1963-04

Director's Newsletter: April 1963 v. 1, no. 4

Director's Office, Boston University Medical Center

Director's Office, Boston University Medical Center

http://hdl.handle.net/2144/20066

Boston University
Our new masthead is a forerunner of "things to come". The attractive insignia will soon appear on letterheads, memoranda, etc.

+++  

On physical and other developmental planning, there has been a good deal of activity since our February Newsletter. I am happy to report a few examples. Perry, Shaw, Hepburn, and Dean have been engaged as architects to do preliminary work on the residential facilities; Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson, and Abbott have been similarly engaged with respect to the new instructional building; Anderson Beckwith and Haible, BUMC consulting architects, are doing programming work with the Patient Care and Related Facilities Committee; power (engineering) and topographical studies of the BUMC area, necessary before construction can begin, got underway in late February; title to the Armory property, site of the new State Mental Health Center is to be transferred on April 15, and general plans are on schedule.

+++  

Among other actions: Engagement of the firm of Choate, Hall, and Stewart, with Mr. Rhodes G. Lockwood as legal counsel for BUMC....Mr. William D. Brown has been appointed BUMC Information Officer, with responsibility for internal and external public relations. Mr. Brown was formerly associated with Reader's Digest in their national and Toronto offices....As noted in the February Newsletter, Marts & Lundy are assisting in the initial planning for fund raising, and their Executive Vice President, Paul M. Younger, began this assignment in late February.

+++  

Medical Radio Network, a new communications medium, was launched in Boston last month. For a small fee, busy doctors now can receive in their own offices, postgraduate medical education as well as information of interest to the profession. By means of closed circuit audio (FM) facilities, three separate medical programs will be broadcast four times each weekday. Background music for patient areas and waiting rooms also will be provided. Dr. Chester Keefer heads the network's Executive Committee. BUMC members of the star-studded Editorial Advisory Council include Drs. Bakst, Curran, Freed, Gellis, Kensler, Mescon, and Smithwick. Inquiries should be addressed to Medical Radio Network, 10 Kenmore Street, Boston 15.
The new BUMC patent policy is now in operation. Distribution of appropriate forms, and procedure for using them, are being handled by the offices of the Dean of BUSM and the Administrator of MMH. A BUMC Committee on patents has been appointed to review all discoveries and determine in which category they fall. Chaired by Professor William J. Curran, the Committee includes Dr. Earl R. Loew and Dr. James B. Melby. Their findings will be reviewed by the BUMC Director who in turn will recommend final action to the BUMC Trustee Council.

Formal written agreements between Boston City Hospital's Board of Trustees and BUMC have been effected for BCH services affiliated with and operated by BUSM. The BUSM directors are the administrative heads of the services, and teaching and research activities of the services are used for training of BUSM and other medical students. Included are: Fifth and Sixth Medical Services, Pediatrics, Third Surgical Service, Urology, Radiology, and Thoracic Surgery. Agreements on the last two have recently been completed. In early March BUMC selected and nominated, and BCH Trustees confirmed, Dr. John W. Strider as Director of Thoracic Surgery and Dr. Thomas F. Boyd as assistant to the Administrative head. Pathology is directed by BUSM's Dr. Kenneth Mallory as a joint service for BU, Harvard, and Tufts Medical Schools.

Dr. Eleanor Pavenstedt is the recipient of a Commonwealth Fund grant which will enable her to spend four months, beginning in August, in Kyoto, Japan, studying a selected group of mothers and young children in relation to a long-range study which Dr. Pavenstedt has been conducting.

An NIH General Research Support Grant has been received by MMH in the amount of $94,919 for the calendar year 1963. A Hospital Grants Committee has been set up to receive, review, and make recommendations regarding uses of the grant given to strengthen the research programs of the Hospitals as a whole. The committee will consider the use of the funds from the standpoint of what is best for the Hospital and the Medical Center as a whole. The function of the committee parallels that of the BUSM Faculty Grants Committee. Through overlapping membership and an exchange of minutes of meetings and copies of recommendations, the work of the two committees can be coordinated. BUMC has received an NIH General Research Support grant in the amount of $116,903 for 1963.

A regional computer center for the bio-medical sciences is now under consideration. BUMC has joined with M.I.T. and other institutions to lay plans. The center would involve both computer technology and research in the biomedical sciences. Financed (construction and operations) by an NIH grant, this New England Center would have as host institution M.I.T. in much the same fashion as the New England Primate Center is being managed by Harvard (see December 1962 Newsletter). Staff members appointed by BUMC to serve on joint committees for initial planning are Dr. Sydney S. Gellis (Institutional Relations), Dr. Evangelos T. Angelakos (Scientific Advisory and Program), Dr. Gerald H. Whipple (Hospital Advisory), and Dr. Allan F. Mirsky (Facilities and Space Requirements).
A BUMC Library Committee (Dr. Charles Kane, Chairman) has been appointed, composed of the broadly representative former BUSM Library Committee, plus Helen B. Easterday of the BU School of Nursing. Our present Library, serving all phases of BUMC, does an admirable job in cramped, inadequate quarters. Adequate library resources, quarters, and services are of vital importance to development of the BUMC and its constituents. Director of Libraries Harrer and Miss Turner recently completed a reassessment of needs, and we shall do our best to insure that this resource ranks high on BUMC's priority list.

Are you busy Saturday evening, December 14, 1963? Well, you have a date! The MMH Aid Association has taken over the Saxon Theater that night for a benefit performance of "The Cardinal", the Otto Preminger movie, part of which was filmed in Talbot. Mrs. Reginald Ward and Mrs. George Whitelaw, co-chairmen, hope that you will join the BUMC family that evening.

BUSON News: Under a grant from USPHS, Division of Nursing, 28 students participated in a four-week course from March 4-29, in Rehabilitation Nursing for Staff Nurses. Students are recruited from public health agencies, rehabilitation clinics, and rehabilitation units in hospitals. The final course of the series of four will be given April 29 - May 24....Miss Mary Ann Garrigan, Professor of Nursing, is on sabbatic this semester, doing a follow-up study on the graduates of the Basic Collegiate Program of BUSON....Miss Ruth Hulett, Instructor in Nursing, is serving as Surgical Supervisor for Robinson-Collamore at MMH, thus continuing the close relationship between BUSON and the MMH Nursing Service.

Massachusetts Memorial Medical and Surgical Society will hold its Fall meeting on October 18, 1963. Details of the program will appear in the June Newsletter.

The pioneering gaschromatography course, first given in January, brought to BUMC 22 graduate students, faculty members, and other professionals from 14 states and 2 provinces of Canada. The enthusiastic response of the participants has led to consideration of a repeat performance in the near future.

Student news: Marilyn Manin, Mary Lou Aldrich, and Bonnie Jean Harthan, BUSON seniors, have been selected for inclusion in the 1962-63 "Who's Who among Students in American Universities and Colleges."....Peter S. Decker, a first-year BUSM student, has been awarded the Pfizer Scholarship for 1962-63.

MMH House Officers will soon have the facilities of a portion of Vose Hall for their use. Reconditioning is now being completed, and the area will be ready for use some time in April.
"The Age of the Wordfact," by John Kenneth Galbraith, contains a most pertinent (to BUMC) satirical comment: "The wordfact makes words a precise substitute for reality. This is an enormous convenience. It means that to say that something exists is a substitute for its existence. And to say that something will happen is as good as having it happen. The saving in energy is nearly total." My point: no energy is being saved at BUMC. There's lots of talk, and it is based on facts. They are not a substitute for action, of which there is plenty! Things are happening! (See page 1 and earlier Newsletters.) Let's not, any of us, indulge in wordfacts!

+++ Personal Notes:...DR. ROBERT W. WILKINS recently addressed two meetings in Tennessee on "Recent Advances in High Blood Pressure Research."....Welcome to DR. KARL SCHMID and his staff, now located to Building B of BUSM....and to SANDRA KAY SMITH, secretary in the BUMC Director's office, to KATHERINE MORAN, secretary to Dean Gellis, and to MRS. E. PAULINE FISCHER, Administrative Assistant to Miss Flores....DR. LANGDON PARSONS was guest speaker at the Louisville Ob-Gyn Society during February, and also performed an operation in view of closed circuit TV....DR. HENRY J. BAKST has been invited by the Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany to participate in a study tour in the field of preventive medicine during April, one of the objectives of which will be to evaluate activities specifically directed at health maintenance and disease prevention in present-day Germany....DR. KURT H. THOMA has been elected Honorary Fellow of the British Association of Oral Surgeons and an Honorary Member of the Dental Association of Malta....DR. THEODORE X. BARBER is the recipient of a grant from the National Institutes of Mental Health to study the physiological effects of hypnosis....DR. HERBERT I. POSIN and DR. JACOB SWARTZ recently participated in the "Colloquium for Postgraduate Teaching of Psychiatry" held at the University of California.

Lewis H. Rohrbaugh
Director