of the clinical use of vasodilators for peripheral arterial ischemia, and in the diagnosis and treatment of Raynaud’s phenomenon. Louise was a former BUMC nurse and an active member of the Boston University Women’s Auxiliary. Dr. Coffman was a consummate clinician and mentor who inspired his trainees and colleagues as well as an outstanding clinical investigator who used his understanding of vascular disease to help hundreds of patients and clinicians.**

Dr. Ramachandran joined BUSM as an associate professor of medicine in 1998 and was promoted to professor in 2006. He was appointed professor of epidemiology at BU School of Public Health in 2013. Currently, he serves as chief of the Section of Preventive Medicine and Epidemiology in the Department of Medicine, Principal Investigator of the renowned Framingham Heart Study, with which he has been affiliated for the past 17 years, and editor of circulation for *Cardiovascular Genetics*.

He received his medical degree from, and completed his residency in internal medicine and fellowship in cardiology at, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi. He has received many RO1 awards from the National Institutes of Health/National Heart, Lung, Blood Institute and a mid-career clinical investigator award (K24).

Over the last 23 years, Dr. Ramachandran has made major contributions to the genetic and non-genetic epidemiology of congestive heart failure; population-based vascular testing, echocardiography, and exercise testing; the genetic and non-genetic epidemiology of high blood pressure; and cardiovascular disease risk prediction models. His many awards and honors include the Department of Medicine’s Evans Scholar and Outstanding Mentor awards in 2010; Outstanding Mentor, American Heart Association (AHA) Council on Epidemiology Prevention in 2012; and the AHA’s prestigious Population Science Award in 2014.
Jodi F. Abbott, MD, MHCM, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, has been named assistant dean of Academic Affairs for Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Education. The core clerkship director and department vice chair for education, in 2007 Dr. Abbott received BUSM’s Clinical Educator of the Year Award. A maternal fetal medicine specialist, she has developed numerous innovations in medical student quality improvement clinical initiatives, leading to national student recognition. In 2016, she received the Association for Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics Teaching Award.

In her new role, she will integrate didactic and experiential patient safety and quality improvement education annually for all medical students to demonstrate that they can improve patient outcomes. Integrating these principles into core medical school education will directly reduce health care outcome disparities and improve the health of our community.

Priya S. Garg, MD, has been named director of the Medical Education office and assistant dean of Academic Affairs. After completing her pediatric residency and chief residency at the University of Maryland Medical Center, Dr. Garg joined the faculty at Tufts Medical Center and Tufts University School of Medicine, where she served in several leadership roles including pediatric clerkship director for Tufts University School of Medicine (2008–2010); Pediatric Inpatient Medicine acting internship director (2008–2017); pediatric residency director (2010–2017); and associate director for Graduate Medical Education Quality and Safety (2014–2017). She also led multiple faculty development programs related to educational leadership and teaching and is a faculty mentor in the Academic Pediatric Association’s Educational Scholars Program.

Three Faculty Members Named Spivack Scholars

The Jack Spivack Excellence in Neuroscience Awards were established to recognize and support the research of outstanding BUSM faculty conducting either clinical or basic research in Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s, Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy, and other neurological disorders.

Benjamin Wolozin, MD, PhD, has received the 2017 Jack Spivack Excellence in Neurosciences Award. Mr. Spivack established the award in 2013 to recognize and support the research of an outstanding faculty member conducting clinical or basic research in Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s, Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy, and other neurological disorders. Dr. Wolozin’s discovery of the essential role of RNA binding proteins in the pathophysiology of tauopathies, including Alzheimer’s, has changed the way we understand these diseases.

A professor of pharmacology and neurology, Dr. Wolozin came to BUSM in 2004 from Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine. He received his BA in chemistry from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut and his combined MD/PhD in neuroscience from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City.

He was named a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in 2016. His many honors include the Zenith Award from the Alzheimer’s Association and the Department of Medicine Evans Center Collaborator of the Year Award, both in 2013.

His research examines the pathophysiology of neurodegenerative diseases, including Alzheimer’s, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, and Parkinson’s. His laboratory explores how physiological aggregation of RNA binding proteins contributes to disease processes when it goes awry.

This research is leading to the discovery of novel therapeutic approaches and diagnostic markers for these diseases. Dr. Wolozin has authored more than 150 peer-reviewed papers and book chapters.

Two faculty members named 2017 Spivack Emerging Leaders

Hugo Javier Aparicio, MD, MPH, is an assistant professor of neurology and an investigator at the Framingham Heart Study whose research interests include the identification of lifestyle risk factors, biomarkers, neuroimaging markers, and genetic influences associated with cerebrovascular diseases. He is particularly interested in the contributions of vascular risk factors to brain aging, cognitive dysfunction, and the development of Alzheimer’s disease. Aparicio received his BA in biology and Spanish from Emory University, his MD from the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, and his MPH from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Scott Hayes, PhD, is an assistant professor of psychiatry and a research psychologist at VA Boston Healthcare System. His research interests include the examination of the neural correlates of memory using magnetic resonance imaging, with a focus on studying the impact of physical fitness and physical activity on cognition and the brain. Hayes received his BA in psychology and biology from Skidmore College in New York, and his PhD in clinical psychology from the University of Arizona.
MED Students Place Second in NEJM Major International Data Challenge

**BEAT 141 TEAMS, SCIENTISTS FROM HARVARD, YALE, STANFORD, AND MORE**

Seven second-year School of Medicine students beat out 141 teams of academic researchers and physician scientists—from medical schools at Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Stanford, and other institutions—to take second place in a *New England Journal of Medicine* (NEJM) contest.

The competition challenged entrants to analyze a landmark blood pressure management study and come up with new findings that could be translated into improved care for patients. With 200 teams getting through the initial qualifying rounds, the contest drew scientists from 107 institutions, labs, and companies in 26 countries.

“We never thought we’d place,” says BU team leader Rahul Aggarwal (MED’19), who recruited six friends who share his passion for open data and medicine. The six other team members were Ben Petrie (MED’19), Nicholas Chiu (MED’19), Jason Park (MED’19), Sang Myung Han (MED’19), Jackson Steinkamp (MED’19), and Haares Mirzan (MED’19).

“They were functioning as physician-scientists,” says Douglas Hughes, a MED professor of psychiatry and associate dean for academic affairs. “It’s a phenomenal feat.”

Winners were selected by a panel of 15 judges comprising biostatisticians, cardiologists, physician-scientists, researchers who run clinical trials, and clinical trial participants. Along with the other winners, Aggarwal presented the BU team’s findings on April 3 at an NEJM Sharing Clinical Trial Data Summit in Boston.

“This group’s enthusiasm, care, and creativity were evident, and it’s this next generation of physicians that we want to encourage to think critically and expansively,” says contest co-chair Jeffrey M. Drazen, NEJM editor in chief.

Contest entrants analyzed the Systolic Blood Pressure Intervention Trial (SPRINT), which was funded primarily by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and involved 9,361 people with elevated blood pressure and increased risk of cardiovascular disease. The data became available in early November, and the contest entry deadline was February 14. As a team of students—and without even a faculty supervisor—it took the BU group until the end of December just to get permission to access the data from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI).

“We were getting kind of worried about it,” says Aggarwal. When he approached BU’s Institutional Review Board (IRB) for the necessary approval, he says, “everyone was, like, ‘Students don’t usually do this.’”

Perhaps not, but as Karen Antman, MED dean and provost of the Medical Campus, puts it: “Our second-year students are exceptional. To receive second place in such a prestigious competition, in a field that includes accomplished physician-scientists, is quite an honor and we congratulate them on this achievement.”

Aggarwal turned to Suzanne Sarfaty (CAS’84, MED’88), associate professor of medicine and assistant dean for academic affairs, who signed the necessary IRB form—and in response to an additional request from the NHLBI, then enlisted Antman to sign as well.

The team held its first meeting in early January. “We discussed and critically examined our strengths and weaknesses,” says Chiu. They divided into two groups—the data analysis group (Aggarwal, Petrie, Steinkamp) and the medical literature review group (Chiu, Park, Han, Mirzan).

Chiu says reviewing the literature provided the team with “a sense of what had been studied before, what conclusions were well established, and what areas in hypertension management were in need of better understanding.”

It helped, says Park, that they had just completed MED courses on cardiology and nephrology.

The original SPRINT trial was intended to evaluate whether there was any benefit or harm from aiming for a systolic blood pressure (the pressure in arteries as the heart contracts) lower than 140 millimeters of mercury (mmHg) in people with elevated blood pressure and increased risk of cardiovascular disease. The trial was halted in 2015, five years after it began enrolling patients, when researchers determined that study subjects who were receiving intensive therapy were 43 percent less likely to die from heart attack, stroke, or other cardiovascular causes than those on the standard regimen.

What caught the BU team’s attention in the medical literature, Chiu says, was that there was disagreement in medical literature before, what conclusions were well established, and what areas in hypertension management were in need of better understanding.”

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What caught the BU team’s attention in the medical literature, Chiu says, was that there was disagreement in blood pressure protocols for patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD). He explains that while the National Kidney Foundation recommends controlling blood pressure below 130/80 to slow progression of CKD and cardiovascular disease, the Eighth Joint National Committee (a panel of experts) guidelines recommend controlling blood pressure below 140/90.

Delving deeper, Chiu says, he and his teammates realized that relatively few studies had been done on blood pressure
management in CKD patients. They also realized that if they focused specifically on CKD patients in the SPRINT trial (which did not thoroughly investigate the outcomes of intensive blood pressure management on CKD patients), they would have the largest study in the existing literature, with 2,646 patients. And, team members agreed, that would be a project offering clinical usefulness.

“Effective blood pressure control is important to all physicians, especially to primary care physicians,” says Petrie, who has considered going into primary care.

The team—they called themselves Renality Check—met weekly, for three- or four-hour evening sessions. “Part of what made it so exciting was that we were all friends,” Petrie says. Instead of playing video games on Friday night, they would “hang out and engage in data analysis.”

THE RENALITY CHECK FINDINGS:
1) Blood pressure for CKD patients was harder to manage than for the control population.
2) Intensive blood pressure management did not significantly improve outcomes for CKD patients.
3) Intensive blood pressure management increased the risk of serious adverse incidents and side effects for CKD patients. Given the difficulty of controlling blood pressure in CKD patients, the team wrote in their abstract, “the burden of additional antihypertensive drugs required for intensive treatment may lead to increased cost and decreased patient compliance.” They concluded that while the SPRINT trial suggests a blood pressure target of less than 120, their analysis “cautions against” such an intensive target for CKD patients.

The third conclusion is striking, says Hughes. “They’re actually challenging the findings of this huge study—that the systolic blood pressure of these patients should be so intensively managed. That’s a pretty dramatic finding for second-year medical students. They made a really good observation. They backed it up with a logical argument and evidence from the study, and they’ve created a very good argument for another recommendation out of the same data. This is exceptional.”

Says Nicholas Chiu: “I guess the takeaway is that you don’t have to know the most to ask a simple but important question.”

2017 Wing Tat Lee Awardees Announced

Four faculty members have received the 2017 Wing Tat Lee Awards, which are funded to establish cooperative research programs between BUSM and Chinese universities—with particular emphasis on those in Hong Kong—while further deepening the friendship and mutual understanding between the institutions.

Joseph P. Mizgerd, ScD, director of the Pulmonary Center and professor of medicine, microbiology, and biochemistry, will study Rhinovirus C, a recently discovered respiratory virus that may be an important cause of pneumonia and may also exacerbate asthma, especially in children. This project will develop tools to study the virus, including the specific lung cells it infects and the immune response it elicits, laying the groundwork for important new and more substantial lines of collaborative research. Dr. Wan Yi (Renee) Chan at the Chinese University of Hong Kong will provide the virus, quantify viral burdens, and contribute imaging and molecular analyses. Dr. Mizgerd received his ScD from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Tatfong Ng, PhD, assistant professor of ophthalmology, will co-organize an inaugural symposium with Dr. Amy Cheuk Yin Lo at The University of Hong Kong between the two departments of Ophthalmology. The symposium will offer a platform for eye researchers in both departments to share and exchange scientific knowledge on the latest approaches in vision science while also establishing a connection and laying the foundation for new collaborations in basic and clinical vision research. Dr. Ng received his PhD in anatomy from The University of Hong Kong.

Shanshan Sheehy, MD, ScD, assistant professor of medicine, will develop computational and bioinformatics algorithms to analyze electronic medical records data to determine if flare and inflammation-related arthritis can be identified using Natural Language Processing. Dr. Sheng Yu of Tsinghua University will provide his statistical expertise on the Natural Language Processing methodology and conduct a seminar in August to develop further collaborations. Dr. Sheehy received her MD from Fudan University in Shanghai, China, her ScD from Harvard’s T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and her MsC from McGill University in Canada.

Qiong L. Zhou, PhD, assistant professor of pharmacology & experimental therapeutics, will collaborate with professors Chunhong Huang and Zhangping Liao as well as Sijiao Na, a PhD student in Dr. Zhou’s laboratory, all from the Nanchang University School of Medicine. They will study the molecular mechanisms of western-type, high-fat, diet-induced obesity and diabetes, focusing on immune cells and neutrophils, and how they change with diet and aging. Dr. Zhou received her PhD from King’s College at the University of London.
Featuring couples from the 1960s–2010s
There’s always time to fall in love.

Even in medical school.

*Boston University Medicine* typically focuses on the academic, research, and career achievements of our alumni, faculty, and students—but we also recognize that individuals who love, feel, cry, laugh, smile, and care are behind these significant accomplishments.

In that spirit, this story celebrates those who met and fell in love at BUSM.

We reached out to couples who found each other on campus, despite relentless studying, clinical rotations, clerkships, and applying and interviewing for competitive residencies. The Alumni Association estimates that since 1950, nearly 200 couples met while attending the School. Dean Antman has even been known to tell incoming students at the White Coat Ceremony, “Look around, you may be standing next to your future husband or wife!”

In a constantly changing world, it’s important to celebrate something as timeless as love. Here are some of the stories School of Medicine sweethearts shared with us.
The 60s

Drs. Egle D. (MED’67) & Kenneth Pedini (MED’66)
Naples, Florida | Married for 50 years

The Pedinis are the School’s golden couple—in more ways than one. The happy twosome recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They also attended Ken’s 50th class reunion last year, and Egle’s 50th last month.

Both Ken and Egle were serious students and spent a lot of time in the old campus library, then located in the B Building. “The most wonderful part of my second year was that I met Egle. I looked across the oak table and she smiled, and I could study no more,” Ken recalls. He lent Egle a book, *Basic Clinical Parasitology* by School of Medicine Professor David L. Belding. She returned the book when they got married—and they have it to this day.

Their first date still makes them chuckle. “Medical students didn’t have a lot of money in those days. We had to be inventive on how we could get together and party,” Ken explains. As it turned out, his friend was having a get-together in the South End—in an empty funeral home. “There was lots of Greek music and dancing, and if he was going to bring me there on our first date, I had to know more,” laughs Egle.

The couple remained in their first jobs for their entire professional lives. They are thankful for their radiology careers, which allowed them to retire early, travel, and remain active in charities and education. “No, we don’t golf,” they joke.

Their simple advice for other physician couples: “Just persevere. It’s a wonderful profession worth the hardships. And find someone with good character!”

The 70s

Drs. Meredith & Terry Miller (MED’75)
Woodside, California | Married for 43 years

“We met in BaseLab during freshman year in 1971. Terry was flirting with my labmate,” says Meredith Miller. Meredith and Terry were friends for two months before they started dating.

Finding time to be together was not an issue. “We were together 24/7. We drove to school together, ate together, and studied together,” Terry recalls.

Inseparable, they married in their third year and matched together in their fourth; they’ve been in the Bay Area ever since. Meredith’s career in experimental pathology and Terry’s in psychiatry have allowed them lifestyles that include ample time for each other.

The Millers, who have two children (Elana, 34, and Zach, 33) plan to retire soon and build their dream house in Maui.
The 80s

Drs. Ilona Wiener Surick & Burton Surick (MED’86)
Paramus, New Jersey | Married for 31 years

Ilona and Burt may have graduated from the School of Medicine, but their first date was very “Charles River”—freshman year, they caught a movie at Warren Towers and began dating the next month. They met while attending the six-year BA-MD Program (which is now seven years).

“I would type all of Burt’s papers. He was a slow typist, so I had incentive to type so we could go out,” Ilona remembers. They enjoyed hanging out in front of the Instructional Building, and still recall wheeling patients back and forth in the tunnels of Boston City Hospital.

When residency application time came, they were advised to prioritize one career over the other. “We didn’t listen but with 20/20 hindsight, we agree that in order to make a dual-career family work, you have to be comfortable that at different times, you will likely have to prioritize one person’s career over the other’s or prioritize family over a career choice,” Burt says.

“Things tend to even out over time as long as both of you are committed to making it work. And it is important to always make time for fun in your life and to have things in common outside of medicine,” Ilona adds.

Ilona is now vice president of International Product Safety and General Safety Assessment Officer at Eisai, Inc.; Burt is a program director of Surgical Residency at Mount Sinai Beth Israel. They have two children—Gabrielle, a family medicine resident at Mount Sinai, and Jonathan, an electrical engineer at Formlabs.

Drs. Margo M. Moskos & David L. Burns (MPH’85, MED’89)
Lexington, Massachusetts | Married for 27 years

Listen, I just want to go out to dinner. I don’t want to marry you,” Dave informed Margo during her first year of medical school. Margo wanted to focus on her studies, but had a feeling she was going to fall in love. “Dave’s kindness really did it for me. I knew that this was the man who would care about me no matter what,” she says.

“We worked hard and played hard,” Margo recalls. “We’re both comedians. We laugh and dance like no one’s watching,” Dave adds. Their favorite memories of BUSM are of “Skit Night.” The comic duo fondly remembers Dr. William McNary, former dean of students; in fact, Margo sought him out the day after they got engaged to make sure he approved. Margo recalls his reaction: “Marry him, he’s a good kid.”

“Of course, I always did everything Dr. McNary told me,” she laughs. He even attended their wedding.

Margo and Dave credit their parents for teaching them loyalty, kindness, and the importance of family. “Our bond is strengthened by our closeness with our children,” Margo says. Their daughter Anastasia is in the BA/MPH program and will graduate next year; their son Alexander is a student at Bentley University.

Dave is now a gastroenterologist and head of Clinical Nutrition at Lahey Clinic in Burlington, Massachusetts, while Margo is a breast radiologist at Massachusetts General Hospital. They are thankful for the great friends and mentors they came to know at BUSM.
The 90s

Shirvinda and Namita Wijesekera (MED’98)
New Haven, Connecticut | Married for 16 years

“Shirvinda was the guy from California and I was the girl from Jersey,” Namita says. Nevertheless, they found common ground when they met as freshmen in Warren Towers as part of the seven-year BA-MD program. Shirvinda and Namita began dating the last year of their undergraduate education.

They now live in Connecticut and acknowledge they were fortunate to have had each other during medical school, despite living on opposite coasts during their residencies. “Being in a long-distance relationship was really tough. We spent all of our vacations and long hours on the phone together,” Shirvinda recalls.

“Our undergrad friendship and memories of medical school got us through those tough three years apart.”

Today, they’re both in private practice and on staff at Yale-New Haven Hospital. Namita is a general pediatrician at West Rock Pediatrics and teaches at both Yale and Quinnipiac; Shirvinda practices at Connecticut Orthopedic Specialists with a specialty in adult and pediatric spinal surgery. They also volunteer on global surgery missions to treat children with scoliosis, during which time Namita cares for the children pre-surgery and Shirvinda performs it.

“It is an amazing experience,” Shirvinda says.

They enjoy full lives with four children under the age of 13. Namita explains, “They keep us busy and while life sometimes is a bit chaotic, we are grateful for every bit of it. We are lucky to have found each other early in our lives and careers. We essentially grew up together and melded each other into who we are today.

“Careers in medicine can be tough, but having a physician spouse gives you a partner that understands and appreciates the sacrifices that we make for our patients and families. The best advice we can offer is to be kind to each other.”

Drs. Shirvinda & Namita Wijesekera (MED’98)

New Haven, Connecticut | Married for 16 years

Rachel met her future husband during the first week of her freshman year at an ice cream social at BU Hillel in September of 1995. “I remember calling my best friend the night I met Craig and telling her, ‘I just met the man I am going to marry!’” she recalls.

The pair met with the help of Rabbi Joseph Polak. After learning Rachel was in the seven-year BA-MD Program, he ran around Hillel frantically looking for Craig, who had been studying in the Hillel library for a medical school exam. In a last-ditch effort, he looked outside the building and saw Craig heading to his car. He called him back, brought him to Rachel, sat him in a chair next to her and said, “Here. Sit, talk.” “And the rest is history,” Rachel says.

The couple dated for the next few years, mostly long distance while Craig was completing an orthopedic surgery residency in New York City and Rachel was finishing her program at BUSM. They married six years after they met, with Rabbi Polak, the man who brought them together, officiating at the wedding.

The Titles have three children: Corey, 13, and twins Jordan and Benjamin, 8. Rachel is a radiologist and Craig a bariatric medicine specialist, both in New York City private practice. Boston and BU will always hold very special places in their hearts.

Drs. Rachel (CAS ’99, MED’02) & Craig Title (BA, MED’96)
New York City, New York | Married for 16 years
The seven-year BA-MD Program was lucky for Rahul Shah—that’s where he met his wife, Banu. “Banu and I met on the first day of orientation in August of 1993. She did not like me for many months. It took perseverance for her to come around, but she did,” he recalls.

Banu and Rahul have fond memories of being on campus. “Paul O’Bryan was the program director at the time, and he treated the students like his extended family,” Rahul explains. “We took advantage of the awesome facilities and faculty before cell phones and the internet had gained traction, and we spent a lot of face time—literally—with our friends.”

The two supported each other throughout rotations and clerkships. “We were able to maintain a lot of our hobbies and balance the medical school aspect, which is important for both of us,” Banu says. She is now clinical team leader of the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, and Rheumatology Products in the Office of New Drugs for the US Food and Drug Administration. Rahul is vice president, chief quality and safety officer of Children’s National Health System and associate professor of otolaryngology and pediatrics at George Washington University School of Medicine.

They have two children, Nishu, 12, and Amir, 8, who wear their BU T-shirts and hoodies with pride!

This is going to sound very corny, but when we first met, Natalia looked at me like I was the only one in the bar,” Rauvynne says. “And I felt like she was the only one in the bar,” Natalia agrees.

They met at a first-year orientation social at Landsdowne Pub. Looking for an excuse to get out of karaoke, Natalia asked Rauvynne to tell her friend that her throat was too sore to sing. Rauvynne obliged and the two exchanged names.

Their relationship started—and grew—at the library. “Some hours were more productive than others, but we got through it,” Natalia recalls. During clinical rotations, Rauvynne became her rock. “From packing small snacks to get me through surgery to going out during the little bit of free time I had, Rauvynne grounded me, balanced me, and reminded me of why we put ourselves through these hard years.”

Since last year, when Natalia matched in Miami for her residency, they have been living apart. Fortunately, Rauvynne’s schedule as a fourth-year student has had some flexibility, so they’ve been able to see each other at least once a month. In March, Rauvynne matched at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. She believes that even though they will live on opposite coasts, “whatever happens, we’ll be able to make it work.”

Embarking on their careers, they’ve learned to stay close even when they are apart, and they remain positive. “Even though having two people in medicine is difficult, I think it helps us understand what the other person is going through. We really respect each other,” Rauvynne says.

The happy couple recently got engaged and is planning an October 2018 wedding in Miami.
Study Probes Soda Company Sponsorship of Health Groups

The nation’s two largest soda companies sponsored at least 96 national health organizations from 2011 to 2015, dampening the health groups’ support of legislation to reduce soda consumption or improve nutrition, according to a Boston University School of Medicine/School of Public Health study published in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*.

The companies “used relationships with health organizations to develop positive associations for their brands,” said lead author Daniel Aaron, a third-year BUSM medical student who co-wrote the study with Michael Siegel, MD, professor of community health sciences at the School of Public Health.

The researchers said soda companies can neutralize potential legislative opposition by invoking reciprocity and financial dependence from national health organizations. “Rather than supporting public health, organizations may become unwitting partners in a corporate marketing strategy that undermines public health,” Aaron explained.

Researchers Find Link between Concussions and Alzheimer’s Disease

A study has found that concussions may accelerate Alzheimer’s disease-related brain atrophy and cognitive decline in people who are at genetic risk for the condition. Published in the journal *Brain*, the study shows promise for detecting the influence of concussion on neurodegeneration. “We found that having a concussion was associated with lower cortical thickness in brain regions that are the first to be affected in Alzheimer’s disease,” said corresponding author Jasmeet Hayes, PhD, assistant professor of psychiatry. “Our results suggest that when combined with genetic factors, concussions may be associated with accelerated cortical thickness and memory decline in Alzheimer’s disease-relevant areas.” Interestingly, these brain abnormalities were found in relatively young people—the group’s average age was just 32. “These findings show promise for detecting the influence of concussion on neurodegeneration early in one’s lifetime, thus it is important to document the occurrence and subsequent symptoms of a concussion, even if the person reports only having their ‘bell rung’ and is able to shake it off fairly quickly. When combined with factors such as genetics, the concussion may produce negative long-term health consequences,” Dr. Hayes said.

Blood test can predict life or death outcome for patients with Ebola virus disease

Researchers have identified a molecular barcode in the blood of patients with Ebola virus disease that can predict whether they are likely to survive or die from the viral infection.

The results, published in *Genome Biology* by a team of BUSM investigators in collaboration with the University of Liverpool, Public Health England, and other international partners, provide data on the underlying causes of Ebola virus infection and suggest that this type of blood analysis could be integrated into future outbreak responses as a diagnostic tool to help guide treatment strategies. “It is not just how much Ebola virus that is present in a patient that defines whether a patient will survive. How the patient fights the infection is also key. Defining common aspects of how the immune system responds in individuals that survive opens a new window for studying how to keep Ebola virus infection from being a fatal infection,” explained co-corresponding author John Connor, PhD, associate professor of microbiology.

Study Finds Biomarker for Lung Cancer Detection in the Nasal Passages of Smokers

A new nasal test may allow patients suspected of having lung cancer to undergo a simple swab of their nose to determine if they have the disease. BUSM researchers have found a genomic biomarker in the nasal passage can accurately determine the likelihood of a lung lesion being malignant. Published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, the findings will allow physicians to confidently identify patients who are at low probability for having lung cancer, thus sparing them from costly and risky procedures.
After examining nasal epithelial brushings from current and former smokers undergoing diagnostic evaluation for pulmonary lesions suspected of being lung cancer, the researchers determined that the nasal airway epithelial field of lung cancer-associated injury in smokers extends to the nose and has the potential of being a non-invasive biomarker for lung cancer detection.

**Screening for sleeping problems may aid in the early detection of cognitive impairment and dementia.**

A new test may detect lung cancer from a nasal swab.

“There is a clear and growing need to develop additional diagnostic approaches for evaluating pulmonary lesions to determine which patients should undergo CT surveillance or invasive biopsy. The ability to test for molecular changes in this ‘field of injury’ allows us to rule out the disease earlier without invasive procedures,” said corresponding author Avrum Spira, MD, MSc, professor of medicine, pathology, and bioinformatics, and the Alexander Graham Bell Professor in Health Care Entrepreneurship.

**Study Finds Prolonged Sleep May Predict Dementia Risk**

Data from the Framingham Heart Study (FHS) has shown that people who consistently sleep more than nine hours each night had double the risk of developing dementia in 10 years as compared to participants who slept for nine hours or less. Published in the journal Neurology, the findings also found that those who slept longer had smaller brain volumes.

“Participants without a high school degree who sleep for more than nine hours each night had six times the risk of developing dementia in 10 years as compared to participants who slept less. These results suggest that being highly educated may protect against dementia in the presence of long sleep duration,” said co-corresponding author Sudha Seshadri, MD, professor of neurology at BUSM and FHS senior investigator.

The results suggest that excessive sleep may be a symptom rather than a cause of the brain changes that occur with dementia, researchers concluded. Therefore, interventions to restrict sleep duration are unlikely to reduce the risk of dementia.

Screening for sleeping problems may aid in the early detection of cognitive impairment and dementia. Early diagnosis of dementia has many important benefits, such as giving the patient the opportunity to more actively direct their future plans and health care decisions.

**Connection between Brain Inflammation and CTE Identified**

BUSM researchers have shown for the first time that inflammation in the brain may be directly involved in the development of Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE). They also found that the number of years one plays contact sports may predict the occurrence of CTE, and this association is partly due to increased inflammation in the brain.

“The study provides evidence that playing football for a prolonged period can result in long-term brain inflammation and that this inflammation might lead to CTE,” said first author Jonathan Cherry, PhD, BUSM postdoctoral fellow in neurology. “Although inflammation may be protective in the brain, especially right after an injury, our study suggests that years after a period of playing football, inflammation can persist in the brain and is linked to the development of CTE.”

Published in Acta Neuropathologica Communications, the findings are important steps in understanding how CTE develops and may help efforts to identify and treat the condition during life.

“This study provides evidence that playing football for a prolonged period can result in long-term brain inflammation and that this inflammation might lead to CTE,” said first author Jonathan Cherry, PhD, BUSM postdoctoral fellow in neurology. “Although inflammation may be protective in the brain, especially right after an injury, our study suggests that years after a period of playing football, inflammation can persist in the brain and is linked to the development of CTE.”
Josh Campbell Receives Lungevity Foundation Grant

Josh Campbell, PhD, assistant professor in the Division of Computational Biomedicine, has been awarded a three-year, $300,000 grant from the Lungevity Foundation to study the early development of squamous cell lung cancer, the second most common type of lung cancer.

The grant will support Dr. Campbell’s research on how normal lung cells acquire changes in their DNA to form premalignant lesions and what causes these lesions to progress or regress.

“One of the challenges for early detection and prevention of this type of cancer is that we don’t understand what triggers the progression from normal cells to premalignant lesions, or what causes premalignant lesions to progress to invasive carcinoma,” Dr. Campbell said.

He hopes to identify a biomarker that will signal the earliest stages of squamous cell lung cancer and that would ultimately be targeted with therapeutics that would effectively serve as a cure.

Joseph Mizgerd Receives NIH Grant to Study Pneumonia Biology

Joseph P. Mizgerd, ScD, professor of medicine, has received an Outstanding Investigator Award from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) at the National Institutes of Health. He will use the seven-year, $5.9 million grant to study the biology of pneumonia.

Dr. Mizgerd and his team plan to advance the understanding of lung defense against pneumonia, generate new approaches to preventing and curing pneumonia, and further the concept that pneumonia is a chronic disease of aging.

Pneumonia kills more children worldwide and hospitalizes more children in the United States than any other disease. The risk of death from pneumonia increases throughout adulthood, affecting older adults more than children. Pneumonia also accelerates unhealthy aging, including rapid decline from chronic pulmonary and cardiovascular diseases.

This is the first year that the NHLBI has provided Outstanding Investigator Awards, designed to support the research program of an investigator rather than one single research project.

Richard Myers Receives Ellison Foundation Grant

Richard Myers, PhD, professor of neurology, has received $100,000 from the Ellison Foundation to further study a Parkinson’s disease (PD) target.

His team will investigate the Cyclin G-associated kinase (GAK) gene and protein and why a deficiency of it increases the risk for developing Parkinson’s disease, a chronic and progressively worsening movement disorder that results from the malfunction and death of neurons. Currently, there is no cure for Parkinson’s and its cause is unknown.

Dr. Myers seeks to define what versions of GAK are in the human brain, how they function, and how certain variations could protect from Parkinson’s. GAK is critical for a process that is essential for normal function and brain activity.

The Myers lab has been studying the genetics of Parkinson’s for more than 20 years and has participated in a wide range of investigations for the disease.

Thomas Perls Receives Award to Study Centenarian Cardiovascular Genetics

Thomas Perls, MD, MPH, FACP, professor of medicine and director of the New England Centenarian Study (NECS), has received a $1,066,934 grant from the William M. Wood Foundation to explore the genetic basis of cardiovascular health in centenarians.

NECS has taken groundbreaking steps to determine the biomarkers and genetic basis of healthy aging. In addition to examining the genetic basis of cardiovascular health, Dr. Perls will be working with Lee Goldstein, MD, PhD, associate professor of psychiatry, neurology, ophthalmology, pathology, and laboratory medicine & biomedical engineering, to develop a new method of detecting a biomarker of aging, rate of aging, and other age-related diseases in the eye. Dr. Perls also will collect and publish historical perspectives from the centenarians.

Walmart Foundation Grant Supports Women Veterans

The Walmart Foundation has awarded Boston University approximately $500,000 to help launch the Women Veterans Network (WoVeN), a nationwide link of structured support groups for female veterans. This is the foundation’s first grant to the University.

WoVeN will be led by School of Medicine faculty members Tara Galovski, PhD, and Amy Street, PhD, both associate professors of psychiatry who also oversee the Women’s Health Sciences Division at the National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome, a component of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The division’s mission is to understand the psychological impact of war on women veterans.

The Foundation will fund the first 15 months of this new five-year program, which aims to enhance wellness, quality of life, and family relationships for female veterans. Support groups will be developed and led by women veterans with the goal of increasing social support and interpersonal connections with others who share the experiences of women who have served.

To help support the 2.2 million women who have returned from military service, women veterans will be trained to facilitate a series of 10-week support groups that aim to enhance wellness, quality of life, family relationships, and supportive connections with other veterans and, as needed, referrals for additional health services. While many services and organizations currently support veterans transitioning to civilian life, few address the unique experiences of women veterans using evidence-based approaches.

“WoVeN is designed to be a home for women veterans, a place where our veterans can connect both within their individual communities and nationally,” Dr. Galovski said. “The Walmart Foundation has been incredibly supportive of this project from day one, and we are proud of our partnership in support of the women who have sacrificed much to serve us.”

For those unable to attend support groups, an interactive WoVeN website will help connect female veterans and offer resources that address their needs and experiences.

“The Walmart Foundation is proud to help fund Boston University’s launch of the Women Veterans Network, and anticipates that this five-year initiative will play an important role in establishing networks and enhancing opportunities for female veterans as they re-enter civilian life,” said Kathy Cox, senior manager of Walmart Giving.
On May 4, the Dean’s Advisory Board held its spring meeting on the Medical Campus. Board members actively engaged with faculty on BUSM’s various veterans’ initiatives and also spoke with rising research leaders Bindu Kalesan, PhD, MPH (gun violence) and Matthew Pase, PhD (dementia/Alzheimer’s disease). They also heard from a student panel who discussed BU’s BEST (Broadening Experience in Scientific Training) program, a professional career development initiative for graduate biomedical science students and postdocs.

Pictured: seated (L–R): Christine Hunter, MD; Elizabeth Brown, MD; Lee Silver, MD; Dean Karen Antman, MD; Suzanne Cutler, PhD; and Sherry Leventhal; standing (L–R): John Avellino; Burton Golub, MD; Rachelle Silver; Richard Catrambone, MD, DMD; Sarkis Kechejian, MD; and Simon Parisier, MD.

Campaign

Impact: The Campaign for BU and the School of Medicine

With your help, the next generation of clinicians, medical leaders, and researchers can join us in turning possibility into reality. There are so many ways to have an impact. You can help students receive a cutting-edge education that will prepare them for rewarding careers and give them the tools and resources they need to become trailblazers in their chosen fields. Or, you can help us support our dedicated faculty, who conduct groundbreaking research while bringing excitement to the classroom. No matter your contribution, you can have a hand in advancing medical education and research.

Generous support from alumni, parents, and friends will have an enduring and significant impact on the experience of students, faculty, and researchers at the School of Medicine. Learn more about making your own impact at www.bu.edu/supportingbusm, or contact the BUSM Development Office at 617-638-4570 or busmdev@bu.edu.

Here’s the impact your fellow donors have made.

Impact by the Numbers

An update on the progress of the nine-year, $240 million campaign for BUSM:

- $251M RAISED
- $187.5M PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED
- $37.5M CURRENT USE
- 2,292 ALUMNI PARTICIPATING IN CAMPAIGN
- $20.9M RAISED FOR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS
- $4.3M IN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ANNUAL FUND SUPPORT
- 28 MONTHS REMAINING IN THE CAMPAIGN
- $86M RAISED FROM CORPORATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS

Figures as of May 1, 2017. The campaign concludes September 30, 2019.
Keefer Society Dinner

Members of Boston University School of Medicine Dean’s Advisory Board and the Chester S. Keefer, MD Society—which recognizes donors who have supported the School of Medicine with lifetime gifts totaling $50,000 or more—gathered on May 4 at the Four Seasons Hotel for the Society’s 24th annual dinner. Dean Karen Antman inducted 22 new members into the society.

Guests mingled with students currently in the MD and combined MD/PhD programs and enjoyed a performance by the student a cappella group, the Doctors’ Notes.

Dean Karen Antman and Lee Silver, MD (MED’82) present a plaque to Kathy Cox, senior manager for military family and veterans programs at the Walmart Foundation, recognizing Walmart’s support to BUSM and its commitment to veterans around the country.

The Doctors’ Notes perform.

Ann Cea, MD (MED’67), Sarkis Kechejian, MD (MED’63), Jean Ramsey, MD (MED’90, MPH’08), Associate Dean for Alumni Affairs, President Emeritus Aram Chobanian, MD, Stuart Siegel, MD (MED’67), Ralph Ganick, MD (MED’67), Edward Avedisian, and Carl Franzblau, PhD.

(back row/standing) Jean Ramsey, MD (MED’90, MPH’08), Associate Dean for Alumni Affairs, Roya Edalatpour (MED’20), Hsi Pin Chen, MD (MED’96), Kenneth Hancock, PhD; (seated) Sophia Catrambone, Richard Catrambone, MD, DMD (MED’92), Elena Grande, Donald Grande, MD (MED’73).
Alumni NEWS
alumbusm@bu.edu

DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

Boston University School of Medicine is known for making strides in medicine and giving back to our community; both of these qualities were the driving force behind the success of this year’s BU Giving Day. Thanks to “bonus funds” generously provided by Rod Hochman (MED’79, CAS’79), we almost tripled the number of Giving Day participants this year. Together, 191 donors including alumni, parents, students, faculty, and staff raised nearly $70,000 in 24 hours!

Faculty members greeted alumni, students, and staff as they gathered for Alumni Weekend activities, including milestone reunions and the inaugural Alumni Awards Luncheon. We also recognized Nicole Gibran (MED’85) and Kevin Tracey (MED’83) for their distinguished careers in medicine (see page 28). As Dr. Tracey remarked in his acceptance speech, the School is ever-changing; yet, in some regards, many things are still the same.

Dr. Tracey referenced drive and social consciousness that remain apparent in our current students. Whether spearheading a peer-to-peer health education program for girls in India or competing against teams of experienced academic researchers and physician scientists in the NEJM Major International Data Challenge, they continue to make strides in a way that reflects the School’s high standards and mission.

Alumni support is important to BUSM students, and there are so many ways to make an impact. To help our students thrive, you can become an E-mentor, have a student shadow you, offer a cup of coffee to students traveling for residency interviews, and, of course, support them through philanthropic efforts. Scholarship dollars continue to be a top priority for Dean Antman; contributions are always welcome!

We are grateful for alumni involvement, no matter how you do it.

BUSM continues to leave its mark. As always, I encourage you to explore the changes taking place on campus. Feel free to visit us to see how our mission still stands strong, and please stop by the Alumni Office—the alumni team welcomes visitors!

Jean E. Ramsey, MED’90, MPH’08
Associate Dean for Alumni Affairs
Associate Professor, Ophthalmology
and Pediatrics
Vice Chair of Education and Program Director
BUSM and BMC Department of Ophthalmology

BUSM Launches “Nurture the Neighborhood” Alumni Events

To the group’s delight, the infant daughter of Dan Kirshenbaum (MED’11) and wife Laura (LAW’12) held court throughout the evening.

On November 16, a small team of recent grads with appointments at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center worked with the Alumni Association to pilot a new kind of cultivation event at Basho restaurant in the Longwood/Fenway area. Through this event and others to follow, we are reconnecting with our alumni who work right in our backyard, i.e., at the large neighborhood medical centers in greater Boston. Some grads report being unaware that their colleagues also attended BUSM, and we want to bridge that gap.

Anu Hazra (MED’12), Dan Kirshenbaum (MED’11), Rob Najarian and Graham Snyder (both MED’05) reached out to alumni working in the Longwood area by using Doximity, Facebook, LinkedIn, and other social media, as well as through personal meetings.

Alumni and guests enjoyed wine, extraordinary sushi, assorted delicacies, and pleasant conversation.

CONTACT US
If you have news, announcements, or creative works you’d like to share with your fellow alumni, please write to the BUSM Alumni Association at 72 E. Concord Street, L120, Boston, MA 02118 or email alumbusm@bu.edu.

BUSM Alumni Association on Facebook
facebook.com/alumBUSM
Alumni Weekend 2017

Alumni from across the country gathered for a weekend of special events, including the 50th reunion for the Class of ’67, the 25th reunion for the Class of ’92, and the inaugural Distinguished Alumni Awards Luncheon. Among the highlights were student-led tours of campus and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Dr. Douglas H. Hughes’s popular presentation on the history of BUSM and the notable alumni who contributed to its rich legacy.

FRIDAY

1. During Friday morning of their 50th reunion, BUSM classmates Ralph Ganick and David Bailen find each other on the Medical Campus.

2. Renowned biochem and City Lab faculty member and mentor Carl Franzblau, PhD, spontaneously joins Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient Kevin Tracey, MD (MED’83), on the podium after Dr. Tracey’s presentation.

3. From left: Peter Fauci, MD (MED’57) and Linda Fauci; Roberta Apfel, MD (MED’62), and Bennett Simon, PhD at the inaugural Distinguished Alumni Awards Luncheon.

4. Nicole Gibran, MD (MED’85), third from left, receives the Distinguished Alumna Award, shown here with Dean Karen Antman, Alumni President Richard J. Catrambone, MD, DMD (MED’92), and Associate Dean for Alumni Affairs Jean E. Ramsey (MED’90, MPH’08).

5. Alumni President Richard J. Catrambone, MD, DMD (MED’92) and incoming president Mark H. Dougherty (MED’93) following the awards luncheon.
SATURDAY

1. Reunited Class of 1992 classmates arrive on campus for lunch and sundaes. From left, Michael Aikens, Stacey Silvers, Louis Cohen, Frank LaRosa, and Tonya Hudson.

2. Brightly adorned 50th reunioners Drs. Egle Pedini and Carol Pohl connect at the open sundaes bar. Dr. Pedini traveled from Florida, Dr. Pohl from Wisconsin.

3. Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Doug Hughes, MD, presents his popular history talk, which highlights key underrepresented minority alumni from BUSM’s first 50 years and the significance of pursuing a career in medicine during those times.

4. Class of 2007 alums Shankar Sridhara, MD, and Jamin Brahmbhatt, MD, get their 10th reunion off to a clinical start in the Simulation Lab.

5. Dean Karen Antman welcomes 50th reunioner George Walcott (MED’67) and his daughter Isabel Draves to the reunion dinner parties held at The W Hotel.

6. First-year student Martine Randolph (MED’20) with 50th reunioner Mimi Peak (MED’67), and Steven Peak of Virginia.

7. Bonds are still strong—the lively Class of 2007 had a fantastic 10th reunion turnout!
Distinguished Alumni Honored at Alumni Weekend

Neurosurgeon and molecular medicine specialist Kevin Tracey (MED’83) and surgeon and burn specialist Nicole Gibran (MED’85) were recognized during Alumni Weekend for their distinguished careers in medicine.

Introduced at the weekend’s luncheon gathering by Alumni Association Associate Dean Jean Ramsey (MED’90, MPH’08) on Friday, May 5, Drs. Gibran and Tracey received the BUSM Alumni Association Distinguished Alumna/Alumnus Award, bestowed on graduates who have made outstanding clinical, research, and academic contributions to the profession of medicine. They also presented at Grand Rounds, with Dr. Gibran speaking on “Transforming Health Care: Medical Homes for the Critically Injured” and Dr. Tracey on “Treating Patients with Electrons Instead of Drugs.”

Dr. Gibran is professor of surgery and the David & Nancy Auth Washington Research Foundation Chair in Restorative Burn Surgery at the University of Washington (UW) in Seattle, as well as director of the UW Medicine Regional Burn Center at Harborview Medical Center. She also serves as adjunct professor of medicine (dermatology) at UW.

She received her bachelor’s degree from Brown University. After her surgical residency at BUMC under the mentorship of Dr. Erwin Hirsch, she completed a clinical fellowship in the UW Burn Center with Drs. David Heimbach and Loren Engrav; a National Institutes of Health (NIH) Trauma Research T32 Fellowship in the Skin Biology Laboratory of Dr. Karen Holbrook and research training in the laboratory of Dr. Helene Sage soon followed. She joined the UW faculty in 1994 as assistant professor of surgery and was promoted to professor in 2002. Also that year, she was named director of the UW Medicine Regional Burn Center and the UW Burn Fellowship, where she has emphasized team building and mentoring residents and junior faculty interested in burns. Clinically, she has been most interested in promotin optimal outcomes by introducing metrics into daily practice.

Currently, Dr. Gibran studies genetic and epigenetic pathophysiologic causes of aberrant responses to injury.

In addition to her duties as a clinician and teacher, Dr. Gibran developed the UW Medicine Regional Burn Center Research Laboratory, which focuses on aberrant healing processes including hypertrophic scar formation and chronic non-healing wounds seen with diabetes mellitus. The NIH has continually funded her research since 1997. Currently, she studies genetic and epigenetic pathophysiologic causes of aberrant responses to injury.

An inventor with more than 60 US patents, Dr. Tracey’s biotechnology experience includes co-founding three companies.

Dr. Tracey is professor of neurosurgery and molecular medicine at the Hofstra Northwell School of Medicine at Hofstra University and president and CEO of The Feinstein Institute for Medical Research; he also serves as executive vice president for research at Northwell Health in New York. A leader in the field of inflammation research, his contributions to science include the discovery and molecular mapping of neural circuits that control immune responses and the subsequent development of a method for treating rheumatoid arthritis in a successful clinical trial. He discovered the molecular basis for inflammation occurring in the absence of infection by identifying HMGB1—an abundant component in cell nuclei—as a therapeutic target at the intersection of sterile and infective inflammation.

He received his BS in chemistry (summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa) from Boston College in 1979. While training as a neurosurgeon at the New York Hospital-Cornell University Medical Center from 1983 to 1992, he was also a guest investigator at The Rockefeller University.

Appointed assistant professor of neurosurgery at Cornell University Medical College in 1992, he established his laboratory at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, New York. There, he was appointed founding program director for the General Clinical Research Center, which received designation from the NIH’s National Center for Research Resources (NCRR). In 2006, he was appointed president and CEO of the Feinstein Institute for Medical Research and senior vice president, research, for the North Shore-LIJ Health System; in 2008, professor of neurosurgery and molecular medicine and associate dean for research at the newly founded Hofstra North Shore-LIJ School of Medicine; and, in 2015, executive vice president, research, at Northwell Health in New York.

An inventor with more than 60 US patents, Dr. Tracey’s biotechnology experience includes co-founding three companies. He is also cofounder and councilor of the Global Sepsis Alliance, a nonprofit organization supporting the efforts of more than a million caregivers in more than 70 countries to understand and combat sepsis, a leading cause of death worldwide.
CLASS NOTES


1959 James H. Gilmour of Lexington, Massachusetts, writes, “I am retired from psychiatry and live in Lexington.”

1961 Simon C. Parisier of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, writes, “My wife, Elaine, and I are fully retired and greatly enjoy our three children’s families, including six grandchildren. Our days are busy; new friendships, painting, golf, movies, and exercising keep us very active. I am privileged to be on the Dean’s Advisory Board Committee. During the 150th meeting of the American Otologic Society this spring, I will be awarded a Presidential Citation for Outstanding Contributions and Dedication to the Field of Otology & Neurotology.”

1961 Paul K. Schick of Merion Station, Pennsylvania, writes, “I was a tenured professor in medicine at the Thomas Jefferson University Medical College. When I retired, I was elected an Emeritus Professor of Medicine.”

1964 Howard J. Frankel of Short Hills, New Jersey, writes, “Judy and I are just back from a trip to Antarctica. Read all about it on my blog: www.gardendaily.blogspot.com.”

1964 Vincent J. Russo of Newbury, Massachusetts, writes, “After closing my general surgery practice in 2000, I returned to BUSM to teach a seminar in integrated medicine for several years until joining the nationwide Joint Commission for Hospital Accreditations for 12 years, a very rewarding professional capstone to my clinical career. I was elected to the Board of Selectmen for two, three-year terms in Newbury and was Chairman for five years; our most visible accomplishment was rebuilding two of America’s longest jetties at the mouth of the Merrimack River, helping to mitigate Plum Island erosion. Sheila Kay and I have three daughters, one son, and 15 grandchildren. Currently I serve on the board of trustees of the Mass Medical Society, where two of our major concerns are the opioid epidemic and the physician’s role in end-of-life care. Although my speed is ever more deliberate, I still enjoy downhill skiing, primarily at Sunday River, Maine, where I’ve had a lifetime season pass since 1980. Looking forward to our 55th reunion in 2019!”

1967 Peter M. Glassman of San Antonio, Texas, writes, “Busy as ever as an author in retirement from medical practice. Since 2003 I’ve written the medical thrillers The Eyeman, The Duty Crew, and The Helios Rain, and my terror novels include Ocean City HQ, The Druid Stone, and My Name is Kevin. My most recent publication is an anthology of short stories for the San Antonio Writer’s Club titled Coffee & A Story. Book #15 is a current historical novel about the Texas Comanche Indians, The Silver Concho.”

1968 Lloyd F. Price of Concord, Massachusetts, writes, “I continue to work in my consulting, forensic, and clinical practice. Both our daughters are now married and we enjoy travelling, most recently to New Zealand and the Christmas markets in Berlin. My best wishes to everyone and looking forward to our 50th in 2018.”


1970 Mark S. Rapoport of New York, New York, writes, “With my wife of 38 years Jane Hughes, I have worked out a very unusual retirement. We spend 6 months a year in Hanoi, Vietnam, a wonderful, vibrant place that has been our main home for the last 15 years. I play full-court basketball, ride my motorcycle, and run the gallery I started a decade ago offering the tribal and ancient art of Vietnam (54traditions.com.vn). When it’s too hot in Hanoi, we stay in our Manhattan apartment for six months and enjoy the culture New York offers. The children are pursuing academic careers, albeit in different fields; Robert recently completed his PhD at Oxford, focusing on the use of artificial intelligence in filmmaking, and Alison is in her last year of infectious disease fellowship at Harvard. Fifteen-month-old grandson Henry is the happiest baby I have ever seen, but he has not yet decided on a field of study.”

1972 Russell M. Jaffe of Vienna, Virginia, writes, “This is a year of celebration. ELISA/ACT Biotechnologies is now 33 years old and the premier ex vivo lymphocyte response assay (LRA) clinical lab. For thirty years, PERQUE has provided advanced nutritional information and products to health professionals. The Health Studies Collegium foundation researches integrative and system biology approaches to maintaining or restoring health, and achieving remission from chronic illness. Predictive biomarkers, health coaches, and epigenetic programs continue to be our focus. My daughter continues to innovate as an engineer and my son teaches clowning, does therapeutic massage, and designs biodynamic permaculture food forests. Without Boston University, none of this would be possible; thanks for three degrees on one day.”

1974 Jeffrey R. Goldbarg of Concord, Massachusetts, writes, “The various facets of my life are expressed in time and space, focusing in, fading out. Now I am a 43-year husband of Laurie, father of Seth and Jason, and grandfather of Graydon and Dashiel. As a psychiatrist, I enter many lives, some marred by tragedy, many dulled by depression. Some are healed by inquisitive questions, others by a nurturing parent, still others by a limit-setting coach. Consulting and teaching at a day hospital and interviewing asylum-seekers complement my clinical work. Theatre, music, and travel enrich us deeply.”

1975 Arnold M. Baskies of Cherry Hill, New Jersey, writes, “As of January 1, I was very humbled to be named Chairman of the Board of the most iconic voluntary cancer fighting organization in the world, the American Cancer Society, which has 2.5 million volunteers, 7,000 staff in over 300 local offices, and research support in the United States to the tune of $5 billion since 1946. The board oversees all functions of the society and is responsible for annual asset allocations of $150 million in research, $348 million in patient support, $123 million in cancer prevention, and $87 million for detection and treatment. The society also is a major promoter of cancer activities worldwide, providing assistance and training in over 25 countries. I am very proud of our board’s efforts and we will continue our mission to lead the fight for a world without cancer that was set forth since the founding of the society 103 years ago. On a personal note, Susan and..."
I am expecting our eighth grandchild in several weeks, which really makes this a great year.

1975 Edward V. Lally of Barrington, New Jersey, writes, “I was recognized as a Master of the American College of Rheumatology at their Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, on November 17, an award conferred on ACR members who have made outstanding contributions to the field of rheumatology. It is one of the highest honors the college bestows. I am a professor of medicine and director of the Division of Rheumatology at the Warren Alpert School of Medicine at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island.”


1976 Jonathan I. Macy of Los Angeles, California, writes, “I have been practicing ophthalmology in Los Angeles since 1981. After receiving the Senior Honor Award from UCLA and the Distinguished Alumnus Award from USC, I was recently promoted to clinical professor, Department of Ophthalmology, at both the Keck/USC School of Medicine and the Geffen/UCLA School of Medicine.”

1979 Charles M. Blitzer of Durham, New Hampshire, writes, “I took a 10-week sabbatical last summer and Sandy and I rode to our tandem home from the Oregon coast. We had a great time, including a nice visit with John and Marianne Durkan (’79) in Hood River. I am now back enjoying my orthopaedic practice in Seacoast, New Hampshire.”

1981 Jeff M. Sands of Atlanta, Georgia, writes, “I was elected to the presidency of the American Physiological Society in 2017. I serve one year as president-elect, one as president, and one as past-president. I am honored and look forward to serving the American Physiological Society. This year also marks my 15th serving as renal division director at Emory University School of Medicine.”

1982 Kenneth S. Thompson of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was selected for the 2017 Boston University School of Medicine alumnus for Alpha Omega Alpha (AΩA) induction. Dr. Thompson graduated from BUSM in 1982, served his residency in psychiatry at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and pursued a postdoctoral fellowship at Yale University’s Center for Mental Health Services Research. He is currently a faculty member in the Center for Public Service Psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh, chief medical officer of the Pennsylvania Psychiatric Leadership Council, and immediate past-president of the American-Association of Social Psychiatry.

1984 Marcia F. Katz of Winter Park, Florida, writes, “I am leaving Baylor College of Medicine to become associate dean for Clinical Affairs at the University of Central Florida College of Medicine effective Dec. 1, 2016.”

1985 Peter D. Berman of Woodbury, New York, writes, “After working for Mount Sinai Long Island Doctors for 12 years, I am joining ENT and Allergy Associates in a state-of-the-art facility in Melville, New York. I will remain a clinical associate instructor at Mount Sinai Icahn School of Medicine and maintain hospital privileges at Huntington Hospital and Mount Sinai Hospital. My two older children, Matthew and Zoe, are completing their fourth year of medical school at St. George’s University. Love to hear from my 32 years-post MD colleagues.”

1989 Robert E. Eden of Barrington, Rhode Island, writes, “I’m practicing pediatrics in Providence and teaching at the Warren Alpert School of Medicine at Brown University. I see Rob Krasny and Jeff Heier once in a while and am in the same medical office building as Ezra Galler. Flying and driving at the track are hobbies.”

1992 Elliott H. Leitman of Newark, Delaware, writes, “I have been in practice with First State Orthopaedics for five years with a specialization in orthopaedic sports medicine/arthroscopy. This summer I will be traveling to Israel as one of the team physicians for the US Maccabi team.”

1994 Karen E. Wang of Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, writes, “I just marked 10 years at Reading Health System’s Children’s Health Center in Reading, Pennsylvania. As a general pediatrician working with largely underserved populations, I oversee medical student and family medicine resident education in pediatrics and the Reach Out and Read and Centering Parenting programs at our office. I live in Berks County with my husband Bryan and our two kids, ages 15 and 12. I would love to connect with any classmates passing through central Pennsylvania.”

2000 Joshua D. Liberman of Mequon, Wisconsin, writes, “I am currently working as a preventive cardiologist at Ascension Columbia Saint Mary’s Hospital in Milwaukee, and this year was elected as governor of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American College of Cardiology until 2020.”

2003 Andrew P. Cap of Hollywood Park, Texas, writes, “Greetings, BU colleagues! I joined the Army through the Health Professions Scholarship Program in 2001 and have stayed on active duty ever since. I completed internal medicine and hematology/oncology training at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC, and then moved to the US Army Institute of Surgical Research in San Antonio. I direct the Army’s Blood Research Program and see patients at the San Antonio Military Medical Center. Life goes by fast when you’re having fun; I can’t believe my oldest (Natalie) is graduating from architecture grad school! Becky and I have two other kids, Anna Grace and Michael.”

2009 Gebe P. George of Garden City, New York, writes, “I have been selected as a chief resident in the Emergency Medicine residency at NY-Presbyterian Hospital, the university hospital of Columbia and Cornell.”

2010 Matthew F. Watto of San Antonio, Texas, writes, “I’m an internist and medical educator currently working in San Antonio, Texas, and also the founder/creator of a rapidly growing internal medicine podcast, The Curbsiders. Along with my colleagues Drs. Stuart Brigham and Paul Williams, each week I serve up ‘knowledge food’ (and a little humor) for continuing medical education. The Curbsiders features national and international experts from the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists, the National Lipid Association, and the American Geriatrics Society, to name a few. Check out thecurbsiders.com for more information.”
The chalkboard behind Laura Reingold (MED’20) showed that the Midwinter Phonathon & Brunch got off to a great start as seven students and five alumni gathered on a Saturday morning in February to call several hundred alumni regarding their annual donations.

BUSM alumnus and Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Arvin Garg (MED’99) brought along his wife, Dr. Priya Garg, and their two daughters. A recent addition to the BUMC community, Priya has been named assistant dean for Student Affairs and will head the Medical Education office. Both are faculty members in the Department of Pediatrics.

Drs. Elizabeth Dooling (MED’65) and Kate Phaneuf (MED’88) encouraged student callers to seek support for the newly established Christmas-Eastman-Fuller Scholarship Fund, named for three of BUSM’s legendary minority leaders: June Jackson Christmas (MED’49), Charles Eastman (MED1890) and Solomon Carter Fuller (MED1897).

Our volunteers received a red fleece logo blanket and a hot buffet lunch in return for their hours of service. Thank you to: Andy Chu (MED’18), Elizabeth Dooling (MED’65), Arvin Garg (MED’99), Nishant Garg (MED’19), Priya Garg, MD, Gus Godley (MED’19), Andrew Olsen (MED’18), Jennifer Paek (MED’17), Kate Phaneuf (MED’88), Laura Reingold (MED’20), Jenn Tran (MED’18), and Betty Yang (MED’15).
IN Memoriam

2004 • Michele L. Lombardo of Norfolk, Virginia, on January 15, 2017. Dr. Lombardo began her formal medical training at the Boston University School of Medicine in 2000. During this time, she began to consider what areas of medicine were of interest to her and it soon became evident that she was destined to be a surgeon.

At the onset of a five-year residency in general surgery at the Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University, Michele and her husband Joe purchased a house in Cranston, Rhode Island, where they soon began hosting an annual Thanksgiving dinner for the other surgery residents, creating many fond memories and lasting friendships.

Michele soon became known within certain circles as “The Four-Foot Surgeon” (a/k/a “T4FS”) due to her diminutive stature, which she optimistically claimed to be five feet.

During her fourth year of residency, Michele received the Thompson Scholarship for Surgical Study in Kenya and was honored to be appointed executive chief resident in her final year. As the end of her residency approached, she came to embrace the idea of pediatric surgery. Michele also received the Resident Teaching Award, the Dean’s Teaching Excellence Award, the Brian A. Dorman Surgical Education Award, and the Alpha Omega Alpha Resident Award.

Michele was an assistant professor of surgery and assistant professor of pediatrics at the Eastern Virginia Medical School, an advanced trauma life support instructor, an active member of various committees at Children’s Hospital of The King’s Daughters, a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and American Pediatric Surgical Association, and a member of numerous professional organizations, including the International Pediatric Endosurgery Group, the American Medical Association, the Medical Society of Virginia, the Tidewater Pediatric Society, and the Chest Wall International Group. In 2015 and 2016, her peers recognized Dr. Lombardo as a “Top Doc” in Coastal Virginia Magazine.

1981 • Carolyn A. Bondy of Gaithersburg, Maryland, in October of 2016. In 1977 Dr. Bondy earned a master of science degree in interdisciplinary science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She subsequently enrolled at Boston University School of Medicine, where she was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society in 1980. She earned an MD in 1981, graduating at the top of her class, and completed her internship and residency in internal medicine at Boston University Hospital.

A research fellowship led her to the National Institutes of Health; she joined the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) as a fellow in clinical endocrinology in 1984. She then trained in basic neuroscience at The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) from 1985 to 1990 before being promoted to tenured senior investigator at NICHD in 1990. As chief of the NICHD Developmental Endocrinology branch, Carolyn mentored and otherwise inspired countless young scientists, many of whom are now NICHD scientific leaders. She also was active in the advancement of women scientists at the NIH.

Carolyn retired from NICHD in 2012 and was promptly appointed scientist emerita. In her nearly 30 years at the NIH, she published more than 150 highly cited peer-reviewed papers spanning both basic and clinical research. Her earlier work concerned insulin-like growth factors in brain development and reproduction; after achieving critical success in this line of research in the 1980s and 1990s, she changed gears to investigate how sex chromosome genes contribute to normal human development and sex-based differences in susceptibility to congenital heart, autoimmune, and coronary diseases. This led to her pioneering work in monosomy X, Turner syndrome, in which a female is partially or completely missing the X chromosome.

Her research on Turner syndrome revealed that upwards of half of women with this condition have congenital cardiovascular defects, which she hypothesized were due to a haploinsufficiency for pseudo-autosomal genes located in the Xp region. Her research led to revelations of the roles sex chromosomes play in numerous chronic diseases and also led her to become an advocate for women with Turner syndrome, which affects approximately 1 out of every 2,500 female live births worldwide.

She was recognized for her work through numerous awards, including the Public Health Service Special Recognition Award presented by the US Department of Health and Human Services and a lifetime recognition award for her “contributions to improve the lives of patients with Turner Syndrome,” presented by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute GenTac Investigators.

Dr. Bondy is survived by two sons, Peter R. Bondy and his partner Jeanne James of Olney, Maryland, and C. Eric Bondy and his wife Mariana Past of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and four grandchildren, Jessica Bondy, Amanda Bondy, Ray Bondy, and Ana Bondy. She was preceded in death by her husband Heinz, with whom she celebrated 41 years of marriage at the time of his death in February 2014, and her parents, Forrest and Ann Louks. ■
The Miselis scholarship has meant so much to me as a budding first-generation physician. To know straight off that one quarter of my debts are paid in full is a great source of security and allows me to apply myself to the study of medicine with less anxiety about the future and more freedom to pursue what I love. It is humbling that the Miselis family took such an interest in me while I was still an untried medical student at the beginning of my career. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the gift and my zeal for it to bear fruit.

—Jared Trout (MED’17)

Education is a gift. Pass it on.

Jared’s scholarship was funded in part by a charitable gift annuity. To learn how you can support a student like Jared through a planned gift, contact the Planned Giving office at 800-645-2347 or opg@bu.edu, or visit bu.edu/plannedgiving.
Calendar

2017

AUGUST 2
White Coat Ceremony and Parents Reception
Talbot Green, BUMC

SEPTEMBER 14
GMS Distinguished PhD Alumni Award Ceremony
Hiebert Lounge, BUSM

OCTOBER 5
Annual Scholarship Dinner with Dean’s Advisory Board
Hotel Commonwealth, Boston

OCTOBER 6
Fall Dean’s Advisory Board Meeting
Hiebert Lounge, BUSM