



100 YEARS & COUNTING...



THE HISTORY OF THE EVANS MEMORIAL DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

The modern history of the Department of Medicine arguably began on July 4, 1909.

While preparing for the arrival of U.S. President William Howard Taft, wealthy industrialist Robert Dawson Evans was riding a horse on his Beverly, Massachusetts, estate when the horse stumbled, throwing him to the ground.

Evans' family transported him to the Massachusetts Homeopathic Hospital in Boston's South End, where surgeons operating on him discovered that his small and large intestines were distended and full of fluid. They inserted a metallic tube into the small intestine to allow gas to escape and closed the abdominal wound with catgut. For two days,

Evans received oxygen, small amounts of food, brandy, and even champagne. Despite massive efforts to save him, Evans died on July 6, 1909, at the age of 65.

To commemorate her husband's life, Maria Antoinette Evans made two major charitable gifts: One to the Museum of Fine Arts to build the Evans Wing for Paintings, which fronts the Fenway; the other established the Robert Dawson Evans Memorial Department for Clinical Research & Preventive Medicine, one of the first centers in the country to combine clinical care and research.

The cornerstone for the Evans Memorial's first building, now known as the A-Building, was laid in February of 1911. The four-story brick structure—which cost \$500,000 to construct—on East Concord Street was designed to include wards for patients participating in research, laboratories, offices, and a rooftop sun parlor. "The building now will make possible a noble work and will serve as a fitting memorial of a life that furnished an example of the finest ideals and broadest humanitarian instincts," declared Dr. Frank Richardson, the new department's medical director.

Mrs. Evans attended the building's formal opening in 1912. Five years later, when she died, she left an additional donation and established the goals of the department as clinical research, training, and public education. Although technically a separate research institute, the Evans Memorial Department has always operated in close connection with the Boston University School of Medicine and the Massachusetts Homeopathic Hospital and its successor hospitals, University Hospital, Boston City Hospital, and Boston Medical Center.



SPECIAL SYMPOSIUM
October 5 & 6

Dean Karen Antman cordially invites you to attend the Evans Memorial Department of Medicine: 100 Years of Healing, Discovery, and Education.

INTERVIEW WITH DAVID L. COLEMAN, MD, WADE PROFESSOR AND CHAIRMAN, DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE



David L. Coleman, MD, in a laboratory in the BUSM Arthritis Center, which houses the Department of Medicine section in rheumatology.

TIMELINE OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1912 Robert Dawson Evans Memorial Building on East Concord Street opens. Inscription above the entrance and on a symbolic key reads "Truth Above Everything." **1913** Howard W. Nowell, a pathologist in the Evans Memorial Department, announces the discovery of the cause of cancer—an inorganic poison derived from human carcinoma. **1932** M. B. Strauss demonstrates that thiamine can cure alcoholic neuropathy despite continued alcohol use. **1938** Doctors at Massachusetts Memorial Hospitals identify the first confirmed human cases of equine encephalomyelitis. **1940** Boston University purchases the original Robert Dawson Evans Memorial Building on East Concord Street (now the A-Building). Two years later the new Evans Memorial Building opens at 65 East Newton Street. **1942** Franz Ingelfinger establishes the specialty of gastroenterology and heads the first section of gastroenterology in the United States. **1948** In cooperation with the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, Evans Memorial Department faculty members administer the Framingham Heart Study. **1952** Core faculty number 17 researchers; research funds total \$162,129. **1958** Robert W. Wilkins wins the Lasker Award. He and his team are the first to use chlorothiazide to treat hypertension. **1960** Chester S. Keefer, Wade Professor of Medicine, is elected president of the American College of Physicians. **1967** Alan S. Cohen presents discovery of the fibrillar nature of amyloid at the First International Symposium on Amyloidosis. **1968** Gordon L. Snider creates a clinical, research, and training program in pulmonary medicine. **1970** Robert Valeri develops techniques to freeze red blood cells and platelets for long-term storage and use on the battlefield. **1971** With 100,000 square feet of space for clinical research, the current Evans Building opens on the Boston University Medical Campus. **1972** Boston University becomes the sole academic affiliate of Boston City

PHOTO BY CINDY SCOTT FOR BOSTON UNIVERSITY

"Our talented faculty members hold excellence at the core of their commitment to advancing the health of our patients."

WHAT HAVE BEEN SOME OF THE SIGNAL RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE EVANS MEMORIAL DEPARTMENT? During World War II, Chester Keefer served as medical officer of the government's chief scientific research agency. In that position, he had the task of distributing limited supplies of penicillin to the civilian population. Patients from around the country petitioned him for access to the drug, so he was able to collect clinical data about how penicillin worked.

Robert Wilkins received a patent for the G-Suit that reduced the effects of gravity acceleration on pilots during crashes and forced landings. In the 1940s and 1950s, he and his colleagues were the first to delineate an effective treatment for hypertension. Before then, many who suffered from hypertension, like Franklin Roosevelt, died prematurely.

The most important longitudinal study of cardiac risk factors ever conducted—the Framingham Heart Study—is based at Boston University and is strongly supported by investigators in the Department of Medicine. In fact, one of the directors of the study, William Kannel, coined the term "risk factors."

WHAT AREAS OF RESEARCH IS THE DEPARTMENT CURRENTLY FOCUSING ON? The department's research plan is based on attracting and supporting the most outstanding MD and PhD investigators. We are attempting to facilitate discovery by enhancing core services and strategic investments that leverage research and training. We are particularly eager to focus on disease areas that afflict our patient population and to find new interdisciplinary research paradigms.

The department's research grant funding was over \$126 million in the 2010-11 academic year, placing it in the top tier of research-intensive departments. These figures do not include research funding

of faculty at the Boston VA or Roger Williams Medical Center. We have 439 faculty, including more than 100 PhDs.

The department has internationally renowned research programs in a number of areas including cardiovascular biology, risk factors for cardiovascular disease, pulmonary inflammation and immunology, stem cell biology, diabetes and obesity, androgen biochemistry and biology, arthritis, alcohol/substance abuse, amyloidosis, scleroderma, vasculitis, inflammatory bowel disease, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, renal glomerular disorders, health care disparities, geriatrics, and sickle cell disease.

WITH SO MANY RESEARCHERS AND PROGRAMS, HOW DO YOU FACILITATE COLLABORATION? The Evans Center for Interdisciplinary Biomedical Research was established to facilitate interdisciplinary research in novel areas of interest to our faculty. The Evans Center provides resources and infrastructure for faculty from across the University to work in interdisciplinary teams that create new approaches to the discovery process. The center has organized Affinity Research Collaboratives (ARCs), including the Mitochondria Consortium, Protein Trafficking and Neurodegenerative Disease, Sex Differences in Adipose Tissue Remodeling, and iPS-Driven Tissue Regeneration (Regenerative Medicine). More than 150 faculty members are working in ARCs. During 2010-2011, faculty working collaboratively through the Evans Center received funding for 13 new grants and one program project grant from the NIH.

WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE NEW FRONTIERS IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH? The medical research community will be increasingly required to show the impact of our work in improving public health. We will continue to invest as a department and as a society in translational research and assemble new research team structures that create novel

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Hospital. **Norman G. Levinsky** assumes directorship of the Evans Memorial Department of Medicine and remarks, "I feel strongly that the Boston University Medical Center cannot sit in a deprived area without doing its utmost for its neighbors who live in the same part of Boston. It is a duty and a challenge." **1975** Evans Medical Foundation is established as a non-profit corporation to provide patient care. **1977** Haralambos Gavras introduces captopril for the treatment of hypertension. He was also among the first to investigate ACE-inhibitors to treat congestive heart failure. **1980** Cardiologists **Thomas Ryan** and **David Faxon** run clinical trials integral to evaluating the long-term results of coronary artery surgery and the value of angioplasty and thrombolytic therapy. **1982** Renal specialist and faculty member **Leah M. Lowenstein** is named dean of Jefferson Medical College, thus becoming the first female dean of a coeducational medical school in the United States. **1985** The first Evans Day celebration of research activity is held. **1987** By its 75th anniversary, the Evans Memorial Department comprises 85 researchers. **1989** Former hematology faculty member **Louis W. Sullivan** is installed as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. **1993** **Judith Vaitukaitis**, former director of BU's General Clinical Research Center, is named director of the National Institutes of Health's National Center for Research Resources. **1996** Boston City Hospital and University Hospital merge; the combined Department of Medicine includes more than 500 faculty and research personnel. Combined federal and private grant support makes the Boston University Department of Medicine one of the top 10 funded departments in the United States. **2005** The ambulatory practices conduct more than 200,000 patient visits annually. **2009** The Evans Center for Interdisciplinary Biomedical Research launches with **Katya Ravid** as the founding director.

opportunities for answering compelling research questions.

The dramatic advances in biomic research have created vast amounts of data that must be rigorously compared to human phenotypes and analyzed for their clinical utility. One of the strategies adopted by the department to meet this challenge was to establish a new section of **Computational Biomedicine in 2009-10**. This new section serves as an important home for research and training on genomic and computational approaches to disease pathogenesis, diagnosis, and treatment. The section's faculty and trainees use high-throughput technologies (i.e., micro-arrays and next-generation sequencing) to generate genome-wide data sets that are then analyzed with state-of-the-art computational tools.

We are also excited about the National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories (NEIDL) funded by NIH, Boston University, and Boston Medical Center. This 200,000-square-foot research center will attract 20 research teams to study emerging infectious diseases and will contain state-of-the-art biocontainment facilities (Biosafety Level 4). The NEIDL, already having recruited world-class investigators into many departments, including the Department of Medicine, will provide extraordinary opportunities for collaborative research in infectious diseases.

HOW DOES THE DEPARTMENT FULFILL ITS EDUCATIONAL MISSION? The department continues its longstanding tradition of training national leaders in discovery, clinical care, and medical education. Our educational programs include a medical residency program in internal medicine totaling 151 residents, 24 percent of whom have an advanced graduate degree. Residents may opt for a primary care track, which enriches the curriculum with an expanded experience in ambulatory medicine. All of our residents receive mentorship to pursue scholarly projects.

The department also oversees a PhD program in molecular medicine. Trainees take a series of core courses in the genetics and epidemiology of disease, cancer biology, immunity and infection, and the translation of molecular observations to clinical implementation. They rotate through laboratories in the department before choosing one in which to conduct dissertation research.

WHAT DO YOU LOOK FORWARD TO AS THE DEPARTMENT CELEBRATES ITS CENTENNIAL? At the 50th anniversary of the Evans Memorial, Robert Wilkins spoke about excellence as the guiding principle of the department. He said, "Mindful of the high price of excellence, the great demands and the many difficulties it will impose, we nevertheless embrace it as our model and our method. For whatever the price of excellence, the cost of compromise and mediocrity is greater." The Department of Medicine is steadfastly committed to the excellence exemplified by our predecessors in research, education, and patient care.

We are fortunate to work with an extraordinarily diverse patient population that encompasses a range of socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds. Our talented faculty members hold excellence at the core of their commitment to advancing the health of our patients. It is also very exciting to train the next generation of physicians and scientists who will provide exceptional and high-value clinical care and discover innovative strategies to prevent, diagnose, and treat disease into the next century. ■

Evans Memorial Department of Medicine: 100 Years of Healing, Discovery, and Education

The Evans Memorial Department of Medicine at Boston University School of Medicine will celebrate its 100th anniversary on October 5 and 6, 2012. All former and current residents, fellows, staff, faculty, and alumni are invited to attend a special symposium dedicated to reflecting on the department's past century and predicting the future of health care and discovery. Check our website:

www.bu.edu/cme/seminars/CENTMED12 for details.

THE SCHEDULE INCLUDES:

Friday, October 5

- Welcome from Karen Antman, provost of the Medical Campus and dean of the Boston University School of Medicine
- Tours of the Medical Campus
- Social gatherings with section and residency program colleagues

Saturday, October 6

- Research poster session
- Symposium and panel discussion: Training health care professionals to meet the health care needs of urban populations
- Reflections from Aram Chobanian, MD, University Professor and John I. Sandson Distinguished Professor of Health Sciences, dean emeritus of Boston University School of Medicine, and president emeritus of Boston University
- Frontiers in Translational Medicine including a presentation on personalized medicine by Joseph Loscalzo, MD, PhD, Wade Professor and Chair of the Department of Medicine, current Hersey Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, and chair of the Department of Medicine, Brigham and Women's Hospital

Giving

A Life Well Lived—and Remembered

The widow of a BUSM alumnus pays tribute to his career and passion for teaching through student scholarship



"What better way to commemorate his life than contributing to a program that will assist another surgical student?"

—JOY ROHMAN

JOY AND MICHAEL ROHMAN MET AT NEW YORK UNIVERSITY IN JULY 1946, just days after he was released from the army, where he served in the infantry in the European Theater of World War II. "In fact," remembers Joy, "when I met him he was dressed in half combat clothes and civilian clothes—he hadn't had time to go shopping."

At the time, Joy was a dancer with the Ballet Society in New York City (which George Balanchine later renamed the New York City Ballet). That September, Rohman applied to medical school and got into his top choice: Boston University School of Medicine. Deciding that she would not attain the goal of being a principal dancer with a ballet company, Joy moved to Boston; she and Michael were married in his second year and moved into a tiny, one-room apartment on Queensbury Street. "Michael picked it out," says Joy. "The rent, I recall, was 49 dollars a month. We made do, beautifully. I didn't think so at the time, but looking back now, we probably gained some good values about the important things in life, in what really matters."

Michael spent many late nights studying, writing papers, and preparing lessons in that apartment. Joy, with training as a medical assistant, worked for a gynecologist at Massachusetts General Hospital. Curious about his studies, she would read his texts and always ask questions. "He was very generous about teaching me," she says.

After graduation from BUSM in 1950—and an additional eight years of residencies—Michael began a long and distinguished career as a cardiothoracic and trauma surgeon. Joy, who is also a photographer,

would sometimes document his more challenging procedures in the operating room. In 2002, while still teaching and active in the hospital, Michael died suddenly. "Since then," says Joy, "I've wanted to establish a program that would carry on his work in some meaningful way."

To honor the memory of a man who loved his profession and teaching, Joy decided to create a scholarship fund at the BU School of Medicine in Michael Rohman's name: "What better way to commemorate his life than by contributing to a program that will assist another surgical student? He would be delighted to know about this. I look at the life we established and it's enviable in many ways. You live, you work, and you enjoy the fruits of your labor. It's time now to give back to the source of Michael's learning." ■

Mrs. Rohman made her initial gift by taking advantage of the charitable IRA rollover legislation (which expired on December 31, 2011) that allowed investors aged 70 and a half and older to directly transfer up to \$100,000 from an IRA to charity without paying income tax on the amount transferred.

If you are interested in learning about the opportunities for making a planned gift to benefit Boston University School of Medicine, please email Assistant Dean Karen Engelbourg at engelbou@bu.edu or call 617-638-4560. You can also visit our website at www.bu.edu/supportingbusm.