1991-05

BUSM News & Notes: May 1991 no. 147

Boston University School of Medicine Office of Informational Services

Boston University School of Medicine Office of Informational Services

http://hdl.handle.net/2144/20945

Boston University
Faller appointed director of Hubert Humphrey Cancer Research Center

Douglas V. Faller, M.D., Ph.D., recently was appointed director of the Hubert H. Humphrey Cancer Research Center. Faller also has been named a professor of medicine and vice-chairman of the Division of Medicine for hematology/oncology at the School of Medicine, and head of hematology/oncology activities at The University Hospital, Boston City Hospital and the Boston Veteran’s Hospital.

As head of the Cancer Center, Faller will direct and develop cancer research at the basic laboratory level. He also will continue his research in the two areas in which he already has made significant contributions: how the mechanisms that control and restrict normal cell growth are bypassed or suppressed in tumor cells, resulting in abnormal proliferation of malignant cells; and the mechanisms by which cancer cells escape detection and destruction by the body’s immune system.

One of Faller’s goals is to create an innovative cancer outreach program with community hospitals and neighborhood health centers. The Cancer Center will work with UH and its affiliated community hospitals throughout the state to expand cancer screenings and enhance education programs, Faller said. It also will intensify BCH’s cancer prevention and sickle-cell anemia programs in neighborhood health centers in Boston, particularly in the South End.

"We believe that one of the most important things we can do for the community is to promote the prevention and the early detection of cancers," said Faller. "We hope to provide expertise, consultation, on-site staff when possible and teaching faculty to sensitize the community to the importance of the prevention and early detection of cancer."

Faller earned his undergraduate degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and his medical degree at Harvard Medical School. He also earned a doctorate in the areas of cancer viruses and cell biology at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, working in the laboratory of Nobel laureate David Baltimore. He served a residency in internal medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, and a fellowship in adult and pediatric hematology and oncology at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Children’s Hospital and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. He is the recipient of numerous honors, among them a Hartford Foundation Fellowship, the Anna Fuller Award, the American Cancer Society Senior Faculty Award, and election to the American Society for Clinical Investigation.

Health and Hospitals Dept. appoints Veal as chief operating officer of BCH

Chester L. Veal of Ann Arbor, Mich., a senior health-care executive for nearly two decades, has been appointed chief operating officer of Boston City Hospital by the city’s Department of Health and Hospitals. He assumed this position on April 1.

As chief operating officer, Veal is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of BCH, including technical and ancillary services, support services, human-resources management and facility services. He will plan, direct and evaluate all the operational activities of inpatient services at BCH, reporting directly to DHH Commissioner Judith Kurland.

"Chet Veal will help lead this department in maximizing the efficiencies and developing the systems that will make the new BCH the state-of-the-art facility the people of Boston deserve," said Kurland.

Veal has served as vice president of Victory Hospital in Waukegan, Ill., chief executive officer of Bethany Hospital in Chicago, Ill., vice president for operations of the Michigan Healthcare Corp. in Detroit, Mich., and senior vice president of
Mercy Hospitals, also in Detroit. Most recently, he served as president of the Genesis Management Consultants, a firm specializing in health care management.

**BUSM researchers develop new stroke-risk profile**

A new method for calculating a person's risk for suffering a future stroke has been developed by researchers at the School of Medicine. Published in the March issue of *Stroke*, the new Framingham Stroke Risk Profile ultimately may reduce the number of strokes suffered by the U.S. population, said the researchers.

The new profile is based on Framingham Heart Study data obtained on nearly 500 stroke victims over a 36-year period. It includes new risk factors that were not well understood when the first profile was developed 18 years ago. For example, experts now know that heart disease and other cardiovascular risk factors, such as atrial fibrillation, increase the chances that a person will suffer a stroke. Those persons who have been treated for hypertension but whose blood pressure remains high also have a greater probability of suffering a stroke.

The new risk profile assigns a numerical value to information on age, sex, cigarette smoking, cardiac abnormalities and other measures of health based on its relative importance as a risk factor for stroke. "The sum total of these numerical values helps predict a person's chance of having a stroke within a given period of time," said Philip A. Wolf, M.D., the principal investigator of the Framingham Study, a professor of neurology and public health, and a research professor of medicine.

A patient's stroke-risk profile can be obtained by a physician as a result of a routine history, physical examination and electrocardiogram, said Wolf. From the results of these examinations, the physician can determine the probability that the individual would suffer a stroke within 10 years.

The new stroke-risk profile is now part of the American Heart Association coronary and stroke-risk prediction system, and can be obtained by physicians through the American Heart Association at 7320 Greenville Ave., Dallas, Texas 75231.

**Skit Night and awards festivities held at School of Medicine**

The School of Medicine's annual "Skit Night" and awards ceremony, cosponsored by the Student Committee on Medical School Affairs (SCOMSA) and the BUSM Alumni Association, was held on April 5 in the Keefer Auditorium. The following awards were presented to students, faculty and staff:

Robert Wade '91 received the Henry J. Bakst Scholarship Award, presented annually to the senior student of the School of Medicine "who has demonstrated the qualities that exemplify the true physician." The McGraw-Hill Awards, given to the first and second top ranking students who have completed the first curricular year, were presented to Rose Heller '93 and Sundeep Dev ’93, respectively. Joseph Garasic '94 received the Dr. Elizabeth K. Moyer Award, recognizing excellence in the course of gross anatomy, and Anthony Compagnone '91 received the Esther B. and Albert Kahn Scholarship Award, presented to the student who has just completed his third year and who has demonstrated to his/her teachers and peers devotion to the profession and concern and compassion for the patients contacted.

The Class of 1954 Faculty and Student Awards were presented to the following: William F. McNary, Jr., Ph.D., associate dean for student affairs and an associate professor of anatomy, received the Thomas Robitscher Faculty Award for excellence in teaching the preclinical sciences; Dick A.J. Brown, M.D., an adjunct professor of obstetrics and gynecology, received the Frederick Jackson Faculty Award for excellence in clinical instruction; and Sundeep Dev '93 received the Geoffrey Boughton Student Award presented to the outstanding second-year student in pathology.

In addition, James Munroe, manager of custodial services, received the SCOMSA Annual Service Award, which recognizes the administrator or staff member whom the students found to be most helpful.

Several School of Medicine students from the Classes of 1991 and 1992 were inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha honor medical society during a ceremony held at the Castle on March 18. Members of the Class of 1991 inducted were: Matthew A. Barish, John B. Barnes, Sidsiporn Boriakcharanyavat, Mary L. Colucci, Keryn M. Dias, David Fox, Julia Gates, Linda A. Hughes, Mary E. Kosek, Jess H. Lonner, Suneet Mittal, Armaghan Amy Mostafavi, Dianne A. Perkins, Jhonny A. Salomon, Nasrollah Samiy, Gary S. Schwartz, Javier I. Torrens, Robert L. Wade Jr., and Mary A. Whooley. Inductees from the Class of 1992 included: James G. Guerrini, Adam H. Jonas, Wilfred S. Mamuya, Lewis K. Marchant, Dakshesh S. Patel, and John R. Restivo. In addition, house officers Charles A. Garabedian, M.D., Douglas E. Mesler,
M.D., and Agustin A. Rodriguez, M.D., were inducted. Kenneth C. Edelin, M.D., a professor of obstetrics and gynecology, was the faculty inductee. Alumni inducted were Mary Kraft '75 and David A. Lee '80.

AOA is the only national honor medical society in the world. It was organized for the promotion of scholarship and research in medical schools, the encouragement of a high standard of character and conduct among medical students and graduates, and the recognition of high attainment in medical science, practice and related fields.

Researcher writes book on uses of Chinese herbal medicines

Chinese herbal medicines have many modern uses, according to a new book by Margaret A. Naeser, Ph.D., an associate research professor of neurology. Titled Outline Guide to Chinese Herbal Patent Medicines in Pill Form, the book chronicles the history and modern uses of Chinese herbal medicines that are available in pill form, and lists the medical conditions and disorders these herbal drugs can treat.

According to Naeser, these medicines are available over-the-counter in grocery stores and herb stores in Chinatowns throughout the United States. The book provides pictures of the boxed drugs, and describes the function, application, contraindications and recommended dose of each herb. It also gives a complete list of the ingredients.

Examples of the herbs featured in the book include: Zhi Sou Ding Chuan Wan or "stop cough, stop asthma" pills that date back to the year 219 A.D., and Jin Gui Shen Qui Wan or "golden box kidney" pills that have been used for more than 2,000 years to treat back pain.

"These treatments are widely used by physicians in China because their efficacy is well known, they are inexpensive and they have no known side effects," said Naeser. "However, few doctors in the U.S. are aware of their beneficial effects." She pointed out that these ancient medicines can be used to complement modern medicine, but they are not meant to replace medical advice.

Posner participates in WHO international teleconference

Barbara Posner, M.P.H., Dr.Ph., an associate professor of public health in socio-medical medicines and community medicine, participated in an international teleconference on preventing non-communicable diseases on March 27. The teleconference, titled "Inter-Health: Fighting the Disease of Lifestyles/Diseases of Affluence," was part of the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Second Meeting of Inter-Health Programme Directors. The meeting was held in Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan, in eastern U.S.S.R., from March 25 to 28.

During the teleconference, Posner addressed the issue of preventing disease through diet. "Diet is linked to death in adults throughout the world," said Posner. She noted that in order to maintain good health, adults need to limit their intake of fat and cholesterol, increase the natural intake of minerals and vitamins, and increase the intake of complex carbohydrates. In addition, she said, national and regional strategies need to be implemented to educate people about the role of diet in health.

During the teleconference, prevention strategies were discussed for non-communicable diseases including osteoporosis, diabetes, chronic lung disease, cancer and cardiovascular disease. In addition, panel members discussed prevention through legislation and prevention by use of the media. The teleconference was broadcast from Alma-Ata to 15 sites throughout the world, including Boston. The Boston site was located in The University Hospital’s Keefer Auditorium.

Planned giving can result in income, tax deduction

Supporting the School of Medicine through a planned gift usually results in both income and a charitable tax deduction for the donor, according to Office of Development Associate Vice President Herb Tobin. Planned gifts include:

Pooled income fund—similar to a mutual fund. The gift provides an income, a charitable tax deduction, and avoids capital gains on a gift of appreciated securities.

Charitable gift annuity—a contract between the donor and the University that provides a stream of income to the donor and a charitable tax deduction.

Deferred gift annuity—a gift of securities to a charitable remainder trust or to the pooled income fund enables you to obtain a greater return, avoids capital gains taxes, and provides a charitable tax deduction.

For more information on planned giving, contact Barry M. Manuel, M.D., Alumni Association, Boston University School of Medicine, 80 E. Concord St., Boston, MA 02118, telephone 638-5154 (x5154); or Herb Tobin, Office of Development, Boston University School of Medicine, 80 E. Concord St., Boston, MA 02118, telephone 638-4570 (x4570).

Mallory researchers present abstracts at annual pathology meeting

Researchers from the School of Medicine’s Mallory Institute of Pathology presented abstracts at the 80th annual meeting of the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology. The meeting was held March 17 through March 22 in Chicago, III.

The researchers and their presentations included: Paul Newberne, B.V.M., M.Sc., Ph.D., a professor of pathology, "Carcinogens Produced in Foods During Cooking;" Pedro Crespo, M.D., a pathology resident at the Mallory, and Antonio de las Morenas, M.D., the director of the Mallory’s cytology laboratory, "Cytologic Diagnosis of Ductal Versus Lobular Carcinoma of the
Breast;" and Kieran Sheahan, M.D., an assistant professor of pathology and laboratory medicine at BUSM and a staff pathologist at The University Hospital and the Mallory, "Cathepsins B & L in Colorectal Cancer: Correlation with Multiple Pathologic Parameters."

Schroy awarded ACS development award
Paul C. Schroy, III, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine, recently was awarded a Clinical Oncology Career Development Award (CDA) by the American Cancer Society. The award will provide $25,000, $30,000 and $35,000 for the first, second and third year of the award, respectively. The award will support Schroy's research into colon cancer.

Doctoral student receives two-year grant
Marian T. Hannan, M.P.H., a doctoral student in the epidemiology program at the School of Public Health and senior research data analyst for the Boston University Arthritis Center, has been awarded a two-year grant from the Arthritis Foundation to study the use of height loss in the elderly as an indicator of subsequent osteoporosis. The goal of the study is to establish a relationship that might lead to easier and more economical detection of patients at high risk for bad outcomes related to osteoporosis. Her grant is titled "A Cohort Study of Height Loss and Osteoporosis" and will evaluate members of the Framingham Study who have been followed for more than 40 years. The Arthritis Foundation in its review of this study cited the undertaking as "a very original and clever project."

News & Notes
Boston University School of Medicine
Office of Publication Services
80 East Concord Street
Robinson 7 (B-7)
Boston, MA 02118