We Do Things Differently Around Here

Surgical bootcamp, a new MD/JD program, and one of the country’s most advanced admissions systems are just a few of the latest innovations at BUSM.
Message From The Dean

DEAR FRIENDS,

We are training doctors for tomorrow’s medicine who will be leaders in clinical care, health care policy, research, and education. Our goal is for BUSM to be the best place to learn, teach, and discover. Facilitating this goal has catalyzed the BUSM community to enhance education value, invest in the research enterprise, and strengthen information systems and technology. We are also optimizing space utilization, enhancing diversity, and developing opportunities for philanthropic investments in the School’s programs.

Illustrative of this work is the nationally recognized AIMS (Admissions Information Management System) that our Admissions office and IT Applications Services department developed to manage the complex data generated by the School’s commitment to holistic admissions. We have thoughtfully analyzed our research programs and invested in systems and new facilities to support and enrich our scientific enterprise. Recognizing the changing nature of health care, we have added a program for physician assistants and developed a combined medical and law degree pathway. We are focused on strategies and technologies that enhance the curriculum and enrich the educational experience of our students.

Additionally, we have built a residence for medical students that has recently won LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification as a “green” building; expanded scholarship aid; recruited and supported outstanding junior faculty; and forged highly beneficial partnerships with our clinical affiliates, enhancing the clinical experience of our students. During the last year, more than 100 faculty members received local and national recognition for their research, clinical expertise, contributions to the profession, and community service.

We thank you for helping us reach our goals. Our students are the future leaders and innovators of our profession. Your contributions highlighted in the donor report included in this magazine are a manifestation of your commitment to our future. On behalf of our students, faculty, and administration, thank you for your generous support.

Best regards,

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

Please direct any questions or comments to:
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Selfies and celebration at the 2014 Graduate Medical Sciences (GMS) Commencement on May 16.

On the cover: Photo by Getty Images/Siri Stafford

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FEATURE

A CULTURE OF IDEAS, INNOVATION, AND EXPERIMENTATION

On the cover: Photo by Getty Images/Siri Stafford

on the cover: Photo by Getty Images/Siri Stafford
“Each of you should be prepared to negotiate around obstacles even as you keep your eye on the prize or the long-range goals you have set for yourself.”

—Jonathan Woodson, MD
US Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs

Graduates Welcomed to Medical and Scientific Communities

Degrees are conferred on 157 members of the BUSM class of 2014 during Commencement

THE 167TH Boston University School of Medicine Commencement opened with 300 faculty members lining up on either side of the Class of 2014 to welcome them into the medical and scientific communities. Held at Agganis Arena on May 17, the ceremony celebrated achievement and commitment to medical research and patient care. “We gather together today to publically recognize and celebrate the credentials that these degree candidates have earned; a major life transition,” said Dean Karen Antman, MD. “I speak for the faculty in saying that it has been a great privilege to work with you. You are smart and committed, resilient and adaptive.”

One hundred fifty-seven members of the Class of 2014 received the MD; 12 the MD/PhD; 10 the MD/MPH; 55 the PhD; and 6 the MSc.

“It has been said that ‘life is what happens when you are otherwise making plans,’” said US Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Jonathan Woodson, MD, who delivered the Commencement address. “I have found this to be true time and again, and it expresses the need in life to expect the unexpected. Each of you should be prepared to negotiate around obstacles even as you keep your eye on the prize or the long-range goals you have set for yourself. It is important to understand that deviations are the friction points in life when we learn the most about ourselves and we grow.”

Woodson asked the parents of graduates to stand in recognition of their support and dedication to helping graduates accomplish their goals.

Speaking on behalf of the medical students, Brian Curry, MD, referred to the white coats he and his classmates received upon entering BUSM: “We received these coats as a symbol of our induction to a calling. We didn’t realize it at the time, but they also symbolized the granting of a very special kind of power, one that—just like our white coats themselves—we have spent the better part of four years clumsily trying to grow into. We will likely continue to do that for the rest of our careers. My message to you, BUSM Class of 2014, is simply this: Earn this power. Earn it, but recognize we will never own it. We only can ever be responsible stewards of this power our patients have entrusted to us. Though today marks the retiring of these short white coats, we should never allow ourselves to get fat and happy with the notion that we have somehow grown into them. We must earn it anew every day, with every patient, always.”

More online: bumc.bu.edu/busm.
Celebrating Success
Division of Graduate Medical Sciences 2014 Commencement

"your degree empowers you not just as scientists, researchers, clinicians, and health professionals but as critical thinkers, problem solvers, and advocates," Associate Provost for Graduate Medical Sciences (GMS) Linda Hyman, PhD, told the 180 master's degree graduates representing 19 of the division's programs. "This is a great day and we, your parents, friends, colleagues, teachers, and mentors are here to celebrate you—your success, hard work, accomplishments, and efforts to get to where you are today. I hope you leave BU with the knowledge that you have done well and that you have the confidence to use your talents widely."

Held on May 16 in the George Sherman Union's Metcalf Hall, the ceremony featured three student speakers. "It has been an honor to be a part of this community of healing these past two years," Jonathan Waldo, who earned a master's degree in Mental Health Counseling and Behavioral Medicine, told his fellow GMS graduates. "In reflecting on the nature of our field, I've recognized that when we invest our time in the lives of others we often gain insight into our own lives, our struggles, our hopes, and our strengths. Our horizon beckons, and we are prepared."

Receiving his Master of Arts in Medical Sciences, Brian Fry said, "As we move forward with the degrees we have earned today, we're going to be a part of a rapidly changing landscape of health care, health policy, and health sciences research. Many of the people and organizations that will desperately need to change will also be the most resistant to that change. It will be up to us to inspire action and lead by example. It is my hope that we welcome change and personal growth by chasing future, better versions of ourselves. We owe it to our future patients, clients, and colleagues to never settle for anything but our very best."

One of seven graduates of the GMS Bioimaging program and an accepted GMS doctoral student for the fall of 2014, Lauren Zajac reflected on her belief that art and science are the same, noting that students work with images in the Bioimaging program. "We behave as critics, curators, and artists. Interpreting a medical or biological image requires skills similar to those required to interpret a work of art. Both artistic and biological images are representations, carry information, and are the products of human experimentation. The process of creating art is a science, and the scientific pursuit of a question is truly an art. The two are intertwined and inseparable," she said. "Great artists develop methods to produce the works we see in a gallery or museum. In a similar way, great scientists, through trial and error, develop methods to produce work that beautifully demonstrates a particular idea or model."

To read more online, please visit bumc.bu.edu/gms.

Written by: Katya Raviv, DSc, professor, medicine and biochemistry; founding director, Evans Center for Interdisciplinary Biomedical Research, Boston University School of Medicine; and Benjamin Wolozin, MD, PhD, professor, pharmacology and neurology, Boston University School of Medicine

Acknowledgments: The authors wish to thank members of the faculty and trainees of the Boston University School of Medicine who read our oath and supported the idea, as well as Drs. Linda Hyman and Dean Karen Antman for incorporating the oath into the 2014 Commencement ceremony at Boston University School of Medicine.
The School of Medicine’s Dean’s Advisory Board held its annual spring meeting on May 3. Dean Karen Antman, MD, updated the gathering on the School’s initiatives during the past year and discussed the School’s first PA class and the debt issues faced by many medical students. Dr. Ronald Corley, associate provost for research and chair of microbiology, spoke on the pressure faced by researchers in an era of fiscal constraint and how the School is addressing that issue. Michael White, associate dean for finance and administration, reported on the School’s finances and presented strategies for BUSM’s future. Task force presentations and discussions, led by board members Suzanne Cutler, PhD (SMG’61) (and member of the Boston University Board of Overseers), and Jonathan Gertler, MD (GSM’99) addressed key issues for the School’s leadership.

Keefer Society Dinner

Members of the Boston University School of Medicine Dean’s Advisory Board and the Chester S. Keefer, MD Society gathered on May 1 at the Four Seasons Hotel for the Society’s 21st annual dinner. Guests enjoyed the evening with members of the first- and second-year classes and a performance by the student a cappella group, The Doctor’s Notes. The Keefer Society recognizes donors who have supported the School of Medicine with lifetime gifts totaling $50,000 or more. Seven new inductees were recognized by Dean Karen Antman, MD, and welcomed into the Society.

Dean’s Advisory Board Meeting

The Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award
Thomas Barber, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine

Educator of the Year Award in Graduate Medical Sciences, Master’s Degree Program
Michael F. Holik, MD, PhD, Professor of Medicine, Physiology and Biophysics

Educator of the Year Award in Graduate Medical Sciences, Doctoral Students
G. Graham Shipley, PhD, DSc, Professor of Physiology and Biophysics, and Biochemistry

Educator of the Year Award in Clinical Sciences
Sonia Ananthakrishnan, MD, Assistant Professor of Anatomy and Neurobiology

Educator of the Year Award in Pre-Clinical Sciences
Jarrett Rushmore III, PhD, Assistant Professor of Medicine

Stanley L. Robbins Award for Excellence in Teaching
Miriam Hoffman-Kleiner, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine

Sherry Lovestahl, new DAB members Burton Golub (MED’65), Christine Hunter (MED’82), and Shahan Globalm (MED’96), with Dean Karen Antman, MD

Left Photo: 80068010 | Right Photo: 80068510

Keefer Society Dinner

Evan Scott Antman, MD, G. Graham Shipley, PhD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, and Elaine Kirshenbaum (CAS’71, SED’72, SPH’79) (BU Trustee). (Right) Members of the medical student a cappella group, The Doctor’s Notes, perform during the Keefer Society dinner.
Alumni Weekend 2014
BUSD Alumni Reunite, Reconnect, and Reminisce

Amid snapping cameras and bright balloons, alumni from across the country gathered for a weekend of events that included class reunions and the 139th Annual Meeting and Banquet. On-campus highlights included presentations by BUSM graduates Howard Bauchner (MED’79), editor-in-chief of the Journal of the American Medical Association, and James Brust (MED’68), whose lecture on the early history of BUMC has become an annual tradition. Along with student-led tours of the campus, attendees enjoyed presentations by faculty on innovative teaching technologies and by current medical students on campus life.

To read more online, please visit bumc.bu.edu/medalumni.

Alumni Association President Kenneth Kato (MED’90), June Jackson Christmas (MED’49), Associate Dean for Alumni Affairs Jean Ramsey (MED’90, MPH’08), Dean Karen Antman, MD, and Mary Jane England (MED’64) attend the Alumni Weekend lecture.

Classmates Selma Hyde Rutenburg (MED’49) and June Jackson Christmas (MED’49) flank Howard Bauchner (MED’79) and his wife Christine McElroy at the Alumni Weekend reunion dinner. BUSM students Samuel Sheffield (MED’17) and Lili Sadri (MED’17) join the reunioners.

Alumni Association President Kenneth Kato (MED’90), June Jackson Christmas (MED’49), Associate Dean for Alumni Affairs Jean Ramsey (MED’90, MPH’08), Dean Karen Antman, MD, and Mary Jane England (MED’64) attend the Alumni Weekend lecture.

Photo: Members of the Class of 1974 celebrate their 40th reunion (bottom left). James Brust (MED 68) speaks about BUSM’s rich and interesting history. (middle right) As part of a Medical School tour, attendees saw the Clinical Skills and Simulation Center (bottom right). Julia Sax, wife of Eric Sax (MED’89) and mother of Alessandra Sax (MED’15), with Mubin Syed (MED’89) and his wife Ashfan.
Distinguished Alumnus Awards 2014

Three BUSM alumni received Distinguished Alumnus Awards from the School of Medicine at the 139th BUSM Alumni Banquet.

Lloyd Paul Akiolo (MED’88, GRS’88), professor of ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School (HMS), vice chair for Centers of Excellence and associate chief of Longwood Ophthalmology at the HMS Department of Ophthalmology, director of the Beatham Eye Institute and Head of Eye Research at the Joslin Diabetes Center, and founding chair of the National Eye Institute Diabetic Retinopathy Clinical Research Network. He completed a residency in ophthalmology at the Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute at Johns Hopkins University and Hospital before coming to Joslin in 1994, where he completed both a clinical vitreoretinal and a research fellowship. A third-generation ophthalmologist, Dr. Akiolo is committed to eliminating visual loss affecting diabetic retinopathy and associated conditions. His research addresses biochemical and molecular mechanisms underlying early diabetic retinopathy, development of novel intervention strategies, advanced ocular imaging, and worldwide telemedicine efforts as related to diabetic retinopathy. He has served on the Albert & Mary Lasker Foundation International Retinal Research Foundation Initiative for Innovation in Vision Science and has contributed to more than 240 publications, including the New England Journal of Medicine, Nature Medicine, the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, the Journal of Biological Chemistry, the Journal of Clinical Investigation, and many others.

Robert K. Jackler (MED’79), Sewall Professor and Chair of the Department of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery and professor in the departments of Neurosurgery and Surgery at Stanford University School of Medicine. He completed his internship and residency in surgery at the University of California, San Francisco and an otolaryngology/head and neck surgery fellowship at the Otolologic Medical Group-House Ear Institute in Los Angeles. Dr. Jackler specializes in complex ear diseases, with a special interest in tumors of the lateral and posterior cranial base. He has authored more than 150 peer-reviewed papers, including analytical papers derived from his microsurgical series, 35 textbook chapters, and numerous editorials, and has published three books. He leads the Stanford Initiative to Cure Hearing Loss, whose mission is to create biological cures for major forms of inner ear hearing loss through research. He and his wife Laurie founded Stanford Research into the Impact of Tobacco Advertising, an interdisciplinary research group that conducts research on the ways the tobacco industry targets teens, women, and African Americans, as well as how recently introduced products such as electronic cigarettes are marketed.

Michael S. Niederman (MED’77), professor and vice chair of the Department of Medicine at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and chair of the Department of Medicine at Winthrop-University Hospital in Mineola, New York. He completed his training in internal medicine at Northwestern University School of Medicine and a pulmonary and critical care fellowship at Yale University School of Medicine. His interests lie in respiratory tract infections and include mechanisms of airway colonization, the management of community- and hospital-acquired pneumonia, the role of guidelines for pneumonia, and the impact of antibiotic resistance on the management and outcomes of respiratory tract infections. He has published more than 350 peer-reviewed or review articles and has lectured both nationally and internationally. Dr. Niederman served as co-chair of the committees that created the American Thoracic Society 1993 and the 2001 guidelines for the treatment of community-acquired pneumonia, and the 1996 and 2005 committees that wrote guidelines for the treatment of nosocomial pneumonia. Dr. Niederman is editor-in-chief of Clinical Pulmonary Medicine.

J. T. Tai & Co. Foundation Supports BUSM Tai Scholars

Mrs. Y. C. Chen will tell you that although philanthropist J. T. Tai—one of the foremost art collectors and dealers of the last half of the twentieth century—was a very quiet man, “if you talked with him about art, he could talk very much.” A native of Shanghai, Mr. Tai left mainland China for Hong Kong after the communist revolution and came to New York in 1950, where he opened a gallery. During the next four decades, he established an international reputation as an art dealer and also built one of the world’s greatest private collections of Chinese ceramics. “He was quite famous in the world of Chinese art dealers and collectors,” says Mrs. Chen, who has been associated with J. T. Tai & Co. for 40 years, worked with Mr. Tai until his death in 1992, and currently administers Tai Foundation grants. “In the old days, the young men of Sotheby’s and Christie’s came to him for advice on Chinese antiques.” Tai’s success dealing in Chinese art and real estate in New York City prompted him to establish a foundation in 1983. “Mr. Tai’s priority was giving to help medical students,” explains Mrs. Chen. “What he thought was that everyone gets sick, and when they get sick they need a physician. Studying medicine is very expensive, so he helped students by paying tuition and fees.”

Due to the generosity of Tai Foundation directors Dr. P. Richard Hsu, Ming Hsu, Kiechua Wang Hsu, and Mrs. Y. C. Chen, since 1996 the J. T. Tai & Co. Foundation has provided scholarship support for more than 170 BUSM students through annual gifts that now total $890,000. “I was struck not simply by the financial aspect, but the knowledge and appreciation that a foundation was willing to aid in my education. It was simply humbling. It has helped me remain focused and to stay positive during the tough and difficult times in my training,” said scholarship recipient Kevin Anderson (MED’13).

Anderson, currently a resident in pathology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, recalls his opportunity to visit Mrs. Chen in New York. “Meeting her was a wonderful experience. I have received some awards in the past, however, this was the first time I actually was able to put a real face to the award. It was a fantastic experience to meet the woman whose foundation gives to the Tai Foundation, and it served to reinforce the support I felt for my educational endeavors.”

“Mrs. Chen, also from Shanghai and a close friend of the Tai family, originally managed the art gallery for Mr. Tai and oversees the foundation’s work today. At age 89, she commutes daily from her home in Queens to the foundation’s office in Manhattan. ‘I didn’t know much about art, but he said, you don’t need to know much, I know,’” she recalls. She notes that since all of the Tai family has passed away, the foundation trustees decided to sell the family’s private collection two years ago at Sotheby’s sales in New York and Hong Kong for close to $837 million—and add the proceeds to the foundation. “We sold it to private collectors who appreciate those art pieces. They can have a wonderful experience with the art world and the proceeds can help students through the Tai Foundation,” she says. Today, in addition to medicine, the foundation supports students in many other fields and also gives to cancer and heart disease research and numerous charitable programs. “Since its inception, the Tai Foundation has made it possible for students to pursue a medical education who otherwise might not have the resources to do so,” says Dean Karen Antman, MD. “It was my pleasure to meet Mrs. Chen in New York, where she shared information about Mr. Tai’s fascinating history with us over lunch. We are deeply grateful to the Tai Foundation and to Mr. Tai for his generosity and support for the continued generous scholarships they provide to our medical students.”

To read more online, please visit bumc.bu.edu/support/bumcm.

Celebrating LEED Gold at the MSR

The US Green Building Council has officially certified the Medical Student Residence (MSR) as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold, which was celebrated by a gathering of students, faculty, and staff with the unveiling of a plaque. “We are here to celebrate our LEED certification, which is a tribute to our Facilities department,” said Dean Karen Antman, MD. “They planned for sustainable design and construction because it is the right thing to do and because over the long term it is less expensive to run and maintain.”

An internationally recognized green building certification system developed by the US Green Building Council in March of 2000, LEED provides a framework for identifying and implementing practical and sustainable green building strategies.

To read more online, please visit bumc.bu.edu/2014/04/17/celebrating-leed-gold-at-the-msr.
Two Decades of Lifesaving Treatment and Research

Amyloidosis Center Celebrates 20th Anniversary of First Stem Cell Transplant to Treat AL

In 1994, Lou Catania was a very ill man willing to take a chance at life. Diagnosed with light chain, or primary amyloidosis (AL), the father of three young children bravely underwent one of the first stem cell transplants in the world for amyloidosis. A team from the Amyloidosis Center, including Drs. Martha Skinner, Raymond Comarzo, Evan Vashish, Vaishali Sanchorawala, and nurse practitioner Kathleen Finn, harvested stem cells from Mr. Catania’s blood stream, stored them, administered high-dose melphalan chemotherapy to him, and then reinjected the stem cells, thus restoring the capability to normal blood cells. This treatment put Mr. Catania’s disease into remission—where he remains to this day.

The Amyloidosis Center is celebrating the 20th anniversary of that remarkable event, as well as the more than 600 transplants for amyloidosis—with steadily improving results—that have been performed since. AL patients, who once had no treatment options and a median survival of one to two years, now have median survival rates of six years or more.

“We attempted this treatment not knowing if it would be effective,” says Dr. Skinner, professor of medicine and former director of the Amyloidosis Treatment and Research Program (now the BU/BMC Amyloidosis Center). “But Mr. Catania was willing to try it because he said he would rather die fighting his disease. We had been researching amyloidosis since the 1960s, and treating patients since 1972, but this was the first time we could offer real hope for extending life. What we were once a pioneering procedure is now a standard of care around the world.

The most common type of systemic amyloidosis diagnosed in the United States, AL is an acquired plasma cell disorder in which a monoclonal immunoglobulin light chain is produced and passed into the blood and secreted into the blood. The light chains aggregate, forming fibrils that deposit in and damage organs of the body. Symptoms can appear in any organ and may include heart failure, protein in the urine or kidney failure, enlarged liver, neurologic symptoms, digestive problems, bleeding, and an enlarged tongue. AL can sometimes accompany multiple myeloma or lymphoma.

The year Isabelle Lousada turned 30, she completed her training as an architect and was planning her wedding. She was tired, couldn’t eat, and developed a distended abdomen. Previously diagnosed with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, she had a liver biopsy that led to an AL amyloidosis diagnosis. “Tests at the National Amyloidosis Center in London, where I lived, revealed my liver, spleen, kidneys, intestine, and colon were involved, and I had a massive load of amyloid deposits,” wrote Ms. Lousada in a 2012 Amyloidosis Center newsletter.

She decided to also chance treatment with chemotherapy and a stem cell transplant at the BU/BMC Amyloidosis Center: “Bit by bit, my body recovered and my organs returned to normal. Now 16 years on, my life is amazing... really the best thing I can say is, I now have the kind of health I don’t think about.”

Laboratory and clinical research has been the key to the center’s success. Dr. Sanchorawala, a fellow in training at the time of Mr. Catania’s transplant and now a professor of medicine and director of the Stem Cell Transplant program, is the principal investigator for many of the clinical trials for AL amyloidosis. “Stem cell transplant is the first choice therapy for AL and the mainstay treatment,” she says. “However, we always are looking for other effective chemotherapeutics for patients for whom transplant is too dangerous. We have had the good fortune to successfully adapt a number of drugs that have been used for treating multiple myeloma. These clinical trials are ongoing.”

“We have had the good fortune to successfully adapt a number of drugs that have been used for treating multiple myeloma. These clinical trials are ongoing.”

March 1, 2014
There are a few rare moments in life when it truly feels like a miracle has happened. For our family, finding the Amyloidosis program at the time we did was one of those moments. For many years, my health had been on a downward spiral, and it had been difficult to achieve so many of my dreams. Without the “aha moment” of my diagnosis, I would never have met Adam and my future brother-in-law, and without my treatment, I would never have regained the amazing Amyloidosis Treatment and Research Program in Boston.

I was just over 18 years ago when we heard about a (at that time) experimental stem cell transplants that had been done for AL amyloidosis. It was a beacon of hope on such a barren landscape. After many months of feeling completely isolated with an almost unknown disease, arriving at the BU Medical Campus and Boston Medical Center felt like coming home. I remember asking so many questions about the heart failure patients that had gone before me and thinking about the bravery of the doctors and patients who were taking such a leap into the unknown, and how reassured I felt knowing that they had done well. It was the dedication and brilliance of the team that got me through the treatment. Afterward I had the incredible experience of reaching out and connecting with many of those who had gone before me; like older siblings, they guided and supported me, as the wonderful team also continued to do. However difficult the treatment may have been, there is not a day when I don’t feel truly blessed and grateful to be alive. My life is so much richer than any dreams I could have had. Without the care, faith, and support of the team, and their commitment to keeping me well, there is no way I would have been brave enough to build the family we have. There are not enough words to thank each and every person who is part of that team. The warmth, brilliance, commitment, and dedication have filtered down from Dr. Skinner, to all of the amazing doctors, to everyone who works with you—making the best darn extended family anyone could ask for.

With much love, Isabelle Lousada

March 20, 2014
I LOVED your latest (Boston University Medicine) magazine with the great article, The Misfolded. I have contributed to BU for the past 18 years, since the death of my brother from amyloidosis. I learned so much from this well-written article about these proteine-related diseases. I hope that a cure will be found before I die. Thank you for this wonderful publication!

I am so impressed with the work BU does. My brother was there in 1994 for his treatment; at that time, even Mayo Clinic wasn’t treating amyloidosis yet. The care he received from Dr. Martha Skinner and the rest of the team was so amazing. It’s so good to see that they are keeping the patients alive much longer now.

Keep up the good work! Kathi VanDerve, Kansas City
APPOINTMENT

Thomas L. Treadwell, MD, has been appointed BUMS assistant professor of clinical medicine at MetroWest Medical Center (MWWC), a BUMS hospital affiliate. Treadwell, associate professor of medicine at BUMS, is the program director for the Department of Medicine, where he works with a diverse group of residents and faculty. A graduate of Dartmouth Medical School, he completed his residency at the University of California– Irvine Medical Center, where he served as chief resident in 1980. He also completed a fellowship at Boston City Hospitals Maxwell Finland Laboratory for infectious diseases, working for three years in the laboratory of Dr. William McCabe. In 1984, he joined MetroWest Medical Center as the director of the HIV/AIDS Program, and at the Endocrine and Diabetes Clinics. He continues to consult and teaches fellows in the Division of Infectious Diseases, and received the Kenneth Kaplan Clinician Award from the Massachusetts Infectious Diseases Society in 2010. ▶

FACULTY HONORS

Karen Antman, MD, provost of the Medical Campus and dean of the School of Medicine, has been elected chair elect of the Association of American Medical Colleges’ Council of Deans; Administrative Board for 2014-2015.

David Coleman, MD, Wade Professor and Chair of the Department of Medicine and Physician-in-Chief at BMC, has been elected to a three-year term as an at-large member of the Association of Professors in Medicine Council.

James A. Feldman, MD, professor of emergency medicine at BMC, has been elected to a three-year term as a member of the Association of Professors in Medicine Council.

Melody Eckardt, MD, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Judith Linden, MD, Emergency Medicine, have been honored by their physician peers as the 2014 Community Clinicians of the Year of the Suffolk and Norfolk South Districts, respectively, of the Massachusetts Medical Society, the state-wide professional association of physicians. The award recognizes a physician from each of the Society’s 20 district medical societies who has made significant contributions to his or her patients and the community, and who stands out as a leading advocate and caregiver. Linden is vice chair for Education, associate professor, and attending physician in the Department of Emergency Medicine at BMC and BUMS. Eckardt is the director of Women’s Refuge Health in the Boston Center for Refugee Health and Human Rights at BMC. She is also Director of Global Health for the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at BMC and an instructor in obstetrics and gynecology at the Boston University School of Medicine.

Jerold Illner, MD, professor of medicine and chief of the Section of Infectious Diseases at BMC, has been elected to the US chair for the executive committee of RePORT India Consortium Secretariat.

Lisa A. Kaichin, MD, professor of radiology and chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology and BMC chief of radiation oncology, has been named president elect of the Board of Trustees of the American Board of Radiology (ABR). The ABR certifies physicians as qualified in the practices of diagnostic radiology, interventional radiology, radiation oncology, and medical physics.

Thomas Kilgore, DMD, and William Lehman, PhD, are the recipients of the American Academy of Dental Medicine (GSDM); Dr. Kilgore, former GSDM associate dean for academic affairs and for advanced education and international programs, is a professor of oral & maxillofacial surgery at GSDM. Dr. Lehman is a professor of physiology & biophysics at BUMS and a faculty member in the Cellular Biophysics Program at Boston University.

Robin R. Ingalls, MD, associate professor of medicine and microbiology, has been selected to a one-year term as a member of the Immunity and Host Defense Study Section, NIH Center for Scientific Review, July 1, 2014 until June 30, 2015.

Katherine Iversen, PhD, assistant professor of psychiatry, has been named a recipient of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the highest honor bestowed by the US government on science and engineering professionals in the early stages of independent research careers. Dr. Iversen is a Clinical Research Psychologist at the VA Boston Healthcare System.

Joshua D. Safer, MD, associate professor of medicine and director of the endocrinology fellowship program, has been named president elect of the Association of Specialty Professors, an organization of specialty internal medicine divisions at medical schools and community teaching hospitals in the US and Canada. His term began July 1 and will be followed by a year as president and a year as past president.

Jeffrey I. Schneider, MD, BUMS assistant professor of emergency medicine and residency program director for the BMC Department of Emergency Medicine, has received the 2014 Distinguished Educator Award, a national honor recognizing outstanding educators meeting standards of academic excellence, by the Council of Emergency Medicine Residency Directors Academy for Scholarship in Education in Emergency Medicine.

Richard Wainford, PhD, assistant professor of pharmacology and medicine and director of the Laboratory of Cardiovascular Research, has received the American Physiological Society 2014 Arthur C. Guyton Award in Integrative Physiology.

Robert Witzburg, MD, professor of medicine and associate dean and director for admissions, received the Association of American Medical College’s North-East Group on Student Affairs inaugural Outstanding Service Award for his new and bold admissions initiatives and his leadership at the national level in the transition of medical school admissions programs to a focus on holistic review as a tool to enhance the diversity of the physician workforce.

Gopal Yadavalli, MD, assistant professor of medicine and program director for the internal medicine residency, has been elected to a three-year term on the Council of the Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine, an international organization of accredited internal medicine residency programs. ▶

DEPARTMENT HONORS

The Department of Pediatrics received the annual Academic Pediatric Association—Health Care Delivery Award, which recognizes an innovative and effective program that provides health care in the context of a teaching setting. Pediatrics was recognized for its outstanding leadership in the area of child health, for years of program development for underserved populations, and for the department’s commitment to education both locally and nationally.

Charles W. Vaughan, MD, on March 26, 2014, at the age of 87. Dr. Vaughan was a retired clinical associate professor and acting chair of otolaryngology, former director of the Residency Training Program in Otolaryngology at University Hospital (now BMC), and chief otolaryngologist at the Boston VA Medical Center. A member of the BUMS community for more than 50 years, he was a consummate physician and gifted teacher who continued to teach residents and medical students in his retirement. He helped create the most advanced program, at the time, for treating patients with head and neck, and for training succeeding generations of patient-centered surgeons. Along with Dr. Stuart Strong, former professor and chair of otolaryngology at BUMS, he pioneered the use of the carbon dioxide laser in otolaryngology surgery as well as the development and utilization of instruments for microsurgery of the larynx and ear. Dr. Vaughan earned his bachelor of science and medical degrees from Case Western Reserve University. He completed his internship and residency in surgery and otolaryngology at Massachusetts Memorial Hospital, as well as residencies at Boston’s Beth Israel and VA Medical Center. A prolific researcher, Dr. Vaughan authored more than 100 papers. He was also an accomplished artist; several of his paintings adorn the walls of the Department of Otolaryngology’s administrative office in the FGH building. Dr. Vaughan leaves his wife Jo Anne, their four children, and five great-grandchildren.

Boston University School of Medicine

FACULTY in Print

Brain-Robbers (Prague Series on Contemporary Health and Living, 2014)

By: Frances Frankenburg, MD

Addictive substances have changed the course of history. Frances Frankenburg, MD, BUMS professor of psychiatry and chief of inpatient psychiatry at the Bedford VA Hospital, examines how mind-altering substances—specifically alcohol, cocaine, nicotine, and opiates—have played a significant role throughout human history, and explains how these powerful drugs affect the brain and cause addiction. The author also provides perspective into the intertwined and often uneven relationship between these substances and human culture, economics, and politics—for example, how individuals become physically or psychologically addicted to alcohol, cocaine, nicotine, and opiates, while governments become financially “addicted” to the revenue—such as taxes—that can be collected from the sale and use of these substances.

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Creating the Admissions Information Management System (AIMS)

IN 2001, the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS) moved from a paper to an electronic application process for all students applying to medical school, which proved to be a rocky transition for applicants and schools alike—including BUSM. At the same time, BUSM became one of a number of US medical schools to transition to a holistic admissions review procedure.

“Our efforts at growing the applicant pool were proving quite successful,” says Robert Witzburg, MD, associate dean and director of admissions at BUSM. “The complexity of information was increasing with the holistic review of applicants. Our ability to manage information was limited by the overwhelming volume of paper. We had over 350,000 pages of information in one application cycle alone.”

For Witzburg and his staff, it was paramount to systematize the process for efficient information management and provide a foundation for a comprehensive and fair assessment of applicants. “Holistic review is technology-dependent work,” says Witzburg. “Without technology, organizing the amount of information we get by asking applicants the kinds of questions we do for holistic review is impossible. If you want to comprehensively understand the kind of people who are applying to your medical school, you generate volumes of information you need to be able to slice and dice at multiple, different levels.”

Working with the information technology (IT) department’s application services group, the admissions office created the Admissions Information Management System (AIMS)—a modular, user-friendly, flexible, web-based tool connecting applicants, interviewers, and administration all in one system—that has revolutionized the School’s admissions process. “We adopted an incremental strategy in a connected modular structure,” says Chris Dorney, director of BUMC IT Application Services. “A benefit of this process was that with each module we developed, we gained experience to create a better product each time. It was an organic and creative process between our IT group and the admissions staff.”

“A Culture of Ideas, Innovation, and Experimentation

BY MARY HOPKINS

OUR FACULTY HAS ALWAYS been remarkably innovative in research and obtaining federal funding. BUSM is also continuously building on its institutional infrastructure, advancing its educational and research mission through discovery, innovation, and experimentation.

Faculty and students have an impressive track record of embarking on new educational initiatives and reporting on them at national meetings. Facilities staff team with faculty on classroom renovations to experiment with new ideas, sometimes starting with just one classroom. If something works, we scale it up.

Picnic tables on Talbot Green, senate-style classrooms, science art in hallways, new pedagogy strategies, online course modules, electronic exams—each of these initiatives started out as a small experiment; each ultimately delivered.

Our faculty, staff, and students are deeply committed to making BUSM the best place to learn, teach, and discover.

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To raise new questions, new possibilities, to regard old problems from a new angle, requires creative imagination and marks real advance in science.”

—Albert Einstein
Once applicants have confirmed their intention to matriculate at BUSM, AIMS data is exported to departments with which incoming students will interact, including the registrar, academic affairs, student affairs, and student financial services. This has eliminated information silos at the School, reduced redundancies, and led to better utilization of staff time.

“If we don’t present ourselves as innovative, applicants aren’t going to be interested in us,” says Teresa Kelleher, associate director of admissions. “Commonly, the admissions process is viewed as collecting credentials like transcripts and test scores. That’s not how we see the process. AIMS allows us to communicate with applicants and interviewers in a comprehensive way, and if Dean Antman wants to know what the incoming class looks like on any given day and what the trends for decision-making are, we can provide this information accurately and rapidly.”

“The position of our School in the national scene has been transformed,” says Dean Karen Antman, MD. “Among thought leaders around the country we are seen as having a broader view of admissions that is a different reality from that in which most admissions exist.”

Implementing the Affordable Care Act, developing bench-to-bedside therapeutic strategies, designing biomedical technologies, addressing health care disparities, and leading complex health care organizations are some of the areas where medicine and law intersect. These new models have created a need for individuals trained in both legal aspects of medicine, and the legal aspects of health care delivery in all settings and specialties, BUSM is addressing the need for these advanced care practitioners. Last April, the School welcomed its inaugural class of 25 students who train with medical students for clinical practice in teams. The PA curriculum runs 28 months and is divided into a 12-month didactic phase and a 16-month clinical one. Students are required to complete a thesis proposal. “Providers who train together develop an understanding of and appreciation for each other’s expertise,” says Mary Walsh, MMSc, PA-C, director of the BUSM Physician Assistant Program.

“The program has adapted and developed innovative methods of teaching anatomy, research methodology, and the other basic sciences using technology and the flipped classroom methodology, in which the learning process is inverted with course content delivered online and classroom time spent on interactive problem solving. The program develops innovative curricula that prepare physician assistant students to practice with other trainees including medical, dental, and optometry students.”

“The Intersection of Medicine and Law: BU Launches Joint MD/JD Program

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Building Medical Teams: PA Program Integrated into the School

The ASSOCIATION of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) estimates a physician shortage of more than 90,000 by 2020. Using resources, especially human capital, wisely to provide competent, appropriate care is essential for effective health care systems. Highly trained, collaborative medical teams enable effective resource allocation.

Because the physician assistant (PA) program plays an important role in health care delivery in all settings and specialties, BUSM is addressing the need for these advanced care practitioners. Last April, the School welcomed its inaugural class of 25 students who train with medical students for clinical practice in teams. The PA curriculum runs 28 months and is divided into a 12-month didactic phase and a 16-month clinical one. Students are required to complete a thesis proposal. “Providers who train together develop an understanding of and appreciation for each other’s expertise,” says Mary Walsh, MMSc, PA-C, director of the BUSM Physician Assistant Program.

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To read more online, please visit busm.bu.edu/paprogram.

Investing in the Research Enterprise

Dr. Ronald Corley looks at the big picture. He also looks at individual structures that comprise that view. A microbiologist by training, Corley is associate provost for research entrusted with supporting and expanding the research environment and technology infrastructure on the Medical Campus. “Research is complex and competitive, requiring the right people, resources, facilities, and equipment to make it all work efficiently and effectively,” he says.

“We took a hard look at our strengths and weaknesses, and knew we had to make investments in our research program. That was the easy part. It took the creative questioning and serious integration of ideas to identify what would give us the most value for the investment; what would most enable the science.”

Ronald Corley, PhD, Associate Provost for Research on the Medical Campus

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Research Computing
One area with the potential for increasing value and advancing the research enterprise was computational resources—infor-
mation technology on the Medical Campus was basically about providing backup for desktop computing, and the schools and their departments were relying on their own specific resources for managing research data. Bobby Sprinkle, executive director of Information Services & Technology for the Medical Campus, was recruited to look at campus computing needs and put in place the infrastructure to meet them.

“It’s like night and day from five years ago,” says Corley. “Our leadership recruited someone with a holistic vision who could figure out how to move us from desktop support to a dynamic central source for backing up information, providing security for the data, and employing the manpower to do it.”

Corley credits this process as reducing cost, ensuring consistent and effective computer resources and data manage-
ment, and developing the resources to keep up with computing changes into the future. Some of the improvements include wireless computing, centralized data reporting that enhances cross-campus collaborations, and increased partnerships with Charles River Campus researchers.

Research Facilities
Research facilities have been consolidated in contiguous spaces to facilitate greater collaborations, making it possible to recruit researchers with large programs. Also, major investments have been made in embedding computational—or “dry” research space—in “wet” research space, effecting efficient data entry and information sharing. Animal-related research for both basic and pre-translation science is very important for Medical Campus scientists. All animal research labs are now housed together, offering efficiencies not possible before. The recently estab-
lished Laboratory of Zebrafish Genetics & Cancer Therapeutics is an example of the kind of cutting-edge research space now available on campus. The lab focuses on identifying novel genes and pathways of gene-related tumor transformation and pro-
gression by combining the analysis of human cancer genomic databases with the genetic and imaging capacities of the zebra-
fish system.

One of the strongest areas of research on the Medical Campus is behavioral studies, which was not well facilitated. Though an expensive process, creating dedicated space for modern behav-
ioral research has elevated the quality of the work that can be done as well as added an important tool for recruiting research talent. BU’s status as a national leader in addiction science is a good example of the strides that can be made through the addi-
tion of dedicated, modernized research space.

Research Funding
A major obstacle to securing research funding is not having the resources, time, and staff to create the critical documents and proposals to meet requirements of the funding sources. The solution: the Proposal Development office. Unique for medi-
cal schools, the office has centralized the process of developing research proposals, which allows the scientists to focus on what they do best—the science. It also allows administrative staff to address their department needs and expertly develops successful funding requests of any kind including complex, multidisci-
plinary proposals. “The numbers are daunting,” says Corley: “We have 600 to 700 grants a year ranging from NIH, Dodd (Depart-
ment of Defense), and special foundation RFAs (Requests For Admini-
strative support) each with its own particular requirements. The office provides highly trained professionals, enabling grant sub-
missions that would not have been possible in a cost-effective manner that reduces faculty time spent on administrative work.”

To read more online, please visit bumc.bu.edu/research.

Intensive Surgery Bootcamp Prepares Students for Surgical Internships

ACCORDING TO numerous authorities in academic medicine, reduced resident duty hours as well as stricter limits on medical student responsibilities during rotations and clerkships are hav-
ing unintended consequences, especially in the field of surgery. Many see truncated opportunities for readying medical students for the rigors of surgical internship and residency, and they argue that inter-
ners and residents feel the same way.

Surgery interns need to be up speed very quickly,” says Alik Farber, MD, BUMS associate pro-
fessor of surgery and radiology and chief of Vascular and Endo-
vascular Surgery at Boston Medi-
cal Center. “It used to be that surgical residents and interns were on call every other night, essentially living in the hospital. When internship and beyond."

The activities are designed to

BUMS students practice in situational models of surgery on cadavers.

The program’s completion, students are expected to demonstrate knowledge of the diagnosis and work-up of common post-surgical conditions and complications, and to understand the role of quality care, risk management, ethics, work organization, and time management on the practice of surgery.

To read more online, please visit bumc.bu.edu/surgery.

Advancing the Academic Program Effectiveness

THROUGH analyzing course content and comparing it to national stan-
dards, the Academic Affairs office conducted a curriculum-mapping initiative to identify redundant acquisitions and areas of additional need in the curriculum. E-Value, an online application for student scheduling, optimization, course and precur-
sor evaluations by students, student evaluation and grading, was imple-
ment to improve the student evalu-
ation process, and course and clerkship assessment. The program also includes a curriculum-mapping module that will improve reporting to the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) and other groups requesting information. The School is participating in MedAPS (Medical Academic Perfor-
mance Services), an AAMC project designed to optimize the use of medical education data, inform edu-
cation research, and support con-
tinuous improvements in academic program effectiveness. BUMS par-
ticipated in the pilot test of medical schools uploading electronic data on curriculum to the AAMC.

A revision of the first-year cur-
riculum to better align teaching and learning with student, profes-
sional, and societal expectations has launched. An integrated foun-
dational science course is being proposed that will allow students to learn the material in the same man-
ner in which it will be included on their USMLE Step-1 examinations.

To read more online, please visit bumc.bu.edu/curriculum.
AN UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF THE SEVEN-YEAR, $200 MILLION CAMPAIGN FOR BUSM

$112.2M raised
$96.7M permanently restricted
$15.5M current use
32 months remaining
More than $7.4M raised for student scholarships
6 full and 2 assistant professorships installed
$54 planned gifts established since the start of the campaign
$2.6M Annual Fund
1,901 alumni participating in campaigns
$72.2M from corporations and foundations

DONOR REPORT
Thank you, donors,

The Chester S. Keefer, MD Society - The Chester S. Keefer, MD Society was established as a means of recognizing the dedication and loyal support of individuals who have provided major assistance to Boston University School of Medicine. The Society is named in honor of Dr. Chester S. Keefer, whose foresight and determination in roles as chairman of the Department of Medicine, dean of Boston University School of Medicine, and director of the Medical Center were responsible for laying the foundation for the Boston University Medical Center.

An inspiring gift recently made by Alumna Inez Lopez, MS, of Quincy, MA.

Inez Lopez, MS (MED’62) has been a strong supporter of BUSM since the mid-1960s. It was her desire to create a Greece fund, which would support students from Greece in need of financial aid. Ms. Lopez believes that education is a powerful tool for change, and she is particularly interested in supporting underrepresented populations. Ms. Lopez is a long-time supporter of the National Pan-Hellenic Council and the National Pan-Hellenic Congress, among many other organizations. She has dedicated her life to supporting education for Greek Americans and other underrepresented populations.

Here are some ways you can make an impact on students and faculty at BU—some of the choices you have!

1. Support the next generation of clinicians, medical leaders, researchers, and entrepreneurs to ensure they can turn innovation into reality.
   - Your gift will prepare them for rewarding careers and give them the tools and resources they’ll need to become trailblazers in their chosen fields.

2. Encourage future leaders in the health care community to make a difference.
   - Your gift will support the next generation of leaders in the health care community.

3. Support the work of our faculty members.
   - Your gift will support the work of our faculty members.

4. Support the work of our students.
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5. Support the work of our staff.
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6. Support the work of our volunteers.
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7. Support the work of our board members.
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8. Support the work of our partners.
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Impact By The Numbers

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### Gifts from the Deans Advisory Board, Alumni, Faculty and Staff, and Friends (Continued)

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Alumni at bu.edu

To all who contributed to BUSM during our last fiscal year: Thank you!

Pharmacology support to the medical school increased by 14 percent over the previous year, more than doubling to $3 million. Your gift has a profound impact on the School’s continued growth. It is instrumental in bolstering educational initiatives and enhancing the resources available to us. BUMS is strong today, in part, because of the generosity of our alumni participation.

Thank you for giving generulously, for leading by example, and for demonstrating your confidence in our graduates’ leadership.
Giving Alumni

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Alexander L. O’Hanley
Harold D. Levy
Harry W. Bennert, Jr.
Recent Grads/Future Leaders Reception
Taj Boston Rooftop • Thursday, October 2, 2014

Annual Scholarship Dinner with Dean's Advisory Board Members
Hotel Commonwealth, Boston • Thursday, October 23, 2014

Annual Dean's Club Dinner
Taj Boston • Saturday, October 25, 2014

BUSBM Department of Surgery Reception at the American College of Surgeons 2014 Clinical Congress
Hilton San Francisco, San Francisco, CA • Monday, October 27, 2014

AAMC Annual Meeting & BUSBm Dean's Reception
Hyatt Regency, Hyatt Skyway-261, Chicago, IL • Saturday, November 8, 2014

Annual Keefer Society Dinner with Dean's Advisory Board
Boston • Thursday, April 30, 2015

BU School of Medicine Alumni Weekend
BUSBm, Boston • Friday and Saturday, May 1 & 2, 2015

Commencement Weekend
Boston • Friday—GMS/MMS; Saturday—MD/PHD; Sunday—All-University

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

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