Message from the Chairman

Colleagues,

The January issue of the departmental enewsletter contains acknowledgement of very special achievements by our faculty. The appointment of Drs. Corkey and Spira to endowed professorships is a tribute both to their remarkable achievements in research and mentoring, and to the institution’s commitment to recognizing excellence among our faculty. On behalf of the entire department, I would also like to also express my gratitude to Dr. Aram Chobanian for his extraordinary career of service to Boston University, the School of Medicine, and to our department. Dr. Chobanian decided to devote much more of his effort to his other interests, including his remarkable pursuit of song-writing. Although he will be closing down his on-campus office, he will remain engaged with our department and the campus more broadly. His 56 years of distinguished service and achievement are an inspiring example for all of us in academic medicine! I hope you will join in thanking him for his leadership and for his generosity!

David Coleman, M.D.
The December issue of Boston Magazine named the city’s top doctors, including several DOM faculty members. They are:

**Allergy and Immunology**
Helen Hollingsworth, MD

**Cardiac Electro-Physiology**
Kevin Monahan, MD, FACC

**Cardiovascular Disease**
Eric Awtry, MD
Gary Balady, MD
Sheilah Bernard, MD
Wilson Colucci, MD

**Gastroenterology**
Francis Farraye, MD, MSc, FACP, FACG
Robert Lowe, MD
David Nunes, MD

**Geriatric Medicine**
Heidi Auerbach, MD
Serena Chao, MD, MSc
Eric Hardt, MD
Sharon Levine, MD
Daniel Oates, MD, MSc

**Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism**
Shalender Bhasin, MD
Lewis Braverman, MD
Michael Holick, MD, PhD
Stephanie Lee, MD, PhD

**Internal Medicine**
Thomas Barber, MD
Elaine Hylek, MD, MPH
Angela Jackson, MD
Jeffrey Samet, MD, MPH
Charles Tifft, MD

**Interventional Cardiology**
Alice Jacobs, MD

**Medical Oncology**
Kevan Hartshorn, MD

**Nephrology**
Laura Dember, MD
David Salant, MD

**Pulmonary Disease**
John Berk, MD
Harrison Farber, MD

**Rheumatology**
Eugene Kissin, MD
Robert Simms, MD
Professors Named

On November 29, the Department recognized two faculty members with named professorships. Barbara Corkey, PhD (Vice Chair for Research) received the Zoltan Kohn Professor of Medicine. This professorship was established through the generosity of the Tauber family. Her studies on the basic mechanisms of insulin secretion and pancreatic beta cell function have been groundbreaking.

Avrum Spira, MD, MSc (Computational Biomedicine) was named Alexander Graham Bell Professor in Health Care Entrepreneurship. Dr. Spira is an internationally recognized leader in cancer-based genomics and in pulmonary bioinformatics. His group has characterized the genome of the airway epithelium and how gene-expression activity in these cells serves as a clinically-relevant biomarker for lung cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.
Milestones

On January 10, 2012, Boston mayor Thomas M. Menino toured the National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory. “There are great opportunities for collaboration between the private sector and the public sector,” Menino said. “We’re going to be able to attract more of the world’s renowned researchers to help find the cures to some of these diseases. We’ve always been an innovator in this area and this is another step forward.”

After serving more than 56 years at the Boston University Medical Campus, Aram Chobanian, MD (Hypertension) will be giving up his office. Aram served as the Dean of the Medical School from 1988 to 2003, and as the Medical Campus Provost from 1996 to 2003. He played a central role in the negotiations that allowed the merger of University Hospital and Boston City Hospital into Boston Medical Center. From 2003 to 2005, he was the President ad interim of Boston University. In 2006, he returned to the Medical Campus, where he has remained active as a mentor and advisor.
Jeffrey H. Samet, MD, MA, MPH (General Internal Medicine) has been installed as the president of the American Board of Addiction Medicine (ABAM) and The ABAM Foundation. Samet will serve in this volunteer position for two years. In this role he will lead ABAM in the formal certification of physicians as experts in addiction medicine, establish and accredit physician post-graduate addiction medicine training programs, and thus advance the quality of medical care for substance use disorders related to alcohol, tobacco and other addicting drugs, including some prescription medications.

Awards

Lewis Weintraub, M.D., is the 2011 recipient of the Jerome Klein Award for Physician Excellence. This award was established in 2010 to commemorate Dr. Klein’s 50 years of service and is presented annually to a physician who shares Dr. Klein’s attributes. The Jerome Klein award is presented to Dr. Weintraub this year in recognition of his clinical and research excellence, leadership, and dedicated commitment to education and mentoring.

Please join us in celebrating with Dr. Weintraub on Tuesday, January 31st at 4 PM in the Wilkins Board Room.

Richard A. Cohen, M.D., the Jay and Louise Coffman Professor of Vascular Medicine, Professor of Medicine and Director of the Vascular Biology Section at the Boston University School of Medicine is the recipient of the 2012 Paul M. Vanhoutte Lectureship in Vascular Pharmacology. The lectureship was established to recognize scientific contributions that help our understanding and appreciation of the importance of endothelial cells and vascular smooth muscle function in health and disease. Dr. Cohen receives this honor in recognition of his substantial lifelong scientific achievements and commitment in this research area. His discoveries have significantly advanced our understanding of vascular biology and vascular pathology in both animal model systems and in patients and led to the development of novel pharmacological agents to treat vascular dysfunction in the clinic.
Jane Liebschutz, MD, MPH, FACP has been chosen as the 2012 Community Clinician of the Year for Suffolk District Medical Society. She will receive a special letter of invite to the Suffolk District Annual Meeting on Thursday, March 15, 2012 at the Harvard Faculty Club.

Francis Farraye, MD, MSc, FACP, FACG, has been named a leading gastroenterologist by Becker’s ASC Review. The publication, which features analysis and insight for specialties including bariatrics, orthopedics/spine, gastroenterology, neurosurgery and pain management, names the top gastroenterologists in health care organizations across the country in its “125 Leading Gastroenterologists in America.” Physicians are named to the list based on the awards they receive from major organizations in the field, their leadership in these organizations, work on professional publications and positions of service.

Winnie Suen, MD, (Geriatrics) has been selected by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services as one of 73 “innovation advisors” nationwide. The advisor program, created by the Affordable Care Act, is designed to give medical professionals the skills they need to assess and change the health care of large groups of patients, including in areas of economics and population health. They also will become point people for testing and ramping up pilot programs for changing the health care system.

PUBLICATIONS

Judith Tsui, MD (General Internal Medicine) and her colleagues have found that opioid-dependent patients treated with escitalopram experienced meaningful reductions in pain severity and pain interference during the first three months of therapy. According to the authors, antidepressants may constitute an appealing option for treating pain in opioid-dependent patients because of the frequent coexistence of depression in this population.

Allan J. Walkey, MD (Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Allergy Medicine) and his co-authors showed an increased risk of stroke and mortality among patients diagnosed with severe sepsis and new-onset atrial fibrillation (AF) during hospitalization.

“It is projected that one million Americans will have severe sepsis this year, and based on our data, approximately 60,000 people will develop new-onset atrial fibrillation,” said Walkey. “There are currently no guidelines on how best to care for these specific patients, but this study is a call to action that this under-recognized potential complication of severe sepsis requires further investigation on how to treat these critically ill patients.”


Winnie Suen, MD, MSc (Geriatrics) and her co-authors have published tools for effective role-playing facilitation skills on MedEdPORTAL, the peer-reviewed depository of medical education materials. In two conference presentations, 90% of participants in the training felt more confident in their ability to use role-play as a teaching tool.

Peter S. Cahn, PhD (Director of Faculty Development and Diversity) published an essay in The Chronicle of Higher Education entitled “Lessons from the Medical-School Campus.” [http://chronicle.com/article/Lessons-From-the/130220/]

Tracy Battaglia, MD (General Internal Medicine) and her colleagues published an article in The Breast Journal entitled, “The Addition of Internists to a Breast Health Program.” Their data suggest that a group of appropriately trained internists can provide quality breast care to a vulnerable population in a multidisciplinary setting. Replication of this model requires the availability of more clinical training programs for non-surgical providers.


**MEDIA MENTIONS**
The Boston Globe interviewed Karin Sloan, MD (Pulmonary, Allergy, and Critical Care Medicine) and her husband Mark Sloan, MD (Hematology and Oncology) for an article about multitasking among working parents.

Karin told the reporter, “I’m in charge of the family schedule, which includes keeping the kids clothed and bathed, shopping for food, keeping track of the school schedule, keeping track of the nanny’s schedule, making sure it’s clear what days we may be home late.”

Mark agrees that he helps, but admits that “by default, things fall to her. If something comes up, the nanny won’t call me, she’ll call her. My wife jokes that if it were up to me, our son wouldn’t have been enrolled in school.”

[http://articles.boston.com/2011-12-13/community/30512718_1_mothers-fathers-moms/2]
Walk and Talk
Informal walking club led by Matt Russell (Geriatrics)
Wednesday, January 25, 2012
5:30 p.m. meet in the medical school lobby

Upcoming walk: Jane Liebschutz and Sharon Levine, Thursday, February 16 at 12:00 p.m. in the medical school lobby

Faculty Friday Social
Please join your colleagues for conversation, food, and drink
Friday, January 27, 2012
4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Wilkins Board Room

Upcoming Faculty Friday: February 17, 2012 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in Wilkins Board Room

Web profiles
All faculty may create a profile to include on the DOM web site. Complete this online form: [http://www.bumc.bu.edu/medicine/dom-resources/web-guides/create-a-faculty-webpage/](http://www.bumc.bu.edu/medicine/dom-resources/web-guides/create-a-faculty-webpage/).

Academy for Faculty Advancement
Early career faculty members are invited to participate in a structured, longitudinal mentoring program. Applicants must specify an academic project that will contribute to their professional advancement and that can achieve significant milestones by the end of the nine-month program. To assist in completing their projects, participants receive multiple forms of mentoring:

1. An assigned content mentor from another department who will devote one hour per month to advising the participant.
2. Expert speakers will address areas of professional development through in-person, interactive sessions twice a month for 2 hours each.
3. Peer mentors in learning communities will meet at each in-person session to provide support and accountability.

To learn more, please attend one of the information sessions from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.:
- Monday, February 6, 2012 in Robinson 2501 (Geriatrics Conference Room)
- Wednesday, February 8, 2012 in 650 Albany Street, Room 714
- Thursday, February 23, 2012 in 650 Albany Street, Room 715

More information and the online application are here: [http://www.bumc.bu.edu/facdev-medicine/mentoring/ecfdp/](http://www.bumc.bu.edu/facdev-medicine/mentoring/ecfdp/).
December Grants Awarded

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<td>General Internal Medicine</td>
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