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Boston University
Whitaker dedication, Kaufman Lecture highlight cardiovascular symposium held as part of University’s 150th celebration

The latest developments in the prevention and treatment of heart disease and the need to develop a national health policy in order to make further advances in the fight against the nation’s premier preventable health problem were discussed by 21 leading cardiovascular disease researchers who took part in a major two-day symposium in April sponsored by the School of Medicine.

Several hundred researchers attended the symposium, which was held April 24 and 25 at the Medical Center as part of Boston University’s Sesquicentennial celebration. The symposium also was the fourth in a series of national health-policy conferences sponsored by the School’s National Research and Demonstration Center for Hypertension.

Boston University President John Silber cited BUSM’s pioneering role in the research, prevention and treatment of heart disease. Dean Aram Chobanian presented a history of cardiovascular accomplishments at BUSM. Others presenters at the symposium included: Nobel Laureate Joseph L. Goldstein, M.D., chairman, Department of Molecular Genetics, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas; Eugene Braunwald, M.D., Harvey Professor and chairman, Division of Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Edward D. Magnich, M.D., vice president, Alton Ochsner Medical Foundation; Antonio M. Gotto Jr., chairman, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine; Charles H. Hennekens, M.D., an associate professor of medicine, Harvard Medical School; and Arno G. Motulsky, M.D., a professor of medicine, University of Washington.

School of Medicine faculty who took part included: Carl Franzblau, Ph.D., chairman, Department of Biochemistry; Richard J. Shemin, M.D., chairman, Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery; Donald M. Small, M.D., chairman, Department of Biophysics; Aubrey Milunsky, M.B.B.Ch, director of the Center for Human Genetics; Carl S. Apstein, M.D., Haralambos P. Gavras, M.D., William B. Kannel, M.D., M.P.H., and Joseph Stokes III, M.D., all professors of medicine; and David P. Faxon, M.D., an associate professor of medicine.

Panel discussion, dedication held

The S.A. Kaufman, M.D., Memorial Lecture was among the highlights of the symposium. This year’s program, held April 25 in the University Hospital’s Keefer Auditorium, featured a panel discussion on “National Health Policy Implications of Cardiovascular Diseases in the 1990s.” The panelists included Dean Aram Chobanian; Medical Center Director Richard H. Egdaahl, M.D.; Thomas J. Ryan, M.D., of BUSM; and Dean Chobanian.

The family, friends and colleagues of the late Seymour A. Kaufman, M.D., a clinical professor of radiology, established a memorial fund after his death in 1984. The proceeds of this fund support the Memorial Lecture, which is presented each year as part of the symposium.
year by distinguished speakers in the field of medicine and allied disciplines.

Following the symposium, a dedication ceremony was held at which the School's Cardiovascular Institute was renamed the Whitaker Cardiovascular Institute in honor of the School's longtime friends and supporters, U.A. and Helen Whitaker. Much of the cardiovascular research at the School has taken place at the Institute since its founding in 1974.

The dedication featured remarks by Dean Chobanian and President Silber. Ruth Holmes, Ph.D., daughter of U.A. Whitaker and a trustee of the Whitaker Foundation, and Miles Gibbons, executive director of the Foundation, were presented with plaques and commemorative books as part of the ceremony, which included a reception.

**Commencement plans set for BUSM and SPH**

Deborah Prothrow-Stith, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine at BUSM and commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, will address the School of Medicine's graduates at their commencement ceremony, to be held at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 21, at Trinity Church in Copley Square. A precommencement breakfast for graduates and their guests will be held in a tent on the Talbot Green at 7:30 a.m., with buses departing for the University exercises at 8:30 a.m. A luncheon will be held at noon on the School grounds for graduates and guests who are not attending the all-University ceremonies. Buses will depart from the lunch to the BUSM exercises at 1:30 p.m.

The speaker at the SPH ceremony will be Dean Emeritus John I. Sandson, M.D., a professor of medicine, who will discuss the history of the School of Public Health, which observes its 10th Anniversary this month. The commencement ceremony will take place at 2 p.m. at the School for the Arts Concert Hall on the Charles River Campus. A reception for SPH graduates, families and guests will be held in the SFA lobby after the ceremony.

**Awards, scientific program among highlights of Alumni Weekend**

Three School of Medicine alumni received Distinguished Alumnus Awards at the 114th Annual Meeting and Banquet of the School of Medicine’s Alumni Association, held May 13 at the 57 Restaurant in Boston. William M. Bass, Ph.D., professor and head of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, was the guest speaker at the banquet. His topic was "Forensic Fire Investigations."

Ralph D. Feigin '62, executive vice president of Texas Children's Hospital, David G. Poplack '70, head of the Leukemia Biology Section of the National Cancer Institute, and Lawrence A. Yannuzzi '64, an associate professor of clinical ophthalmology at Columbia University Medical School, received Distinguished Alumnus Awards. Class of 1964 members presented papers at a scientific program held in the morning at the School. A luncheon and tours of the School followed.

**School of Public Health to celebrate 10th Anniversary**

The School of Public Health will observe its 10th Anniversary on Saturday, May 20, with a breakfast reception, academic session and a dinner-dance that evening. U.S. Rep. Barney Frank will be the keynote speaker at the day-time session.

The events will begin with a breakfast reception, to be held in the lobby of the School of Medicine. After the breakfast, the following presentations will be made in the Bakst Auditorium: Ann Aschengrau, Sc.D., an assistant professor of public health (epidemiology and biostatistics), and David Ozonoff, M.D., M.P.H., a professor of public health (environmental health), and socio-medical sciences and community medicine, *Epidemiology and Biostatistics/Environmental Health*; Diana Chapman Walsh, Ph.D., a professor of public health (behavioral and social sciences), *Health Behavior, Health Promotion and Disease Prevention*; Leonard Glantz, J.D., a professor of public health (health law), and socio-medical sciences and community medicine, *Health Law*; Robert J. Master, M.D., an assistant clinical professor of socio-medical sciences and community medicine and an assistant professor of public health (health services), *Health Services*; and Sarah Degnan, of the Office of Special Projects. Frank is scheduled to speak at 2 p.m.

The celebration will continue with a dinner-dance at the World Trade Center's Harborview Ballroom, beginning at 6:30 p.m. For information on these activities, please call Barbara St. Ongé at x5052 (638-5052).

**Donald Small, M.D., appointed chairman of new Biophysics Department**

Dean Aram Chobanian recently announced the creation of a Department of Biophysics at the School of Medicine, and named Donald M. Small, M.D., director of the Biophysics Institute, as the new Department's chairman.

Small, who is a professor of medicine and biochemistry, served as head of the Section of Biophysics from 1969 until 1972, when it became the Biophysics Institute and he was named director. Small and his colleagues have carried out landmark studies on the physical chemistry of bile, which provided the foundation for the subsequent development of an effective bile-salt therapy for cholesterol gallstones.

**Kenneth Edelin, M.D., named associate dean for students and minority affairs**

Kenneth C. Edelin, M.D., professor and chairman of the Department of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, recently was appointed by Dean Aram Chobanian as associate dean for students and minority affairs. The new position will be effective July 1, when Edelin plans to step down from the Department chairmanship, a post he has held for the past 10 years. In his new position, Edelin will be responsible for strengthening the School's student services and counseling program.
R. Curtis Ellison, M.D., named chief of Preventive Medicine/Epidemiology

R. Curtis Ellison, M.D., a professor of medicine and pediatrics, recently was named chief of the Section of Preventive Medicine and Epidemiology at the University Hospital, effective July 1. Ellison will succeed William B. Kannel, M.D., a professor of medicine, an adjunct professor of public health (epidemiology and biostatistics) and current Section chief.

Ellison, who is director of research in the Division of General Medicine and director of the Heart Health Program at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center, is internationally recognized for his epidemiologic research, particularly in the area of cardiovascular disease. He is a principal investigator of research related to the Framingham Heart Study.

Patients want physicians to direct care, according to BUSM study

Most patients want to be informed about their medical conditions but prefer that decisions about their medical care be made principally by their physicians. A study by BUSM researchers and published in a recent issue of the Journal of General Internal Medicine also found that a patient's desire to make decisions declined as he or she faced more serious illnesses.

The researchers, led by Jack Ende, M.D., an associate professor of medicine and director of the house staff training program for the Evans Department of Medicine at the University Hospital, developed an instrument designed to measure patients' preferences in two areas related to their medical care—their desire for information and their desire to make medical decisions.

SKIT NITE AWARDS—Associate Dean William F. McNary Jr., Ph.D., left, presents award to Paul O'Bryan, Ph.D., on Skit Nite. O'Bryan was among the faculty and students who received awards at the event. (Photo by Rose Marston)

Skit Nite festivities, awards ceremony held at BUSM

The School of Medicine's annual "Skit Nite" and awards ceremony, co-sponsored by the BUSM Alumni Association and the Student Committee on Medical School Affairs, was held April 7 in the University Hospital's Keefer Auditorium. William F. McNary Jr., Ph.D., associate dean for student affairs, presented the awards to students and faculty members.

Donna Washington '89 received the Henry J. Bakst Scholarship Award, given to the senior student "who has demonstrated the qualities that exemplify the true physician." Anthony Compagnone '91 received the Ciba Award for Outstanding Community Service, given by the Ciba Pharmaceutical Company. Abhay Sanan '92 and John Barnes '92 received the McGraw-Hill Awards, given to the first and second top-ranking students (respectively) who have completed the first-year curriculum.

The Class of 1954 Faculty and Student Awards were given to the following: Paul O'Bryan, Ph.D., an associate professor of physiology, received the Thomas Robitscher Faculty Award for excellence in teaching the preclinical sciences; Peter Pochi, M.D., a professor of dermatology, received the Frederick Jackson Faculty Award for excellence in clinical instruction; and Abhay Sanan '92 received the Geoffrey Boughton Student Award, presented to the outstanding second-year student in pathology.

Also, Dakshesh Patel '92 and Gregory Soares '92 received the Dr. Elizabeth K. Moyer Award, presented for excellence in gross anatomy; Rebecca Knapp '89 received the Esther B. and Albert Kahn Scholarship Award, presented to the third-year student who demonstrates devotion to the profession and compassion for the patient; the Lange Medical Publications Awards went to John Restivo '92, John Timmerman '91 and Kamal Kalia '90 for academic achievement, and to Andy Chiou '92, Philip Pulaski '91 and Jaime Este-McDonald '90 for community service.

NEW MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSIONER—Henry Tomes, Ph.D., second from right, recently was appointed Massachusetts Commissioner of Mental Health by Governor Michael Dukakis. Among those who attended a ceremony at the Solomon Carter Fuller Mental Health Center (SCFMHC) at which Dukakis announced the nomination are, left to right, Althea Smith, Ph.D., SCFMHC superintendent; Dean Aram Chobanian; Tomes; and Louis Vachon, M.D., chairman of the BUSM Department of Psychiatry. (Photo by Rose Marston)
Committee appointed by Dean to review School’s curriculum

At a recent faculty meeting, Dean Aram Chobanian announced the appointment of a Curriculum Review Committee that is evaluating the School’s current preclinical and clinical curriculum and will make recommendations for future changes. The committee is chaired by J. Thomas LaMont, M.D., a professor of medicine and chief of the Gastroenterology Section at the University Hospital.

The committee, which meets twice monthly, is made up of faculty, administrative staff and students. The members and the areas they represent include: Elaine Alpert, M.D., Medicine; Selwyn Broitman, Ph.D., Microbiology; Anthony Campagnole, BUSM II; Dean Chobanian; David Center, M.D., Pulmonary; Arthur Culbert, Ph.D., Administration; Roxana Cruz, BUSM I; Joan DiMarzio, BUSM III; John Dittmer, Ph.D., Anatomy; Alvin Essig, M.D., Physiology; Ellyn Hirsch, BUSM IV; Nurham Kasparyan, BUSM II; Dorothy Keefer, ex officio, Registrar; William Malamud, M.D., Psychiatry; James Menzoian, M.D., Surgery; John McCahan, M.D., ex officio, Administration; Sarah Nuciforo, BUSM IV; Phillip Pulaski, BUSM II; Adrienne Rogers, M.D., Anatomy; Carol Savage, BUSM I; Elihu Schimmel, M.D., Medicine; Edward Schroder, M.D., Microbiology; Benjamin Siegel, M.D., Administration; Douglas Silin, BUSM III; Elizabeth Simons, Ph.D., Biochemistry; Marcelle Willock, M.D., Anesthesiology; and Lawrence Zoller, M.D., Anatomy.

The Committee currently is gathering information about the existing curriculum and assessing curricular changes that have been made at other medical schools. As part of this process, some committee members are attending classroom lectures and taking exams along with the students to evaluate the relevance of course content. The committee then will present its recommendations in a report in the fall. The changes will begin to be implemented in 1990 and 1991.

Stolleran appointed to National Vaccine Advisory Committee

Gene H. Stolleran, M.D., a professor of medicine, recently was appointed to a three-year term on the National Vaccine Advisory Committee of the National Vaccine Program on immunization. The committee will advise the Undersecretary for Health on the development of a national vaccine policy, addressing such issues as vaccine supply, delivery, cost, quality and vaccine injury. He has been a consultant on vaccines to numerous government agencies in the past, including the Centers for Disease Control, the National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration.

Stolleran, who is known internationally for his research on streptococcal infection and rheumatic fever, currently is a Distinguished Physician of the Veterans Administration and recently completed a five-year term as editor of the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society.

Lisa Iezzoni, M.D., to study efficacy of severity-of-illness measurement

The School of Medicine recently was awarded a one-year, $250,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to determine whether a severity-of-illness measurement is useful in assessing a hospital’s quality of care. Lisa I. Iezzoni, M.D., director of health service research at the University’s Health Policy Institute and an assistant research professor of medicine at the School, will head the study.

Iezzoni’s study is one of the first in the nation to look at whether severity-of-illness measurement systems are helpful in the assessment of hospitals’ quality of care. These systems collect clinical data on a patient and then score the patient’s severity of illness. The scores then are used to follow a patient’s progress during his or her hospital stay and can suggest areas that should be studied for potential hospital quality shortfalls. This study will focus primarily on two systems: MedisGroups and the Computerized Severity Index.

George Goldberg, M.D., an assistant research professor of medicine, and Mark Moskowitz, M.D., an associate professor of medicine and public health (health services and epidemiology and biostatistics), will be clinical consultants to the projects.
Feldman participates in two major NCI clinical studies on colon, rectal cancer

Merrill I. Feldman, M.D., a professor of radiology and chief of the Department of Radiation Medicine at the University Hospital, is participating in two major national studies on the treatment of colon and rectal cancers. These clinical studies have been designated as high-priority trials by the National Cancer Institute because the results may have a significant impact on the survival of patients with these common cancers. About 105,000 Americans will be diagnosed with colon cancer this year, while 42,000 will be diagnosed with rectal cancer.

The rectal cancer study is designed to evaluate a radiosensitizer, which is a drug administered in conjunction with radiation therapy that makes cancer cells more sensitive to radiation. The study also will compare a two-drug chemotherapy combination to a single-drug chemotherapy. The colon cancer study will compare two different forms of postsurgery chemotherapy. Surgery currently is the main treatment for colon cancer and is a cure for about 50 percent of colon-cancer patients. Researchers have reason to believe that chemotherapy used in conjunction with surgery may be more effective than surgery alone in reducing the chance of recurrence.

Latino organizations meet at BUSM to plan AIDS education strategy; new resource guide available

Leaders of the organizations that comprise the National Hispanic AIDS Consortium met recently at BUSM to develop national strategies for dealing with the AIDS epidemic in the Latino community. The meeting was co-sponsored by the School of Public Health and the Latino Health Network as part of a five-year grant from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to assess the needs of the Latino community and develop educational materials and AIDS prevention strategies in New England. Boston, Springfield and Holyoke have been chosen as target cities in Massachusetts for the project.

Representatives from the CDC and the National Institute of Drug Abuse and leaders from Latino AIDS community organizations around the country met at BUSM to train people who will conduct focus groups in the Latino community. The focus groups will assess the extent of AIDS education in the Latino community and determine what the barriers are to effective educational efforts. The information obtained from the focus groups will be used to formulate prevention programs.

This grant has been awarded at crucial time for the Latino community, which represents a disproportionate number of HIV-infected people in this country, according to Hortensia Amaro, Ph.D., an assistant professor of pediatrics and public health (social and behavioral sciences). Although Latinos make up only 7 percent of the population, they represent 15 percent of those diagnosed with AIDS. In a needs-assessment study of 23 community-based agencies serving Latinos in the Boston area, Amaro and her colleagues found a lack of intensive risk-reduction programs for high-risk individuals, a lack of services for those infected with AIDS and a need for increased training to help agency workers provide more effective counseling regarding AIDS.

AIDS resource guide completed

In a related development, Commissioner of Public Health Deborah Prothrow-Stith, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine at BUSM, researchers from the School of Public Health, and members of the Latino Health Network recently announced the completion of a new resource guide, "AIDS Services in the Boston Area Latino Community." The guide, which is the first of its kind in Massachusetts, was compiled by the Latino Health Network and is being distributed to agencies that serve Latinos with AIDS and that provide AIDS education. Funding for the guide was provided by a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

BUMC employees are offered free skin-cancer screening on May 25

A free skin-cancer screening will be offered for BUMC employees on Thursday, May 25, from 1:30 to 6 p.m. The clinic is sponsored by the American Cancer Society, the American Academy of Dermatology, and by the clinical and teaching components of the University Hospital’s Department of Dermatology and BUMC’s Skin Oncology Program.

The screening will be held in the Doctors Office Building, Suite 402. Appointments are necessary and can be made by calling x7420.
Ophthalmology Department awarded $40,000 grant

The School of Medicine’s Department of Ophthalmology, which is chaired by Howard M. Leibowitz, M.D., has been awarded a $40,000 grant from Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB) to continue research on the prevention and treatment of common forms of eye disease, including corneal disorders, uveitis and retinal degeneration.

RPB awards annual grants to 57 medical schools throughout the nation and is the world’s leading voluntary organization in support of eye research. Over the years, it has awarded grants to BUSM totaling $273,000.

Briefly noted

Michael A. Grodin, M.D., an associate professor of pediatrics and director of the Program in Medical Ethics for BUSM and SPH, earlier this year was appointed to the National Committee on Bioethics of the American Academy of Pediatrics. He also was appointed this spring as liaison to the National Committee on Bioethics of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Barry M. Manuel, M.D., associate dean for Continuing Medical Education and External Affairs, was the featured speaker at the University Hospital’s Medical-Dental Staff quarterly meeting. Manuel, who is vice president of the Massachusetts Medical Society, discussed "Professional Liability—Current Issues in Massachusetts". Two new staff members recently joined the Alumni Medical Library: Susan A. Cudnohfsky was appointed interlibrary loan librarian and Gerald Peterson has joined the staff as shelvers/stacks assistant. Cudnohfsky is available for questions regarding interlibrary loans or document delivery at x4270.

News & Notes is a publication of the Office of Publication Services. If you have news of interest to the BUSM community, please contact Marge Dwyer at x8482 (638-8482) or write to her at the Office of Publication Services, DOB-915 (720 Harrison Ave., Boston, MA 02118-2393).