

Updates from the Chair

January, 2010

Rhoda M. Alani, MD

Herbert Mescon Professor and Chair



Dear Colleagues:

Over the past few weeks I have had a wonderful opportunity to better familiarize myself with the inner workings of the Department of Dermatology at Boston University School of Medicine and Boston Medical Center. I have had meetings with faculty, staff, and trainees to learn more about the nature this department including the organizational structure of the department, the day-to-day operations, the needs of individuals and programs, the formalized lines of communication within the department, and the overall “mood” of the department. What I have come to learn is that this department is comprised of a group of hard-working and dedicated individuals who are genuinely committed to excellence and to achieving at the highest possible levels. In order to better achieve our goals of excellence in patient care, teaching, and research, it will be necessary for the department to improve the current lines of communication. This newsletter is one of the ways in which we will seek to improve how information is disseminated among all members of the department. My expectation is that each month the newsletter will contain “Updates from the Chair” as well as rotating sections from various programs within the department and clinical sites. We will also include information on upcoming departmental activities and feature sections on members of the department whose achievements deserve special recognition. Since this is a work-in-progress, I am delighted to receive feedback regarding the nature of this publication and its content. In addition to this newsletter, we are expecting to use digital media including the launch of a departmental Facebook page, and a possible BU Derm Twitter account to provide timely updates to supplement the departmental website. I hope you enjoy these many new sources of information and look forward to receiving feedback regarding this initiative.

Faculty Recruitment: One of the major goals for our department is the recruitment and retention of outstanding faculty and staff committed to excellence on all levels. Currently, our most critical needs include the hiring of additional clinical faculty to develop clinically-oriented academic programs and serve our ever-increasing patient population. Over the past month I have had the pleasure to review several excellent candidates for these positions and I expect many of you will be meeting with these applicants over the next few months. Hopefully we will have several of these applicants on-board as new faculty by this summer. We will also be looking to recruit new laboratory-based research faculty in the coming months and will keep you updated on progress in this area.

Residency Training Program: I expect that this topic will become a regular feature of the BU Dermatology Newsletter (BUDN) and will leave future updates to Dr. Garg. For now, I will provide brief comments about the recruitment activities of the past month. I was delighted to be able to participate in our residency recruitment process for residents who would begin their training at BU in July 2011 and was amazed by the incredibly talented pool of applicants we were able to attract to our program. It seems that each year the applicants get better and better and this year was no exception. We expect to be able to attract many of our top candidates to BU and will provide the results of our “Match” in March. I wanted to give special thanks to Cindy Yee-Lin, Daniella Adrien, and Amit Garg for their hard work in developing such an outstanding recruitment program and to the residents and selection committee for their hard work. I have heard back from many of the interviewees who specifically mentioned the excellent organization of their trip to BU Dermatology and their appreciation for the wonderful pre-application dinner.

Department Expansion and Renovations: As we anticipate the recruitment of new faculty, we are also looking to expand on multiple fronts.

Discussions are ongoing with BMC-affiliated community health centers to expand dermatology care to these facilities and we are hopeful to develop active clinical care programs within the upcoming months. We are also eagerly awaiting the opening of the Shapiro Ambulatory Care Center in early 2011 and, by the looks of the current construction, it appears that the slated date for opening is on target. For those of you with an interest in reviewing the plans for our new dermatology clinic space in the Shapiro Building a website will be forthcoming. We are also working on the renovations for the 609 Albany Street facility. So far, we have had several visits from design and construction staff at BU as well as facilities management. We anticipate that these renovations will add significantly to the comfort and appeal of our administrative and research facilities and are anticipating that work will be initiated within the next few months.

Department Alumni: Over the past half-century, many trainees have come through the Department of Dermatology at BU/BMC including students, residents, international students, clinical and research fellows, and faculty. It would be nice to have continued interactions with our departmental alumni to ensure their active engagement in the department following their tenure. Over the next several months, I will be working to improve the lines of communication with our former trainees. A first attempt to engage our residency program trainees will be at the upcoming BU Dermatology Residency Program Alumni Reunion at the American Academy of Dermatology meeting in Miami on March 7th. I hope that those of you that will be in attendance at the meeting will make an extra effort to participate in this alumni event which we are anticipating to be a very enjoyable evening. We also expect to establish a formalized BU Dermatology Alumni Association and hope to include former residency and international student program trainees in the leadership of this program. Additional means of continued contact with former trainees will include the use of an updated Facebook site specifically dedicated to alumni news and activities. Please feel free to provide additional suggestions for how to improve interactions with this important part of our departmental programs.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2010

GRAND ROUNDS

PLACE: DOCTORS OFFICE BUILDING, 9TH FLOOR
DATE/TIME: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 8:30-11:45 AM

FACULTY MEETING

PLACE: 609 ALBANY STREET, 4TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
DATE/TIME: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 12:00 – 1:00 PM

DISEASE AND THERAPY COURSE

PLACE: KEEFER AUDITORIUM
DATE: FEBRUARY 3-12

GRAND ROUNDS

PLACE: DOCTORS OFFICE BUILDING, 9TH FLOOR
DATE/TIME: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 8:30-11:45 AM

FACULTY MEETING

PLACE: 609 ALBANY STREET, 4TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
DATE/TIME: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 12:00 – 1:00 PM

AAD ANNUAL MEETING

PLACE: MIAMI CONVENTION CENTER
DATE: MARCH 5-9

BU DERMATOLOGY ALUMNI REUNION

PLACE: BASS ART MUSEUM, MIAMI, FL
DATE/TIME: SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

IN-SERVICE EXAM FOR TRAINEES

PLACE: BU MEDICAL SCHOOL
80 EAST CONCORD STREET, 11TH FLOOR COMPUTER LAB
DATE/TIME: THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 9:00AM-1:00PM

I hope you have enjoyed this inaugural issue of the BU Dermatology Newsletter. I look forward to improving the content and utility of this publication in the months ahead.

Please feel free to send your suggestions for future topics and features to Jacy Bernal at jlondon@bu.edu.

Best regards,



Rhoda