1988-10

BUSM News & Notes: October 1988
no. 122

Boston University School of Medicine Office of
Informational Services

http://hdl.handle.net/2144/20924

Boston University
Valeri receives awards, participates in Presidential Commission on AIDS

Retired Navy Capt. C. Robert Valeri, M.D., scientific director of the BUSM Naval Blood Research Laboratory and a professor of medicine, on August 12 was presented the 1987 Captain Robert Dexter Conrad Award at the Pentagon in recognition of his outstanding technical and scientific achievement in research and development for the U.S. Navy. Assistant Secretary of the Navy Thomas F. Faught Jr. presented the award to Valeri.

According to the citation, "His foresightedness has single-handedly led to extending the shelf-life of frozen red cells from three years to 20 years, paving the way for the Navy and the Department of Defense to stockpile thousands of units of this irreplaceable resource. His distinguished achievements, profound judgement and untiring devotion are unsurpassed in the history of Naval Medical Research and will have indelible effects on the Department of the Navy's ability to provide blood products to combat casualties."

Awarded Jules Voncken Prize

In addition, Valeri was presented with the Jules Voncken Prize at the 27th International Congress of Military Medicine and Pharmacy, held in Interlaken, Switzerland. Valeri was selected for the prestigious honor for his book entitled "The Hypovolemic Anemia of Trauma—The Missing Blood Syndrome," which was published in 1981. The Congress is an intergovernmental organization in which 91 countries are represented.

Valeri also took part in the Presidential Commission on AIDS meeting, held in Indianapolis last May. He gave expert testimony in the area of intraoperative autologous transfusion during the hearing on the safety of the nation's blood supply.

BUSM researcher studies regeneration of sensory hair cells in chickens

Sensory hair cells that are located in the inner ear of birds and which previously were thought to lead to permanent hearing loss if destroyed, are regenerated in chickens after acoustic trauma, according to a recent BUSM study. The study, which was co-authored by Douglas A. Cotanche, Ph.D., an assistant professor of anatomy, appeared in the June 24 issue of Science.

Edward L. Spatz, M.D., appointed director of surgery at Boston City Hospital

Edward L. Spatz, M.D., chairman of the School of Medicine's Division of Surgery and surgeon-in-chief at the University Hospital, recently was appointed by the Board of Trustees of the Department of Health and Hospitals to the additional position of director of surgery at Boston City Hospital.
Hospital, a principal teaching hospital of BUSM. Spatz, who has been a BUSM faculty member since 1968, also is chief of general surgery and neurosurgery at UH and is director of UH's Northeast Regional Center for Brain Injury.

"Dr. Spatz has been an outstanding member of our faculty for many years," said Dean Aram Chobanian. "He has distinguished himself as the head of the Neurosurgery Department at BUSM, UH and BCH. We are delighted with his appointments as chief of surgery at all three institutions."

School of Medicine welcomes freshmen with reception, dinner, workshops
The School of Medicine's 1988-89 academic year began for 135 freshmen on Monday, August 29, with an orientation program cosponsored by the Office of Student Affairs and the BUSM Alumni Association. Among the activities were an Alumni Association reception and dinner, held in the School’s Heibert Lounge, and a financial planning workshop. Fall semester classes began Sept. 7.

Among those attending the events were the 88 men and 55 women, ranging in age from 18 to 35, who make up the Class of '92. The Class includes 40 Six-Year students, 14 Modular Medical Integrated Curriculum students, eight M.D.-Ph.D. students and four Early Medical School Selection Program students. The students come from as far away as California.

Among those who addressed the students during the orientation program were Medical Center Director Richard H. Egdahl, M.D.; Dean Aram Chobanian; Associate Dean for Student Affairs William F. McNary Jr., Ph.D.; and Associate Dean for Admissions John O'Connor, M.D.

Freed receives Recognition Award for Distinguished Clinicians
Murray M. Freed, M.D., chairman of the School's Department of Rehabilitation Medicine and chief of rehabilitation medicine at the University Hospital, recently received a Recognition Award for Distinguished Clinicians from the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

The Award honors physiatrists who have achieved distinction through their scholarly level of teaching and their outstanding performance in patient-care activities, and who have made significant contributions to the development of the specialty of physical medicine and rehabilitation.

Boston Can Share Canned Food Drive to be held at BUSM Nov. 14-22
The fourth annual Boston Can Share Canned Food Drive will begin collecting canned foods in the lobbies of the School of Medicine, the University Hospital's Atrium Pavilion and the Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry from Monday, Nov. 14, through Tuesday, Nov. 22. Faculty, staff and students are asked to contribute cans or plastic containers of such high-protein foods as tuna fish, peanut butter and soups to the Drive.

The foods will go to a local network of about 300 food pantries and soup kitchens, which serve more than 15,000 families every month. For more information please call Mike Devlin at x5234 (638-5234) or Lorraine Peters at x8118 (638-8118).

Leach travels to Olympics in Seoul as head of Sports Medicine Council
Robert E. Leach, M.D., chairman of the School's Department of Orthopedic Surgery, recently traveled to Seoul, Korea, with the U.S. Olympic Committee as head of the U.S.O.C.'s Sports Medicine Council. As head of the Council, Leach was responsible for selecting and advising those physicians and trainers who treated American athletes. In the past, Leach was a treating physician for the U.S. Olympic team, involved directly in providing care to the athletes.

The problems that the athletes face, in addition to sport-related injuries, include traveler's diarrhea or hepatitis, according to Leach. Physicians must play a role in treating not only these afflictions but in helping athletes deal with the psychological stresses related to competition, victory and defeat, he added.

John Sullivan appointed director of Auxiliary Services at Medical Campus
John Sullivan recently was appointed director of Auxiliary Services at the Medical Campus, according to William Gasper, assistant vice president for Business Affairs. Sullivan replaced John Burtis in June.
Sullivan's most recent position was as a senior manager at a local greeting card company. Prior to that he held positions at Boston University, first as manager of Receivables and then as assistant comptroller. Sullivan has a Master of Business Administration degree from Boston College. His responsibilities as director of Auxiliary Services include Parking Services, Mail Services, Shipping/Receiving and liaison with the Medical Campus Bookstore and Dining Services operations. His office also will provide administrative support for the Medical Campus Security operation.

Sussman awarded $70,000 grant from American Diabetes Association

Ilene Sussman, Ph.D., a research instructor of medicine, recently was awarded a two-year, $70,000 feasibility grant from the American Diabetes Association, Inc. (ADA).

Sussman will receive $35,000 each year for two years and will devote the majority of her time to diabetes research. Sussman's research is entitled "Metabolic and Cellular Differentiation of Neural Tube Fusion: Effect of Hyperglycemia." The ADA is the nation's leading voluntary health organization supporting diabetes research.

School of Medicine faculty take part in UH conference on health-care ethics

A number of School of Medicine faculty recently participated in a conference on "Ethical Perspectives in Health Care," held Sept. 15 at the University Hospital. The event was sponsored by the Social Issues Committee and the Department of Social Service, both of UH.

The speakers included: Anna Bissonnette, R.N., M.S., an associate professor of socio-medical sciences and community medicine (community health nursing-gerontology) and associate director of UH's Home Medical Service, who spoke on issues related to the elderly; keynote speaker Michael Grodin, M.D., director of the School's Program in Medical Ethics and an associate professor of pediatrics, who presented an overview of the topic; George Lamb, M.D., deputy commissioner of Boston's Department of Health and Hospitals and a professor of pediatrics and public health (epidemiology and biostatistics), who spoke on needle exchange; and Aubrey Milunsky, M.D., D.S.C., director of the BUSM's Center for Human Genetics and a professor of pediatrics and obstetrics and gynecology, who spoke on dilemmas brought about by advancements in genetics.

New Lot C stickers available

Medical Center faculty, staff and students who park in Lot C must obtain new stickers for the 1988-89 academic year by Tuesday, Oct. 11, according to John Sullivan, director of Auxiliary Services at the Medical Campus.
titled "Effect Sizes for Interpreting Changes in Health Status" at the second conference on Advances in Health Status Assessment, held in Menlo Park, Calif. The paper, coauthored by Robert F. Meenan, M.D., M.P.H., associate director of the Center and an assistant professor of medicine, and Jennifer Anderson, Ph.D., an assistant research professor of medicine (biostatistics), will be published in the February 1989 issue of the journal Medical Care as part of a special supplement on the conference....

John Noble, M.D., a professor of medicine and chief of the Section of General Internal Medicine at Boston City Hospital, recently was elected president of the Society of General Internal Medicine for 1988-89....Arnold E. Reif, D.Sc., a research professor of pathology, recently was one of nine expatriate immunologists who participated in a Vienna symposium that coincided with Austria’s remembrances of its takeover by Hitler 50 years ago. Reif spoke on "Science and the Warm Acceptance of All Humanity"....

Jerome H. Shapiro, M.D., chairman of the Department of Radiology, recently was appointed to the Board of Chancellors of the American College of Radiology. He delivered the keynote address on "Standard Setting Radiology" at the organization’s recent annual meeting in Cincinnati.