Front & Center: March 1973

Boston University Medical Center

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Boston University
The nation's heartbeat, the famed Framingham Heart Study, is now expanding to become the eyes of the world.

The Framingham Eye Study, a new adjunct to the 24-year-old epidemiological Heart Study, both of which are administered by the Medical Center, was dedicated recently at a press conference held in its sparkling new headquarters at 24 Evergreen St., Framingham. A public open house was held following the press conference.

A $300,000 grant from the National Eye Institute (NEI) of the National Institutes of Health is underwriting the first year of the four-year project. NEI Drs. George Brooks and James Ganley participated in the press conference.

The Eye Study is under the direction of Dr. Howard Leibowitz, chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at the Medical Center. Investigators will delve into the prevalence of four common causes of blindness and visual disability, and will utilize the Framingham area residents, ages 53 to 83, who have been participating in the Heart Study for a quarter of a century. People in this age range are prime subjects for developing eye disease, according to Dr. Leibowitz.

"Precious little is known about the causes of eye disease," he told newspaper and television reporters, "and there is little we can do to cure the four major eye afflictions."

The Medical Center began administering the Heart Study two years ago when it was on the brink of being discontinued because of expiring federal grants. Dr. R. Thomas Dawber, original director of the Heart Study, a planning officer at the Medical Center and coordinator of the Eye Study, spearheaded a fund drive along with the Center's Development Office. The drive was an overwhelming success and led the national press to dub Framingham "the town in a test tube." It also insured the Heart Study's continuance and its further utilization as a population study resource for such projects as the Eye Study. The Heart Study is responsible for such things as linking cigarette smoking and high cholesterol levels as high-risk factors in developing coronary disease.

The Eye Study is the first large-scale attempt to determine the prevalence of eye diseases, as opposed to blindness, in a well-defined and closely followed population in this country.

Researchers seek to identify factors which increase the risk of developing the four diseases under investigation: senile cataract, a cloudiness in the lens of the eye which impairs vision; senile macular degeneration, deterioration of that part of the retina controlling sharp vision; chronic simple glaucoma, a pressure buildup in the eye which leads to vision loss; and diabetic retinopathy, a progressive disorder of the blood vessels in the retina occurring as a complication of diabetes.

Each of the 3,200 participants will receive a preliminary eye examination, according to Dr. Leibowitz. Patients having symptoms of any of the four diseases will receive more extensive examinations. However, treatment will be turned over to a patient's ophthalmologist, for the Eye Study is a screening program—not a treatment center.

Data will be collected for two years. Analysis of that data and correlation with past measurements from the Heart Study may serve to identify or rule out factors which increase the risk of developing eye disease.

Chapel Dedication

The BUMC Chapel will be formally dedicated at services on Sunday, March 18. Presiding at the service will be the Rev. Leicester Potter, Hospital chaplain; Rabbi I. David Oler, UH Jewish chaplain; the Rev. Francis Gilday, S.J. of the Immaculate Conception Church; and the Rev. Daniel Lusch of Weston College, who participates in a theological teaching program at UH.

Participating in the responsive part of the ceremony will be representatives of every part of the Medical Center as well as members of the Board of Trustees, including Jerome Preston, Sr., who is on the Chapel Committee.

Lillian Cunningham will play the organ and there will be a choir from the Wesley Methodist Church in Dorchester.
Construction on the new addition to the dental school building will begin this spring, according to Dr. Henry M. Goldman, dean of the School of Graduate Dentistry.

In a recent interview Dr. Goldman reflected on the School's growth and the need for new facilities.

"This April we will begin construction of the new addition to our dental school. Four floors will be added on top of the present building and a two-story lateral addition will also be included.

"Our post-doctoral programs have outgrown the present building. We have no locker space, not enough clinic space, no place to hold continuing education courses, no cafeteria, no lounge. Just to meet our present needs we have to expand. Each year we receive 20 per cent more applications for our graduate courses. The demand certainly is there and we have to grow in order to meet it.

"In recent years, though, it has become evident to me that there is a need for a new type of specialist, one who will be able to bridge the gap between the purely medical and purely dental disciplines. This oral physician will be concerned with systemic disease, genetics, growth and development, trauma and oncology as they effect the oral cavity.

"To meet the demands of this program the student will be educated on three levels, Basic Sciences, Medical Sciences and Dental Sciences. Each student in this new program has the option of receiving both a D.M.D. and an M.D. degree. This year we accepted our first class for this new program. The number of applications we received was tremendous—we had ten applicants for each place. Next year we expect even more.

"All this costs money, a lot of money.

"I personally have tried every possible avenue to raise funds. The Government has cut off funds to all new dental schools. Private foundations have not contributed to dental education as we hoped. This leaves us with only our friends, faculty and students to turn to. It costs us $5,000 per year to educate each graduate dental student. If he decides to do a research project, the cost is substantially more. Indeed, the cost jumps to $18,000 per year to educate a Ph.D. candidate. The student pays approximately one-third of this in tuition; the balance we have to raise from outside sources.

"Since our humble beginning we have made tremendous progress, but much remains to be done. This new addition to our dental school will be the culmination of 15 years of work. It is a tribute to our alumni, faculty and students who have made this dream a reality.

"This is an exciting time for the School of Graduate Dentistry. Since our beginning in 1958, all of our efforts have been directed toward specialty dental education. For years we were the only School of Graduate Dentistry in the world and in a very short time we have gained a worldwide reputation."
Medical School Now Administering Services at City Hospital

The hallmark decision came after a suspense-filled week, punctuated with press conferences, meetings and more meetings and endless speculation: Trustees at Boston City Hospital selected the Medical School to supply and administer professional services at BCH. The move is geared to streamline the operation of City Hospital and the entire Department of Health and Hospitals (including various neighborhood health centers and the Chronic Disease Hospitals at Long Island and Mattapan).

The decision opens a new era for Boston City by ending the tripling of medical, surgical and specialty services simultaneously maintained there by Harvard, Tufts and BU medical schools. It is also a new beginning for BU -- entering its Centennial year, the Medical School has the responsibility for staffing the entire Department of Health and Hospitals.

Assuming this responsibility under the severe fiscal constraints imposed upon City Hospital necessitates the cooperation of University Hospital. Dr. Lewis Rohrbaugh, director of the Medical Center, has obtained from the Trustees of the Medical Center and the Hospital their endorsement of exploration of those cooperative ventures which will be in the best interests of patients who will be served at both hospitals.

The decision to give the Medical School the major responsibility for staffing was made for several reasons, according to City Hospital Trustee Chairman David Nelson.

"Although all three schools have outstanding staff members, BU School of Medicine is already responsible for the largest number of patient care areas at BCH and the majority of outpatient services. BU also provides a substantial portion of the medical staff at BCH," Nelson said.

"Besides consolidation within City Hospital, further efficiencies can be acquired by merging certain services with sister services at Boston University's nearby University Hospital," Nelson added.

Dr. Ephraim Friedman, dean of the Medical School, said, "We are grateful to the Trustees of the Boston Department of Health and Hospitals for the confidence they have placed in us."

People Talk

About Taxes, Inequities, Alternatives

ALAN GOLDMAN, research technician, Houseman Research Building
I think the taxes that we pay are ridiculous. For what we get, they are far too high. The system is unsalvageable. I am for a 100 per cent tax of corporation profits -- I guess that means I'm a socialist.

DOREEN FELDHOUSE, research assistant in Endocrinology, the New Evans
I don't think the taxes are fair by any means; they are far too high. There are many inequities and loopholes in the tax laws that should be corrected so that the middle class or the average income worker doesn't have to carry such a large burden of taxation. I realize there are many reasons for high taxes, but its unrealistic that when you receive your paycheck almost one-third of your income goes to taxes. Money is being spent in the wrong places. I think they are doing away with a lot of the programs that tax money should be used for -- such as medical assistance programs and proper care for the elderly. In a country as rich as ours there is no reason why adequate health care cannot be available to everyone. I also think big businesses receive more tax benefits than little ones.

CYNTHIA JONES, research clerk, UH Medical Records
I think the taxes we pay are fair, but I think they could be lowered now that the war has stopped in Vietnam, and if we could develop more jobs so people wouldn't have to go on welfare.

ANN COHN, Cohen, d Boston C
I think the war in Viet Nam has helped the United States
ANDREW B. I think there are nobody who could win. We need more to be doing something better or.
MARION D. Well, taxes have risen a lot People are paying that much more.

Goldman Feldhouse Jones Cohn
OFFICIALS. Discussing the decision made by Trustees of the Depart­
ment of Health and Hospitals are, from left: Dr. Ephraim Friedman,
dean, BU Medical School; Frank Oatney, executive director of BCH;
Attorney David Nelson, chairman of the Board of Health and Hospitals;
and Leon White, commissioner of the Department of Health and Hospitals.

they have expressed by vesting with the School of Medicine the
responsibility for professional services at City Hospital.

"We are cognizant of the res­
ponsibility of maintaining the
high standards of patient care,
research and training for which
the Hospital has become famous.
We intend to cooperate with the
Administration in attempting to
accomplish these goals with a
minimum of disruption to the
many loyal hospital staff and
employees."

The link between the Medical
School and Boston City Hospital
is long and strong. For half a
century the Medical School has
supplied patient care services
at City, simultaneously using
BCH as the principle teaching
affiliate for its medical stu­
dents. In addition, the Medical
School now staffs a medical and
surgical service at City Hospi­
tal as well as pediatrics, ma­
ternity, gynecology, thoracic
surgery, urology, ophthamlology,
pathology, radiology and other
back-up services and laborator­
ies.

Previously the Trustees voted
to limit the bed capacity of Bos­
ton City Hospital to 500. It
presently has some 830 beds,
several hundred of which go un­
used everyday. With this bed
reduction, they also voted to
cut the number of interns and
residents by 70—a number which
the chiefs of service helped to
determine could be eliminated in
a 500 bed institution.

UH Union Negotiations

University Hospital has com­
pleted negotiations with Local
1199 Massachusetts (National Un­
ion of Hospital and Nursing Home
Employees, AFL-CIO) representing
375 employees in the Housekeep­
ing, Dietary, Nursing and other
service departments.

Negotiations conducted over
a five-week period resulted
in a two-year contract retro­
active to February 1 (1973).

First-year provisions include
a wage increase of 4.6 per cent,
with a minimum hourly starting
rate of $2.70. Implementation
of a comprehensive health and
welfare plan will be effective
October 1 (1973) with the total
cost of the plan to be borne
by the Hospital.

Other provisions include an
additional paid holiday, and in­
creases in float, shift and call
compensation.

A union shop with payroll
check-off is included along
with no-strike, no lock-out and
immediate arbitration provisions.

Second-year provisions effect­
ive March 1, 1974 include a 5.5
per cent wage increase.

Implementation of both wage
increases and the health and wel­
fare plan is subject to approval
by the Cost of Living Council.

The Hospital also voted to give
its employees a 5.5 per cent wage
increase on October 1, 1972.

In addition to Local 1199, the
Hospital has collective bargain­
ing agreements covering Regis­
tered Nurses, Licensed Practical
Nurses, maintenance and security
employees.

Social Hour on Aging

The Boston University Ger­
ontology Council is sponsoring
a social hour, Wednesday, March
14 at 4:30 P.M. in the 14th
floor student lounge at the
Medical School. Students and
faculty involved with the study
of aging are invited to attend.

Faculty and community leaders
doing special projects on
this subject will give brief
reports. Interested students and
faculty members are also
cordially invited.
**24-hour Control System Makes BUMC Safer**

George Carroll, area superintendent in the Medical Center Plant Department, makes a call while William Parks, security technician, mans the control station.

A progressive Plant Department has made the Medical Center building and grounds infinitely safer.

Recently a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week Central Control Station, located in the basement of the Medical School, opened, with the assistance of a computer that controls a security closed-circuit TV system and the environment and utilities in almost all BUMC buildings. Lights and heat, for instance, are automatically turned off according to a room's scheduled use.

When a routine maintenance or service call comes into the station on the new central number, Ext. 6344, Zap! a man is discharged by the men in Control.

If the computer senses a temperature change in a lab, a quick rise for instance, Zip! it sends out signals that seal off air ducts that might carry smoke (in case it's a fire), alarms the local fire station and does a jillion other things until a maintenance man can reach the scene and assess it.

Bravo to the Plant Department for 21st-century planning, and a special cheer for the men who make the new round-the-clock, seven-day-a-week system work: Bill Parks, Robert Capbell, Brian Patterson, Robert Bradshaw, Jr. and Hank Brown.

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**Computer Course . Computer**

The Biomedical Engineering Research Section is offering a new introductory computer programming course for all Medical Center employees beginning the week of March 26.

There are no educational or other prerequisites except permission of one's supervisor to attend the classes during working hours.

Cost to each student will be kept under $10.00 for a book and materials.

The course will consist of two one-hour classes per week for 10 weeks, plus exercises to be done at home and practice time using available computers in the Biomedical Engineering laboratory. Experience preparing programs for the IBM 360/40 will also be provided if funding can be found. Lectures are tentatively scheduled for 4-5 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, with time for practice on machines to be arranged.

For more information contact Mel Bisan, Biomedical Engineering, room EG 32, extension 5668.

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**SGD Launches Drive to Attract Minorities**

A drive to attract more women students and representatives of other minority groups to the School of Graduate Dentistry is in full swing thanks to the impetus of a $21,410 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation of New Jersey.

The grant provides support for scholarship and loan awards to women students, students from rural backgrounds and those representing the nation's Black, American-Indian, Mexican-American and Puerto Rican populations.

The long-range goal of this drive is improve access to good dental care in this country, especially for minority groups.

Dr. Jon T. Kapala, pre-doctoral director of admissions and student affairs at the School is administering the grant, and a faculty financial aid committee headed by him will determine the eligibility of students.

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**Beauty and the Barber**

For the convenience of patients, employees and visitors the Extended Care Unit now has a beauty and barber shop located on the first floor of the Extended Care Unit, adjacent to the lobby.

Beautician Sonia Vazquez is in the shop on Fridays from 10:30 a.m. on, and offers a full range of services including haircuts, sets, coloring and permanents. Beauty articles can also be ordered through her. Appointments can be made during the week by calling ECU Receptionist Terry Carter at Ext. 850, or call Sonia (on Fridays only) at Ext. 5129.

Barbers Tony and Vincent Farin are available Monday and Thursday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., and on Friday, from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. Call Ext. 5129.
The following new employees are warmly welcomed to the Medical Center:

BARBARA ALPER, Medicine, BCH; JOAN COPPEC, Administration, Department of Medicine; JOHN CERNAK, Psychosomatic Medicine; LEONARD DURHAM, MARIO VIERA, Building and Grounds; CATHERINE DONAHUE, Surgery; ELIZABETH FINDLEY, Ophthalmology; KATHERINE GROSSCUP, Community Medicine; LAURA JOSEPH, Drug Addiction Clinic; MARY LONG, Neurology; MARGARET Long Magner, Pulmonary Medicine; TINA SAVAGE, Materials and Supply, School of Graduate Dentistry; SARA KUTTNER, Pathology; CHARLES NARGOZIAN, Basic Sciences, Biochemistry; ANDREA PULKKINEN, Microbiology, Virology; RONALD PACEVIC, Materials and Supply, School of Graduate Dentistry; CATHY SCRIBER, Pathology; JUDITH STEWART, Metabolic Medicine; CRAIG SOCKOL, Psychosomatic Medicine; and JAMES WEIDEN, Behavioral Epidemiology.

The following employees have been promoted:

MARY WARD, has been promoted from clerk typist in Rehabilitation Medicine to medical secretary with the Adult Infectious Disease Research Department... LINDA FRATTURA, has been promoted from Medical Records clerk to a secretarial position in the Oncology Department... RALPH CAIRNS has been promoted from messenger, BUSM Mailroom, to cashier in the Accounting Department.

NEW EMPLOYEES

PROMOTIONS

NEWS around the Medical Center

ELIZABETH WISSMAN, instructor, UH Continuing Education, attended a workshop in Atlanta, Georgia, in February on The Problem-Oriented System in Nursing.

CANCER NURSING CARE WORKSHOP... the second Nursing Cancer Workshop is being planned, which will probably start March 7. This is especially designed to offer special preparation for nurses who will be on the staff of the cancer care unit.

IRENE CHRISTOPHER, director of the Medical Center Library, attended a midwinter conference of the American Library Association held in Washington, D.C. She is a member of the Association's Council.

BEST WISHES... to KELLY LYNCH, chief occupational therapist, Physical Rehabilitation Department (Robby 7), on her marriage to THOMAS WEIGLE, a second-year medical student at BU... and ROSE D'AMICO, secretary, Communications Office, on her engagement to GARY RAZZINO.

MRS. ESTELLE DAVIDOFF, director of UH Volunteers, is serving as an Executive Board Member, the Volunteer Action Center for Greater Boston.

COMING ATTRACTIONS... The Hospital will be well represented at the New England Hospital Assembly to be held on March 27 at the Colonade Hotel. Participating in an instructional conference sponsored by the New England Association of Director of Volunteer Services will be the Rev. Leicester Potter, UH chaplain, Marion Stoneberg, UH Regional Cancer Program and Estelle Davidoff, director of UH Volunteers, who will be the moderator. The conference is entitled "The Conspiracy of Silence" and will be involved with the supportive role of volunteers towards the patient and his family in a crisis situation.

CONGRATULATIONS... to Peter Davis, UH Administration, for his work in preparing the Directory of Greater Boston Emergency Rooms and Outpatient Departments. He was a member of the Directory Committee, representing the Hospital. Copies of the Directory can be obtained by writing the Health Planning Council for Greater Boston, Inc., One Gateway Center, Newton, Mass. 02158.

WELL MISS YOU... Ruth Tinkham retired recently after 15 years of service as an Outpatient Clerk in the Hospital Medical Records Department... Gean Pietro, a Masons Plaster's Helper, has retired after 19 years in the Hospital Maintenance Department.
What Would Lady Godiva Have Done? . . . It's not unusual for men to lose their hair; it's accepted, even fashionable, a la Yul Brynner. But for a woman to lose her locks, it can be disastrous. Yet both young and older women have experienced just this, according to Dr. David Charles, chairman of obstetrics and gynecology at the School of Medicine. Certain types of physiological imbalances can be the reason, including thyroid deficiencies, bodily changes during pregnancy and upsets due to high fever, he says. Also some women in their middle years experience thinning of hair due to hormonal changes. Scalp infections and mistreatment or overtreatment of hair can also be the culprit. Dr. Charles recommends a complete physical checkup. Though there is no direct treatment for hair loss, he says, a balanced diet and adequate vitamins and iron can be helpful in some cases.

Dreams Lessen Anxiety . . . Dreaming provides a vital defense against anxiety produced by stressful situations of everyday life, a study of 20 students at the Medical Center concludes.

Highest Award . . . Dr. Robert J. Krane, resident in Urology, and Dr. Carl A. Olsson, chief of Urology, recently were awarded First Prize in the Annual Grayson Carroll Clinical Research Competition sponsored by the American Urological Association for original work in medical management of patients with neurogenic bladder. This represents the second time in the past three years that urologists at the Medical Center have received this honor, the highest award granted to young urologists in the country. A commemorative plaque and a cash grant will be presented to the doctors at the National Meeting of the American Urological Association in New York in May.

It's The Dog-Gonedest Thing . . . Princess is a two-year old "police" dog who takes her breeding seriously. Her best friend, constant companion and owner is Norman Richard, a member of the Doctors Building security staff who works in the facility's garage in the tollbooth. Richard, for years a Boston policeman, trained Princess from puppyhood to help him on patrol. Now a pro, she's never lost her protective instinct or shirked her "responsibilities." Recently, Richard left the tollbooth to aid a motorist stuck in the driveway. Princess, frolicking with her ball nearby, noticed the empty booth and decided to fill the vacancy. She sauntered into the booth, sat up on the seat and cast her canine eyes on the bewildered motorist. Now, if Richard but steps from the booth, Princess takes over. If she could only make change!!

Letter to Dr. Lewis H. Rohrbaugh, Medical Center Director

I have recently had cause to get a quick, somewhat one-sided view of the University Hospital and the BUMC.

I was most agreeably surprised at your fine institution and fine well-trained people in it. I recognize that this does not "just happen" and recognize the fine guiding hand of a most able administrator.

Gratefully yours,
John J. Giriunas
Worcester Square Resident