

# Boston University SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Campus & Alumni News

WINTER 2009

BUSM Professor Emeritus **Receives 2008 Nobel Prize**



[www.bumc.bu.edu](http://www.bumc.bu.edu)

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Friends,

In the fall we were delighted to learn that Osamu Shimomura, PhD, professor emeritus of physiology, is a 2008 Nobel Prize winner in chemistry. A faculty member of the Department of Physiology & Biophysics since 1982, his work has changed the course of science and medicine. (See page 2.)

Boston University, and with it the School of Medicine, has taken a lead in dealing with the current financial situation as it affects our community. Although we are fiscally sound at this time, we anticipate increased student needs for financial aid. The University instituted a hiring freeze for non-critical jobs to help contain costs. Capital projects not already under way are on hold. Institutional operations have been scoured to find every area for savings.

Scholarship support for students has substantially increased over the last four years. We are deeply indebted to our generous friends and alumni who have made this increase possible. We continue to pursue philanthropy to construct safe, affordable, on-campus student housing, which will not only significantly decrease student costs but would also substantially contribute to their quality of life.

We have been fortunate in our research funding as well. Despite flat National Institutes of Health (NIH) budgets, BUSM increased its grant funding in the past year. One highlight is the very competitive Clinical and Translational Science Award from the NIH for \$23 million over five years to enhance collaboration between the lab, clinic, and public health faculty. (See page 13.)

Construction on the National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories is complete. A new Genome Science Institute has been established to facilitate research and academic endeavors among BU Medical Campus faculty across the disciplines of genetics and genomics. (See page 16.) With the addition of the new Center for Biomedical Imaging, we now have 11 core research facilities on campus that range from animal research resources to proteomics. These cores provide the highest quality services to investigators offered by expert, multidisciplinary faculty and contain cutting-edge instruments and equipment.

To encourage the young talent we have recruited to our faculty, we now hold junior-faculty-specific meetings to discuss funding, promotions, and grant opportunities, while we look for opportunities to establish endowed assistant professorships.

With our course revisions, we have substantially improved our integration of ethics, humanism, and global health into the medical curriculum. Student services have been centralized with the relocation of the Student Affairs and Diversity & Multicultural Affairs offices to newly renovated space in the A Building, which also houses the Registrar and Student Financial Assistance departments. (See page 29.)

To meet the needs of our expanding student population and the addition of programs, we have carved out new instructional space and have organized a campuswide Instructional Space Task Force to study what space is available, as well as maintenance and renovation needs.



I am especially pleased that we are featuring Paul O'Bryan, professor of physiology and assistant dean of students, in this issue. He is one of our most outstanding senior faculty members, whose dedication to the students and this institution is legendary. (See page 20.)

Keeping current with what is happening on the Medical Campus and at the School of Medicine has never been easier with the launch of our newly designed website—[www.bumc.bu.edu](http://www.bumc.bu.edu). News and events, plus feature stories on the amazing people and their work happening on campus, are now online. Consider checking the site regularly.

With your support and continued involvement, our medical school is vibrant and an exciting place to learn, teach, and discover.

Best wishes,

Karen Antman, MD  
Provost, Medical Campus  
Dean, School of Medicine



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

2	BUSM News
14	Graduate Medical Sciences News
16	Research
20	Faculty News
26	Student News
30	Giving to BUSM
34	Alumni News



**Boston University** School of Medicine

Campus & Alumni News **Winter 2009**

Boston University School of Medicine: Campus & Alumni News is published by Boston University Medical Center, Department of Corporate Communications, on behalf of the Boston University School of Medicine.

Ellen Berlin, Director  
Mary Hopkins, Publications Coordinator

Design & Production: Boston University  
Creative Services

Photography: Boston University Photo Services,  
BUSM Educational Media, SiPA Press Inc., BUSM  
Corporate Communications, and Frank Curran.

Please direct any questions or comments to:  
Mary Hopkins  
Corporate Communications  
Boston University Medical Campus  
85 East Newton Street, M-426  
Boston, MA 02118

Phone: 617-638-8491  
Fax: 617-638-8044  
E-mail: mary.hopkins@bmc.org

Boston University's policies provide for equal opportunity and affirmative action in employment and admission to all programs of the University.



## Boston University Named One of the World's Top Universities

*Times Higher Education*, a British weekly about higher education, has ranked Boston University number 46 in its annual rating of the top 200 institutions of higher learning in the world.

BU President Robert A. Brown said he is pleased with the University's position. "Although I hesitate to put much stock in these ranking exercises," he said, "it is wonderful to be recognized as one of the leading research universities in the world and to be listed along with these peer institutions."

Provost David K. Campbell said the University is "delighted and justifiably proud" to be ranked among the top 50 universities in the world. "This ranking attests to Boston University's global reputation and presence and is an affirmation of our continuing drive toward greater excellence." BU is ranked 21 among U.S. colleges.

The rankings are based on the opinions of academics and corporate recruiters, as well as on the ratio of faculty members to students and how often faculty members' publications are cited in academic journals. They fall into seven categories: peer review, employer review, staff/student review, citations, international staff, and international students.

The list is produced by *Times Higher Education*, formerly the *Times Higher Education Supplement*, and Quacquarelli Symonds, a company that provides career and education information. ✱

(Reprinted from *BU Today*.)

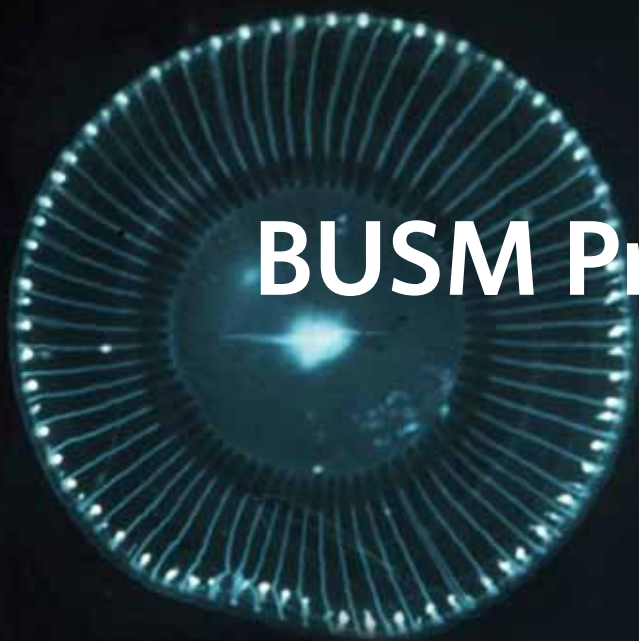




Photo courtesy of Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory.



Osamu Shimomura, PhD, (left) receiving the Nobel Prize in Chemistry. [Photo courtesy of SIPA Press, Inc.]



# BUSM Professor Emeritus

*Aequorea victoria, the jellyfish from which Osamu Shimomura first purified green fluorescent protein. Credit: Osamu Shimomura*

It took more than 30 years for Osamu Shimomura to realize that his research on jellyfish would revolutionize the world of biology and another 14 for the Nobel Prize committee to recognize his contribution.

On October 9, after hearing the news that his discovery of luminescent proteins in jellyfish had won the 2008 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, Shimomura told reporters what he learned from the experience. "If you find an interesting subject, go study it," he said. "Don't stop. There is difficulty in any research—don't give up until you overcome that."

Shimomura, professor emeritus of physiology at BUSM and a senior scientist emeritus at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, was one of three winners of the chemistry prize.

Shimomura is credited with the discovery of green fluorescent protein, or GFP, which he observed in 1962 in the jellyfish *Aequorea victoria*, found off the west coast of North America.

"Osamu and his wife used to spend summers in Washington state and catch bucket after bucket of jellyfish," said James Head, PhD, professor of physiology and biophysics at BUSM, who collaborated with Shimomura on research into the behaviors and uses of aequorin, another fluorescent protein. "In those early days, he would purify the protein directly from the jellyfish, getting small amounts of protein from bucketfuls."

according to the announcement of the prize by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. "With the aid of GFP, researchers have developed ways to watch processes that were previously invisible, such as the development of nerve cells in the brain or how cancer cells spread."

**"If you find an interesting subject, go study it. Don't stop. There is difficulty in any research—don't give up until you overcome that."**

"I know the entire Boston University Medical Campus faculty, and that of the University, join me in congratulating Dr. Shimomura on this lifetime achievement," said Dean Karen Antman. "This work has truly changed the course of science and medicine."

Shimomura said he never expected his work to change the world of cell biology. "My subject was just discovery of a product," he said. "I'm surprised. And I'm happy."

## Receives 2008 Nobel Prize

Shimomura did not realize the potential applications of his work until 1994, when new research emerged. In an organism, GFP can be fused to proteins of interest to scientists, with minor effects on the organism's behavior. Researchers can then observe the locations and movements of the studied proteins by monitoring the GFP, which remains fluorescent.

"This protein has become one of the most important tools used in contemporary bioscience,"

The other winners were Martin Chalfie of Columbia University and Roger Tsien of the University of California, San Diego, both recognized for pioneering cellular research techniques that use the proteins Shimomura identified. The three will share the \$1.4 million prize awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. ★



# BUMC Research Benefits from Brain Donation Programs

Boston University Medical Campus scientists are engaged in a broad spectrum of research projects studying brain function and dysfunction. The brain tissue donation programs on campus that provide researchers with specimens for analysis are a vital component of this research.

The Framingham Heart Study's Postmortem Brain Tissue Donation Program is proving to be a significant source of information on the aging process and neurological diseases. The new BU Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy examines the long-term effects of repetitive concussions on athletes, some of whom have enrolled as brain donors to the center. The New England Centenarian Study participants who are willing to donate their brains for neuropathological studies offer researchers the opportunity to examine the brain tissue of participants who have lived more than 100 years and have avoided many of the diseases that afflict the elderly.

The Framingham Heart Study, which has been administered by BUSM faculty in cooperation with the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute since 1971, was initiated in 1948 to identify factors contributing to cardiovascular disease, principally heart attack and stroke. In 1997, the study added a Brain Tissue Donation Program that now has 600 participants enrolled as donors.

For the past 60 years, the study participants have returned every two years to undergo a detailed medical history, physical examination, and laboratory tests, providing BUSM and other researchers a wealth of information on cardiovascular disease and a host of factors that affect physical and cognitive health. Two additional generations—children and grandchildren of the original group—have been added to the study.

"We are particularly interested in exploring the environmental and genetic links to neurological diseases as well as healthy aging," said principal investigator for the Framingham Heart Study Philip Wolf, MD, professor of neurology at BUSM and professor of epidemiology at BUSPH. "By

relating our clinical information to neuropathological findings, we have a unique opportunity to identify risk factors for disease."

BUSM researchers have examined 122 brains through the brain tissue program. By analyzing the postmortem samples of study subjects with long-term, recorded medical histories, researchers can learn why some people remain cognitively intact and free of cardiovascular disease throughout their lives while others develop strokes or become demented.

**"We are particularly interested in exploring the environmental and genetic links to neurological diseases as well as healthy aging."**

"What is unique about this program is that because we have the medical records we can document the cognitive status close to the time of death in people who are cognitively healthy and those with neurologic disease," said Rhoda Au, PhD, associate professor of neurology at BUSM and director of neuropsychology for the Framingham Heart Study. "We also have antemortem and postmortem MRI scans of brains from these cognitively healthy individuals."

The BUSM Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy is developing a multidisciplinary research program aimed at understanding the mechanisms of chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), including neuropathology and risk factors. "We really don't know that much about this disease," says Ann McKee, MD, associate professor of neurology and pathology and co-director of the center. "It's been under the radar for years. We have known about it in boxers. People just thought if you stayed away from boxing or wore a helmet, you wouldn't get it. But CTE can occur from a variety of different activities."

The center is enrolling former athletes for clinical research studies to probe the link between their symptoms and their history of concussions and has launched a brain donation program for

athletes, current and retired, with and without a history of concussions. In collaboration with the Sports Legacy Institute, it is supported by BU and a grant from the National Institutes of Health. The Sports Legacy Institute is a nonprofit organization founded by Chris Nowinski, a former Harvard University football player, professional wrestler, and the author of *Head Games: Football's Concussion Crisis*, and Robert Cantu, MD, clinical professor of neurosurgery at BUSM and co-director of the Neurological Sports Injury Center at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

More than a dozen athletes have already agreed to donate their brains after they die. That list includes former NFL players Ted Johnson, Frank Wycheck, Isaiah Kacyvenski, and Ben Lynch. Noah Welch, who played hockey for the Florida Panthers, and Cindy Parlow, a former member of the U.S. national soccer team, also have registered.

The New England Centenarian Study is based on the conviction that centenarians are a select group of people who have a history of aging relatively slowly and who have either markedly delayed or entirely escaped diseases normally associated with aging such as Alzheimer's disease, cancer, stroke, and heart disease. The study has 1,500 participants throughout the United States and other countries. With funding from the National Institute on Aging, it includes centenarians and their children in their 70s and 80s, as well as their siblings.

"Centenarians teach us that the older you get the healthier you have been," notes Thomas Perls, MD, director of the study and associate professor of geriatrics at BUSM. "And a number of them have indicated their willingness to donate their brains, thus allowing our scientific collaborators to better characterize the health of the centenarians' exceptionally old brains." ★

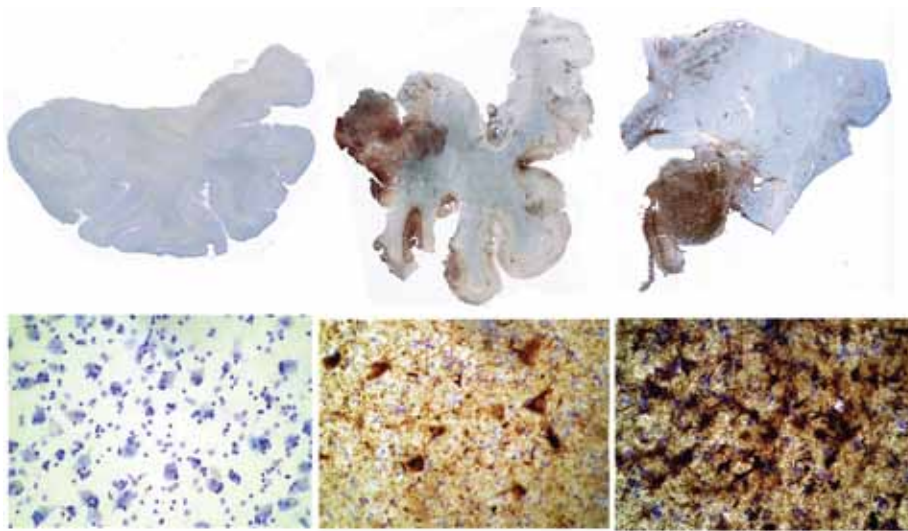


Figure 1: Tau immunostained sections of medial temporal lobe from three individuals

Figure 1:

**Left top:** Whole brain section from a 65-year-old control subject showing no tau protein deposition  
**Left bottom:** Microscopic section from 65-year-old control subject also shows no tau protein deposition

**Middle top:** Whole brain section from John Grimsley showing abundant tau protein deposition in the amygdala and adjacent temporal cortex  
**Middle bottom:** Microscopic section showing numerous tau positive neurofibrillary tangles and neurites in the amygdala

**Right top:** Whole brain section from a 73-year-old world-champion boxer with severe dementia showing very severe tau protein deposition in the amygdala and thalamus

**Right bottom:** Microscopic section from a 73-year-old world-champion boxer with severe dementia showing extremely dense tau positive neurofibrillary tangles and neurites in the amygdala

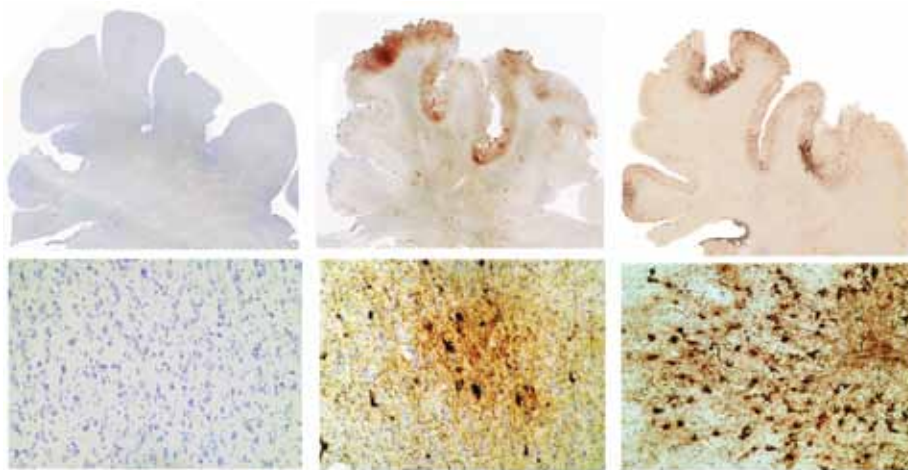


Figure 2: Tau immunostained sections of frontal cortex from three individuals

Figure 2:

**Left top:** Whole brain section from a 65-year-old control subject showing no tau protein deposition  
**Left bottom:** Microscopic section from 65-year-old control subject showing no tau protein deposition

**Middle top:** Whole brain section from John Grimsley showing patchy deposition of tau protein in the frontal cortex  
**Middle bottom:** Microscopic section from John Grimsley showing numerous tau positive neurofibrillary tangles and neurites in the frontal cortex

**Right top:** Whole brain section from a 73-year-old world-champion boxer with severe dementia showing very severe, patchy tau protein deposition in the frontal cortex

**Right bottom:** Microscopic section from a 73-year-old world-champion boxer with severe dementia showing dense tau positive neurofibrillary tangles and neurites in the frontal cortex

## For information on these programs:

### Framingham Heart Study Brain Tissue Donation

[www.framinghamheartstudy.org/participants](http://www.framinghamheartstudy.org/participants) and click on Brain Tissue Donation Program

### Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy

contact Ann McKee at [amckee@bu.edu](mailto:amckee@bu.edu)

New England Centenarian Study [www.bumc.bu.edu/centenarian](http://www.bumc.bu.edu/centenarian)



# Developing the Next Generation of Teachers

Peter Fried, a second-year doctoral candidate in the Department of Anatomy & Neurobiology, has known for a long time that his career path would involve teaching. "But I've had very few formal opportunities to be a part of an integrated program that has a mixture of theoretical knowledge and practical experience," he said.

At BUSM, though, he has found these opportunities to learn what it takes to be an effective teacher, develop pedagogical skills, and practice the art of teaching.

The most comprehensive program at the School is the Vesalius Program. Created to develop skilled teachers in the biomedical sciences and named after Andreas Vesalius, the father of modern human anatomy, Vesalius is based in the Department of Anatomy & Neurobiology. Students in the program learn how to teach while serving as teaching fellows for the School of Medicine and BU's Goldman School of Dental Medicine courses of gross anatomy, neuroscience, and histology.

Mark Moss, PhD, professor of medicine and chair of the Department of Anatomy & Neurobiology, recognized that the teaching of anatomy needed to be emphasized and supported because of National Institutes of Health cuts in funding for anatomy research. He also was aware of the growing need for gross anatomists to teach in medical and nursing schools and physician assistant programs. "We're running out of people to teach in the biomedical sciences," noted Moss. "In many cases, there are not people to replace the last generation of teachers."





For more information on the Vesalius Program, please go to [www.bu.edu/dbin/anatneuro/](http://www.bu.edu/dbin/anatneuro/) and click on Programs.

“The most valuable part of the program is having a structured opportunity to teach at the graduate/medical-school level... only this department offered a fully integrated program with a mixture of theoretical knowledge and practical experience.”

To create the program, Moss and his colleagues looked at the underlying neurobiology of how people learn and developed standards for teaching that address the science of learning to produce skilled practitioners of pedagogy.

Peter Bergethon, associate professor of anatomy and neurobiology at BUSM and a faculty member in the Vesalius Program, will tell you that “good teaching is an analytical process that requires knowledge of learning styles, varying techniques, and a solid understanding of your audience.” He added, “This training makes for better researchers and communicators, and mixes the disciplines together.”

In the first of the two components that make up the six-credit Vesalius Program, students learn how to generate course materials such as syllabi, outlines, exam questions, and course evaluations and identify which teaching methods work best for different learning styles and venues. They also begin to hone their presentation skills.

The second component is a mentored-teaching practicum experience. Participants, after choosing a faculty mentor, design and present a lecture, lead a small group session, teach a laboratory session, design a course, or co-lead a graduate seminar course. Students explore and practice a variety of teaching methods for one-on-one, small group, and large lecture presentations.

Student presentations are videotaped, offering them the opportunity to see themselves as their audience does. Feedback and support are provided by faculty and peers. Students also observe biomedical science faculty members to identify effective teaching practices and discuss the methods with them.

Vesalius students give full-scale lectures to medical and dental students, and topics have included genetics, computer modeling, structural biology, and neuroscience.

Each student develops a teaching portfolio that includes lectures and presentations made both on campus and at national meetings that can be

used when applying for faculty positions. “Now that I am aware of the amount of time it takes to put together a good lecture, the difficulty in balancing the content of the information with its delivery, and the importance of integrating assessment at all levels of teaching, I’ve become much more critical of teaching,” noted Fried, a Vesalius Program participant. “The most valuable part of the program is having a structured opportunity to teach at the graduate/medical-school level. Other graduate programs I looked at included some amount of teaching or being a teaching assistant, but only this department offered a fully integrated program with a mixture of theoretical knowledge and practical experience.”

“Our Vesalius Program opens doors of opportunity for our students,” said Todd Hoagland, PhD, associate professor of anatomy and neurobiology and a course director and faculty member of the Vesalius Program. “Collegial bonds between faculty and students develop, and there is an increased comfort level on the part of students as they develop a professional self as a teacher.”

The response has been so positive that a new position of research associate has been added for students who want to advance their skills beyond the teaching assistant level. Some students have applied for grants to support their teaching initiatives. For Brain Week, for example, graduate students applied for funding to purchase instructional materials such as anatomic models to teach anatomy to middle school students.

The American Academy of Neurology is using the Vesalius Program as a model, and Hoagland has been asked by the American Association of Anatomists to talk about the program at its annual meeting.

“Participating in the program enriches in both directions. Faculty and students alike derive great benefit from it,” said Bergethon. “As faculty members, the quality of our teaching only improves, and we have the added bonus of helping cultivate the next generation of teachers.” ★



## Community Building

Twenty students and faculty members of BUSM's Department of Anatomy & Neurobiology recently began a year's commitment of community service by constructing homes for Habitat for Humanity of Greater Boston. Gathered around the worktable above are (from left) Emily Hamlyn, research technician; second-year BUSM student Yamin Shwe, who rotated through the research lab; and Chad Farris, an MD/PhD student, and Steve Schettler, a PhD student, both in the Graduate Division of Medical Sciences program. The group effort included laying foundations, setting up walls and siding, painting and finishing trim work, as well as raising \$2,500 for the organization.

## Education Day Creates Dialogue About Teaching and Learning

The annual John McCahan Medical Campus Education Day provided a forum for the BU Schools of Dental Medicine, Medicine, and Public Health to discuss innovations in the curriculum and new tools for teaching and research, as well as a keynote lecture on turning educational activities into scholarship.

Noting that the faculty/student ratio at the three Schools is almost one-to-one, Karen Antman, MD, BUSM dean and provost of the BU Medical Campus, said, "We recognize and promote the value of pedagogy. We also recognize and encourage the substantial amount of teaching that our students provide to their peers."

In her keynote address, Janet Hafler, EdD, professor of pediatrics at Tufts University School of Medicine, summed up the purpose of the day as creating a dialogue about the work of education. "Think in new ways about how we teach," she encouraged those in attendance. "Scholarship is a reasoned, reflective process and a method to acquire new knowledge."

A panel of deans gave presentations on the curricular innovations taking place at their respective Schools. Leonard Glantz, JD, associate dean

for academic affairs at BUSPH, described how the integration of public health curricula into BU's undergraduate program provides a continuum of learning that now extends from the college to the graduate level, as well as new interdisciplinary programs that look at public health issues across a spectrum of fields.

Aldo Leone, DMD, assistant dean for academic affairs at GSDM, discussed the results of the dental school's curriculum assessment. He noted that faculty now teach evidence-based dentistry, and, instead of a traditional linear progression of study, courses are taught in integrated groups that build upon each other in what is known as a spiral curriculum. Opportunities for self-guided learning are also available for students.

BUSM recently revamped the medical curriculum to include self-directed study, a focus on professional behavior, and more clinically relevant alignment of clerkships. Sharon Levine, MD, associate dean for academic affairs at BUSM, noted the many new tools available to faculty and students to enhance the educational process, for example, digital recording of lectures; virtual microscopy; the Turning Point Audience Response System, an interactive software program that provides real-time assessments of students in the form of quizzes, surveys, and opinion polls; and a new Clinical Skills and Simulation Center.

At the daylong event, 18 faculty members offered workshops on a variety of topics, including building an academic portfolio, partnering faculty with students to create effective online educational materials, and simple ways to improve teaching. ✱



Anil Nair, MD, (left) assistant professor of neurology at BUSM, discusses his research on clock drawings used in dementia screenings with fellow researcher Akhil Shenoy, MD, MPH'08, during the poster session on educational innovation, research, and technology. Shenoy, who served as chief resident in psychiatry at BMC this past year, presented on a psychiatrist-led program for reducing delirium in inpatient elders.



## BUSM Board of Visitors Retreat

The BUSM Board of Visitors held a retreat September 26–28 at the Chatham Bars Inn in Chatham, Massachusetts, with the mission of creating and implementing plans to address issues of highest priority for the dean and the School of Medicine.

Prior to the retreat, Sherry Leventhal, chair of the event, held meetings and conference calls with board members. They were assigned to committees established in four areas and began working together to discuss and plan for the retreat. The committees are: Committee to Increase Friends of BUSM, Merwyn Bagan '62, chair; Committee to Improve Student and Faculty Recruitment, Mary Jane England '64, chair; Committee to Increase Alumni Involvement, Sarkis Kechejian '63, chair; and Committee to Improve BUSM Recognition, Jeffrey Jay '83, chair. The retreat was productive and rewarding and resulted in the creation of a road map for advancing the School of Medicine.

Committees will be meeting this spring to discuss outcomes and progress on recommendations since the retreat.

Pictured in the photo above are board members, spouses, faculty, staff, and facilitators who attended the retreat.

**1st row** (from left) Jean Ramsey '90, Ina Heafitz, Beverly Brown, Arlene O'Neil, Karen Antman, Sherry Leventhal, Robert Brown, Merwyn Bagan '62, Mary Jane England '64, Lynn Hendricks, Steve Hall

**2nd row** (from left) Elliott Antman, Alan Leventhal, Lew Heafitz, William Manger, Elizabeth Flanagan, Ida Kechejian, Elaine Kirshenbaum, Joan Serchuck, Steve Ober '86, Janis Manger, Jules Manger

**3rd row** (from left) Jeffrey Jay '83, Howard Bauchner '79, Chris Bonner, Sarkis Kechejian '63, Howard Kirshenbaum, Jerry Serchuck, Adrienne Penta

**4th row** (from left) Holly Lindner, Andrew Paraskevas, Tony Tedeschi, Ann Cea '87, Harriet Kornfeld

**Back row** (from left) Scott Nichols, Ronald Corley, Menachem Abraham, Jason Azuma



## Diverse Band Lights Up the Medical Campus

During the past year, physicians, researchers, residents, nurses, and students on the Medical Campus have met almost weekly for "jam sessions," sharing the fun of improvising and playing music together while getting to know each other.

The BUMC Band members from across the Medical Campus gather in Bakst Auditorium and transform the lecture space into a hip South End musical venue as, act by act, the musicians wow the audience with their performances of rock, jazz, salsa, and reggae. Seats vibrate through the amplified sound and audience members sometimes dance in the aisles.

On one such evening, a second-year BUSM student sang a Beatles song. Playing bass was an MD/PhD student in molecular medicine, while a cardiothoracic surgeon was on percussion, and a pathologist played keyboard.

"Our Sunday practices are a highlight of my week," said Alex Vezeridis, an MD/PhD student at BUSM. "We often have these transcendental moments at rehearsal when someone will play a melody from a song we haven't tried yet, and we all look at each other and smile and jam on it."

"Another aspect we all look forward to is when a new person shows up on Sunday and brings another perspective or musical style to the group," he added. "The evolving nature of the band is satisfying because we've made a lot of friends and the collective experience helps us to become better musicians."

Band organizer Rafael Ortega, MD, professor of anesthesiology at BUSM and vice chairman of academic affairs at Boston Medical Center, credits Dean Antman for her strong support of the musical endeavor, as she has allowed the group to use the space for their rehearsals.

"Putting together diverse individuals from various corners of the campus on a level playing field coincides with our ongoing themes, such as respect and team building—values that lead to high-quality education and exceptional patient care," said Ortega. "It's a great time. New members are always welcome." ★

## Appointments

**Michael White, MS**, has been appointed assistant dean for finance and administration at BUSM. He is responsible for overseeing financial and administrative activities for the School of Medicine, including budget development, financial reporting, financial analysis, fiscal policies development, space management, and administrative processes related to faculty recruitment. White, who received his master's degree in financial economics from BU in 2004, served as director of finance and administration for the Information Systems & Technology Department at the BU Charles River Campus for the past seven years. He has extensive financial administration experience working with nearly every department or college at BU.



**Mary Blanchard, MS**, has been appointed director of the Boston University Medical Center Library. She obtained her bachelor's degree at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and her master's degree in library and information science at Simmons College in Boston. Since 1996, she has held various positions at the BUMC Library, including education and information services librarian and head of circulation, and for the past five years has been the associate director for library services.

Blanchard was also grant project director for the National Library of Medicine's Mental Health Information Network of Metro Boston and the National Network of Libraries of Medicine Mental Health Information Outreach Project. She previously worked at the Simmons College School of Social Work Library, Northeastern University's Snell Library, and Boston University's Mugar Library. She is a member of the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries and the Medical Library Association.

Blanchard succeeds David Ginn, PhD, who retired as library director on October 20, 2008, after 15 years of outstanding service to the Medical Center. ★



**Left:** From left, BUSM faculty and BMC clinicians Ruben Azocar, MD, Caroline Apovian, MD, and Ruth Padilla-Garcia, MD, with Fernando Almenas, MD, anesthesiology resident at BMC.  
**Right:** From left, Rafael Ortega, MD, Anand Deviah, MD, and Michael Andreoli, BUSM Class of 2011.

## Dean's Club Wine Tasting and Dinner

Leadership donors, including alumni, friends, faculty, and staff, enjoyed a wine tasting and dinner hosted by Dean Karen Antman to thank them for their contributions to BUSM. "The support of our generous Dean's Club donors is vital to the continued success of Boston University School of Medicine as a leader in medical education," said Dean Antman. "We are exceedingly grateful to those who make the investment in our School."

Held at the BU Trustees Ballroom, the event featured a selection of wines for guests to sample during the reception and wines paired with the dinner menu. Bill Nesto, one of 30 Masters of Wine in the U.S. and a founder of the Wine Studies Program at BU, where he is a senior lecturer, made the selections and gave a short presentation on the accompanying wine during each dinner course.



**1** Dean Karen Antman welcomes Bill Nesto, one of 30 Masters of Wine in the United States, who led the Dean's Club Dinner and Wine Tasting held on September 20.

**2** Jean Ramsey '90, assistant dean for alumni affairs, and Bill Nesto discuss the various wines in anticipation of the tasting during the Dean's Club Dinner.

**3** Classmates Susan Bradford '67 and Carol Pohl '67 learn about wine and food pairings.

**4** Mary and Robert Carey '54, long-time members of the Dean's Club, enjoy the evening during the Dean's Club Wine Tasting and Dinner.

**5** Howard Bauchner '79, professor of pediatrics and assistant dean, Alumni Association, and Benjamin Siegel, MD, professor of pediatrics at BUSM, sample one of the many wines featured during the wine tasting.

**6** Aram Chobanian, MD, BU president emeritus and BUSM dean emeritus, with Marlane and Shahe Fereshetian.

**7** Bernard Huang '62 and Ann Huang catch up with fellow Dean's Club members Cathy and John Polk '74, assistant dean of student affairs at BUSM.



Sharon Levine, MD

## BUSM Model in Geriatrics Education

A program pioneered at BUSM and Boston Medical Center is being replicated for geriatric-care education at 13 medical schools nationwide.

The Chief Resident Immersion Training in the Care of Older Adults was launched on the BU Medical Campus in 2005 to provide physicians in all disciplines with the tools to give older citizens excellent, all-around care. Highly successful results led to a \$2.1 million grant awarded last year by the John A. Hartford Foundation and the Association of Directors of Geriatric Academic Programs to replicate the program via a nationwide demonstration project.

The innovative project trains chief residents to diagnose and treat health problems common among older adults, and to better prepare the medical students and residents they supervise to do the same. The program also aims to encourage positive attitudes toward caring for the aging, foster leadership and teaching skills, and improve collaboration among the subspecialties involved in elder care.

"Our main objective is to foster collaboration among disciplines in the management of complex older patients with complex needs," stated Sharon Levine, MD, associate professor of medicine at BUSM, director of the Geriatrics and Geriatric-Oncology Fellowship, and director of the nationwide project.

Through the program, teams that include both a chief resident and a faculty member responsible for residency training in surgical and medical specialties attend interactive two-and-a-half-day

retreats. Each retreat includes 15 chief residents and their mentors; the demonstration project will train a total of nearly 400 chief residents. These chief residents will, in turn, teach the geriatrics evaluation and management skills they have learned to about 18,000 residents and medical students, Levine estimates.

"Training health care professionals to meet the unique health care needs of older adults is a growing priority nationwide," said Levine. "In the last three decades, the percentage of inpatients 65 and older has nearly doubled—from 20 to almost 40 percent."

Sites selected for the demonstration project are participating in several phases over four years. Schools at the universities of Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Rochester, and South Carolina were chosen to participate in the first phase, while medical schools at Yale and Marshall universities and the universities of Wisconsin and Cincinnati were selected for the second phase. The four remaining schools will be announced next year. ★

## Verna Lacey Retires from Student Affairs Office

After 15 years of service to the students of Boston University School of Medicine, Verna Lacey has retired as director of student support services. Lacey has played an integral role in helping BUSM students manage the daily stresses and requirements of their medical education.



"My journey at Boston University School of Medicine is captured in albums filled with memories that include my work with you," said Lacey in a message to students. "I thank you for making my years at BUSM inspiring, interesting, fun, and of

course somewhat challenging. It has been my pleasure to work with you and to get to know you."

"Verna has provided a nurturing and welcoming environment for learning throughout her years at the School of Medicine," said Phyllis Carr, associate dean of student affairs. "Our students have special affection for her because of her support, dedication, and diligence, and her wonderfully positive attitude that has inspired all of us. She will be sorely missed."

Lacey plans to travel and spend as much time as possible with her grandchildren. If any former students would like to contact her, she can be reached at [vlacey@comcast.net](mailto:vlacey@comcast.net).



## \$23 million NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award for Medical Campus

A team of clinicians and researchers at the Boston University Medical Campus and Boston Medical Center has won a \$23 million, five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to help discoveries in the laboratory develop more quickly to improve patient care.

The Clinical and Translational Science Award is an effort by the NIH's National Center for Research Resources to reduce the time it takes for laboratory discoveries to become treatments for patients and to engage communities in clinical research efforts.

This year's awards, together with 24 others granted in 2006 and 2007, form the core of an NIH effort to build a national consortium of select centers that will transform the way clinical and translational research is conducted. The new BU center, the Boston University Clinical and Translational Science (BU-BRIDGE) Institute, will integrate, connect, and expand research and programs across traditional academic departments and schools.

"Our program is a confirmation of the close collaboration among the three Boston University Medical Campus schools, Boston Medical Center, the Boston HealthNet Health Centers, and Boston University's Charles River Campus," said Dean Karen Antman.

The Clinical and Translational Science Award will allow the institute to build on existing strengths to create an environment linking faculty, trainees, and University programs to speed up the translation of innovations in medical science, to improve diagnosis and treatment of diseases, and to share these innovations with other university-based clinical and translational science institutes.

The BU-BRIDGE environment also will help open the lines of communication between clinical and research communities, bringing ideas that begin in health care clinics to the BU scientific community and back to identify new ways to improve delivery of health care services.

The institute also will significantly enhance existing partnerships with Boston's community health centers, bringing community-based perspectives and needs into the areas of clinical and translational research.

**"Our program is a confirmation of the close collaboration among the three Boston University Medical Campus schools, Boston Medical Center, the Boston HealthNet Health Centers, and Boston University's Charles River Campus."**

"We expect the BU-BRIDGE Institute and its community-engagement function to have a transformative effect on clinical and translational research at BUMC by infusing community-based needs and perspectives throughout the institute's work," said David Center, MD'72, associate provost for translational research and Gordon and Ruth Snider Professor of Pulmonary Medicine at BUSM. ★



Above: Lisa Gagalis, RN, (right) study coordinator in the General Clinical Research Center at BU Medical Campus, performs lung-function testing on research participant Ashley Mendez, who is enrolled in a clinical trial of omalizumab, a new antibody-based treatment for asthma. This trial, being conducted as part of the Inner-City Asthma Consortium funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, is an example of how the BU-BRIDGE Institute will integrate scientific discoveries and patient health.

## BUSM Introduces Crisis-Management Education

With its extensive resources, expertise, and a new master's program in the management of health and health care delivery in times of emergency, BUSM is developing a leadership role in crisis-management education.

Kevin Thomas, PhD, MBA, has been appointed director of Medical Community Disaster Preparedness and Crisis Management, a new master of science program in the Division of Graduate Medical Sciences. This program, which provides a comprehensive approach by blending knowledge of biomedical science with disaster and crisis management from an "all-hazards" perspective, is the only degree program in crisis management offered at a medical school in the United States.

"Increasing threats from natural and man-made disasters and terrorist events are a reality in our modern world," said Thomas. "Coordination and optimization of the current U.S. Health and Medical Emergency Services system are a vital part of the integrated response needed in this demanding field."

The program prepares individuals to work across the spectrum of emergency and crisis management and provides a learning environment with experience in multiple areas of biomedical sciences and health care.

Students are prepared for employment in disaster and crisis management in government and private sector emergency management, such as biomedical facilities, emergency departments, medical examiners offices, law firms, and hospitals and their pharmaceutical laboratories and academic institutions.

Key areas of instruction include crisis and disaster management; incident and unified command and control methods and practices; the crisis management planning, response, recovery, and mitigation process; risk communication, including psychological and sociological impacts of crisis; crisis management in the community-based medical care, services, and support systems; and uses of modeling and simulation and risk planning methods and practices.

Thomas, assistant professor of anatomy and neurobiology at BUSM, has more than 20 years of military experience in the Pentagon and in the field as a submariner. He was research director of George Mason University's Critical Infrastructure Protection Program, a \$20-million project designed to develop and analyze methods of infrastructure protection and cyber security and provide oversight for research activities at 14 universities. In 2003, he served as program manager for the National Infrastructure Simulation and Analysis Center Peer Review conducted for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

"We cannot train effective crisis responders without knowing about real-world needs, demands, and resources," explained Thomas. "The value provided by having a Level-1 trauma center affiliated with our program cannot be overstated. The resources we gain through Boston Medical Center help us move our educational efforts out of the classroom and into the real world." Furthermore, Thomas has aligned his program with the Biomedical Forensic Sciences Program at BUSM, gaining a "unique coupling and perspective" for determining sources or causes of crises. ✱

**For more information, visit [www.bumc.bu.edu/bmcm](http://www.bumc.bu.edu/bmcm) or e-mail [bmcm@bu.edu](mailto:bmcm@bu.edu).**



## Forensic Anthropology Master's Program Added

As part of an emerging Biomedical Forensic Sciences Institute at BUSM, the School's Division of Graduate Medical Sciences added a degree program this fall in forensic anthropology.

The master's degree program—the only one of its kind offered in an anatomy department of a medical school in the United States—is designed to train individuals in the theory, practice, and methods of biological and skeletal anthropology employed by forensic anthropologists in medico-legal death investigations.

"Our unique course setting provides students with broad access to faculty expertise, extensive resources, and facilities," said Tara Moore, PhD '00, program director and assistant professor of anatomy and neurobiology at BUSM.

State-of-the-art facilities available to students include the Medical Campus's human anatomical sciences laboratory and the BU-owned, outdoor

field-research station in Holliston, Massachusetts—the only one of its type in New England—that is available for crime scene investigation simulations, including excavation of plastic bones and forensic photography.

The multidisciplinary program, which enrolls 12 to 15 students a year, involves faculty from BU Schools of Law and Medicine and state and federal law-enforcement agencies. It offers training in skeletal biology, osteology, human anatomy, forensic pathology, crime scene investigation, and methods of human identification. "Students have the opportunity to apply the basic principles of these areas of study to criminal casework and other scenarios involving unidentified remains," added Moore. "Our goal is for graduates to continue their training in a doctoral program in anthropology and/or work as forensic anthropologists and crime scene investigators on a local, state, or national level."



Tara Moore, PhD

Moore became interested in the forensic sciences while working on her doctorate in anatomy and neurobiology at BUSM. With the encouragement of Mark Moss, PhD, chair of the Department of Anatomy & Neurobiology at BUSM, she launched the Biomedical Forensic Sciences Master's Program at the School in 2006 to capitalize on the high-level biomedical and forensic resources available on campus and in the region. ★

For more information, visit [www.bumc.bu.edu/forensicanthro](http://www.bumc.bu.edu/forensicanthro).



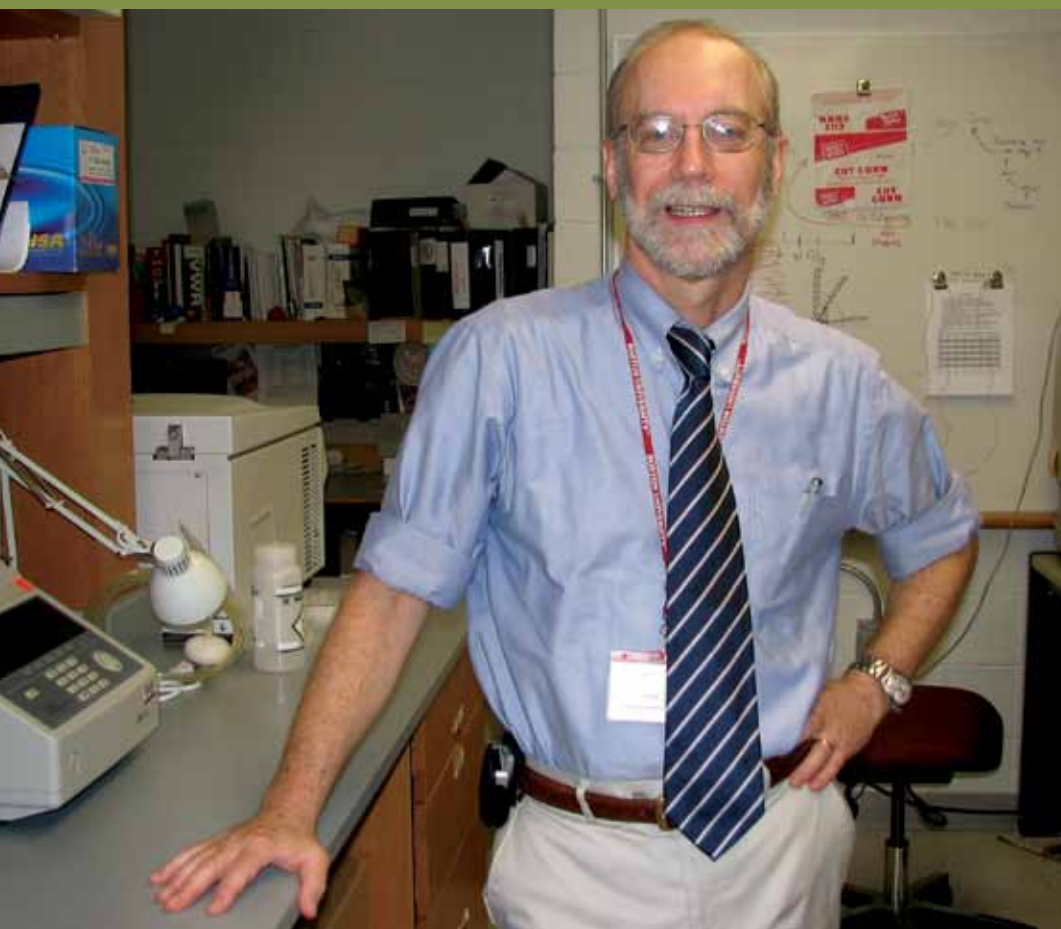
### Cool Welcome

Gift water bottles came in handy on the warm afternoon of the Graduate Medical Sciences Welcome Barbecue sponsored by the BUSM Alumni Association. Displaying their water bottles are Jean Ramsey, MD'90 (center), BUSM assistant dean, alumni association, and associate professor of ophthalmology and pediatrics and director of pediatric ophthalmology at Boston Medical Center, and some of the newest members of the Division of Graduate Medical Sciences: (first row) Justin Tsai, Ronald Brown, Christopher DeSimone; (second row) Aditi Ananth and Yong Hoon Ji. During the event, Ramsey and Carl Franzblau, PhD, associate dean for the Division of Graduate Medical Sciences, joined in welcoming the students to campus.

## GMS Students Welcomed to Campus

During those last days of summer before Labor Day, the newest members of the Division of Graduate Medical Sciences gathered on campus for a welcome breakfast and tours sponsored by the Graduate Medical Sciences Student Organization, as well as laboratory safety training and academic conduct orientation. Each of the 17 departments and programs in the division held individual sessions for their respective students with question and answer periods, faculty introductions, and registration opportunities.





## Genome Science Institute Established

The BUMC Genome Science Institute (GSI) was established in 2008 to expand the understanding of the role of genes in human health by fostering collaboration among researchers on the Medical and the Charles River Campuses and to serve as a resource for investigators engaged in genetics and genomics research and education. Recognizing that research in genetics and genomics at BU spans many departments and schools, the GSI connects these varied investigators to create a synergistic effect.

More than 120 faculty members from across the University are involved in the project. Richard Myers, PhD, professor of neurology, is the GSI's director. A BU faculty member since 1980, he holds appointments as professor of medicine in the Section of Genetics at BUSM, professor of environmental health, biostatistics, and epidemiology at BUSPH, and adjunct professor in the bioinformatics program at BU School of Engineering. Myers currently is involved with six multi-year

research projects on topics that include Huntington's disease, Parkinson's disease, body mass index, atherosclerosis, metabolic syndrome, and age-related bone loss in the Framingham Heart Study.

**“Harnessing the scientific expertise across disciplines and schools offers more and varied opportunities for genetic- and genomic-based discoveries and clinical treatments.”**

“Working across the disciplines of statistical genetics, molecular genetics, bioinformatics, and genetic epidemiology that are subsumed in the realm of ‘genetics and genomics’ will allow BU researchers to capture more effectively the complex relationships between genetic information and disease and to develop novel treatments,” said Myers.

In addition to supporting genetics and genomics research at BU and the Medical Campus, the institute is developing and presenting seminar series, symposia, and other opportunities for formal and informal interaction among faculty, staff, and students.

“The creation of this institute helps advance the already excellent research being done at BU and the Medical Campus,” said Dean Karen Antman. “Harnessing the scientific expertise across disciplines and schools offers more and varied opportunities for genetic- and genomic-based discoveries and clinical treatments.” ★



## Tissue Sample Archive Advances Research

Researchers on the Medical Campus have a new resource in the biospecimen archive that will serve as a human biospecimen repository for normal and diseased tissue to enhance their research.

The Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine created the Biospecimen Archive Research Core (BARC) to provide biospecimens for research to BMC and BUMC investigators who are approved by the Institutional Review Board. The samples come from patients at the hospital, and while most tissues are expected to be cancer-based, they will run across the medical specialties and include gastroenterology, gynecology, pulmonary diseases, and urology.

"By quickly freezing and storing tissue, blood, or body fluid in the BARC, researchers will then be able to extract and study many vital substances present in cells," explained Robert Pistey, MD'93, medical director of the archive and assistant professor of pathology and laboratory medicine at BUSM. "These studies will likely lead to new treatments and cures for a variety of diseases and conditions that affect a large proportion of this population."

"Patients at Boston Medical Center who choose to contribute to the archive will do so with a fully informed consent," said Cheryl Spencer, MA, manager of the Biospecimen Archive Research Core. "They may withdraw at any time and their biospecimens will be destroyed upon request. In addition, all patient data is de-identified for confidentiality purposes."

**"These studies will likely lead to new treatments and cures for a variety of diseases."**

"The future of medicine depends largely on investigators' abilities to study the human body at the molecular level for clues to the mysteries of disease," added Pistey, also attending pathologist at BMC. "Patients will not have access to any subsequent data gathered from the use of their biospecimens, but they will know their contribution was used to help researchers find new ways to prevent and treat diseases." ★

## Research in Brief

### Gene for Rare Facial Disorder Discovered

BUSM researchers have discovered that deletions or mutations within the TFAP2A gene (Activating Enhancer-Binding Protein 2α) result in the distinctive clefting disorder Branchio-Oculo-Facial Syndrome (BOFS). This rare disorder is characterized by specific skin anomalies involving the neck and behind the ear, eye abnormalities, a typical facial appearance, and frequently cleft lip and palate.

According to lead author Jeff Milunsky, MD'92, director of clinical genetics, associate director of the Center for Human Genetics, and an associate professor of pediatrics, genetics, and genomics at BUSM, this discovery will lead to more precise diagnostic testing, enable prenatal diagnosis, suggest directions for new research, and facilitate genetic counseling in these families.

"This gene is a well known transcription factor involved in multiple developmental pathways as well as tumorigenesis," said Milunsky. "An intriguing finding is that one of the affected patients with a mutation also has brain cancer, highlighting again the connection between malformations and cancer." He believes the discovery may have significant wide-ranging implications, as this gene may also play a role in the more common isolated occurrence of cleft lip and palate.

The study appeared online in the April 17 issue of the *American Journal of Human Genetics*.

## Research in Brief



### Air Pollution Affects Respiratory Health of Asthmatic Children

Children with asthma in inner-city communities may be particularly vulnerable to adverse effects of air pollution because of their airways disease and exposure to relatively high levels of motor vehicle emissions, according to a recently published study.

Led by author George O'Connor, MD'79, MS, professor of medicine at BUSM and a BMC pulmonologist, the study analyzed short-term effects of outdoor-pollution levels on asthma symptoms and lung function in children.

Researchers examined 861 children with persistent asthma, aged 5 to 12, living in low-income areas in seven U.S. inner-city communities, including Boston. For two years, researchers monitored the children's asthma symptoms, breathing function, and school absences, and obtained daily outdoor-pollution measurements.

Results revealed that children had significantly decreased lung function following exposure to higher concentrations of the air pollutants' sulfur dioxide, airborne fine particles, and nitrogen dioxide. Because nitrogen dioxide is derived mainly from motor-vehicle exhaust, the data provided evidence that car emissions may have adverse respiratory health effects in asthmatic urban children.

Additionally, the study found these children experience adverse health effects from air pollutants, even when air pollution levels are within current air-quality standards of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The study, which appeared in the April 18 issue of the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*, was funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, National Center for Research Resources, and the EPA.

### Anti-hypertensive Medicines Found Associated with Lower Incidence of Alzheimer's

BUSM researchers have discovered that angiotensin receptor blockers—a particular class of anti-hypertensive medicines—are associated with a striking decrease in the occurrence and progression of dementia.

Using data on more than five million people supplied by the Decision Support System Database of the U.S. Veterans Healthcare System, researchers looked at records from patients using these blockers, and compared them with subjects who had similar health status but were taking different medications. They found patients taking the blockers had about a 35–40 percent lower chance of getting Alzheimer's disease or dementia.

The researchers also examined patients who were already suffering from Alzheimer's disease or dementia, and found those subjects had up to a 45 percent lower chance of developing delirium, being admitted to nursing homes, or dying.

**“Use of angiotensin receptor blockers might delay deterioration of brain function and help keep patients out of nursing homes.”**

“For those who already have dementia, use of angiotensin receptor blockers might delay deterioration of brain function and help keep patients out of nursing homes,” said Benjamin Wolozin, MD, PhD, professor of pharmacology and neurology at BUSM. Wolozin was lead presenter of the study at the 2008 International Conference on Alzheimer's Disease held July 25–26 in Chicago.

“The findings also suggest the blockers are more effective than other blood pressure and cardiovascular medications for preventing Alzheimer's disease or dementia,” he added.

The study was funded by the Retirement Research Foundation and the Casten Foundation.





## One in Ten Children Use Cough Medications

Researchers at BU's Slone Epidemiology Center have found that approximately one in ten children in the United States uses one or more cough and cold medications during a given week.

How often pediatric cough and cold medications are used is especially important, as recent studies show that such medications are responsible for serious adverse events and even deaths among children.

To determine frequency and patterns of use, the researchers analyzed data between 1999 and 2006 from the center's national telephone survey of medication use. The researchers found that in a given week at least one cough and cold medication was used by 10.1 percent of the children. Exposure to active ingredients was highest in decongestants and antihistamines (6.3 percent each), followed by anti-cough ingredients (4.1 percent) and expectorants (1.5 percent). Exposure to cough and cold medications was highest among children age five and younger.

"Given concerns about potential harmful effects and lack of evidence proving that these medications are effective in young children, the fact that one in ten U.S. children is using one of these medications is striking," said lead author Louis Vernacchio, MD, MSc, assistant professor of epidemiology at BUSPH and assistant professor of pediatrics at BUSM.

These findings appear in the August issue of *Pediatrics*. Funding was provided by the Slone Epidemiology Center.

## Americans Are Drinking Less Alcohol

Alcohol use—particularly consumption of beer—is declining in the U.S., according to a new study by BUSM researchers.

They examined 8,000 records of the Framingham Heart Study to measure alcohol consumption over 50 years. Subjects, both from the original cohort and from children of this cohort, have been interviewed every four years, from 1948 until 2003.

This study shows that, overall, the American population is moving in a healthier direction—Americans are drinking significantly less beer and more wine, while hard liquor use has remained fairly constant. More people report that they are non-drinkers, and people born later in the 20th century drink more moderately than older people. As people age, individual alcohol consumption decreases.

However, risk of alcohol dependence did not decrease. The proportion of people who developed alcohol-related disorders, such as alcoholic cardiomyopathy or alcoholic cirrhosis remained nearly constant across all age groups.

Lead author Yuqing Zhang, DSc, MPH, professor of medicine at BUSM and professor of epidemiology at BUSPH, stated, "While these data suggest the development of more favorable patterns of alcohol consumption, they also show the cumulative incidence of alcohol use disorders has not shown a decrease, and continuing efforts at preventing them are warranted."

The study, funded by the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, was published in the August issue of *The American Journal of Medicine*. ★

This study shows that, overall, the American population is moving in a healthier direction—Americans are drinking significantly less beer and more wine, while hard liquor use has remained fairly constant.





## Paul O'Bryan: Telling Stories for 33 Years

When asked what his philosophy of teaching is, Paul O'Bryan, PhD, professor of physiology and biophysics at BUSM, states it simply as helping students understand what they are learning and figuring out how they can best learn. "The challenge of teaching is getting students to conceptualize the information, not just absorb it," said O'Bryan. "Lecturing is really about telling stories to make the material understandable. I use analogies all of the time."

O'Bryan has been telling stories at the School of Medicine for more than 30 years and never tires of it. His teaching activities have encompassed all aspects of preclinical medical, dental, and graduate teaching of human organ physiology, neurophysiology, and endocrinology. "Paul O'Bryan is one of the most amazing and dedicated teachers I have ever come across," said David Atkinson, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Physiology & Biophysics. "He has a fundamental understanding of his subjects that has a depth and breadth that is seldom found in a single individual, and he imparts this understanding to students with outstanding clarity and enthusiasm."

Complementing his teaching, he has also served Boston University in a number of capacities, including as director of the Health Science Programs from 1986 to 1990 and assistant dean for premedical programs from 1990 to 1996, both in the College of Arts & Sciences (CAS). He served as an academic advisor in the Division of Graduate Medical Sciences from 1996 to 2002 and is currently an assistant dean for student affairs at the School of Medicine.

He is undeniably student-focused, assuming roles that bring him into regular contact with them in and out of the classroom. As an administrator in CAS, he advised and supported undergraduates whose goal it was to attend medical school. As an assistant dean at BUSM, he guides and advocates for the medical students, helping them navigate the rigors of medical school.

"Paul is highly respected by students for his teaching and advising ability," said Phyllis Carr, MD, associate dean for student affairs. "He is always willing to meet with a student and provide thoughtful advice regardless of the problem—academic or personal. He is a strong advocate for students and he always puts the student's interest first. He is the model we would hope for in a student affairs dean."

"As an advisor, I am deadly honest," he asserted. "I tell them, if you're going to do this [medical school], then this is what you need to do. It's a reality check that I think helps maintain stability during the challenges of medical school. Helping them endure is part of the fun."

The students evidently respond to his teaching and advising. They have chosen him 10 times to receive the Thomas Robitscher Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching Preclinical Sciences as well as being their choice for the School's Stanley Robbins Award for Excellence in Teaching. The first- and second-year medical school classes selected him for the Annual Award for Teaching Excellence, and he has five times received the Proctor & Gamble Dental School Award for Excellence in Teaching Basic Sciences. In 2002, the students elected him as a faculty member to the Boston University Chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha, the only national medical honor society in the country; and in 2003 he received the Committee on Faculty Affairs Educator of the Year Award in Graduate Sciences. He has been listed in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*.

"Dr. O'Bryan is always available to offer support and advice to students," said Lauren Feichtner '09. "From helping us understand muscle physiology to the path our careers will take, his door and ears are always open. He takes great pride in the students he works with and makes sure all aspects of our lives are going well."

His colleagues in the Department of Physiology & Biophysics say he is inspirational and look upon him as an important resource not only for their department, but also for the whole Medical Campus. "He has taught most of the BUSM faculty in the physiology course and in the neurosciences how to teach," noted Atkinson. "His teaching and guidance of faculty are just as influential and important as his work with the students. He has an amazing capacity to handle a large teaching load and still maintain the highest levels of excellence."

Simon Levy, PhD, associate professor of physiology and biophysics, refers to O'Bryan's dedication and drive as "second to none. He makes us strive to be excellent teachers." His long-time colleague, Judith Saide, PhD, associate professor of physiology and biophysics, described O'Bryan as giving the most insightful and knowledgeable feedback. "He is the last word on physiological issues because of his deep understanding of the subject," she said. "Paul is the linchpin of the teaching program in the

physiology and biophysics department. He is a gifted teacher, making difficult concepts available to students. He has high expectations for them, and makes us better teachers.”

O'Bryan earned his doctorate in physiology from Tulane University in New Orleans. He did a U.S. Public Health Service postdoctoral fellowship in neurophysiology at the National Institutes of Health, where he also served as a senior staff fellow. He spent a year as a special fellow at the Nobel Institute for Neurophysiology in Stockholm, Sweden.

“Paul O'Bryan is one of the most amazing and dedicated teachers I have ever come across.”

He served as course director for medical physiology until 2005 and was co-course director for medical neurosciences at the School of Medicine. Currently, he teaches advanced human physiology.

Attend just about any campus event important to students and Paul O'Bryan is there. And each year during Senior Week, he invites the graduating class to his home on Cape Cod, where he hosts a golf tournament at a local course and a picnic in his yard. “We started out with a handful of the class and a small barbecue,” he said. “Now it's a full-scale picnic with a majority of the class, and being able to golf is not a prerequisite.”

O'Bryan appreciates the collegial and cooperative community at BUSM, where teaching is highly regarded. He believes that medical education today is a more supportive structure for learning and career direction and is more concerned with students' personal well-being. “I find the students in general work together more cooperatively and are less competitive with each other,” he said. “I think this is a good thing. Medicine today is a team effort and students who work this way make better physicians later on.” ★

## BUSM Faculty Named Top Doctors in U.S.

The *America's Top Doctors* guide, recognized by consumers seeking high-quality medical care, is an authoritative resource for identifying top doctors in the United States. The selected doctors are nominated by hospital presidents; vice presidents of medical affairs; and chiefs of service in anesthesiology, obstetrics and gynecology, medicine, emergency medicine, pediatrics, psychiatry, radiology and surgery; as well as randomly selected board-certified physicians. These physicians excel in academic medicine and research and most importantly are doctors who exhibit excellence in patient care.

The following BUSM faculty members and physicians at Boston Medical Center are among those chosen for this recognition:

**Gary Balady, MD**, professor, medicine and clinical cardiology  
**James Becker, MD**, professor and chair, surgery  
**Deborah Cotton, MD'76**, professor, medicine and epidemiology  
**Thomas Einhorn, MD**, professor and chair, orthopedic surgery  
**Gary Gibbons, MD**, professor, surgery

**Barbara Gilchrest, MD**, professor, dermatology  
**Gregory Grillone, MD**, associate professor, otolaryngology-head and neck surgery  
**Kenneth Grundfast, MD**, professor and chair, otolaryngology-head and neck surgery  
**Linda Heffner, MD**, professor and chair, obstetrics and gynecology

**Alice Jacobs, MD**, professor, medicine and cardiology  
**Carlos Kase, MD**, professor and chair, neurology  
**Maureen Kavanah, MD**, associate professor, surgery  
**Peter Merkel, MD**, professor, medicine and rheumatology  
**Alexander Norbash, MD**, professor and chair, radiology

**Robert Oates, MD'82**, professor, urology  
**David Salant, MD**, professor, medicine, and chief, renal medicine  
**Robert Simms, MD**, professor, medicine and rheumatology  
**Michael Wolfe, MD**, professor, medicine, and chief, gastroenterology; research professor, physiology and biophysics

## Center for Integration of Medicine and Innovative Technology (CIMIT) Awards

CIMIT, a nonprofit consortium of Boston-area teaching hospitals and engineering schools, brings together clinicians and engineers to make grants that accelerate medical innovation. The following BUSM faculty recently received CIMIT Awards:

**Peter Bergethon, PhD**, associate professor of anatomy and neurobiology, received a \$140,000 grant for a study using light to detect nerve damage in persons with diabetes. An important part of the proposal is the development of a patient-friendly light probe that will allow the rapid and reliable detection of these signals on a routine basis in the doctor's office.

**Stephen Pelton, MD**, professor of pediatrics, is studying the development of a safe and effective novel transtympanic membrane strategy for treatment of acute bacterial otitis media or inflammation of the middle ear.

(Out of 188 proposals submitted to CIMIT by multidisciplinary and multi-institutional teams, Bergethon and Pelton's projects were among 28 that were selected.)



## Honors

**Gary Balady, MD**, professor of medicine at BUSM and director of the Noninvasive Cardiovascular Labs and director of preventive cardiology at Boston Medical Center, was presented with the American Heart Association (AHA) Distinguished Achievement Award in recognition of his contributions to the field of cardiovascular medicine and support of the mission of the AHA. The Council on Clinical Cardiology presented the award at the AHA's 2008 Scientific Sessions held in the fall.



**Deborah Cotton, MD'76, MPH**, BUSM professor of medicine and BUSPH professor of epidemiology, has been named chair of the National and Global Public Health Committee of the Infectious Diseases Society

of America, the professional association of infectious diseases specialists in the United States. Cotton is currently chief medical officer of the Clinton Foundation HIV/AIDS Initiative and director of the Center for Strategic HIV Operations Research at the foundation.

**Thomas Einhorn, MD**, professor of orthopedic surgery, professor of biochemistry and biomedical engineering, and chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at BUSM, received the Alfred R. Shands Jr., MD Award from the Orthopaedic Research Society and the American Orthopaedic Association. The award is presented each year to a U.S. or Canadian citizen who has made significant contributions to orthopedics. The award recognizes the dedication of a significant portion of an individual's professional lifetime to furthering knowledge in the fields of musculoskeletal disease.



**Avra Goldman, MD**, clinical assistant professor of family medicine at BUSM and medical director of Boston Medical Center's Family Medicine Clinic, was named a finalist for the Schwartz Center Compassionate

Caregiver Award, given by the Boston-based Kenneth B. Schwartz Center. The award recognizes the Massachusetts caregiver who best personifies the mission of the Schwartz Center "to support and advance compassionate health care in which caregivers, patients and their families relate to one another in a way that provides hope to the patient, support to caregivers and sustenance to the healing process."



**Rick Goldstein, MD**, assistant professor of pediatrics at Boston University and associate program director of the Boston Combined Pediatric Residency Program, has been chosen as the inaugural recipient

of the Milbank Palliative Care Clinical Scholars Program. He was chosen for his outstanding leadership, his role as a mentor and educator for pediatric residents, and a track record of innovative educational contributions.

**Kenneth Grundfast, MD**, professor and chair of otolaryngology at BUSM, has been elected president of the Association of Academic Departments of Otolaryngology (AADO). The AADO is the national organization of chairs of departments of otolaryngology at each school of medicine in the U.S. Grundfast will serve for two years. His initiatives include improving otolaryngology education for medical students, developing and implementing a policy on resident transfers, and analyzing the relationship between resident training in otolaryngology in areas where it overlaps with the training of dentists/oral and maxillofacial surgeons.



**Brian Jack, MD**, associate professor of family medicine, received the Partner in Public Health Improvement (External-Individual) Award from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), which recognizes his service and

support of the missions of CDC as deserving of special recognition.

**Stephanie Jardeleza, MD**, a third-year resident and first author on the Boston VA research project "Effect of trypan blue staining on the elastic modulus of diabetic and non-diabetic anterior lens capsules," was selected for the Sanford D. Hecht Research Award by the New England Ophthalmological Society.

**Lisa Najavits, PhD**, professor of psychiatry, was recently elected as president of the Division 50-Addictions of the American Psychological Association. Division 50 promotes advances in research, professional training, and clinical practice within the broad range of addictive behaviors.

**Satish K. Singh, MD**, assistant professor of medicine and director of the Perkin Elmer Center for Cell Imaging, received the Center for Integration of Medicine and Innovative Technology (CIMIT) Young Clinician Award. CIMIT, a nonprofit consortium of Boston-area teaching hospitals and

engineering schools, brings together clinicians and engineers to accelerate medical innovation. Singh's interest is in optically guided biopsy tools for dysplasia detection in gastrointestinal endoscopy.

**Barry Zuckerman, MD**, professor of pediatrics at BUSM and chief of the Division of Pediatrics at BMC, received the 2008 C. Anderson Aldrich Award in recognition of his career achievement in child development. In 1989, Zuckerman founded Reach Out and Read, a nonprofit, early literacy program that trains doctors and nurses to advise parents about the importance of reading aloud.

In addition, **Reach Out and Read**, now a national program that also give books to children at pediatric checkups, received the 2008 Dale Richmond/Justin Coleman Award, in recognition of its outstanding contributions in child development. Both awards were presented by the Section on Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics of the American Association of Pediatrics at the association's annual meeting.

## Awards-Grants



**Gerald Denis, PhD**, assistant professor of pharmacology and medicine and American Cancer Society Research Scholar at the Cancer Research Center at BUSM, was awarded a

Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Translational Research grant. The \$360,000 award will fund "Telomere DNA-Based, Novel Therapy for Aggressive Lymphoid Malignancy" for three years. Denis joined the BUSM faculty and the School's Program in Molecular Medicine in September 2001.

**Department of Medicine Section of Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Nutrition** has received an NIH Training Grant to continue the program in endocrine and metabolic research. The program, which now has received NIH funding for 50 years, prepares qualified pre- and post-doctoral trainees for careers as independent investigators in diabetes, obesity and metabolic disorders, and selected aspects of endocrinology.



**Angela Jackson, MD**, associate professor of medicine at BUSM and director of the Primary Care Residency Training Program at BMC, received the prestigious Health Resource and Services Administration Title

VII Training Grant for Primary Care Physicians, totaling \$1.3 million in the course of three years. The grant will enhance the Internal Medicine Primary Care Training Program through the development of interconnected education endeavors addressing cultural competence, mental health, and addiction among Boston's underserved population.

**R. Christopher Pierce, PhD**, received the Society for Neuroscience Jacob P. Waletzky Award at the annual meeting in November 2008. Supported by the Waletzky family, the society gives the award, which includes \$25,000, to a scientist who has conducted research or plans to conduct research in the area of substance abuse and the nervous system.

An expert in animal models of cocaine addiction, Pierce's work breaks new ground in neuroscience and drug addiction and provides concrete examples of addiction therapies that can be tested clinically. Pierce's research includes pursuing surgical interventions such as deep brain stimulation as possible treatments for cocaine craving. Since deep brain stimulation is increasingly used as a treatment for psychiatric disorders such as depression and is widely used for treatment of Parkinson's disease, the clinical significance for treating severe cocaine addiction is significant.



**M. Michael Wolfe, MD**, professor of medicine, research professor of physiology and biophysics, and chief of the Gastroenterology Section at BMC, was awarded an Individual Biomedical Research Award by

the Hartwell Foundation, whose aim is to provide funds for early stage research projects that have not yet qualified for funding from traditional sources.

Wolfe, considered an authority on the biology of GI regulatory peptides, will receive \$300,000 over three years as a Hartwell Investigator for his project, "Peptide Replacement Therapy Using Transgenic Stem Cells Delivered to the Small Intestinal Mucosa."

Wolfe and his colleagues are developing a technique to redress hormone and enzyme deficiencies that cause diseases such as type 1 diabetes. The

technique relies on engineering stem cells that produce the missing peptides and implanting them in the small intestine.

Wolfe is recognized as one of the world's leading authorities on gastric inhibitory polypeptide (GIP), and he initially cloned the GIP cDNA and ascertained its central role as principal mediator of the enteroinsular axis, the hormonal connection between the intestine and pancreas following the ingestion of food. He proved its importance in obesity by demonstrating functional receptors on adipocytes and by showing that GIP, like insulin, suppresses the breakdown of fat, which in essence results in an increase in fat storage.

The Hartwell Foundation provides financial support to individual researchers in the U.S. for innovative and cutting-edge applied biomedical research that has the potential to benefit children.

**Rebecca Silliman, MD, PhD**, professor of medicine at BUSM and chief of the Section of Geriatrics at Boston Medical Center, was awarded a \$4 million grant from the National Cancer Institute for a three-and-a-half-year study of long-term survivorship in older women with early-stage breast cancer. The project will study the effectiveness of surveillance mammography beyond five years following diagnosis in reducing breast cancer-specific mortality. The study will include women at six integrated health care systems throughout the United States.

**BUSM** is one of seven centers to receive a four-year grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to use cutting-edge genomic technologies to better understand lung disease. The \$2.9 million awarded to BUSM will fund a study to probe the causes of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), a disease associated with smoking that is characterized by airflow limitation.

COPD is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States and a significant public health burden. There is currently no cure for COPD, and the limited available therapies are mainly used to treat symptoms of the disease. While the role cigarette smoke plays in COPD is undisputed, the mechanism by which inhaled smoke contributes to disease pathogenesis remains unclear. The purpose of this study is to develop an understanding of the processes that contribute to COPD pathogenesis, ultimately yielding tools for stratifying and treating COPD patients based on the molecular processes that are responsible for their disease. The principal investigator of the study is **Avrum Spira, MD**, an associate professor of medicine and pathology. ★

## Faculty Appointments

**Stephen P. Christiansen, MD**, has been appointed as professor and chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at BUSM, effective March 2, 2009, and chief of ophthalmology at Boston Medical Center. A professor of ophthalmology and pediatrics at the University of Minnesota Medical School in Minneapolis, he serves as director of the Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Service there.

He received his medical degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin at Milwaukee and completed a residency in ophthalmology at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, and did a fellowship in pediatric ophthalmology at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami. Dr. Christiansen is the author of 78 peer-reviewed scholarly articles in addition to book chapters, abstracts, and other educational media. He is the recipient of numerous awards for academic and scientific achievement, and is a diplomate of the American Board of Ophthalmology.

His principal clinical interests lie in the management of childhood and adult strabismus, pediatric cataract, ROP, and retinoblastoma.



**Michele David, MD, MBA, MPH**, has been appointed associate professor of medicine at BUSM. David is director of the Community Health Programs at Boston University Center for Excellence in Women's Health and

is co-director of the Haitian Health Institute at Boston Medical Center. She is also a faculty member in the Preventive Medicine Residency Program and does epidemiological research on health disparities, public health programs, and educational campaigns on such diverse topics as respiratory illnesses, breast and cervical cancer, HIV disease, hypertension, nutrition, and diabetes.

*(continued on page 24)*

(Faculty Appointments continued from page 23)

**Jacob Joseph, MBBS, MD, FACC**, has been appointed associate professor of medicine at BUSM and cardiologist in the Department of Cardiovascular Medicine at Boston Medical Center. Prior to his appointment he served as director of the Heart Failure Program at the VA Boston Healthcare System. Joseph's clinical interests include cardiomyopathies and systolic and diastolic heart failure. His research interests include cardiovascular medicine in reference to the mechanisms and treatment of diastolic heart failure.

**Jeff M. Milunsky, MD'92, FACMG**, has been appointed as co-director of the Center for Human Genetics at BUSM. Milunsky has been the associate director of the center since 2002 and medical director of the master's degree program in genetic counseling since 2005. He also serves as professor of pediatrics, genetics, and genomics; director of clinical genetics; and associate director of molecular genetics. He is the author or coauthor of over 190 manuscripts, abstracts, or book chapters. He is a co-editor (and contributor) of the sixth edition of *Genetic Disorders and the Fetus: Diagnosis, Prevention and Treatment*, which is the standard worldwide reference text for prenatal genetic diagnosis.

**Richard Myers, PhD**, has been appointed director of the newly established Genome Science Institute. (See page 16.)

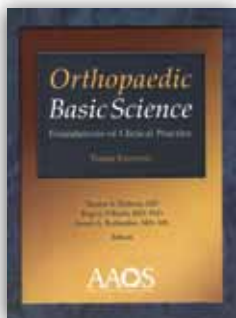
**Mina Yaar, MD**, professor of dermatology, has been appointed interim chair of the Department of Dermatology. Yaar received her medical degree from Hadassah Medical School, Jerusalem, Israel. She completed her internship in Jerusalem and her dermatology residency in the combined Boston University-Tufts University Program. An active researcher on aging and melanogenesis, she held a distinguished National Institutes of Health Fellowship in Dermatologic Research. ★

## Faculty in Print



**Karen Antman, MD**, provost of the BU Medical Campus and dean of the School of Medicine, is an editor of **Molecular Targeting in Oncology**. The volume presents an overview of the development of targeted therapies for the

treatment of cancer with an emphasis on clinical application. It covers the complexity of the rapidly developing area of targeted therapies for the treatment of patients with cancer and is divided into five sections that cover the most important elements of drug development. (Humana Press, 2008)



**Thomas Einhorn, MD**, chairman of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at BUSM and BMC, and professor of biochemistry at BUSM, is the editor of **Orthopaedic Basic Science: Foundations of Clinical Practice, 3rd Edition**. The volume

presents an overview of the basic science that forms the foundation for the biology and biomechanics of the musculoskeletal system. (American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, 2007)



**Dae-Shik Kim, PhD**, associate professor of anatomy and neurobiology at BUSM, is co-editor of **Principles and Advanced Methods in Medical Imaging and Image Analysis**. The volume presents in-depth knowledge of medical-imaging instrumenta-

tion and image analysis and classification methods for research, education, and application in computer-aided diagnostic radiology. (World Scientific Publishing Company, 2008)



**Elizabeth Barnett, MD'85**, is co-editor of **Immigrant Medicine** (Saunders, 2007).

This book is the first comprehensive guide to caring for immigrant and refugee patient populations. It is wide

ranging and offers practical advice, especially in the areas of communication and how to navigate cultural boundaries. Barnett is associate professor of pediatrics at BUSM and director of the International Clinic at Boston Medical Center.

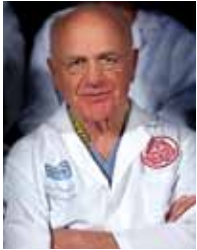


**Patrick McNamara, MD**, wrote **Nightmares: The Science and Solution of Those Frightening Visions During Sleep** (Praeger, 2008). In this book, Patrick McNamara, associate professor of neurology of BUSM, shows how nightmares evolved, how

they were useful to ancestral populations, and why nightmares may carry beneficial functional effects even today for people who suffer from the pulse-pumping dreams. He discusses the biology of nightmares and what, specifically, happens in the brain during them. He also explains the history and development of nightmares and likely causes, including traumatic events, psychological and physical disorders, and commonly consumed medications. ★



# In Memoriam



**Erwin F. Hirsch, MD**, of Marblehead, Mass., on May 23, 2008, at the age of 72 after a boating accident off the coast of Rockport, Maine. A professor of surgery at BUSM and chief of trauma surgery at Boston Medical

Center for more than 25 years, he was renowned for his efforts to provide the highest quality care to all patients, regardless of their finances or personal histories, and for his seemingly inexhaustible energy and goodwill.

"Dr. Hirsch is beloved by his residents and his students," said Dean Karen Antman. "He is a legend. He has been saving lives for decades. If you suffered a trauma in this region, you wanted to be airlifted to him and treated in his department. Many people are alive today because of the work of Dr. Hirsch and the trauma team at BMC."

Jonathan Olshaker, chair of the BUSM Department of Emergency Medicine and chief of emergency medicine at Boston Medical Center, noted how much Hirsch would truly be missed. "Erwin Hirsch was an amazing man," said Olshaker. "His dedication to his patients, residents, and students was simply unsurpassed."

John Auerbach, commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), described Hirsch as a great friend and advisor to the department for more than 25 years. Hirsch was an original member of the DPH Trauma Advisory Committee and served as its chairman until his death. "His leadership drove the development of the state's Trauma Registry," said Auerbach. "His efforts will improve emergency trauma care for all the residents of the Commonwealth. In addition to the countless lives that he saved as a skilled surgeon, it is fitting that his legacy of service in the creation of the registry will help save many more lives in the future."

A memorial service was held on campus May 29, 2008.

**Herbert M. Joseph, Jr., PhD**, on September 12, 2008, at the age of 58 after a courageous battle with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Joseph was assistant professor of psychiatry at BUSM and the former chief psychologist and director of the Center for

Multicultural Training in Psychology at Boston Medical Center. His primary area of interest was in family psychology, and he co-authored and published extensively on the subject.

**Ascanio Michael Rossi, PhD**, a former clinical professor of psychiatry at BUSM and chief psychologist at the Boston Medical Center, on October 11, 2008.

Rossi's major area of interest was community psychology with a specialty in providing mental health services for multicultural populations. A founder of the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology, he was active in professional associations, serving as president of the Massachusetts Psychological Association 1972-1973, chair of the Ethics Committee of the northern branch of the California Psychological Association, a fellow in the American Psychological Association, and a diplomate of the American Board of Professional Psychology.

**Robert Schwartz, MD**, of Hyde Park, Mass., on June 7, 2008, at the age of 88. A clinical professor of family medicine and clinical associate professor of medicine, he joined the School of Medicine in 1958 as a senior teaching fellow.

Schwartz spent most of his career at Northeastern University Health Services and in private practice, but he was well known to BUSM for half a century for his work at the School, including as faculty for the Physical Diagnosis course and hosting BUSM student placements at the Northeastern University Health Services.

He earned his medical degree at Middlesex School of Medicine and served with the U.S. Army in the European theater, 1942-1946, before returning to private practice.



**Jerome H. Shapiro, MD**, on October 14, 2008, at the age of 84 from complications of Alzheimer's disease. Shapiro served as professor and chair of the Department of Radiology at BUSM from 1963 to 1992.

A nationally recognized radiologist, he established a modern radiology department at the former Boston City Hospital, where he served as chief and established the specialty of radiology at the former Boston University Medical Center Hospital.

"Jerry brought together two separate departments at Boston City Hospital and Boston University Medical Center Hospital into a single excellent academic unit," said Aram Chobanian, MD, president emeritus of BU and former dean of BUSM. "He was a vital force on the Medical Campus during the years of his chairmanship, and on the national scene he played a major role as president of the American College of Radiology."

Shapiro received his MD from Yale University School of Medicine in 1948 and completed his internship at Mt. Sinai in Cleveland, Ohio, and residency in radiology at Montefiore Hospital in New York City.

In addition to the American College of Radiology, he served as president of the Massachusetts Radiological Society and the New England Roentgen Ray Society. In 1992, in recognition of his outstanding service to the field of radiology, he received the gold medal of the American College of Radiology for his distinguished and extraordinary career. He also was awarded a gold medal from the Radiological Society of North America in 1996.

He was an early collaborator in the field of health care reform.

The author of more than 90 peer-reviewed articles, Shapiro was the first radiologist to serve on the editorial board of *The New England Journal of Medicine*. His publication topics listed advancements using multiple modalities ranging from body and cerebral angiography, gastrointestinal and pulmonary radiography, to musculoskeletal computed tomography.

An accomplished violinist, he served as president of the Wellesley Symphony Orchestra in his hometown of Wellesley, Mass. ★



First-year BUSM students are thrilled to show off their new white coats.

## Class of 2012 Receives White Coats

On August 11, it was clear to the 177 members of the BUSM Class of 2012 gathered for their White Coat Ceremony that they were embarking on a transformative journey symbolized by the event.

The ceremony, part of BUSM's annual orientation, emphasizes the human connection in the practice of medicine and the responsibilities inherent in the doctor-patient relationship.

"Today you begin the profession of healing, which is characterized by commitment to your patients, compassion for those you serve, and passion for the work you do," said guest speaker Jonathan Woodson, MD, associate dean for students and diversity at BUSM. "In a few days you will begin deepening your knowledge of how the human body works and be given special privileges to dissect the human body, examine the private thoughts of patients, and expose their fears. These privileges, however, come with responsibilities.

"Today you begin that life-altering journey symbolized by the wearing of the white coat," added Woodson. "Reflect deeply and often on what it means and internalize what it stands for so that it is obvious to all who you are and what you stand for."

Called to the podium and with the assistance of BUSM deans and faculty, each member of the class put on the white coat to the applause and cheers of the hundreds of family and friends in attendance.

The BUSM Alumni Association invited all members of the class and their guests to a reception on the Talbot Green immediately following the ceremony. ★



John Polk, MD '74, assists Kosha Soneji, BUSM Class of 2012, with her white coat during the ceremony.

## BUSM Student Elected to National Leadership Role

Katie Spina, a third-year MD-PhD candidate, has been selected as chair-elect of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Organization of Student Representatives (OSR). During her three-year term she will serve one year in each position as chair-elect, chair, and past-chair. Last year she served as one of five national delegates for the OSR, acting as National Delegate for Medical Education. Spina holds two additional degrees from BU, a bachelor of arts with distinction in chemistry and a master of medical science with honors from the Graduate Medical Sciences program.

"It's an honor to serve medical students in this capacity," Spina said.



"Katie's passion for caring for others, scientific research, and teaching make her uniquely qualified for this important position. We are delighted that she has been recognized by the AAMC and congratulate her on receiving this honor," said BUSM Associate Dean for Student Affairs Phyllis Carr, MD.

The AAMC is a national organization that represents all 130 U.S. accredited medical schools, many teaching hospitals and health systems, faculty, students, and residents. The OSR represents more than 67,000 medical students in the U.S. and Canada to the academic medicine community. ★

## AAMC Awards Grant to Outreach Van Project

The BUSM Outreach Van Project was one of nine medical-school, student-initiated community service programs that received the Caring for Community Award from the AAMC. The annual grant program provides funding for service projects initiated, developed, and administered by medical students in collaboration with existing community agencies or other medical school outreach activities.

The Outreach Van Project is a mobile outreach service for the homeless in Boston that provides necessities such as food, clothing, toiletries, and dental supplies as well as basic medical care and referrals to primary care physicians. Staffed by student volunteers and a physician, the van makes weekly trips into underserved communities in the local area.



## Top Student Chosen for National Research Award

Paul Romesser, BUSM'11, is one of 42 students selected from medical, dental, and veterinary schools across the country to be a Howard Hughes Medical Institute-National Institutes of Health (HHMI-NIH) Research Scholar.

The research scholars program brings top medical students to the NIH campus to participate in hands-on biomedical research. As a research scholar, Romesser has the opportunity to combine his interest in biomedical research and medicine by spending a year in a NIH laboratory.

"These students will one day be on the front lines between biomedical research and the public," said Peter J. Bruns, HHMI's vice president for grants and special programs. "We want them to have a strong background in research and then pursue it as a career."

Romesser is working in the laboratory of Louis Staudt, MD, PhD, a leading expert in the field of B-cell malignancies, investigating novel mechanisms of oncogenesis in diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, a form of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. "The utilization of new genomic screens allows me to study in depth these newly described mechanisms of lymphogenesis," said Romesser.

HHMI is a nonprofit medical research organization that is one of the nation's largest philanthropies involved in advancing biomedical research and science education in the U.S. Since the mid-1980s, HHMI has made investments of more than \$10 billion for the support, training, and education of the nation's most creative and promising scientists.

"The opportunities presented to us as medical students at the NIH are unlike those found at any other institution in the United States," said Romesser. "I am very fortunate to be able to conduct my research here." ★



## Med Campus Students Collaborate to Promote Health

Students from the four graduate programs on the Medical Campus—dental, graduate medical sciences, medical, and public health—collaborated to hold the first all-campus, student health-promotion event on the Talbot Green. The goal of the event was to provide health information in the broadest sense to all students on campus via a forum for students from the various programs to network with each other.

“This is the first of what we hope to be a tradition at the BU Medical Campus and the start of further campuswide collaborative efforts to improve student health as well as the health of our community.”

“This is the first of what we hope to be a tradition at the BU Medical Campus and the start of further campuswide collaborative efforts to improve student health as well as the health of our community,” said third-year MD-MPH student Sharyn Niles.

Supported by the student service departments of all of the schools and attended by close to 1,000 students, the event combined the annual medical student barbecue, also cosponsored by the Graduate Medical Sciences Student Organization, with the fair. Representatives from student organizations, as well as BU-affiliated groups like BU Public Safety and the BU Fitness & Recreation Center (FitRec), presented information on their services to which all students have access. As part of the health promotion, organizers also included more vegetarian options and fresh fruit at the barbecue as well as a recycling bin to promote environmental health.

“We also wanted to create an opportunity for students to communicate with each other their shared goals as members of health care professions,” said event organizer and 2009 BUSPH student Devan Darby. “We hope that starting this communication during our training will help facilitate greater sharing when we practice in our respective fields.”

The Medical Campus Student Alliance, MeCaSa, a new group whose mission is to unite the Medical Campus schools, has been formed and will collaborate to ensure continuity of this event, as well as to host symposia and other programs to build networks among students on the Medical Campus. ★

### Organizations represented were:

- Aetna/Student Health Insurance
- American Red Cross (BU student chapter)
- BU Goldman School of Dental Medicine
- BU College of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences: Sargent College
- BU Student Health Services
- BU Parking & Transportation Services
- Graduate Medical Sciences Student Organization
- Health Care for All (Consumer Health Quality Control)
- Health Food Initiative
- Public Health Alliance for Minorities
- Rotaract Green Committee
- South End Fitness Center
- Student National Medical Association

Representing the four graduate programs on the Medical Campus—dental, graduate medical sciences, medical, and public health—are (front) second-year GSDM students Stefanie Sunnes and Min Lynn; (back) GMS doctoral student Adrian Oblak, second-year medical student Andrew Platt, BUSPH student Devan Darby, and BUSPH and third-year medical student Sharyn Niles, who helped organize the first all-campus, student health-promotion event that included a SCOMSA-funded barbecue.



## Student Affairs Office Moves to New Quarters

Bright yellow walls and finely framed photos of the campus and students greet those who arrive at the new Students Affairs Office for assistance and guidance. The renovated space on the second floor of the A Building consolidates services in a comfortable and warm setting. The quarters house the Diversity & Multicultural Affairs Office and are in close proximity to the Registrar and Student Financial Services offices in the A Building.

"We are delighted with the increased space we have to better accommodate the growing number of medical students and the programs that support them," said Phyllis Carr, MD, associate dean for student affairs. "Our goal is to make utilizing our services as easy and convenient as possible."



**Above, top:** Second-year BUSM students Karen Kwei, Diana Cardona-Grau, Jen Yang, and Daniel Kirshenbaum inspect the historical photos of BUSM adorning the walls of the new Student Affairs Office.

**Above:** EMSSP student Erin Jones joins Malissia Evans, administrative coordinator for the Diversity & Multicultural Affairs Office, at the open house held to welcome students to the new Student Affairs Office space.

## Students Honor Anatomical Donors

The BUSM Anatomy Memorial Service is held each year in May to honor the generosity of the people who donate their bodies for anatomical dissection by the students at the School of Medicine. For the first time, the families of the donors were invited to join the students in this solemn service.

Organized by a committee of first-year students in the Gross Anatomy course under the guidance of Rob Bouchie, anatomy laboratory manager and anatomical gifts coordinator, the memorial service demonstrates the students' appreciation for the privilege of learning human anatomy through the dissection process, and their gratitude and respect for the donors who make it possible.

"We are indeed indebted to those we have remembered today who allow us to peer into the structure of the human anatomy," said guest speaker Bill Pearson, teaching associate. "There is simply no more effective way to gain a tacit knowledge of the human frame than through studying the human body itself. To possess this knowledge is essential for the practice of medicine."

The program included students Namita Murphy '11 and Lie Tjoeng '11 providing a musical interlude on the piano and violin. Photographs of the donors were on display, and students lit candles representing each donor whose name was read and family recognized. The students also put together a slide show of their class activities to give the families of the donors a sense of who they are as medical students, engaged in the pursuit of an important goal, becoming a physician.

Pearson also noted, "To the families here today, we want to say that your loved ones gave us the privilege of learning what we otherwise could not have learned. In return, these students have committed themselves to take what they have learned and use it in service to others."





## 50th Reunion Gift Supports BUSM Continuing Medical Education

Barry Manuel, MD'58, associate dean for continuing medical education and professor of surgery at BUSM, has generously pledged to endow a fund to support the Office of Continuing Medical Education (CME) in honor of his 50th reunion, which he celebrated last May.

Manuel is well remembered for his three decades as executive director of the Alumni Association, his continuing service to CME, and his many years as a distinguished faculty member at the School.

"BUSM has an outstanding program for physician continuing education," said Dean Karen Antman. "Barry has dedicated many years to developing and enhancing these courses and services to ensure physicians maintain the highest level of competency. We are very grateful that he has endowed this fund as a resource in perpetuity."

His gift, a permanently endowed fund, will provide support for the Continuing Medical Education program. Upon payment of his pledge, the office will be named in his honor in recognition of his many years of service and his generous contribution. ★

November 10, 2008

Dear Fellow Alumni:

Re: Pension Plan Gifts to BUSM

In 2006, Congress passed a law called the Pension Protection Act, which included a section allowing gifts to be made to charitable organizations directly from pension plans without being taxed on the way. Previously, such tax-free gifts could only be made postmortem. That Act was for the years 2006 and 2007. On October 3 of last year, as part of the \$750 billion "Bailout Bill," the Act was extended for the years 2008 and 2009.

In 2006, my wife and I took advantage of the Act to make a gift to BUSM and established a scholarship fund for married medical students with children. We've continued with these gifts in 2007 and 2008. For those of you with IRAs and other pension plans, you know that, at age 70, pension plan withdrawals are mandatory. Being able to make a gift with those dollars without intervening tax attrition was an incredible opportunity to, in effect, double our gift. We make our usual charitable gifts with post-tax dollars and take a deduction, but this allows us to make larger gifts without paying tax on the way. It works for us, and is worth you fellow alums considering.

The Class of 1950 was one of the first postwar classes, and many of us, including me, were veterans, married and with children. Our tuition was under the GI Bill, and our financial situation was touch-and-go for the four years. I did my postgraduate training, have been in practice as an internist, and retired several years ago. All of us as physicians have been privileged to be allowed the opportunity to practice our profession. For me, there are no words to express my gratitude to the School of Medicine for my having been accepted as a student and seeing us through graduation.

BUSM asked if I would write to you about my gifting experience, and I am happy to do so as part of my gratitude in giving back to the School.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Gerald Besson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gerald Besson, MD'50





## Use Your IRA to Support BUSM

On October 3, 2008, Congress extended the Pension Protection Act of 2006 through December 31, 2009. This legislation provides tax incentives for charitable gifts from donors who are 70½ or older and encourages financial support of charitable organizations across the United States.

Under the law, you can make a lifetime gift using funds from your individual retirement account (IRA), Roth IRA, or rollover IRA without undesirable tax effects. Previously you would have had to report any amount taken from your IRA as taxable income, then take a charitable deduction for the gift, but only up to 50 percent of your adjusted gross income. In effect, this caused some donors to pay more in income taxes than if they did not make a gift at all.

Fortunately, now these IRA gifts can be accomplished simply and without tax complications. You can make the gift now while you are living and able to witness the benefits of your generosity.

### How to make a gift

Contact your IRA custodian to transfer your desired gift amount to an eligible organization.

### For more information

It is wise to consult tax professionals if you are contemplating a gift under the law. For more information on how you can support BUSM by using your IRA, creating any other life income gifts, or how to include BUSM in your estate plans, please contact:

Lynn Hendricks  
Associate Vice President for Development  
BU Medical Campus  
715 Albany Street, L-219  
Boston, MA 02118  
617-638-4570  
lhendric@bu.edu

### You may contribute funds this way if:

- You are age 70½ or older
- The gift is \$100,000 or less each year
- You make the gift(s) on or before December 31, 2009
- You transfer funds directly from an IRA or Rollover IRA
- You transfer the gift outright to one or more public charities, but not supporting organizations or donor-advised funds



Pictured above at the luncheon are: (from left) Brandi Ring, Jessica Gereige, Tauber, Gabriel Poliboy, and Michelle Igbani. Levon Khojayan, also a Tauber Family Scholarship student, attended the luncheon, but was not present for the photo. The students are members of the Class of 2010.

## Students Meet Family of Scholarship Benefactor

BUSM students benefiting from the Tauber Family Scholarship had lunch at the School of Medicine with Alfred Tauber, MD, and Dean Karen Antman. Tauber spoke with them about his late father, Laszlo Tauber, MD, whose donation of \$3 million in 2003 established the scholarship to help financially stressed students. "As a struggling immigrant physician, my father was committed to helping future physicians with the high cost of medical education, and he would have been delighted to know that such qualified and caring students are among the recipients." More than 70 students have received scholarships ranging from \$4,000 to \$15,000.

Alfred Tauber, a hematologist and biochemist, is a professor of philosophy in the BU Department of Philosophy, Zoltan Kohn Professor of Medicine at BUSM, director of the BU Center for Philosophy & History of Science, and an affiliate faculty member in the BUSM and BUSPH Law, Medicine & Ethics Program. ★

## BUSM-Armenia Partnership Receives \$700,000 Gift

The BUSM-Armenia Medical Partnership Program has received an in-kind donation of more than \$700,000 worth of neurosurgical medical devices from the Integra LifeSciences Holdings Corp.

Following the devastation of the 1988 earthquake in the Republic of Armenia and the war and political upheaval of the 1990s, BUSM partnered with the Armenian National Institute of Health, Yerevan State Medical University, and Grigor Lusavorich Medical Center to train physicians, medical students, and other health care professionals.

The programs, focused on providing assistance with education and patient care, include physician and student exchange programs between the two countries and training programs for physicians, medical students, and nurses in Armenia. They also include patient-care programs, including those targeting medical conditions prevalent in Armenia, and access to the latest research results through online library services.

"Access in Armenia to these high-quality medical instruments will facilitate physicians' delivery of the best possible medical care to patients and provide opportunities for medical students to learn the latest techniques," said Dean Karen Antman.

# Continuing Support from the Karin Grunebaum Cancer Research Foundation

For more than 30 years, the Karin Grunebaum Cancer Research Foundation has generously supported the training of physician-scientists in cancer biology and research at Boston University School of Medicine. "The continued commitment of the Karin Grunebaum Cancer Research Foundation in supporting fellows and junior faculty not only provides support for cancer research but also develops the next generation of faculty committed to preventing and treating cancer," explained Dean Karen Antman. "We are deeply indebted to the Grunebaum Foundation. The foundation's mission has been to support cancer research while honoring Karin Grunebaum's memory."

**This partnership between the foundation and BUSM has grown over the decades. Today the relationship is multifaceted and includes:**

**Fellowships:** From 1979 to 2006, 38 fellowships were awarded to MD-PhD students. Competition for fellowships is intense, with four times as many applicants applying as awardees. When the foundation established the Grunebaum Chair and Professorship of Cancer Research, BUSM chose to continue the fellowship program with institutional support.

## **Professorship in Cancer Research:**

In 2002, the foundation established the Karin Grunebaum Professorship in Cancer Research at BUSM with a \$2 million endowment. This professorship was established to support a physician/scientist actively engaged in cancer research and in the education of medical and graduate students in cancer research. Douglas Faller, MD, PhD, director of the Cancer Research Center at Boston University Medical Campus, was named the first recipient of the professorship. Faller, who is also professor of medicine, pediatrics, biochemistry, microbiology, pathology, and laboratory medicine at BUSM, has made numerous contributions to the understanding of how cancer emerges and spreads. He has published more than 300 peer-reviewed articles in medical and scientific literature.

**Junior Faculty Focus:** In 2006, the foundation modified its focus and chose to assist junior faculty members already involved in clinical or translational cancer research rather than fund student researchers. This represented a major change in direction for the foundation, and was based on the premise that medical students' areas of research interest may change or that they may choose to pursue careers in clinical practice. Faculty members have already committed themselves to a career in cancer research and therefore stand a greater chance of making an important contribution to cancer research, as well as increasing the impact of the foundation's support.

In 2007, the first faculty award was given to M. Isabel Dominguez, PhD, assistant professor of hematology/oncology in the Department of Medicine. The current recipient is Julia Yaglom, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Biochemistry. Yaglom's work focuses on how Hsp72 regulates DNA Damage Response (DDR) in tumor cells.

"The Grunebaum Foundation's support for cancer research at Boston University has been an extremely important part of our institutional cancer research program for decades. Generations of MD-PhD candidates have gone on to have successful careers in cancer research as well as other medical fields," explained Faller. "We are all deeply indebted to the foundation and the Grunebaum family." ★

**"We are deeply indebted to the Grunebaum Foundation. The foundation's mission has been to support cancer research while honoring Karin Grunebaum's memory."**





Dear Alumni,

Connecting is what the Alumni Association is about: Connecting with BUSM, connecting with classmates, and connecting with your colleagues in medicine. Our interaction with each other and the School of Medicine enriches us personally and professionally.

The programs and outreach that the Alumni Association offers serve to strengthen the ties, and we hope that you will take advantage of them. We also hope that you will share your ideas and comments on what and how we can best serve you and BUSM.



The continued outstanding work of our faculty, staff, and students, some of which is highlighted in this magazine, reinforces what we already know as graduates—that BUSM is a great place to learn and to discover. It is also a great resource for keeping current with research and clinical advancements.

The Association's current priorities for assisting students include increased scholarship assistance, providing stethoscopes for incoming students, and supporting the building of additional student housing on campus. Your interest in and support for these efforts are greatly appreciated.

Please consider attending Alumni Weekend 2009, and perhaps contact some classmates you haven't seen for a while and encourage them to join you in Boston.

Sincerely yours,

**Howard Bauchner '79,**  
Assistant Dean, Alumni Association  
howard.bauchner@bmc.org

**Jean Ramsey '90,**  
Assistant Dean, Alumni Association  
jean.ramsey@bmc.org  
BUSM Alumni Association  
72 East Concord Street, L120  
Boston, MA 02118  
617-638-5150  
alumbusm@bu.edu  
www.bumc.bu.edu/medalumni

## Alumni Association Executive Director Steps Down



After more than 30 years of service to BUSM and its graduates, Barry Manuel '58, stepped down as executive director of the Alumni Association effective July 1. He continues his responsibilities as associate dean for continuing medical education.

"It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve Boston University School of Medicine and my fellow graduates," said Manuel. "I have been enriched by the many colleagues and friends

it has been my great fortune to work with and to know. I am deeply grateful for all the years and many opportunities afforded to me."

A 1954 College of Arts & Sciences and 1958 BUSM graduate, Manuel began his work with the Alumni Association even before he joined the School of Medicine in an official capacity as an associate dean and professor of surgery. During the course of his long and productive tenure, the Association flourished, adding numerous programs and services that have resulted in an active and loyal alumni base for the School.

Manuel directed the alumni giving program for the past 30 years, helping to institute leadership donor societies and a vigorous annual fund program. Despite the more than doubling in size of the graduating class during this time and the enormous debt burden for recent alumni, the participation rate for giving to BUSM by graduates is one of the highest among medical schools in the U.S.

He also brought his significant skills to bear as a leader of the medical profession, especially in the area of professional liability. His many accomplishments include being one of the founders of the Bay State Healthcare Foundation and serving as its president and treasurer. He was a member of the Board of Governors of the American College of Surgeons as well chairman of its Board of Governors Committee on Professional Liability. He served as president of the Massachusetts Medical Society and was a founder and chairman of the Professional Liability Foundation Limited.

Among his honors and awards are the BUSM Distinguished Alumnus Award and the American College of Surgeons' highest accolade, the Distinguished Service Award.

"For more than three decades, Barry has been the face of the Alumni Association," said Dean Karen Antman. "His loyalty and dedication to BUSM is without equal, and we are deeply appreciative of his outstanding service." ★

# Alumni Weekend

Boston University School of Medicine ~ Alumni Association

May 8-9, 2009



Join Your Classmates and  
Come Back for Your Reunion!



## Campus ~City-wide Events

### Friday, May 8

- Culinary market tour of Boston's historic North End
- Scientific Program and luncheon at the School of Medicine
- Reunion social hour followed by individual Reunion Dinner Parties

### Saturday, May 9

- Duck Tours through the streets of Boston and the Charles River
- Barbecue picnic, music and fun followed by student-led tours of campus
- Dining and dancing at the 134th Annual Meeting and Banquet



## Reunion Dinner ~Banquet ~Annual Meeting

To be held at:

The Westin Copley Place  
10 Huntington Avenue  
Boston, MA 02116  
(617) 262-9600



**BOSTON  
UNIVERSITY**

School of Medicine





## Annual Fund Phonathons Reach Out to Alumni

The BUSM Alumni Association Fall Phonathons were held on October 23 and 28, 2008. The Hiebert Lounge was filled with alumni callers and students from every class, manning phones and writing notes to graduates asking them to support the School of Medicine Annual Fund. Alumni volunteers called classmates and reunion-year alumni to promote Alumni Week-end in May 2009.

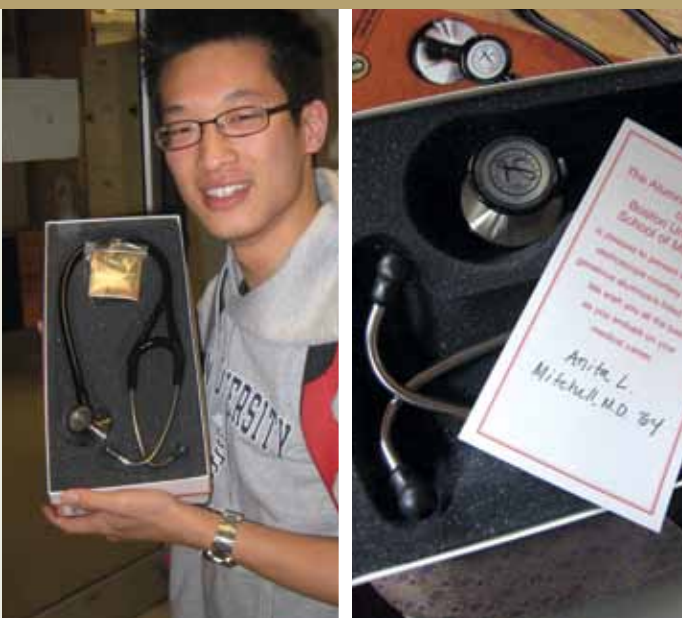
Pledges from 245 alumni totaled \$80,320, and 98 students wrote more than 1,700 personal notes to alumni who could not be reached during the calling hours.

The Alumni Association staff and assistant deans sincerely thank the dedicated volunteers who are committed to supporting BUSM. All local alumni are invited to the Spring Phonathon on March 10, 2009, at 5:30 p.m. in the Hiebert Lounge of the School. ★



**1.** Volunteers reached out to alumni across the country to raise funds for BUSM's programs. **2.** Alumni Association Assistant Dean Jean Ramsey '90 gives Carolee Estelle '12 a token of appreciation for her efforts on behalf of the School. **3.** Dean Karen Antman joins student and alumni volunteers for dinner and conversation prior to calling. **4.** A record number of volunteers joined in calling alumni.





First-year student Winston Wu displays his new stethoscope courtesy of the Alumni Association. The card showing the donor's name, Anita Mitchell '64, her class year, specialty, and address (on the reverse side) was inserted into the stethoscope case.

## Alumni Support Stethoscopes for Students

The stethoscope is a universal symbol of medical care, and receiving one as a student is a milestone on the path to becoming a physician. In the fall, the Class of 2012 reached this milestone with some help from the BUSM alumni community. The Alumni Association Stethoscopes for Students program, initiated last year with alumni support, provides first-year students with stethoscopes.

Seventy-one alumni made donations to support the purchase of 113 stethoscopes, and each student who received one also received a card that included the name of the graduate who had made the \$150 donation. Assistant Dean of Alumni Affairs Jean Ramsey '90 assisted in the handout, connecting with first-year students and sharing information about this program with them.

**For more information on the Stethoscopes for Students program, please contact the BUSM Alumni Association at 617-638-5150, e-mail [alumbusm@bu.edu](mailto:alumbusm@bu.edu), or visit [www.bumc.bu.edu/medalumni/giving](http://www.bumc.bu.edu/medalumni/giving).**



Scott Davis '91 with Zoe Tseng '11 (left) and Jessica Gray '11, members of the Family Medicine Interest Group, who organized the presentation.

## Alumnus Talks with Students about Addiction

Scott Davis '91 gave a presentation in November sponsored by the BUSM student Family Medicine Interest Group about his personal and professional experiences with addiction. The author of *Jonathan's Life: A Doctor's Descent into Darkness & Addiction*, Davis shared some of his life story: the circumstances of his becoming addicted to pain medications following the 1993 loss of his twin brother, Jonathan, to AIDS, and his ultimate recovery.

Now the director of Inpatient Medical Services at the Betty Ford Center, Davis addressed the physiological aspects of addiction as well as the psychological. He recounted his personal battle and stressed the need for a greater awareness of addiction medicine. He offered students the opportunity to apply for an elective in addiction treatment at the Betty Ford Center.

Davis is a fellow of the American Society of Addiction Medicine with expertise in detection and analysis of all drugs of abuse. He is a nationally recognized authority in addiction medicine and opiate detoxification by numerous agencies, including the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) and the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA). ★

## Class Notes

### 1952

**James B. Hudson** of Augusta, GA, writes, "Greetings, all! After graduation, residency, and a three-year fellowship with Dr. Relman, I accepted a position as chief of nephrology at the Medical College of Georgia; I retired after 30 years in 1990. Highlights: building a strong section, a two-week trip to Antarctica given by my fellows when I retired, a long and satisfying retirement. I lost my wife, Jan, whom a number of you knew, to pancreatic cancer five years ago at age 69, and after 46 years of marriage. I have since remarried, and Pat and I will celebrate our second wedding anniversary and my 81st birthday later this month. During retirement, I have enjoyed writing poetry and short fiction, astronomy and astrophotography, boating, and backpacking (Pat and I recently joined my oldest daughter and her family for nine days on the trail in the Skokomish Wilderness of Olympic National Park in Washington). I am tickled to learn that our class has spawned other poets and congratulate Nick Giosa on his fine work. Emboldened by his example, I will take the liberty of including a poem of my own, an experiment in arrangement of 'metrical feet.'

At the Beach / Darker, darker becomes the night /  
Nowhere, nowhere is lit a light / Gently, Gently is  
washed the sand / Slowly, slowly asleep the land /  
Scamper, scamper the crab on dune / Rustle, rustle  
the grasses' tune / Whisper, whisper the wind's  
faint sigh / Soaring, soaring above tern's cry /  
Distant, distant the ocean's moan / Content,  
content I watch alone.

"Hope to see all at the reunion."

### 1956

**Howard S. King** of Waban, MA, received the MSP's 2008 Community Service & Training Award. A revered pediatrician, Dr. King has devoted his career to ensuring that the emotional needs of children are addressed in their health care by mentoring other physicians and standing up for this vital aspect of pediatric care.

### 1964

**S. C. Andrew Chen** of San Francisco, CA, writes, "I have been retired for two years from Kaiser Permanente Medical Group. I am living half time in central Italy and half time in San Francisco. I have been in touch with classmate **Virginia Monafio**, who lives near Milano."

### 1971

**Wayne R. Cohen** of Kew Gardens, NY, was recently appointed an assistant dean for education and professor of obstetrics and gynecology and women's health at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He also serves as chief academic officer at Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx.

### 1973

**George J. Brown** of Olympia, WA, was named president and chief executive officer for Legacy Health System. Brown will be responsible for all hospital operations and will serve as the principal link between Legacy's hospitals, the community, the board of directors, and the medical staff. Portland-based Legacy operates five hospitals as a nonprofit organization. Brown has held executive positions with a number of hospitals and health systems, including nine years with MultiCare Health System in Tacoma, WA, where he served the past four years as chief operating officer.

He is retired from the U.S. Army, and achieved the rank of brigadier general. He also served as commanding officer at Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, WA; Walter Reed Health Care System in Washington, DC; Blanchfield Community Hospital in Fort Campbell, KY; and Letterman Army Institute of Research, Presidio of San Francisco, CA.

### 1974

**Steven J. Holtz** of Walnut Creek, CA, writes, "I am in my 29th year as a founder and member of the Neurology Medical Group of Diablo Valley, a seven-member group of neurologists that provides outpatient and inpatient services in the Walnut Creek-Concord area of the San Francisco Bay Area, as well as Medical Director of a nationally certified stroke program. Also I am Associate Clinical Professor of Neurology at the University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco (UCSF), where I have been teaching for over 28 years, and at University of California, Berkeley. In 2005, I was president of the UCSF Association of Clinical Faculty. You can't beat the academic and medical environment here in the Bay Area, nor the lifestyle opportunities and the weather! Come and visit anytime."

**Paul M. Leiman** of Lake Worth, FL, writes, "Carol and I continue to enjoy retirement, split between the winter warmth of South Florida and the enjoyable summers of northeastern Pennsylvania. Our elder son, Scott, recently married Jennifer Shub, the daughter of our BUSM '74 classmate, **Nelson Shub**, and his wife, Linda. Scott and Jennifer, both then living in Manhattan, met on J-Date. They now reside in Hoboken, NJ."

### 1975

**Arnold M. Baskies** of Cherry Hill, NJ, writes, "I was honored to be named president-elect (2008-2010) of the American Cancer Society of New York and New Jersey." This ACS Division has a budget of \$100 million and oversees ACS cancer research and support services for both states. His term as president will begin in 2010. For the last two years he has served as ACS Chief Medical Officer. He has also served as chairman of the New Jersey Governor's Task Force on Cancer Prevention, Early Detection and Treatment since 2000.

### 1976

**Neal K. Anderson** of Seminole, FL, received a JD from University of Maine School of Law on May 24, 2008, the ABA prize for Excellence in Health Care Law, and the Faculty prize for Health Care Law. He writes, "I have moved to Seminole, Florida, where I will take the bar exam in February '09 (Not another test please!). I have taken up with my high school sweetheart of all things, and we plan to get married after I win my first case (or was that *My Cousin Vinny*?). A few of you may remember her: June Lucas, Boston University School of Nursing '76."

### 1987

**F. David Schneider** of San Antonio, TX, received the Sam A. Nixon, MD, Leadership Award from the Texas Academy of Family Physicians at their annual assembly for his extraordinary leadership and service to the academy.

**Satish Kumar Singh** of Weston, MA, was the recipient of the Young Clinician Award from the Center for Integration of Medicine and Innovative Technology. The award is given to outstanding doctors who also want to pursue a career in research. Dr. Singh is an assistant professor in the Department of Medicine (gastroenterology) at BMC and Director of the Perkin-Elmer Center for Advanced Cell Imaging at the institution. "Dr. Singh is a promising researcher," said CIMIT Executive Director John Parrish, MD. Dr. Singh says that at present it is impossible to distinguish a dysplastic from a non-dysplastic polyp by its endoscopic view. He says the integration of fiberoptic probes into familiar, standard biopsy tools can provide endomicroscopic and/or spectral images that permit primary or complementary in situ histopathological guidance by the operator (interpreting microscopic images) or by computer via spectroscopic tissue recognition algorithms.

## 1989

**Jerry M. Schreiberstein** of Springfield, MA, writes, "I have been elected chair of the Board of Governors, American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery and will begin my term on September 22, 2008, at our Annual Meeting in Chicago."

## 1992

**Jeff M. Milunsky** of Newton, MA, was named co-director of the Center for Human Genetics at Boston University School of Medicine. Dr. Milunsky has been the associate director of the Center for Human Genetics since 2002 and medical director of the master's degree program in genetic counseling since 2005. A BUSM faculty member since 1996, Dr. Milunsky also serves as professor of pediatrics, genetics and genomics; director of clinical genetics; and associate director of molecular genetics.

## 1999

**Deborah A. Chong** of Los Angeles, CA, cofounded Medicine In Action, "a nonprofit global medical organization dedicated to providing quality medical and surgical care" in 2005. She writes, "the organization is coming along nicely and we are growing. The group has medical missions planned for Jamaica and Africa in the coming year, and is always interested in having volunteers join them."

**Kate Phaneuf '88**, who celebrated her 20th reunion last May, shared these drawings she made during her years at BUSM. Some of the characters and events may be very familiar.



Prints from left to right: National Board Review, Pizza of Medicine, and Richard Hoyt, PhD, associate professor of anatomy and neurobiology

## In Memoriam

### 1937

**Albert R. Larchez** of Hamilton, MA, on April 17, 2008, at the age of 96. An emergency medicine physician, he served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was decorated with the Bronze Star for meritorious service and received three campaign battle stars to his ETO ribbon. He was the school physician in Hamilton and Essex for 23 years, as well as physician to the Carmelite Minor Seminary in Hamilton. He was also a member and later chairman of the Board of Health in Hamilton. In 1967, Dr. Larchez gave up his 22-year practice and joined the Salem Emergency Physicians Associates to do full-time emergency room work at Salem Hospital, the first such service to be inaugurated north of Boston. He retired in 1976 after serving as chief of emergency service during his last year at Salem Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Jean M. (Gourdeau) Larchez; a daughter, Katherine L. Keniston of Delmar, NY; a son, Jeffrey M. Larchez of Quechee, VT; four grandchildren; a niece; and several nephews.

### 1940

**Najeeb Klam** of Monroe, LA, on February 15, 2008, at the age of 92. He is survived by his wife of 20 years, the former Marillyn Marshall Taylor; sons, Captain Warren Klam of San Diego, CA, Robert Taylor and wife, Louise, of Sheffield, AL, Rick Taylor and wife, Cindy, of Baton Rouge, LA; daughter, Elizabeth Garrison of Sheffield, AL; daughter-in-law, Gayle Klam; 11 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; two sisters; and numerous nieces and nephews.

### 1942

**Brooks H. Hurd** of Orleans, MA, on September 6, 2008, at the age of 91. Dr. Hurd served as director of laboratories at Grant Hospital until 1982. Upon retiring, he became director of Red Cross Central Ohio Blood Services. Dr. Hurd was also a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Pathology at Ohio State University and an instructor at the Capital University School of Nursing. He served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps in the Pacific Theatre during World War II. He is survived by his sons, Bruce Hurd of Columbus, OH, Brooks Hurd Jr. of San Luis Obispo, CA; and two grandchildren. He was the husband of the late Jean Weaver Hurd.



## 1943-B

**Gary P. Paparo** of North Providence, RI, on June 28, 2008, at the age of 90. A forensic pathologist, he served as acting chief medical examiner for the state of Rhode Island for several years. He had also served as medical director at the Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island, Pawtucket. Dr. Paparo served in the Army Medical Corps during World War II and stayed active in the Army Reserves, retiring as a Lt. Colonel in 1960. He is survived by his beloved wife, Marie; two sons, Gary D. Paparo, DMD, of Chepachet, RI, and Stephen F. Paparo of Fort Salonga, Long Island, NY; one sister, Marietta Marchese of Phoenix, AZ; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

## 1944

**Rolfe W. Salin** of Avila Beach, CA, on July 12, 2008, at the age of 92. An internist and dermatologist, he served in the U.S. Air Force in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War as a flight surgeon. He also spent five years with the U.S. Public Health Service as a flight surgeon and assistant to the Surgeon General of the U.S. Coast Guard, and then served as a dermatologist at the Vacaville State Hospital for the State of California. He is survived by his sister, Sister Mary, RSCJ, of Marshfield, MA; his wife of 66 years, Ruth Dunbar Salin, of Avila Beach, CA; a son, Dr. Eric Dunbar Salin and his daughter Erica Salin, both of Montreal, Canada; and daughter, Dunbar Salin Garman, and her daughter, Alyssa Power, of Morro Bay, CA.

## 1945

**Carl W. Johnson** of Enfield, CT, on April 16, 2008, at the age of 87. A general practitioner, he served the U.S. Army during World War II in the medical corps. Dr. Johnson provided care for the state correctional facilities for more than 17 years. He was a member of the Connecticut Medical Society and worked as a Medical Examiner for the State of Connecticut in north central Connecticut for many years. He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Barbara Johnson. He is survived by his daughter, Carrie Sinish, and her husband, David, of Collinsville, CT; his three sons, Christopher Johnson of Enfield, CT, Kevin Johnson and his wife, Beth, of Westborough, MA, and Gregory Johnson and his wife, Kathy, of Cambridge, VT; his grandchildren, Colin Sinish and his wife, Jodie, of Weatogue, CT, Jennifer Sinish of Frisco, CO, Heidi Johnson of Washington, DC, Harry Johnson of Westborough, MA, and Lydia Johnson of Cambridge, VT; as well as his great-grandchildren, Quinsa Sinish and Kai Sinish, of Weatogue, CT.

## 1953

**Dwight M. Akers** of LaVerne, CA, on March 2, 2008, at the age of 84. An internist, he served in the U.S. Air Force achieving the rank of major before entering private practice in Pomona, CA. He is survived by his wife, Beverly, and his three sons, Dwight, Gordon, and Steven.

## 1954

**Augustine M. McNamee Jr.** of Rumford, RI, on March 24, 2008, at the age of 80. An anesthesiologist, he served on the staff of the anesthesia department at Rhode Island Hospital. He also served as Rhode Island Hospital's chief of anesthesia. He was an assistant professor, section of surgery, department of anesthesiology, at Brown University. He also served as president of the Rhode Island Society of Anesthesiologists. He was the honored recipient of the Horace Wells Award for Merit for outstanding achievement in the field of anesthesia. He is survived by sons: Miles Russell McNamee (LTC Ret., U.S. Army) of Fairfax, VA, his wife, Lisa, and their children, Megan, Miles, and Loretta; Quincy City Councilor Brian F. McNamee of Quincy and his daughter, Maura; daughters, Deirdre C. McNamee of Quincy, MA, and Marguerite McKeeman of Portsmouth, RI, and her husband, Joe, and their three children, William, Charles, and Harrison.

**Frederick J. O'Brien** of West Hartford, CT, and Narragansett, RI, on April 15, 2008, at the age of 79. An internist, he had a private practice until 2005 and served in the U.S. Air Force. He is survived by his wife, Virginia (Ginny) Murphy O'Brien; son Michael, his wife, Ann, and their children, Michael and Kelly, of Cheshire, CT; daughter, Joan, her husband, David Wildfeuer, and their daughter, Rachel, of Berwyn, PA; son, Timothy, his wife, Linda, and their children, Sarah and Kevin, of Wellesley, MA; son, Daniel, his wife, Andrea, and their daughters, Megan, Claire, and Erin, of West Hartford, CT; daughter, Erin, her husband, Brian Earley, and their children, Christina, Meredith, Sean, and Brigid, of Franklin, MA; daughter, Nora of Santa Monica, CA; and daughter, Carey, her husband, Chris McGlynn, and sons, Conor and Brendan, of Oakville, Ontario. Fred is also survived by his sister, Helen, and her husband, Joe Sapkowski; his brother, Albert, and his wife, Mary; and his sister-in-law, Ann O'Brien. He leaves behind many dear nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

## 1956

**Leonard S. Krassner** of North Haven, CT, on July 3, 2008, at the age of 79. A pediatrician, he was assistant chief of pediatrics at the William Beaumont Army Hospital in El Paso, TX, and was school physician at Hopkins Grammar School. He was also a clinical professor of pediatrics and an attending

physician at both Yale-New Haven and St. Raphael Hospitals. He was honored for his instrumental work in the passage of the 1982 Child Passenger Safety Law. He wrote several articles on kidney disease, child restraint devices, and accident prevention. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Adrienne. He is also survived by three sons: David, of North Haven, Peter, of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, William and his wife, Patti, and granddaughter, Allie, of Driftwood, TX; a sister, Myrna Rosen and her husband, Hershey, of Providence, RI; and a brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Stanley and Judy Lessler of Stratford, CT.

## 1962

**Ralph D. Feigin** of Houston, TX, on August 14, 2008, at the age of 70. A pediatrician, he served as president of the Baylor College of Medicine and edited an authoritative textbook on infectious diseases in children. Dr. Feigin was a professor of pediatrics at Washington University. He was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences in 1995. At Washington University in St. Louis in the 1960s, Dr. Feigin conducted novel laboratory research on how the time of day may affect the outcome of both infection and vaccination. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Judith Zobel Feigin, a psychologist at Texas Children's Hospital; three children, Susan Harris of Houston and Michael Feigin and Debra Sukin, both of The Woodlands, TX; a sister, Carol Bierman of Lansdale, PA; and six grandchildren.

## 1965

**John M. Bete** of Eastham, MA, on October 3, 2008, at the age of 70. A cardiologist, he served in the U.S. Navy as a ship's doctor. He was the first cardiologist on Cape Cod. Dr. Bete is survived by his wife, Virginia; his brother and best friend, David, and his wife, Teri; his first cousin, Joe; five children, John, Laura, Kim, Heather, and Stephanie; four grandchildren; two nephews; a sister-in-law, Nancy Fritz; and his dog, Starbuck.

## 1970

**Allan D. Converse III** of Naples, FL, on April 21, 2008, at the age of 64. A vascular surgeon, he belonged to Naples United Church of Christ and volunteered at the Conservancy of Southwest Florida. He was an avid pilot and sailor. He is survived by his wife and best friend, Barbara; sons, Alex and Denis; siblings, Frank and Kitisie; many nieces and nephews; and his faithful companions, Sancho and Rainha. \*

## BUSM Calendar of Events—Spring 2009

### Spring Phonathon

Hiebert Lounge, BUSM  
Tuesday, March 10, 2009, 5:30 p.m.

### AOA Induction Ceremony

The Castle, Boston University  
Wednesday, March 18, 2009, 7 p.m.

### Match Day Luncheon Celebration

Hiebert Lounge, BUSM  
Thursday, March 19, 2009, Noon

### Chester S. Keefer Society Dinner

Four Seasons Hotel  
Friday, April 17, 2009

### BUSM Board of Visitors Dinner

Boston University  
Trustees Ballroom  
Thursday, April 30, 2009

### BUSM Board of Visitors Meeting

Boston University Medical Campus  
Friday, May 1, 2009

### Alumni Weekend

Boston University Medical  
Campus and The Westin  
Copley Place, Boston  
Friday and Saturday,  
May 8 and 9, 2009

### Commencement

The Marriott Boston Hotel  
Copley Place, Boston  
Sunday, May 17, 2009, 5 p.m.

## Continuing Medical Education Conferences

### March 20–21

Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics:  
Clinical Problems in Primary Care  
Royal Sonesta Hotel, Cambridge, MA

### March 26–27

Medical-Legal Partnership: Transforming  
Health Care Through Preventive Law  
Cleveland Marriott Downtown at the  
Key Center, Cleveland, OH

### April 3–4

The 11th Annual OB/GYN and Women's  
Health Conference  
Hyatt Regency Cambridge, Cambridge, MA

### April 20–24

Current Clinical Pediatrics  
The Hilton Resort, Hilton Head, SC

### April 30–May 2

The 5th Annual Ellison Pierce Symposium:  
Positioning Your ORs for the Future  
Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston, MA

### May 4–8

The 25th Annual Controversies in  
Internal Medicine  
The Hilton Resort, Hilton Head, SC

### July 27–31

Sports Medicine Update 2009: Evaluation  
and Treatment of the Injured Athlete  
The Harbor View Hotel and Kelley House,  
Edgartown (Martha's Vineyard), MA

### October 26–28

The 10th Annual Symposium on  
Virtual Colonoscopy  
Hyatt Regency Reston, Reston, VA

### October 31–November 1

Pediatric Infectious Diseases  
Royal Sonesta Hotel, Cambridge, MA

## Performance Improvement and Practice Circles

### COPD Virtual Community of Practice

Primary care physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants will be guided by experts through a performance improvement initiative that will allow them to make improvements in the care of their COPD patients.

[www.bu.edu/cme/seminars/COPD](http://www.bu.edu/cme/seminars/COPD)

### Type 2 Diabetes Performance Improvement Program: Getting Patients to Goal in Glycemic Control

Primary care clinicians will increase their confidence and ability to improve glycemic control in patients with type 2 diabetes through this performance improvement activity.

[www.bu.edu/seminars/DIABHAY08](http://www.bu.edu/seminars/DIABHAY08)

### IBS Practice Circles—Improving Clinical Proficiency: Enhancing Care for Your IBS Patients

Physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and primary care physicians will improve practice systems and learn optimal approaches to the diagnosis and management of irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) in the primary care setting.

[www.ibspracticecircles.com](http://www.ibspracticecircles.com)

### For more information, contact:

Continuing Medical Education  
Boston University School of Medicine  
72 East Concord Street, A305  
Boston, MA 02118  
Tel: 617-638-4605  
E-mail: [cme@bu.edu](mailto:cme@bu.edu)  
[www.bumc.bu.edu/cme](http://www.bumc.bu.edu/cme)



**Boston University** School of Medicine

72 East Concord Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02118

Non Profit  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Boston MA  
Permit No. 1839

## BUSM Alumni Association List of Officers and Directors

### President

Ana-Cristina Vasilescu '84

### First Vice President

Elizabeth Day Barnett '85

### Second Vice President

N. Stephen Ober '86

### Secretary

Bernard L. Huang '62

### Assistant Secretary

Robert O. Valerio '70

### Treasurer

Barry M. Manuel '58

### Assistant Treasurer

Ronald F. Backer '70

### Directors

Stephen M. Tringale '90

Russell S. Zide '94

Reshma Kewalramani '98

A. V. Mariano '59

Kenneth B. Simons '80



## What are we doing here?

See videos of BU's successes in 2008—in and out of the classroom and lab, in the City of Boston, and around the globe—at [www.bu.edu/ar](http://www.bu.edu/ar)