From infancy through adolescence, pediatric researchers look at new ways to help disadvantaged children and their families.
MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Friends,

Last November on the Medical Campus, a packed house of faculty, staff, and students listened intently as Dr. Osamu Shimomura, BUMS professor emeritus and the 2008 Nobel Prize winner for chemistry, shared his Nobel Prize lecture on discovering green fluorescent protein. (See page 8.) The science was compelling, but equally so was the story of his accomplishments, from his strategies to get an education after surviving the Nagasaki bombing, to the photos of him, his family, and colleagues catching jellyfish that are the source of the protein. His story illustrates the roles of diligence, creativity, and perseverance, as well as reflection (thinking creatively while floating in the rowboat), and even serendipity (achieving fluorescence of a discarded sample in the sink, after trying unsuccessfully to get it to glow in a test tube). In the last minutes of his talk, he reflected on the value of discovery for its own sake, as well as how discovery leads to unintended ramifications and applications. During the reception he patiently stood for pictures with happy graduate students and post-docs, pictures that will almost certainly be highlighted in their research presentations for years to come.

Illustrative of the quality of our faculty is the Arnold P. Gold Foundation’s choice of Jonathan Woodson, MD, BUMS associate professor of surgery and associate dean for diversity and multicultural affairs, to receive the Humanism in Medicine Award presented at the annual meeting of the Association of American Medical Colleges. (See page 20.) His remarks were inspiring at both the luncheon in his honor and the formal black tie AAMC dinner at which he received the award, clearly a memorable event for Dr. Woodson and our institution.

This issue of the magazine also features some of the current health outcomes research on campuses that is contributing to the improved health and well-being of those exposed to trauma, especially U.S. veterans. Given a major traumatic event, humans differ extraordinarily in their psychological resilience. Some of those who appear to be coping well develop disabling flashbacks and nightmares months later. For more than 20 years, BUMS researchers have been studying Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). We have some of the best mares months later. For more than 20 years, BUMS researchers have been studying Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). We have some of the best

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"It is a privilege to be given the opportunity to lead this extraordinary academic medical center," said Walsh. "The reputation of BMC’s mission combined with its delivery of outstanding clinical care has created a foundation of excellence that our city’s residents depend upon in their daily lives. I look forward to working with the entire hospital community, Boston University School of Medicine faculty, and our partners in the Boston HealthNet Centers as we strive to bring the best care to people who live in our neighborhoods and beyond.”

Kate Walsh understands the complex issues that challenge academic medical centers,” said Karen Antman, MD, provost of the Medical Campus and dean of the School of Medicine. "Her diverse experience combined with her vision and commitment to delivering high-quality health care will serve our campus and community well. I look forward to working with her to ensure the continued success of this shared mission of Boston Medical Center and Boston University School of Medicine in providing the highest-quality clinical, academic, and research services.”

Prior to her position at Brigham and Women’s, Walsh was chief operating officer for Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research. She began her career as a summer intern at Brooklyn Health Center in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts. After finishing graduate school, she worked as a shift supervisor in the emergency department at Montefiore Hospital and Medical Center in the Bronx, New York. From there Walsh moved to Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, Saint Luke’s—Roswell Hospital and the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation. She relocated to Boston, joined Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) as an assistant general director in medical services, and was promoted to vice president of medical services and primary care and then to senior vice president of medical services and the MGH Cancer Center. Walsh received her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Public Health from Yale University.

Kate Walsh, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Brigham and Women’s Hospital, is the new president and CEO of Boston Medical Center (BMC), BUMS’s primary hospital affiliate.

Walsh, who was at Brigham and Women’s for the past five years, was approved by a unanimous vote of BMC’s Board of Trustees in January after a nationwide search that attracted numerous candidates from across the United States.

Walsh assumed the position on March 1 and succeeds Elaine Ullian, who served as president and CEO of BMC since its founding in 1996.

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Emily Beattie, head of Alumni Medical Library Technical Services, retires

When Emily Beattie came to the BU Alumni Medical Library in 1969 as a cataloger, machine-readable cataloging and the Online Computer Library Center were nascent developments in library science. When she retired last July after four decades of service to the BU Medical Campus library, Beattie had participated in the transformation of libraries and collections from the card catalog to the online library catalog, and from solely print collections of journals and books to hybrid collections of online and print materials that continue to evolve toward an electronic format.

A graduate of Simmons College School of Library Science, Beattie holds a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in Educational Media & Technology from the Boston University School of Education. In 1974, she was appointed head of Technical Services. She also assumed responsibility for acquiring, processing, and cataloging materials in the BU Alumni Library. Her encyclopedic knowledge of the history of BU Medical Campus is legendary. She made possible retrospectives of the School of Medicine for many BUMC alumni weekends and for visual displays for the sesquicentennial celebration of the founding of BUMC.

"My 40 years at Boston University Medical Campus were as an eyewitness to history," she recalled. "It not only saw the changes in buildings, programs, students, and faculty, but, as the archivist, I was privy to the rich history of the School of Medicine and its hospitals since their founding in the mid-nineteenth century." Beattie trained many technical services paraprofessionals over the years, some of whom were inspired to enter library science programs and become professional librarians.

"We have been very fortunate all these years to have had Emily as our colleague, with her extensive knowledge of technical services, cataloging and archives, and her special interest in the history of BUMC," said Mary Blanchard, director of BU Alumni Medical Library, and archives, and her special interest in the history of the School of Medicine and its hospitals since their founding in the mid-nineteenth century.

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BU Alumni Council Honors Thomas Insel, MD ’74

Thomas Insel, a graduate of the BU seven-year program of Liberal Arts & Medicine, is the director of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) where he is charged with generating the knowledge needed to understand, treat, and prevent mental disorders.

Prior to his appointment in 2002 as NIMH director, Insel was professor of psychiatry at Emory University and founding director of the Center for Behavioral Neuroscience—one of the largest science and technology centers funded by the National Science Foundation—and concurrently, director of an NIH-funded Center for Autism Research. From 1994 to 1999, he was Director of the Yerkes Regional Primate Research Center in Atlanta.

After completing his internship at Berkshire Medical Center, Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and residency at the Langley Porter Neuropsychiatric Institute at the University of California, San Francisco, in 1979, he began his research career at the NIMH, where he conducted some of the first treatment trials for obsessive-compulsive disorder using the selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRI) class of medications. While at Emory, he continued studying the neurobiology of complex social behaviors in animals.

He is a member of the Institute of Medicine and a fellow of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology. Insel received the BUSM Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1997.

BU at the Annual Meeting of the AAMC

BU was well represented at the annual meeting of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) held in Boston November 2009. Students, faculty, and administrators shared their expertise and moderating skills on a variety of topics.

Katie Spina ’10 moderated the plenary session on “The Business of Medicine—Efficiency or Exploitation: The Risks and Benefits of Electronic Management of Personal Health Records.”

Robert Witzburg, MD ’72, associate dean and director of admissions, delivered a talk on “Holistic Review: Using Socioeconomic Status in Medical School Admissions.”

Jonathan Woodson, MD, associate dean for diversity and multicultural affairs, spoke at the Humanism in Medicine Award Recognition Luncheon and was on hand for the Minority Student Medicine Career Awareness Workshops and Recruitment Fair.

BUSM hosted the American Medical Association section on Medical Schools and the AAMC, dean’s reception, and Dean Antman served as a panelist for the plenary sessions “The Ideal Academic Health Center” and “New Business Models for Academic Medical Center Research.”

Howard Koh, MD, MPH, is sworn in as the 14th Assistant Secretary for Health for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), after being nominated by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

Koh is a former BUMC and BUSH faculty member and a 1995 graduate of BUSM. He served as commissioner of public health for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts from 1997-2003. He was associate dean for public health practice and director of the Division of Public Health Practice at the Harvard School of Public Health.

As the assistant secretary for health, Koh oversees the HHS Office of Public Health and Science, the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service, and the Office of the Surgeon General. He also serves as senior public health advisor to the Secretary of Health and Human Services. At the Office of Public Health and Science, he leads interdisciplinary public health programs relating to disease prevention, health promotion, the reduction of health disparities, women’s and minority health, HIV/AIDS, vaccine programs, physical fitness and sports, bioethics, population affairs, blood supply, research integrity, and human research protections.

Time

Time features highlight studies on the effects of repetitive brain injury and aging well

The cover of the February 8, 2010, issue of TIME featured “The Most Dangerous Game. How to Fix Football,” the story of the link between concussions or repetitive brain injuries suffered by football players and the neurodegenerative disease Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE), which is being studied by BUSM researchers. The School’s Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy, in collaboration with Sports Legacy Institute, conducts research on CTE, including its neuropathology and pathogenesis, clinical manifestations and course of the disease, genetics and other risk factors for CTE, and ways of preventing it.

“The Science of Living Longer,” the cover story of the February 22, 2010, issue of TIME, featured the work of Thomas Perls, MD, the BUSM principal investigator for the Long Life Family Study (LLFS) and director of the New England Centenarian Study at BUSM. Supported by the National Institute on Aging, the studies are examining factors that contribute to a long life, including genetics and environmental determinants.
Pediatric Researchers:
On the frontlines of healthy outcomes for children

The Department of Pediatrics and the Division of General Pediatrics at Boston University School of Medicine and Boston Medical Center are dedicated to children, adolescents, and young adults in urban communities. The commitment to keeping this population healthy by promoting safety and preventative medicine, dispensing high-quality clinical care, and advocating for them at a systems level is supported by a robust clinical research program.

Led by Howard Bauchner, MD ’79, faculty in the Division of General Pediatrics conduct an array of research whose outcomes directly affect the patients cared for on the Medical Campus and at the Neighborhood Health Centers associated with patients cared for on the Medical Campus and at Boston Medical Center, as well as applications in the field of pediatrics.

Bill Adams, MD, BUSM associate professor of pediatrics, works in health informatics and is particularly interested in moving pre-visit information from parents, collected via the telephone, into the electronic health record (EHR). “Interactive telephony technologies offer a potentially more effective, patient-centered communication modality by guiding parents at home through interactive discussions that can gather information and actively reinforce recommendation and treatment,” said Adams. “Also, interactive telephony systems are particularly well suited for use in vulnerable populations since access to the telephone is nearly universal, and the system does not rely on reading printed text.”

His group has developed and implemented an integrated health information system called the Personal Health Partner (PHP). This novel model is a fully automated conversational system using synthetic speech and automatic speech recognition to gather personal health data and counsel parents before their children’s scheduled visits. The patient-entered data is then shared with the child’s primary care clinician via the EHR. The system also provides personalized follow-up assessment and counseling after the visit. PHP is standards-based to allow integration with standards-compliant EHR and personal health record (PHR) systems.

The project is supported by a grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

In the past two decades, medical advances have reduced the mortality of very low birth weight (VLBW) premature babies, which are those weighing less than 1,500 grams. However, these infants experience a myriad of serious health conditions and development issues that require regular coordinated care. These babies are vulnerable to neurological and neurosensory deficits including cerebral palsy as well as vision, hearing, and speech impairments. C. Jason Wang, MD, assistant professor of pediatrics and public health at BUSM and BUSPH, has authored a study that demonstrates that these infants are falling through the cracks and not receiving the treatments that can mitigate some of the most serious side effects of VLBW. “Ours is the first population-based study of ophthalmologic and audiologic follow-up in Medicaid-enrolled children with VLBW,” said Wang. “These findings reinforce the Institute of Medicine’s concerns regarding inadequate outcome data and health care services for preterm infants.”

His group developed a set of quality-of-care indicators designed to assess the overall quality of follow-up care for this high-risk population. These include general care, physical health, vision, hearing-and-speech and language assessments, and developmental, behavioral, and psychosocial assessments. The researchers are also studying the factors influencing the enrollment of VLBW children in early intervention programs, which has implications for identifying obstacles to critical treatment for these children and developing strategies to eliminate the barriers.

Because of the complex nature of the care of VLBW infants and the stress on families of caring for these children, Wang is developing a web portal to create a social network for these families. “Housing goes beyond shelter and community. The creation of a home, free from housing stress, may be the best prescription for the physical and mental health of all children, and particularly those with asthma.”

“Exposure to violence in childhood and adolescence is a national public health problem, and community violence disproportionately affects minority youths and youths living in urban environments,” said Renee Boynton-Jarrett, MD, BUSM assistant professor of pediatrics, studies the effects of violence on various health outcomes. One study examined cumulative violence exposure and self-reported health from a nationally representative sample of adolescents. According to the results, witnessing gun violence, threat of violence, feeling unsafe, repeated bullying, and criminal victimization each independently and significantly increased the risk for poor self-reported health. The findings, published in Pediatrics, indicate that interventions promoting adolescent health and well-being cannot focus solely on changing unhealthy behaviors. “Broader social policy changes aimed at reducing violence exposure in childhood and adolescence, including promoting safer schools and communities, may have greater effects on health trajectories during adolescence and young adulthood,” said Boynton-Jarrett.

Boynton-Jarrett notes that over the past two decades, the level of exposure to violence among youth and rates of childhood adolescent obesity have increased. “The alarming rise in the prevalence of obesity among children and adults in the past twenty years suggests that environmental and behavioral influences may be fueling the present epidemic,” she said. With a grant from the WT Grant Foundation, she is investig-
Karen Engelbourg has been appointed to BUSM’s new position of assistant dean of development and will be responsible for the School’s fundraising programs. A veteran development professional with 20 years’ experience in the field, Engelbourg previously served as assistant vice president at Brandeis University, and prior to that served for five years at Children’s Hospital as the director of development and principal gifts officer. She was also the director of major gifts at Harvard Medical School. A graduate of Brandeis University, Engelbourg has held development positions at Lawrence University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Tufts University.

“Karen’s extensive development experience will be a major asset to BUSM as she strategically escalates our development efforts to support the missions of the School of Medicine,” said Karen Antman, MD, Dean of BUSM.
Shimomura Gives Nobel Prize Lecture on Medical Campus

Osamu Shimomura, PhD, stood quietly in front of a BU Medical Campus (BUMC) audience, slender shoulders slouched forward, eyes gazing down.

Beside him, David Atkinson, PhD, chair of the BUMC Department of Physiology & Biophysics, displayed a gold medal on the size of his palm to the growing crowd. Shimomura’s Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

“All this from a man who saw the horrors that scientific experimentation can bring. At 16, Brown recounted, Shimomura was 15 kilometers from the epicenter of the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki at the end of World War II.

“It would not be a stretch to imagine that a teenager from Nagasaki or Hiroshima might reject science because of its role in the Manhattan Project,” Brown said. “We are fortunate that Dr. Shimomura did not succumb to such thoughts.”

Shimomura took the podium, pulling out a wad of papers nearly folded in half, and began to read his Nobel lecture, his deliberate, Japanese-accented English mingling with the language of chemistry.

President Robert A. Brown introduced him and noted that without the researcher’s discovery of “tiny molecular flashlights,” many of the experiments performed in laboratories around the world—in fields ranging from biophysical chemistry to ecology and evolution—would not be possible.

Dr. Shimomura and his wife, Akame (green jacket), with students who attended his lecture.

Through the work of Chalfie and Tsien, Shimomura’s proteins are now used as glowing markers to follow internal biological processes, like the development of nerve cells in the brain or how cancer cells spread.
A New Voice for Graduate Medical Sciences
Linda Hyman, PhD, associate provost for the Division of Graduate Medical Sciences (GMS)

What would make you leave an interesting, challenging job and move away from vistas that stretch for miles and mountain views out your front door? It would have to be something very special and impressive. Linda Hyman, PhD, the new associate provost for the Division of Graduate Medical Sciences (GMS), did precisely that when she left Montana State University and the beauty of Big Sky country to come to BUSM.

“My first inclination was to say no way, but as I kept coming back here for visits, and as I got to know the people and the programs, I was sold on this really wonderful institution,” said Hyman.

Hyman saw an opportunity to enhance and expand an already high-quality program, and work with excellent scientists, teachers, and students. Most impressive to her was that a majority of the faculty and staff she talked with had been part of the BU community for many years. Initially she thought that this could be viewed as a negative. “But not here,” she said. “These are very talented people with many choices. They stay at BU not because they have to but because they want to be here. They are committed to the University and the students. This is a rare and valuable commodity.”

Hyman oversees curricula and execution of all graduate programs at the medical school including recruitment, admission, ongoing program activities, new program development, student outcomes, and graduate alumni relations.

From the Big Apple, to the Big Easy, to the Big Sky
Born in New York City, Hyman became fascinated with biology in high school and considered going to medical school. However, as an undergraduate at the State University of New York at Albany, she got a taste for research that convinced her that being a scientist was what she really wanted to do. “I really felt that I could make a difference in science,” she recalls. “I never saw science as something insular, where you work alone in your lab. I felt that a career in science offered the potential to impact far more people even than one-on-one medical care.”

Hyman spent the next 15 years in Boston earning her master’s and doctoral degrees from Brandeis University and completing a postdoctoral fellowship with Claire Moore, professor of molecular biology and microbiology at Tufts University School of Medicine, as well as working at a start-up biotech company.

After completing her postdoctoral training, she moved to Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans, rising through the ranks to become a tenured associate professor in 2003. While there, she was offered a salaritble at the National Science Foundation (NSF) as program director in the division of molecular and cellular biology for genetics. “During my stay at NSF, I got bit by the administrative bug and came to appreciate the important role of administrators in promoting science, science policy, and scientists themselves. It completely changed the trajectory of my career path,” she explained.

After 10 years at Tulane, Hyman accepted the position of vice provost for the Division of Health Sciences at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana. She simultaneously held the position of assistant dean at the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle and director of the WWAMI (Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho) cooperative medical education program. The cooperative makes medical school accessible to students in these four northwestern states that lack medical schools by decentralizing the educational process and sharing existing facilities and personnel in universities and communities in the WWAMI states.

Hyman’s research interests focus on yeast genetics and cell biology, and she was principal investigator of the Hyman Laboratory at Montana State University. Funded by NASA, her research examined the effects of microgravity on gene expression and cell function; one of her experiments was recently included on the space shuttle.

Leadership
“By number of students, Graduate Medical Sciences (GMS) is the largest educational program on the Medical Campus,” notes Hyman. “My vision is to make GMS an integral part of the campus and community life in every respect—intellectually, professionally, and socially.” She believes the division should integrate more with the other schools on the Medical Campus as well as with the programs on the Charles River Campus. She also sees her role as provost as a promoter for the Division of Graduate Medical Sciences. “First and foremost I feel that I am the voice of this division,” she said. “My role is two-fold: to get the word out about our outstanding programs and to be an advocate for the doctoral and master’s students.”

“We live in challenging times, which means we need to evaluate what and how we operate. This includes everything from how we use technology to how we market our programs if we want to continue being successful in a very competitive world,” Hyman adds. “So, we are taking a hard look at the way we do things, and determining what and how we can do better.” Specifically, she has tackled enhanced use of online tools to streamline the operations of the division including the admissions and registration processes. “We need to make it seamless and less labor-intensive for our students,” said Hyman. She also sees the need to examine the structure of the doctoral programs and how they are administered. “Right now we have department-based programs, umbrella programs, and training programs. I want to make sure that these alignments are the best way to serve our students and our faculty.”

In addition to enhancing the already strong relations with clinical programs on the Medical Campus—especially in the area of translational research—Hyman is committed to expanding collaborations with programs on the Charles River Campus. “We need to break down boundaries, most of which are administrative, between the two campuses so that our students feel part of one institution.” She points to the inter-campus shuttle as an excellent, although seemingly small, example of an important step forward in connecting the campuses.

Teaching and Professionalism
Hyman’s other priorities are mentoring and professional development for students and postdocs. “Teaching and mentoring students keep you grounded and keep you young,” she said. “Passion for your work in both the classroom and the lab is essential to good teaching. Students looking at a career in research need to see why faculty are so keen on the choices they have made. I believe an inner sense of joy for what you do is necessary to sustain yourself, particularly when competition for grants is ferocious.”

One area Hyman would like to focus on is the role of postdoctoral fellows. She points out that it is recognized nationally that postdocs are “lost” between being students and faculty members. “The division can take a leadership role in engaging a sense of professionalism among them that can have a major impact on the scientists they become and the science they produce,” said Hyman. “If we nurture our postdocs, everybody in the institution will benefit. Our postdoctoral students will appreciate that the next step in their training is fully supported by the scientific community, and that professional development is a continuum of practice.”

Looking to the Future
Hyman hails the existing entrepreneurial spirit in the division as a strength that she hopes to build upon. “With collaboration and integration, the division will flourish as long as the drivers remain quality and service,” she predicts. “To foster development of new programs, this must always be at the core of what we do so that we best serve our students, faculty, and society.”

Hyman lives in Boston’s South End with her husband and a golden retriever. She walks to the Medical Campus every day. “I like to say that I have gone from the Big Apple, to the Big Easy, to the Big Sky and now I am in the Big Time. We decided that if we were going to have our rural paradise, we wanted to be in the heart of a great city and take full advantage of all it has to offer.”
Major Research Grants

$11 Million Awarded for Creation of Molecular Road Map for Chronic Lung Disease

Researchers from BUSM and four other institutions have been awarded an $11 million, two-year grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) as part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Recovery Act. The grant will allow scientists to study the biology of two fatal lung diseases, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and pulmonary fibrosis.

COPD is the fourth-leading cause of death in the United States. The incidence of pulmonary fibrosis has doubled over the past decade and now kills about 40,000 Americans each year. There are few effective treatments for either disease and both diseases are fatal.

The Multi-Center Lung Genomics Research Consortium consists of BUSM, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, National Jewish Health, University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine, and University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. They will use advanced genetic and molecular tools to characterize and better understand COPD and pulmonary fibrosis, sharing discoveries with researchers around the world in a web-accessible data warehouse. This will allow researchers to make fundamental discoveries that help identify individuals at risk for lung diseases, while diagnosis is easier and developing more effective, personalized treatments.

Researchers will study tissue samples from the NHLBI Lung Tissue Research Consortium biospecimen and combine the data they generate with pathobiological, clinical, and radiological data already gathered for these samples. The biospecimen now contains almost 1,300 well-characterized tissue samples and collects about 250 additional samples a year from patients with COPD, pulmonary fibrosis, and other chronic lung diseases.

“BUSM’s role will be sequencing the transcriptome of 600 to 800 lung tissue samples, which includes cataloging, with unprecedented resolution, gene expression changes that occur across all major forms of lung disease with the newest generation of deep sequencing technology,” said Principal Investigator Anuram Spira, MD, associate professor of medicine and pathology at BUSM. “We are very fortunate to have financial support from the NHLBI to study these fatal diseases that affect more than 400,000 people a year.”

Pulmonary Center Receives $1.4 Million Grant

BUSM’s Pulmonary Center has received a two-year, $1.4 million grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute to derive stem cells and lung progenitors from patients with lung disease.

Darrell Kotton, MD, BUSM associate professor of medicine and pathology, and Gustavo Mostoslavsky, MD, PHD, BUSM assistant professor of medicine, are the principal investigators of this new grant award. Together Kotton and Mostoslavsky lead a multicenter investigative team of five Boston University laboratories together with two labs at the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Vermont.

The grant will support the investigators’ research to derive induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells from skin cells taken from individuals with inherited lung diseases and use them to derive new lung precursor cells. The newly derived cells will be compared to the cells made from individuals without inherited lung diseases and will also be compared to cells made from embryonic stem cells in an effort to better understand the biology of pluripotent stem cells and to develop novel treatments for lung diseases such as emphysema and cystic fibrosis.

“It is a tremendous privilege to receive this grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Insti- tute,” said Kotton. “We now have the opportunity to make major headway in understanding how the lung develops as well as regenerates after injury.”

This year, Kotton and Mostoslavsky became co-directors of the Boston University Center for Regenerative Medicine (CReM), bringing together several research groups to focus on various aspects of stem cell biology and regenerative medicine. CReM’s goal is to advance research in stem cell biology using the embryo’s normal development as a ‘road map’ for how to control the development of stem cells.

For more information on the BUSM Pulmonary Center, please visit www.bumc.bu.edu/pulmonary. For information on the CfAEM, please visit www.bumc.bu.edu/stemcells.

Vasculitis Center Receives $6 Million Grant from National Institutes of Health (NIH)

The Vasculitis Center at BUSM received a five-year, $6 million grant from the NIH that is being used to research new biomarkers for vasculitis disease activity and prognosis. The research will also develop and standardize outcome measures for the different types of vasculitis, and develop and standardize imaging techniques for the large vessel vasculitides. Clinical trials of new therapeu- tic agents will also be examined.

Vasculitis is an inflammation of the blood vessels, arteries, veins, or capillaries. When such inflammation occurs, it causes changes in the walls of blood vessels, such as weakening and narrowing, that can progress to the point of blood vessel blockage. It is a rare disease that exists in different forms. While some forms are due to infection or are associated with other diseases, the causes of six kinds of vasculitis are unknown.

The center is part of the Vasculitis Clinical Research Consortium (VCRC) of the NIH Rare Diseases Network. The VCRC is an integrated group of academic medical centers, patient support organizations, and clinical research resources. The VCRC’s operations are directed from Boston University. VCRC study sites include Boston University, the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Johns Hopkins University, the Mayo Clinic, the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Toronto, the University of Utah, and several research partners in Europe.

“We are extremely grateful for the ongoing generous support from the National Institutes of Health,” said VCRC principal investigator Peter Merkel, MD, MPH, BUSM professor of medicine and director of the BU Vasculitis Center. “They have provided us with the resources necessary to create this ongoing clinical research infrastructure and continue our work to improve our under- standing of the causes of vasculitis and find new treatments for our patients who suffer from these complex and serious diseases.”

New Addiction Research Lab Studying Substance Abuse and Eating Disorders

The BUSM Department of Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics has a long and storied history of leadership in addiction research. Starting with the chairmanship of Edward Pilkian, PhD, in 1960, researchers in the department began investigating the pharmacology of drug abuse. Under the present chairman, David Farb, PhD, the department recently developed a structure for this tradition by adding the Laboratory of Addictive Disorders. “We decided to expand our addiction studies to formally establish a laboratory that reflects the broader interest beyond drug abuse to include obesity and addictive eating disorders,” said Farb.

The emphasis is on interdisciplinary approaches to these disorders with a focus on translational research. The new laboratory is contiguous with neurological and psychiatric research space in an effort to create an exchange of ideas that can substantially enhance the research and outcomes. It uses environmental and genetic ani- mal models of disease with a multidisciplinary approach to understand the neurobiology of psychiatric disorders and develop novel thera-pies. The lab will draw upon neurodegenerative disease research being conducted on campus as well as research on genetic variants associated with obesity and addiction behaviors.

Adding to the rich array of researchers in the department, two top young scientists were recruited from Scripps Research Institute to lead the lab. “They are the perfect choice because they offer first-rate research in both substance abuse and compulsive eating disorders,” added Sabino.

Pietro Cottone, MD, and Valentina Sabino, PhD, are the co-directors of the Laboratory of Addictive Disorders; both are assistant professors of pharmacology and are behavioral neuroscience and molecular biology scientists. “We were attracted to Boston University Medical Campus because of the expanded research facilities,” said Cottone. “We appreciate the close working relationship with the Department of Psychiatry, added Sabino.

Cottone concentrates on the neurobiological substrates of motivated behaviors, including feeding and addiction. His major focus is on identifying the biological bases of and potential treatments for obesity and eating disorders. His current studies concern the role of stress in compulsive eating and palatable food dependence, and investigate the neurobiological bases of stress-related disorders such as anxiety and depression.

Sabino is currently researching the neurobiology of addiction and stress-related disorders. Her studies aim to understand the neurobiological substrates of alcohol abuse and dependence by exploring the role of central neurochemical systems in excessive alcohol drinking. She is work- ing toward the development of new therapeutic agents to alleviate alcohol addiction. Like Cottone, she is examining the neurobiology of stress-related disorders such as anxiety and depression.

Other members of the lab are focusing on cocaine and heroin addiction. Conon Kornetsky, PhD, professor of psychiatry and pharmacol- ogy, is looking at the determination of neuronal mechanisms involved in the behavioral effects of drugs. Much of his research is focused on the brain’s motivational systems that are directly related to the rewarding effects associated with abused psychomotor stimulants and opioids.

The work of Vidhya Kamarasan, PhD, research assistant professor of pharmacology, focuses on understanding the neurobiological bases of addiction to psychostimulants. Recidivism to drug abuse is a major hurdle in the successful treatment of addiction. Elicit drug use interferes with the neural circuits identified with survival-enhancing behaviors. The goal is to elucidate the cellular and molecular underpinnings of drug-induced plasticity in these circuits using a combination of behavioral, cellular, and molecular approaches. These approaches are expected to lead to successful treatment of relapse precipitated by drug reexposure, drug-associated cues, and stress.

“The new lab represents a translational focus for the department, which is a modern restatement of our historical name,” noted Farb. “We are the Department of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, which today is called translational science.”
Fat Collections in Certain Body Areas Linked to Decreased Heart Function

According to BUMS researchers, fat collection in different body locations, such as around the heart and the aorta and within the liver, are associated with certain decreased heart functions.

The researchers compared fat volumes in obese persons (BMI over 30), all of whom had high blood pressure and/or diabetes, and lean, healthy persons (average BMI of 22). “Our study found that fat collection around the heart, the aorta, and within the liver is clearly associated with decreased heart functions and that an MRI can quickly and noninvasively measure fat volume in these areas,” said James Hamilton, PhD, BUMS professor of biophysics, physiology, and biomedical engineering, and the senior author and proj- ect leader. “Our study also found that looking at BMI of the individual does not reliably predict the amount of undeveloped fat in and around organs.”

The study appeared online in Obesity.

Genes Associated with Onset Age of Parkinson’s Disease Identified

BUMS researchers have identified genes which may influence the onset age of Parkinson’s Disease (PD). The findings are the first to identify genes contributing to the variation in onset age and may help identify mechanisms and therapeutic targets capable of delaying symptoms.

PD is the second most common neurodegenerative disorder, and while the average age of onset of PD is approximately 60 years, there is wide variation, with some individuals experiencing onset before age 20 and others not until after age 90.

“Important distinctions can be made between those genes that influence susceptibility for developing disease and the genetic modifiers that influence onset age,” said joint lead author Jeanne C. Latourelle, DSc, from the Department of Neurology at BUMS.

The findings appear online in BMC Medical Genetics. Funding for the study was provided by R01 NS37167, R01 NS036711, the Robert P. & Judith N. Goldberg Foundation; the Bumpus Home Practice Fund; the Department of Veterans Affairs.

New Discovery to Aid in Diagnosis and Treatment of Kidney Disease

BUMS researchers—in collaboration with scien- tists at the University of Louisville and the University of Nice Sophia-Antipolis in France—have identified the target antigen PLADE in patients with idiopathic membranous nephropathy (kid- ney disease), which has implications for the diag- nosis and treatment of this disease.

Kidney disease involves the thickening and dysfunction of the filtering parts of the kidneys called glomeruli. Antibodies attack the glomeruli, causing large amounts of protein to leak into the urine. This is a relatively common cause of adult-onset kidney disease that can progress over time to cause kidney failure. Until now, the diagnosis of membranous nephropathy required a kidney biopsy, as there are no blood or urine tests to specifically distinguish membranous nephropathy from other causes of kidney disease. This is because, up until now, the protein that is the target of the circulating auto-antibodies has never been identified.

According to the researchers, this discovery has important implications for both the diagnosis and treatment of membranous nephropathy. “Identifying the antigen will enable development of a simple blood test that could replace the need for a kidney biopsy and establish which patients are most likely to benefit from immunosuppressive treatment,” said senior author David Salant, MD, a BUMS professor of medicine and chief of the renal section at Boston Medical Center.

These findings appeared in the July 2, 2009 issue of Curr Opin Nephrol Hypertens.

Yoga May be Effective for Chronic Low Back Pain in Minority Populations

Researchers from BUMS and Boston Medical Center found that yoga may be more effective than standard treatment for reducing chronic low back pain in minority populations.

Individuals from low-income, minority back-grounds with chronic low back pain (CLBP) may be more affected due to disparities in access to treatment. Although many CLBP patients seek relief from complementary therapies such as yoga, use of these approaches is less common among minorities and individuals with lower incomes or less education.

The researchers recruited adults with CLBP from two community health centers that serve racially diverse, low-income neighborhoods of Boston. They were randomly assigned to either a stan- dardized 12-week series of hatha yoga classes or a kidney biopsy, as there are no blood or urine tests to specifically distinguish membranous nephropathy from other causes of kidney disease. This is because, up until now, the protein that is the target of the circulating auto-antibodies has never been identified.

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Research in Brief

High Leptin Levels May Protect Against Alzheimer’s Disease and Dementia
Suhas Seshadri, MD, BUSM associate professor of neurology and an investigator at the Framingham Heart Study, is the senior author for a study that has found that higher leptin (a protein that controls weight and appetite) levels were associated with a lower incidence of Alzheimer’s Disease (AD) and dementia. The study may open pathways for possible preventive and therapeutic interventions.

Given the rapid aging of developed and developing societies, it is projected that the prevalence of Alzheimer’s Disease will dramatically increase during the next five decades. Therefore, it is a public health priority to explore pathophysiological pathways underlying the development of dementia and its most common cause, AD.

According to the researchers, a growing body of evidence suggests that leptin has beneficial effects on brain development and function. Using participants from the original cohort of the Framingham Heart Study, the researchers measured leptin concentrations in 785 persons without dementia. A subsample of 198 dementia-free survivors underwent volumetric brain MRIs between 1999 and 2005, approximately 77 years after leptin levels were measured. Two measures of brain aging, total cerebral brain volume and temporal horn volume (which is inversely related to hippocampal volume) were assessed. The researchers found that elevated leptin levels were associated with higher total cerebral brain volume and lower temporal horn volume and higher leptin levels were prospectively associated with a lower incidence of AD and dementia.

“The study, which appeared in the December 16 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association, received funding from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, the National Institute on Aging, and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.”

The researchers used 155 rats to measure the neurobiological responses. The first group, the diet-cycled rats, were fed standard chow for five days, followed by a highly palatable, high-sugar, chocolate-flavored chow for two days. The second group ate only standard food. The amount of food consumed was not restricted for either group. When the diet-cycled rats were fed standard chow, they showed less motivation to obtain it, refused it—although it was previously acceptable—and exhibited anxiety. However, when the rats returned to eating the palatable food, they overate and their anxiety-related behaviors returned to normal.

The researchers then looked at the role of the brain’s stress system, which contributes to cycles of drug and alcohol bingeing and withdrawal, in driving these behaviors. They found that during abstinence from palatable foods, the rats showed increased corticotropin-releasing factor (CRF) gene expression and peptide in the amygdala, an area of the brain involved in fear, anxiety, and stress responses. Similar to the anxiety, only when the diet-cycled group was fed palatable food did CRF levels return to normal. Importantly, the blockade of the CRF receptor 1 with a selective antagonist was able to prevent all the behavioral outcomes of palatable food withdrawal.

According to the researchers, CRF is a key stress neurotransmitter. “In observing the activation of the amygdalar CRF system during abstinence from palatable foods, we understood the causes of recurrent dietary failures,” said study co-author Pietro Cottone, PhD, an assistant professor and co-director of the Laboratory of Addictive Disorders in the Department of Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics at BUSM.

“CRF activation during abstinence from palatable foods induces a negative emotional state which is responsible for signs of anxiety and contrib- utes to relapse to ‘forbidden foods,’” added study co-author Valentia Sabino, PhD, an assistant professor and co-director of the Laboratory of Addictive Disorders in the Department of Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics at BUSM.

“The stress experienced by frequent dieters in abstinence from palatable food has neurobiological similarities to the negative emotional state of drug and alcohol addicts.”

This study was supported by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism; the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases; the Pearson Center for Alcoholism and Addiction Research; the Intramural Research Programs of the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

Gene Therapy Discovered to Prevent Progression of Emphysema
Alpha-1 Anti-trypsin Deficiency is the most common inherited form of emphysema seen in young people due to a mutation in the Alpha-1 Anti-trypsin gene. This genetic disease predisposes affected individuals to early emphysema and cirrhosis of the liver.

Gene transfer into specific cell lineages in vivo remains an attractive yet elusive approach for correcting inherited mutations. Although a variety of techniques have been developed to deliver DNA molecules to cells in vitro, in vivo gene transfer has been limited in many cell types by inefficient gene delivery as well as the limited life span of differentiated cell types.

Using mice, BUSM researchers discovered a system to deliver genes selectively to as many as 70 percent of a mouse lung’s alveolar macrophages (AM), a key cell type contributing to emphysema. “We applied this novel approach to achieve sustained in vivo expression of normal human alpha-1 antitrypsin (hAAT) protein at levels able to ameliorate emphysema in mice,” said senior author Darrell Kotton, MD, BUSM associate professor of medicine and pathology and co-director, Center for Regenerative Medicine. “The lung macrophages carrying the therapeutic gene survived in the lungs’ air sacks for the two-year lifetime of the treated mice following a single intra-tracheal injection of the lentiviral vector we had engineered,” he added.

Kotton and his colleagues utilized this method of gene transfer to achieve localized secretion of therapeutic levels of human alpha-1 antitrypsin (hAAT) protein in lung epithelial lining fluid. “The progression of emphysema in mice exposed to elastase was significantly improved by the gene therapy as evidenced by improvements in lung compliance and alveolar size,” said Andrew Wilson, MD, lead author of the study and BUSM assistant professor of medicine. According to the researchers, after 24 weeks of sustained gene expression, no humoral or cellular immune responses to the human hAAT protein were detected.

The study appears online in the Journal of Clinical Investigation.
Edward M. Kennedy, 1932–2009

Stalwart of Medical Education, Biomedical Research, and Health Care

When Senator Edward M. Kennedy came to the Medical Campus in 1998 to receive a special BUSM Sesquicentennial Gold Medallion from BUSM Dean Aram Chobanian and BU President Jon Westling, the senior senator from Massachusetts said, “One in ten dollars from the National Institutes of Health comes to Massachusetts—and much of this funding supports research at Boston University. That support is an especially wise investment in the future.”

A staunch supporter of medical education and research and quality health care for all Americans, Senator Kennedy dedicated his life to serving the people of Massachusetts and the nation for more than 40 years.

In addition to championing civil rights, voting rights, workers’ rights, immigration reform, raising the minimum wage, and environmental and energy issues, he led Congress to enact legislation to provide affordable and comprehensive health care, including mental health parity provisions.

Kennedy first called for universal health care for all Americans on the BUSM Medical Campus in 1969. He said, “We must begin to move now to establish a comprehensive national health insurance program, capable of bringing the same amount and high quality of health care to every man, woman, and child in the United States.”

Kennedy was the original sponsor of the Comprehensive Health Manpower Training Act of 1971, which made possible important medical training programs and the Area Health Education Center at BUSM. He was the original author of the National Health Service Corps, through which financially disadvantaged students attend medical school in exchange for providing care for the underserved in rural and urban areas after they have completed their training. In 2000, he sponsored the Pediatric Graduate Medical Education Act which provided essential support for training programs at children’s hospitals across the country.

He also supported health care and educational programs for minorities and women. In 1972, he was instrumental in establishing the Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition Program—popularly known as WIC—which offers food, nutrition counseling, and access to health services for low-income women, infants, and children. He secured funding for a system of community health centers across the country and also introduced the Minority Health and Health Disparities Research and Education Act of 2000, enacted in response to reports on the higher death rates in minority populations from diseases including cancer, heart disease, diabetes, and AIDS.

Kennedy worked to establish provisions in the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA), allowing workers to continue their employer-sponsored health insurance should they lose their jobs. In 1996, the landmark bill for the Protection and Advocacy for Mentally Ill Individuals Act was passed under his leadership. In the 1990s he led Congress in founding the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to support state efforts to provide health insurance to uninsured children in low-income families, and also legislated the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. He led the way in passing the Children’s Health Act of 2000, the Biostand Act of 2003, and the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act of 2005.

He was also involved in producing legislation that provided for food safety, drug and device safety, improved immunizations rates, HIV/AIDS treatment, and health services research.

“The people of Massachusetts and the entire country have lost a strong advocate who had a profound influence on their health and well-being,” said Dean Karen Antman. “Boston University and the School of Medicine have lost an important friend who understood the value and importance of the work we do here.”
Awards Honors

Gold Foundation Humanism Award Honors Jonathan Woodson, MD

When the twin towers fell in New York, Jonathan Woodson, MD, was there to treat the victims. During Operation Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia, he has served as a faculty member in internal medicine, surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Woodson helped found the Gateway to Medicine pipeline program, first in New York City and now in Roxbury, MA. By pairing medical students with high school students in low socioeconomic areas for tutoring in math and science, the program provides the former with areas for tutoring in math and science, and the latter with career options in medicine, science, and technology that they might otherwise not have considered.

He also helped establish the Boston Scholar’s Program, an early initiative of the Boston Partnership Fellows Alumni Association, where professionals of color mentor students from Boston Public Schools. He has been a leader in Boston University’s Early Medical School Selection Program, a partnership among BU, BUSM, and 14 undergraduate institutions that has significantly increased enrollment of underrepresented minorities at BUSM. He emphasizes that physicians have a social contract to society and that being good stewards of limited health care resources is an essential part of being a physician.

A recipient of more than 20 military awards and decorations, Woodson holds the rank of Brigadier General, U.S. Army Reserve, and was appointed assistant surgeon general for mobilization, readiness, and reserve affairs, and deputy commanding general for the Army Reserve Medical Command with assignment to the Office of the Surgeon General.

He received his bachelor’s and medical degrees from the City College of New York, New York University School of Medicine, and his master of strategic studies degree from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

When not overseas treating critically wounded American soldiers, he has served as a faculty member in internal medicine, surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Rhoda M. Alani, MD, was appointed chair of the BUSM Department of Dermatology, Herbert Moscon Chair and Professor of Dermatology, and chief of the Department of Dermatology at Boston Medical Center.

Alan’s most recent appointment was at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine where she was a faculty member in oncology, dermatology, and molecular biology and genetics, director of the Laboratory in the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center, and director of the Pigmented Lesion and Melanoma Clinic in Dermatology at Johns Hopkins. Her research focuses on understanding the molecular basis of melanoma development and progression with the aim of translating her laboratory findings to better prevention, detection, diagnosis, and treatment of melanoma. Her clinical interest focuses on pigmented lesions and melanoma.

Alani received her medical degree from the University of Michigan Medical School, where she received the Graduation with Distinction in Research Award. She completed an internship in internal medicine at Yale School of Medicine and a residency in dermatology at Harvard School of Medicine.

Ronald B. Cory, PhD, BUSM professor and chair of the Department of Microbiology and associate director at the National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories, has been appointed as a BUSM Medical Campus associate provost for research. Cory will provide leadership and direction in planning, development, and evaluation of research on the Medical Campus, and facilitate growth of the BU Medical Campus research portfolio.

Jerrold J. Elter, MD, has been appointed BUSM professor of medicine and chief of the Section of Infectious Diseases at Boston Medical Center. He is internationally recognized for his research on tuberculosis and its interactions with HIV infection. He was the principal architect of the Uganda-Case Western Reserve University Research Collaboration and is a founding member of the Academic Alliance for AIDS Care and Prevention in Africa.

Elter is principal investigator of the recently awarded Clinical Trials Research Consortium from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which will evaluate intervention TB diagnostics in endemic areas. He most recently served as chair of the Department of Medicine at the New Jersey Medical School of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) from 2002 to 2008, and Professor of Medicine and Scientific Director of the Center for Emerging Pathogens at UMDNJ. He was named Best Doctor in New York 2001 by New York Magazine and Top Doctor in New Jersey by New Jersey Monthly numerous times.

Deborah M. Fournier, PhD, has been appointed BU Medical Campus assistant provost for institutional research and evaluation. Fournier also appointed associate professor of community health sciences at BUSM School of Public Health, will focus on directing the evaluation activities of the Clinical & Translational Science Institute. She also will focus on curriculum management and accreditation for the BU School of Public Health.

She has served at the Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine since 1995, initially as assistant professor and executive director of educational research and evaluation and later as associate dean, first for institutional planning and evaluation and then most recently for educational research and evaluation.

She received both her PhD and MS from Syracuse University in Syracuse, New York. Her primary contributions to the field of evaluation include exploring evaluative reasoning and the influences drawn from evidence in applied field studies.

Claudia P. Hochberg, MD ‘02, has been appointed assistant professor of medicine at BUSM and an interventional cardiologist at Boston Medical Center. She completed her residency in internal medicine at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and fellowships in interventional cardiology and clinical cardiology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston. She specializes in the treatment of coronary artery disease, the management of acute myocardial infarction, and valvular heart disease. Her research interests include improving reperfusion strategies in acute myocardial infarctions and the differences in the treatment, management, and outcomes of coronary artery disease in women.

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Faculty Appointments

Igor Kramnik, MD, PhD, has been appointed associate professor of medicine and director of the Atherosclerosis Laboratory of the National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories (NEIDL). Kramnik also will be an investigator at the NEIDL Institute and serve on its Internal Scientific Advisory Committee.

He received his MD from Samara State Medical University in Samara, Russia, and obtained his PhD from the Central Institute for Tuberculosis Research in Moscow. He completed a residency in internal medicine there and a postdoctoral fellowship in immunology and genetics at the Centre for the Study of Host Resistance at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. His research interests include mechanisms of host resistance to infection with virulent mycobacterium tuberculosis with special emphasis on lung-specific aspects of the disease progression and granuloma biology.

Ashok N. Pandi, MD, has been appointed assistant professor of medicine at BUSM and director of Endovascular & Structural Heart Interventions at Boston Medical Center. He received his medical degree from Duke University School of Medicine and completed his residency in medicine at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, where he also completed a fellowship in cardiovascular medicine, interventional cardiology, and vascular periperal vascular and structural interventions.

Pandi specializes in interventional cardiology, vascular medicine, and congenital heart disease. His research and interests include advanced devices in coronary and vascular interventions as well as the use of novel techniques and procedures for the treatment of structural and congenital heart disease.

Avram Spira, MD, BUSM associate professor of medicine and pathology, has been appointed as chief of the Section of Computational Biomedicine in the Department of Medicine at BUSM. He directs both the Bioinformatics & Systems Biology Program in the Pulmonary Center and the Translational Bioinformatics Program in the Clinical & Translational Science Institute at BUSM.
Facility in Print

Richard Saltz, MD ’87
Principles of Addiction Medicine, 4th Edition
Lippincott Williams and Wilkins (2009)
Editors: Richard Ries, David Fiellin, Shannon Miller & Richard Saltz

The book details the state of the science and practice of addiction medicine and is a comprehensive reference for understanding addictive disorders. The fourth edition has been substantially reorganized, revised, and augmented to cover an ever-expanding body of knowledge. Saltz is a professor of medicine and epidemiology; associate director of the Office of Clinical Research; director of the Clinical Addiction Research & Education Unit; and director; BU BRIDGE CTSA Division of Clinical Research Resources.

Family Medicine Interest Group Wins National Award

The BUSM Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG) received an American Academy of Family Practice (AAFP) Program of Excellence Categorical Award for Promoting the Value of Primary Care. One of four categorical awards offered each year, the award recognizes groups who promote family medicine as a specialty.

The FMIG was created to increase awareness and interest in family medicine at BUSM shortly after the Department of Family Medicine was established on the Medical Campus in 1997; as well as to help those interested in pursuing a career in the specialty. The FMIG group offers a variety of seminars and conferences, dinners, and workshops throughout the academic year. Involvement in FMIG provides educational and informational opportunities outside the traditional medical school curriculum; assists students seeking residencies in family medicine, helps support individuals to attend state and national conventions, and offers opportunities to build relationships with family medicine faculty and create unity among FMIG colleagues.

In the 2008-2009 year, the FMIG enhanced their outreach with a web campaign that included a blog discussing events and issues in primary care, created the “All in the Family” e-mail newsletter, and developed an online calendar of events. Among a number of initiatives, the group built new partnerships with students and programs at local area medical schools and hospitals, with the BU School of Public Health, and with the BUSM Alumni Association to engage alumni in family medicine with the FMIG.

“Coming from the traditionally more subspecialty-focused Northeast, we are honored and excited to be the only school recognized in this region,” said Sebastian Tong ’11, one of the leaders of the FMIG. “We aim to serve as a role model for other schools, showing that it is possible to develop an active and innovative FMIG by effectively using the departmental, state, and national resources available.”

In Memoriam

Edith Kaplan, PhD, on September 3, 2009. She was a former professor in the departments of neurology and psychiatry and in the Behavioral Neuroscience doctoral program at BUSM. She served as director of Clinical Neuropsychological Services at the Boston Veterans Administration Medical Center, where she was responsible for the development of an internationally renowned pre- and post-doctoral clinical neuropsychological internship training program. Kaplan also was a professor of psychology at Suffolk University, Boston, and affiliate professor of psychology at Clark University, Worcester.

Throughout her 50-year career in psychology, Kaplan made invaluable contributions to the promotion of clinical neuropsychology as a specialty area in psychology. She was noted for her research on brain-behavioral relationships in the areas of aphasia, apraxia, developmental issues in clinical neuropsychology, and normal and abnormal aging.

She made singular contributions to clinical neuropsychological assessment through the development and introduction of the process-oriented approach which offered a revolutionary advance in test interpretation, stressing the qualitative aspects of patients’ performance profiles. She developed and co-authored numerous tests including The Boston Diagnostic Aphasia Examination, The California Verbal Learning Test (adult and children’s versions), the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale-Revised, as a Neuropsychological Instrument (WAIS-RNI), the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children-III, as a Neuropsychological Instrument (WISC-III), and The Delis-Kaplan Executive Function System.

Joseph J. Vitale, ScD, on August 18, at the age of 84. A BUSM professor emeritus of pathology and laboratory medicine and professor of socio-medical sciences and community medicine, he also served as associate dean for international health programs from 1978 to 1990, director of nutrition education programs from 1977 to 1995, and professor of nutritional sciences at BU School of Dental Medicine from 1976 to 1995.

Vitale was passionate about fostering and facilitating international student exchange health experiences. During his career, he developed formal affiliations with medical centers in Mexico, Colombia, Ireland, Israel, Spain, and China, and established the Vitale International Foundation for Medical Education/Exchange (www.vifme.org) in January 1996, which provides financial assistance to qualified senior medical students who successfully complete an elective at a foreign medical center.

He earned a MS in physiology from New York University and a ScD from the Harvard School of Public Health. He received an Honorary Doctorate in Medicine from Health Science Institute in Medellin, Colombia.

His daughter, Laura Vitale Romo, is a 1989 graduate of BUSM.

“...we aim to serve as a role model for other schools, showing that it is possible to develop an active and innovative FMIG by effectively using the departmental, state, and national resources available.”
On a beautiful summer afternoon, the 176 members of the Class of 2013 donned their new white coats and raised their voices in unison to recite the Hippocratic Oath. Both the oath and the white coat symbolize their entrance into the profession of medicine.

“When you put on your white coat for the first time today, the message is not that you are expected to become a professional, but that, as of today, you are already a part of the profession,” explained Dean Karen Antman. “When you see your first patients in a week or so, you represent the profession and the patients will not be able to differentiate between you and their doctor. You will both be in white coats.”

The group is among the largest classes ever admitted to BUSM and is drawn from a pool of nearly 11,000 applicants. They entered from six different pathways and come from 75 undergraduate institutions in the U.S. and Canada. Their ages range from 19 to 40 years and, as a group, they speak more than 30 languages.

Guest speaker Linda Heffner, professor and chair of the BUSM Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, urged them to really listen to their patients and not always rely on technology. “Watch facial expressions during the interview and listen to the sounds in the patient’s chest,” she said. “These very human skills will direct you to the diagnosis.” She also noted that medical school is full of surprises and challenges. “You will not always be right or best, so share your experiences with your colleagues and learn from them. Remember why you chose the profession of medicine.”

“When you put on your white coat for the first time today, the message is not that you are expected to become a professional, but that, as of today, you are already a part of the profession.”
The Other Side of the Bed
Intensive training for medical students in bedside care

A hospital stay involves multiple medical, scientific, technological, and communications processes. Patients also require basic care and comfort. In the face of the rapidly expanding, complex base of technical knowledge underpinning medical care, the increased patient documentation requirements, shorter hospital stays, and decreased physician time with patients, how to expose medical students to care issues and effectively produce skillful, patient-centered physicians are significant challenges in medical education.

Michael Charmess, MD, BUSM assistant dean and chief of staff of the VA Boston Healthcare System, and his colleague Cecilia McVay, BSN, MA, CHA, associate director of Nursing and Patient Services at the VA Boston Healthcare System, have developed a program designed to give medical students a paid opportunity to participate directly in direct patient care, learning basic techniques of catheterization, intravenous lines, and feeding tubes; suctioning and respiratory care; and care of tracheostomies. Weekly lectures address practical topics from how to talk to dying patients to communications with the medical team, physician-nurse collaboration, and patient safety.

Members of the newest BUSM class received their medical equipment kits which included stethoscopes that were purchased with donations from alumni of the School. Joan Ramsay ’90, assistant dean of the Alumni Association, helps Erin James ’13 display her new stethoscope.

“At first, I was unclear about the responsibilities that the MDs have that prevent them from being as helpful at the bedside as nurses would wish them to be. After seeing both sides of the spectrum, I recognize that it is a delicate balance of professionalism and manpower.”

—Medical Student Program Participant

Paper by First-year Student Published in BMJ

Lead author Steven Lin ’13, along with the chair of medical humanities of Tzu Chi College of Medicine in Taiwan and a doctoral student at the Harvard School of Public Health, published a paper in the December 19, 2009 online edition of BMJ titled “Silent virtuous teachers: anatomical dissection in Taiwan.”

Dissection is a core component of gross anatomy in medical education worldwide. Human dissection provides an opportunity to learn about the human body in three dimensions and, more recently, a chance to introduce medical students to humanistic approaches to confronting death.

The paper notes that at least two challenges exist in creating and offering a successful dissection course; the first is having sufficient numbers of people donate their bodies. In Taiwanese society, there is a belief that cadavers should not be disturbed after death; therefore, people have been unwilling to donate their bodies for medical purposes, leading to cadaver shortages. Consequently, medical schools in Taiwan have historically depended on unclaimed bodies from mental institutions or the streets. The second challenge is ensuring that students treat cadavers with due respect.

Lin and his colleagues describe how the dissection course at Tzu Chi College of Medicine in Taiwan has motivated and inspired people to donate their bodies for scientific endeavors, an otherwise culturally avoided gesture in the East. They demonstrate how the course has navigated around cultural concerns surrounding death, to the benefit of medical students, body donors, and their families. They analyze the humanistic effects of this course on students, as well as on donors and their families, by drawing on examples of participant observation and students’ reflections in Chinese-language literature. They suggest that the design of the curriculum fosters accountability and offers inspiration that may have otherwise been omitted through cadaver anonymity.

“I am interested in how compassion can be fostered and cultivated through integration of the humanities in medical education,” said Lin. “There is a great deal to learn from other cultures in terms of medical care and education, and how that knowledge can be transformative for better patient care in light of the immense population diversity in this country.”

BMJ is the former British Medical Journal, and a subsidiary of the British Medical Association.

Race for the Cure

Pictured left are 11 of the 17 Boston University Medical Campus team members who participated in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure to raise money to support breast cancer research and treatment. The race is a 5K run/walk celebrating Massachusetts breast cancer survivors, supporting those currently fighting breast cancer, and remembering those who have died.
High School Student Donates Award to BU Alzheimer’s Disease Center

Boston University Academy sophomore Max Wallack, 13, of Natick, Massachusetts, a recently-named 2009 Build-A-Bear Huggable Hero, donated his $2,500 award to the Boston University Alzheimer’s Disease Center. Wallack founded Puzzles To Remember (www.PuzzlesToRemember.org), which collects puzzles and donates them to facilities that care for those with Alzheimer’s disease and dementia. He established the organization in memory of his great-grandmother, who passed away.

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GIVING TO BUSM

Christine Iacobuzio-Donahue, MD, PhD,’98, (center right) presented the Nancy L. R. Bucher Assistant Professorship Fund. Established with anonymous contributions, the fund also benefits from the generous challenge grant given by former BU Board of Trustees Chair Alan Leventhal and his wife, Sherry, who is vice chair of the BUSM Dean’s Advisory Board, to establish endowed positions throughout the University. The Leventhals are also the parents of two BUSM graduates.

The Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine has a long history of contributions to the field of pathology. The new professorship is part of a resurgence of the department and is a resource for fulfilling its mission to bridge basic and clinical sciences in the study, teaching, and diagnosis of disease. In the past three years, 23 new faculty have been recruited, the amount of National Institutes of Health funding has quadrupled, and the department has moved to new, state-of-the-art research facilities.

“I love BU,” said Bucher. “And I am pleased to have this professorship named in my honor.”

From left to right: Robert Stamm, PhD, co-director of BUSM’s Alzheimer’s Disease Clinical & Research Program; Karen Antman, MD, dean of BUSM and president of Boston University Medical Campus; Neil Kowel, MD, director of the BU Alzheimer’s Disease Center; Max Wallack; Boston University Academy sophomore; James Behman, head of Boston University Academy; and Ben Volkson, MD, PhD, BUSM professor of pharmacology and neurology.

Professorship Honors Renowned Scientist

Nancy Bucher’s slight frame and gentle demeanor belie her powerful mind. At 95 years of age, she continues her lifelong pursuit of answers to the important questions of cell regeneration. Bucher is recognized internationally for her pioneering research on liver regeneration and the uncontrolled growth of cancer cells.

A distinguished member of the BUSM Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine for 26 years, she has been recognized for her long-standing contributions to the research mission of the department with the establishment of an assistant professorship in her honor. “This is the first named professorship in the Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine,” said Daniel Remick, MD, professor and chair of the department. “It is wholly fitting that it carry Dr. Bucher’s name because of her outstanding contributions to the field and to this department. We are currently recruiting a young investigator who shares her passion for science and investigative work.”

Established with anonymous contributions, the Nancy L. R. Bucher Assistant Professorship Fund in Pathology is a permanently endowed fund, the income of which provides salary and research resources to a junior faculty member for three to five years.

“Professorships are important to the mission of the School of Medicine because they support the research work of biomedical scientists,” said Dean Karen Antman. “They offer BUSM the opportunity to attract highly distinguished researchers.”

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Christine Iacobuzio-Donahue, MD, PhD, ’98, (center right) presented the Nancy L. R. Bucher Seminar titled “Molecular Features of Pancreatic Cancer Progression.” Iacobuzio-Donahue is an associate professor of pathology and oncology at the Sol Goldman Pancreatic Cancer Research Center at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

She is pictured with Chris Andry, PhD, BUSM associate professor of pathology and director of operations and management for the Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine; Mary Jo Maintaining, PhD, BUSM associate professor of pathology; and Daniel Remick, MD, professor and chair of the Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine.

Nancy L. R. Bucher

Create your legacy.

Include BUSM in your will or trust today and make a powerful impact on tomorrow’s students.

Including BUSM in your long-term financial plan allows you to:

- Make a significant gift without affecting your current income
- Support the School of Medicine
- Provide a charitable tax deduction for your estate
- Ensure the best possible education and opportunities for future generations of medical students and scientists

To learn more about how you can invest in the future of Boston University School of Medicine, please call the BUSM Development Office at 617-638-4570 or send an e-mail to busmdev@bu.edu.

Visit us online at www.bumc.bu.edu/meddevelopment
Boston University Alumni Weekend 2009 was held Friday, October 23–Sunday, October 25 and featured alumni events from every school. This year, for the first time, BUSM, BUSPH, and BUGDSM enjoyed events for their alumni—here are photos from some of them.

On Saturday morning, the Medical Campus hosted an Alumni College event titled “Health Care Reform and the Promise to Address Health Outcomes Disparities” which included a keynote address by Louis Sullivan ’58, former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services and president emeritus of Morehouse School of Medicine.

In the afternoon, a celebration was held in recognition of the 25th anniversary of the Early Medical School Selection Program (EMSSP), a program created to increase the number of medical students from underrepresented minority groups. A partnership among BUSM and undergraduate colleges, it emphasizes early admissions and curriculum coordination and includes BUSM, Boston University undergraduate schools, and historically black institutions.

In honor of the 25th anniversary of the EMSSP, both Sullivan and Edelin were presented with awards.

On Saturday evening, the first Medical Campus Gala was held at the Westin Waterfront, where more than 260 alumni, faculty, staff, students, and guests gathered for dinner, live music, and dancing. Distinguished alumni from the three Medical Campus schools were honored.

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The EMSSP has been hailed by the Association of American Medical Colleges as an example of what medical schools can do to increase minority enrollment. Currently, half of the students from underrepresented minority groups entering the first-year class at BUSM come from this program.

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Fall Alumni Weekend 2009

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Spring 2010 Alumni Weekend

Frid
ay, April 30
• Scientific Program and luncheon at the School of Medicine
• Reunion social hour followed by individual Reunion Dinner Parties

Sat
urday, May 1
• Culinary market tour of Boston’s Historic North End
• Luncheon, panel discussions, and student-led campus tours
• Dining and dancing at the 135th Annual Meeting and Banquet

Visit our website: www.bumc.bu.edu/medalumni/aw

Reunion Dinner, Annual Meeting, and Banquet to be held at:
The Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel
606 Congress Street
Boston, MA 02210
617-338-4111
www.renaissanceboston.com

Contact the hotel directly to make your reservation, letting the agent know you would like to be placed in the Boston University School of Medicine Alumni Weekend room block and receive the discounted rate.

Please continue to visit our Alumni Weekend 2010 webpage at: www.bumc.bu.edu/medalumni/aw for updates of available Alumni Weekend room blocks. As April and May are extremely busy months in Boston, we strongly encourage you to book your hotel reservation as soon as possible.

Contact us:
BUSM Alumni Association
72 East Concord Street, L-120
Boston, MA 02118
Tel: 617-638-5150
Fax: 617-638-4492
E-mail: alumbusm@bu.edu

Anniversary Celebrations
1990—20th
1985—25th
1980—30th
1970—40th
1965—45th
1960—50th
and
GOLDEN REUNION
(Graduates prior to 1959)

Campus and Citywide Events

Spring 2010 Alumni Weekend | Campus and Citywide Events
Deborah Chong ‘99 believes that health care is a human right, a view that guides her life and work. An obstetrician-gynecologist, Chong co-founded Medicine In Action (MIA) with Karlynn Echols, MD, in 2005.

A nonprofit global medical organization, MIA is committed to providing quality medical and surgical care to populations in underdeveloped countries that lack access to adequate health services. MIA focuses on women’s health care issues, and offers residents and medical students exposure to international health opportunities through its medical missions. Missions typically occur four times a year; eight missions to Jamaica have been completed—including ones in Kingston and rural St. Mary—and four to Mwanza, Tanzania.

Echols and Chong were residents together and shared a desire to bring health care to women in impoverished countries. Chong also credits her father, Alton “Sugar” Chong, as her inspiration for becoming a physician. “By providing informational exposure for residents and medical students, we can break down existing cultural barriers and contribute to the development of globally sensitive physicians. We emphasize helping women with their health and health education. Women are the cornerstone of society and it if they are ill, the backbone of society becomes weak and frail.”

MIA was instrumental in helping Chong become a thoughtful physician with a conscience. She enjoyed working at Boston City Hospital, now Boston Medical Center, where she worked with many indigent patients and realized that this was a population with whom she felt a connection. Following graduation, she recognized that she was privileged and felt an obligation to use her talents to help others. BUSM allowed her to split her last year of medical school, giving her the opportunity to travel the world; the travel experience helped her choose her career path.

Although Medicine In Action is a small grassroots organization with 10 physicians, it’s had significant impact in both Jamaica and Tanzania. The combination of volunteers in both the U.S. and the mission countries, along with local community doctors, enables MIA to spend 85 percent of the donations received on patient care. So far, 3,000 patients have been treated, 1,000 women have been screened for cervical cancer; and more than 200 surgeries have been performed.

The organization has implemented a large-scale pap smear screening program in Jamaica and would like to do something similar in Tanzania, either with pap smear screening and/or HPV vaccination.

“Dr. Chong’s work illustrates how important it is to bring decent health care to underprivileged populations and how one person committed to others can make a difference,” said Suzanne Sarfaty, MD ’88, assistant dean of academic affairs and international health programs. “As an alumna, she is a wonderful role model and inspiration for our students.”

For more information on Medicine In Action, visit www.medicineinaction.org.

On December 25, 2009, Colonel Dwight Shen, a Class of 1978 graduate, was directing the replacement operations for the Combat Support Hospital (CSH) in Musq, Iraq, when insurgents launched a coordinated rocket attack on the base.

Shen had joined the U.S. Army Reserves in 1986 and spent much of his military career leading medical humanitarian assistance missions. “I am a naturalized American citizen,” said Shen. “I was always grateful for the opportunities and privileges of citizenship but wanted to find some way to show that I deserved these gifts. When an opportunity came for me to join the Army, I immediately took it to give back to the nation that has given me so much.”

A graduate of the Six-Year Program, he is an internist with a specialty in endocrinology. His years in the Army Reserves brought him to many places in Asia, including Indonesia, Mongolia, and Thailand. In 2007, he was part of the first military mission to go to Vietnam since the end of the American war with that country.

The Army does six to seven medical humanitarian missions a year, and Shen has averaged two to three, although now with a young daughter, he volunteers for only one a year. Working with the military in each of these countries, U.S. Army medical personnel combine with local medical providers to bring care to remote places whose population has little or no access to medical care. According to Shen, the missions develop goodwill for the U.S.; provide the military care providers with opportunities for working with their counterparts in other countries, which has proven valuable in crisis situations like natural disasters; and allow providers to learn to perform under austere conditions.

In 2006, he made his military commitment full time by becoming active duty. He was teaching classes on how to rebuild medical infrastructure destroyed by war and decided that instead of teaching it he should be doing it. “When the 345th CSH deployed to Iraq in 2008, I volunteered to deploy with them as their Deputy Chief of Professional Services (DCCS),” said Shen.

“Shen’s work illustrates how important it is to bring decent health care to underprivileged populations and how one person committed to others can make a difference,” said Suzanne Sarfaty, MD ’88, assistant dean of academic affairs and international health programs. “As an alumna, she is a wonderful role model and inspiration for our students.”

For more information on Medicine In Action, visit www.medicineinaction.org.

Dwight Shen ’78, Military Physician and Medical Missionary

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Established in Boston in 1848, the New England Female Medical College (NEFMC) was the first medical school for women in the United States. Founder Samuel Gregory’s reasons were less than enlightened (he felt it improper for male physicians to attend women for OB-GYN matters), and the school struggled throughout its 25-year existence, short of funds and opposed by mainstream medicine. Incorporated into Boston University in 1873, it became the Boston University School of Medicine. When BUSM celebrated its sesquicentennial in 1998, it was NEFMC’s 1848 founding that was rightly considered the start of our School.

Ninety-eight women received medical degrees from the NEFMC, a small number for its quarter-century existence, but a remarkable feat for those women. As individuals, though, these pioneers have received little attention. Recently, photographs of two of them surfaced, putting faces on these long-ago alumnae.

The first is Dr. Anna Inman (1813–1887) of Smithfield, Rhode Island, an 1857 graduate. While still a student at NEFMC, she visited the New York Medical College for Women and later served as chair of their obstetrics department. She eventually returned to her native Rhode Island to continue her medical career.

The other is Dr. Alida C. Avery (1833–1908) from Lebanon, New York, an 1862 graduate. In 1865, she was selected as one of the original faculty members of Vassar College, where she was the campus physician and served as professor of physiology and hygiene. The photograph of Dr. Avery shown here is from an 1874 album of Vassar students and faculty. Later in her career, she practiced medicine, first in Colorado and later in California, working for women’s suffrage organizations in both states.

Photographs of NEFMC graduates are rare—it is nice to see these two!
Class Notes

1956
Irvin Yalom, of Palo Alto, CA, reports, “100,000 free books in Vannai! This is the official report by the city of Vannai honoring my book at their Book Fair in November 2009. The famous American author and psychotherapist Irvin Yalom is this year’s guest at the Austrian event “Eine STADT. Ein BUCH.” (One City, One Book.) Once a year, 100,000 copies of a chosen title are printed and given free of charge to the citizens of Vienna as part of the reading project. This year, Vienna is discussing Yalom’s novel When Nietzsche Wept. The book deals with a fictional encounter of the philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche and one of the co-founders of psychoanalysis, Josef Breuer. Yalom was a guest of the city of Vienna, which organized a gala dinner in the Vienna City Hall. Since 2002, some of the authors highlighted by the event include Frederic Morton, Nobel Prize winners Imre Kertész and Toni Morrison, Johannes Mario Simmel, John Irving, Nick Hornby, and Ruth Kluger.

1957
Alan H. Goldberg, of Shorewood, WI, writes, “I have recently written a book titled The Doors of St. Michael’s, Hildesheim. In the book I discuss the history and the technological, sculptural, and theological significance of these eleventh-century, 15½-foot, 1⅛-ton church doors, located in the city of Hildesheim, Germany. These doors with their bibli- 

cal images were the first to be cast in one piece in the world. This casting was a remarkable achievement of forging for any age and a near-ideal casting since antiquity. This casting was a remarkable achievement of forging for any age and a near-ideal casting since antiquity. This casting was a remarkable achievement of forging for any age and a near-ideal casting since antiquity. This casting was a remarkable achievement of forging for any age and a near-ideal casting since antiquity.

1960
John J. Whalen Jr., of Orlando, FL, on December 11, 2008. An anesthesiologist, Whalen also served in the U.S. Air Force. He is survived by his wife, Ceci-

cia, three daughters, one son, nine grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

1961
Elsa K. Chaffin Boden, of Key Largo, FL, on October 14, 2009, at the age of 94. An occupational medicine specialist, she retired to Key Largo. She is survived by her half-sister and her niece.

1963-A
David K. Loven, of South Portland, ME, on October 20, 2009. An otolaryngologist, he practiced in Portland until his retirement in 1989. During his career, he was on staff at the former Children’s Hospital and the former Maine Eye and Ear Infirmary. He also served on the active staff of the Mercy Hospital and Maine Medical Center, where he was chief of the Department of Otolaryngology from 1966 to 1985. Locally was a member of the Maine Medical Association, the American Medical Association, and the American College of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Eleanor; two daughters, three grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

1972
Bruce K. Shapiro, of Owings Mills, MD, writes, “I direct the Johns Hopkins/Kennedy Krieger training program in neurodevelopmental disabilities and continue to enjoy the joys and challenges of interac-

ting with residents and medical students.”

1974
Steven J. Holts of Oakland, CA recently received the prestigious J. Eliot Royer Award from the University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco (UCSF), an honor that is presented every two years to a neurologist in the San Francisco Bay Area who has made significant contributions to the field of neurology. Dr. Holts is currently associate clinical professor of neurology at UCSF, where he has taught for over 28 years. He is also co-founder and co-medical director of one of the earliest Joint Commission-certified Primary Stroke Centers in the Bay Area at the John Muir Health System in Walnut Creek and Concord, CA. This stroke center received the Gold Achievement Award from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association in 2008 and Dr. Holts also received the Heart of Gold Honorary Award, recognizing his contributions towards improving stroke care and patient outcomes in the community.

1979
Charles M. Blitz, of Durham, NH, writes, “I am busy with orthopaedic practice in New Hampshire and serving as president of the New Hampshire Medical Society.”

1990
Edward M. Gosselin, of South Portland, ME, on October 10, 2009, at the age of 88. A general surgeon, he practiced in Portland for over 40 years until his retirement in 1986. During World War II, he served as a captain in the U.S. Army in England, Belgium, and France. He was predeceased by his wife of 63 years, Dorothy. He is survived by four children, four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

1990
In Memoriam

1941
Elsa K. Chaffin Boden, of Key Largo, FL, on October 14, 2009, at the age of 94. An occupational medicine specialist, she retired to Key Largo. She is survived by her half-sister and her niece.

1942
J. Howard Lightfoot, of Contoocook, NH, on November 12, 2009, at the age of 91. A family physician, he practiced for 40 years until his retirement in 1986. During World War II, he served as a captain in the U.S. Army in England, Belgium, and France. He was predeceased by his wife of 63 years, Dorothy. He is survived by four children, four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

1951
Julius Kitzman, of Newton, MA, on October 24, 2009, at the age of 85. An internist, he was board-certified in hematology, oncology, and internal medicine and for some time was involved in the research and publication of numerous papers. Among the very first group of interns at Tufts New England Medical Center, he was on the staff of Tufts for most of his career. He was selected as Massachusetts’ American College of Physicians Internist of the Year in 1990. During World War II, he served as a combat engineer and was part of the landing on Omaha Beach in Normandy; he was also among the troops who liberated the concentra-

tion camp at Dachau. He was awarded the Croix de Guerre avec Palmes and the Good Conduct/Vic-

tory Medal. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Elinor, two daughters, and four grandchildren.

1953
Frederick G. Doran, of Venice, FL, on Octo-

ber 10, 2009, at the age of 83. A general surgeon before retiring to Venice, Doran served in the U.S. Army Air Forces during World War II. He is survived by his wife, Jeane, two sons, two daugh-

ters, and six grandchildren.

1954
Sumner Kaufman, of Sarasota, FL, on October 26, 2009, at the age of 88. An anesthesiologist, he was director of anesthesiology at Southside Hos-

pital in Bay Shore, NY, for 37 years. He served in the U.S. Navy Medical Corps in World War II and the Korean War. Kaufman, also a graduate of BU College of Liberal Arts (now CAS), was one of seven members of his family to graduate from BUSM—including his brother David Kaufman— and five of the seven earned their undergraduate degrees at BU, including his two sisters. Another family member will graduate from BUSM in 2011. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Harriet; three sons, one daughter, six grandchildren, one great- 

granddaughter, and two sisters.

1955
Anthony A. Gianelly, of Newton, MA, on May 28, 2009, at the age of 72. A specialist in medical education and communications, he held a doctor of dental medicine from Harvard School of Dental Medicine as well as a PhD in biology and biochem-

istry from Boston University. An internationally rec-

nozed professor of ophthalmology, Gianelly served for many years as chairman of the Department of Orthodontics & Dentofacial Orthopedics at BU Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine. He is survived by his wife, Ernestine, one son, one daughter, and two grandsons.

1956
Modshaffer K. Al-Chikchi, of Plymouth, MA, on June 1, 2009, at the age of 79. A general surgeon, he was chief of surgery at the Jordan Hospital in Plymouth, where he practiced from 1965 through 2008. He was a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a member of the New England Cen-

cer Society. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Carolyn, two daughters, and three sons.

1957
Edward M. Gosselin, of South Portland, ME, on October 10, 2009, at the age of 88. A general surgeon, he practiced in Portland for over 40 years until his retirement in 1986. During World War II, he served as a captain in the U.S. Army in England, Belgium, and France. He was predeceased by his wife of 63 years, Dorothy. He is survived by four children, four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

1958
John J. Whalen Jr., of Orlando, FL, on December 11, 2008. An anesthesiologist, Whalen also served in the U.S. Air Force. He is survived by his wife, Ceci-
cia, three daughters, one son, nine grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

1960
Anthony A. Gianelly, of Newton, MA, on May 28, 2009, at the age of 72. A specialist in medical education and communications, he held a doctor of dental medicine from Harvard School of Dental Medicine as well as a PhD in biology and biochem-

istry from Boston University. An internationally rec-

ozed professor of ophthalmology, Gianelly served for many years as chairman of the Department of Orthodontics & Dentofacial Orthopedics at BU Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine. He is survived by his wife, Ernestine, one son, one daughter, and two grandsons.
Alumni Association Phonathons

1. On November 2 and 12, 2009, the Alumni Association held its annual Fall Phonathons to raise money for the BUSM Annual Fund. Forty-eight students and 14 alumni callers obtained a remarkable $90,000 in pledges over two nights. Alumni volunteers celebrating class reunions in 2010 took the opportunity to encourage classmates to attend their reunions during the medical school Alumni Weekend in April and May.

2. James Kimbaris, Joanna Ng, Christopher Simons, and Michael Friedberg, all regular volunteers and members of the Class of 2010, finish dinner before reaching out to alumni across the country. Dean Karen Antman expressed her appreciation for the time and effort the volunteers expend to support BUSM.

3. Emily Adams ’10, who has been attending the Phonathons since her first year of medical school, enjoys a conversation with an alumnus at the other end of the line.

4. Assistant Dean Jean Ramsey ’90 (left) and Alumni Association President Elizabeth Day Barnett ’85 (right) present thank-you gifts to Eric Carniol ’11 and Chris Han ’12 for their volunteer efforts and commitment to BUSM.

5. Gene Healey ’65, celebrating his 45th reunion in the spring, chats with Jordan Neviackas ’12 during a break from calling.

The Alumni Association staff extends sincere gratitude to all the loyal Phonathon volunteers.

Continuing Medical Education Conferences

March 19–20, 2010
The Steven Parker Memorial Developmental Behavioral Pediatric Conference: Clinical Problems in Primary Care
Royal Sonesta Hotel, Cambridge, MA

March 25–26, 2010
Medical-Legal Partnership: Patients to Policy
Sheraton Crystal City, Arlington, VA

April 19–23, 2010
Current Clinical Pediatrics
Hilton Resort, Hilton Head Island, SC

April 28–30, 2010
The 6th Annual Ellison Pierce Symposium Positioning Your ORs for the Future: A Business, Risk and Clinical Update
Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston, MA

May 3–7, 2010
The 26th Annual Controversies in Internal Medicine Hilton Resort, Hilton Head Island, SC

For more information, please contact:
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72 East Concord Street, A305
Boston, MA 02118
Tel: 617-638-4605
E-mail: cme@bu.edu
www.bumc.bu.edu/cme

Calendar of Events

AOA Induction Ceremony
Boston University Castle
Monday, March 15, 2010, 7 p.m.

Alumni Association Spring Phonathon
Hiebert Lounge, BUSM
Tuesday, March 16, 2010, 5:30 p.m.

Match Day
BUSM
Thursday, March 18, 2010, Noon

Chester S. Keeler, MD Society Dinner
Four Seasons Hotel, Boston
Friday, March 26, 2010, 6 p.m.

BU Global Day of Service
Saturday, April 17, 2010

Alumni Weekend
The Renaissance Waterfront, Boston
Friday and Saturday, April 30 and May 1, 2010

Dean’s Advisory Board Dinner
Sloane House
Charles River Campus
Thursday, May 6, 2010, 6 p.m.

Dean’s Advisory Board Meeting
Hiebert Lounge, BUSM
Friday, May 7, 2010, 8 a.m.

Fifth Annual John McCahan Medical Campus Education Day
Friday, June 11, 2010, 8:30 a.m., BUSM

Graduate Medical Sciences Commencement, Boston
May 21, 2010

BUSM Commencement, Boston
May 23, 2010

BUSM Alumni Association Executive Committee Meeting
Hiebert Lounge, BUSM
June 23, 2010, 6 p.m.