1990-09

BUSM News & Notes: September 1990 no. 140

Boston University School of Medicine Office of Informational Services

http://hdl.handle.net/2144/20940

Boston University
Egdahl discusses corporate role in changing health-care system

Richard H. Egdahl, M.D., academic vice president and director of the Medical Center, gave the opening address at the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Group on Faculty Practice’s annual professional development meeting, which was held Aug. 10-13 in Asheville, N.C. In his address, titled "The Role of Corporate America in Our Changing Health-Care System," Egdahl said that large coalitions of corporations are becoming a formidable force in today’s health-care delivery.

Corporations are quickly turning toward managed-care "point-of-service" plans instead of the three traditional managed-care options of HMOs, PPOs and indemnity insurance with utilization review, Egdahl said. He noted that the common characteristics of point-of-service plan—which include financial incentives for efficient providers and negotiated fees for both hospitals and physicians—present many problems for academic medical centers. Potential problems include difficulty getting reimbursed from these contracts and proving costs related to treating severely ill.

The future of the current health-care system is unclear, Egdahl said, but more public-private partnerships along with federally funded programs may help to maintain and to improve service delivery and access.

Franklin Ebaugh, former BUSM dean, dies at age 68 in Calif.

Franklin G. Ebaugh Jr., M.D., former dean of the School of Medicine and chief of staff at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Palo Alto, Calif., died of cancer on Aug. 7 at his home in Stanford, Calif. He was 68 years old.

Ebaugh was graduated magna cum laude from Dartmouth College in 1944 and received his medical degree from Cornell Medical College in 1946. After completing his internship and residency in hematology at the New York Hospital, he joined the Evans Department of Medicine at the University Hospital as a research associate. In 1953, he accepted a post with the National Institutes of Health of the Public Health Service and then, in 1955, returned to Dartmouth as an associate professor of clinical pathology and to the Hitchcock Clinic and Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital as associate director of laboratories.

From 1965 to 1969, Ebaugh served as the dean of BUSM. During that time the School of Medicine underwent extensive change. The curriculum was revised to provide greater flexibility and choice and to emphasize the social aspects of medicine. Also during his tenure, the construction of the Instructional Building was completed, adding a significant amount of needed space for classrooms and research facilities.

The Medical School Library

Perhaps Ebaugh’s greatest contribution to BUSM was the effort he put into development of the BUSM Alumni Medical Library, located on the 12th and 13th floors of the Instructional Building. The building originally had been designed for only 11 floors. Believing that an outstanding medical library serves as the core of a medical school, Ebaugh solicited enough support to add an additional three floors to the structure and to create sufficient space to house the School’s new library.

Following his tenure at BUSM, Ebaugh became dean of the University of Utah School of Medicine. More recently, he served as associate dean for veterans affairs and as a professor of medicine at Stanford University Medical School.

Ebaugh, a colonel in the Army Reserves, recently received two of the Department of Veterans Affairs’ highest honors: the chief medical director’s Commendation and the Secretary’s Distinguished Physician Award.

He is survived by his mother, Dorothy Ebaugh of Denver; three daughters, Jeanette Ebaugh of Atlanta, Sandra Ebaugh of Norwalk, Conn., and Patricia Ebaugh of Stonington, Conn., and a sister, Nancy Allen of Tulsa, Okla.
The Alumni reception and dinner gave students the opportunity to mingle with faculty members before classes began the next day. 
Pictured, Dean Aram Chobanian, right, talks with several incoming students. (photo by Gustav Freedman)

Freshman orientation features Alumni reception and dinner

Orientation for the Class of 1994 was held on Aug. 29 and 30, with activities sponsored by the Office of Student Affairs and the Alumni Association. Activities included an Alumni Association reception and dinner held in the Hiebert Lounge and a lecture on primary care medicine given by Joel Alpert, M.D., chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at the School of Medicine and Boston City Hospital. In addition, Ruth Beer-Bletzinger, a consultant with Beer, Bletzinger & Company in Washington, D.C., presented a seminar on financial planning and debt management on Sept. 5.

This year’s incoming class includes 62 women and 73 men. Ranging in age from 19 to 35, the students represent 21 states and three foreign countries. The Class of 1994 includes 42 Seven-Year students, 15 Modular Medical Integrated Curriculum students, three Early Medical School Selection Program students and 15 students who are pursuing both Ph.D. and M.D. degrees.

Cermak receives Fulbright grant to conduct research in Israel

Laird S. Cermak, M.D., Ph.D., a professor of neurology, has been awarded a Fulbright scholarship to conduct research in Israel in 1991. Cermak, who is also the director of psychology research at the Veterans Administration Medical Center and research director of the Memory Disorders Research Center, both in Boston, will conduct research on memory and language at Hebrew University and Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem.

Also awarded a Fulbright Scholarship was Cermak’s wife, Sharon, who holds a doctorate in education and is an associate professor of occupational therapy at Boston University’s Sargent College of Allied Health Professions. She will teach a course for Hebrew University’s new graduate program in occupational therapy and also will work with the faculty to foster the development of their advanced master of science program and of collaborative research programs.

The Fulbright program, established in 1946, is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and those in other countries. Individuals are selected on the basis of academic and professional qualifications, as well as their ability and willingness to share ideas and experiences with people of diverse cultures.

School of Medicine researchers win support for research on aging

Judith Campisi, Ph.D., an associate professor of biochemistry, and Kevin J. Flurkey, Ph.D., a research associate at the School of Medicine, are among the 38 scientists and physicians who have received up to $25,000 from the American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR), Inc., for a one-year project. The grant recipients were chosen from more than 185 applicants by AFAR’s research committee.

Campisi will study the decline in cell reproductive capacity resulting from age, work that could lead to a better understanding of some of the fundamental basic biological processes of aging and for the causes of cancer. Flurkey will investigate the nature of age-related changes in the immune system.

Gottlieb elected president of fellowship association for physicians in Israel

Leonard S. Gottlieb, M.D., M.P.H., chairman of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and director of the Mallory Institute of Pathology at Boston City Hospital, has been elected president of the American Physicians Fellowship, (APF) Inc., for Medicine in Israel. Gottlieb was installed in this position while attending the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

As the president of APF, Gottlieb will work in conjunction with the surgeon general of the Israeli Defence Forces’ (IDF) Medical Corps to conduct a two-week tour/seminar on emergency and trauma medicine to Israel this fall. The program will brief American and Israeli physicians in emergency and trauma medicine as well as provide tours of IDF medical facilities and Israel.

With more than 6,000 members across the United States, the APF has been providing medical assistance to Israel for four decades through a variety of programs. Currently the organization is supporting 40 Israeli physicians receiving specialty training in the United States.
Kupchik to lecture in Moscow on BUSM research technique

Herbert Z. Kupchik, Ph.D., an associate professor of microbiology and pathology, has been invited to lecture at the XVIII meeting of the International Society of Oncodevelopmental Biology and Medicine in Moscow on Sept. 23. Kupchik's presentation, entitled "Three-Dimensional In Vitro Primary Culture of Benign and Malignant Human Tissues," is on a new research technique that he and his collaborators developed.

Collaborating with Kupchik were Michael O'Brien, M.B.B.Ch., a professor of pathology and laboratory medicine; John C. O'Keane, M.D., an instructor in pathology; Paul C. Schroy, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine; Christopher D. Andry, a graduate student in pathology; and Elizabeth A. Collins, a technician in the microbiology laboratory.

Fifth annual BUSM faculty/staff phonathon scheduled for October

The fifth annual faculty/staff phonathon is scheduled for Oct. 15-18. During the phonathon, BUSM faculty and staff members will be calling their colleagues to raise funds to benefit the Student Revolving Loan Fund.

"Through increased support of the Revolving Loan Fund, the School will be able to maintain and perhaps increase the amount of loan support we are able to provide for our students," said Dean Aram V. Chobanian. "Helping to support our students will enable us to continue to attract outstanding students and to train future physicians and scientists into the 21st century."

Gavras receives NIH award

Haralambos P. Gavras, M.D., a professor of medicine and chief of hypertension and atherosclerosis at the University Hospital and Boston City Hospital, received a $121,000 award from the National Institutes of Health to purchase a peptide synthesis system for the peptide lab at the Whitaker Cardiovascular Institute.

Rosenfeld receives Youville appointment

Alan S. Rosenfeld, Ph.D., an adjunct associate professor of public health, recently was appointed vice president for planning and program development at Youville Hospital & Rehabilitation Center. In this position, Rosenfeld will be responsible for developing new and innovative programs to help Youville continue to offer quality service and care.

Correction:

The August issue of News and Notes incorrectly reported that Phyllis Stevens, director of minority affairs, had been appointed to an office within the American Medical Association. Stevens has been appointed vice chairperson of the Association of American Medical Colleges Northeast Group on Student Affairs. News and Notes regrets the error.

Upcoming CME courses

The Department of Continuing Medical Education is offering the following courses in October.

"Advanced Trauma Life Support" will be presented on Oct. 1-3 at BUMC. This course is intended to demonstrate concepts and principles of patient assessment; establish management priorities in the trauma situation; review the primary and secondary management necessary within the first hour of life-threatening emergencies; and demonstrate the skills necessary to initiate treatment of trauma victims.

"Tunable Dye Laser: Workshop on Treatment of Vascular Lesions of the Skin" will take place on Oct. 20-21 at the Lenox Hotel in Boston. The course director is Oon Tian Tan, M.D., an associate professor of dermatology. In a laboratory setting, this course will provide information and hands-on experience using the
yellow light laser to treat benign cutaneous vascular lesions; review treatment protocol; discuss clinical endpoints critical to this technique; and demonstrate maintenance of the laser.

"Head and Spinal Cord Injury: Emergency Management" will be held on Oct. 25-26 at the Medical Center. Directed by Joe I. Ordia, M.D., an associate professor of neurology, this course is designed for physicians, nurses and other professionals involved with the care of the acutely head or spinal cord injured patient. All phases of care from pre-hospital through the emergency department, anesthesia, surgery, and critical care, to rehabilitation and recovery will be covered in both lectures and workstations.

For more information about these courses, contact the Department of Continuing Medical Education at 638-6405 (x4605).

News & Notes is a publication of the Office of Publication Services. If you have news of interest to the BUSM community, please contact Angela Sullivan, x8482 (638-8482) or write to her at the Office of Publication Services, 80 East Concord Street, Robinson 7 (B-7), Boston, MA 02118.

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