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Boston University
Hospital prepares for JCAHO visit

With surveyors from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) expected to visit BMC within the next two months, BMC staff need to be prepared for the comprehensive, hospital-wide review. Since each employee could affect the surveyors' conclusions, all employees are asked to be prepared for the questions that could be posed.

Though the exact date of the visit is not known, the medical center's accreditation expires March 25, and the surveyors may visit 30 days prior to or after the expiration date. Director of Quality Improvement/Risk Management Denise Mehegan says there are three basic, but very important items employees must remember: always wear your ID badge in a conspicuous place on the front of your clothing with the photo facing out, know BMC's mission statement, and know what to do in the event of a fire.

Preparations for the spring visit have been ongoing. BMC's Joint Commission Steering Committee, which asked for completed assessments from each department, has been meeting weekly to review the assessments and identify where improvements can be made. The hospital also has been publishing a biweekly newsletter entitled Quality Safety Talks, which highlights areas on which the JCAHO surveyors will focus. In addition, a number of teams have been conducting weekly "Environment of Care" rounds, focusing on safety issues, such as performance maintenance monitoring, the security of emergency equipment, and general staff education relating to safety and other hospital policies.

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Bosome celebrates 150th birthday

"We are the future legacy of BUSM. We — as teachers, students and physicians — will work toward another 150 years of excellence."

Deena Atieh
Class '00

Returning to BUSM in the new year, students, faculty and staff were greeted by deans — past and present — with hot mugs of coffee, muffins and smiles all around. The Jan. 13 morning event marked the kick off of the school’s sesquicentennial celebration, held to honor BUSM's rich history (which began as New England Female Medical College in 1848 before merging with Boston University in 1873).

That afternoon, the school held a more formal reception in Hiebert Lounge. Dean Aram Chobanian, MD, provost of BU Medical Campus, said the day’s events were just the beginning of what is to be an eventful year at the school.

Chobanian, reflecting on BUSM's history at the afternoon reception, noted how the school faced opposition when it was founded because of its all-female status, but survived through perseverance to become nationally renowned. "We have now grown to a point of national prominence as a medical school and a medical center," he said. "We have developed a unique character, an independent spirit, and a heart and soul that reaches out to the community."

A student's perspective

Deena Atieh, a member of the class of '00 and president of the Student Committee on Medical School Affairs (SCOMSA), said that for students and members of the BUSM community, the sesquicentennial celebration is an added opportunity to learn about the people who preceded them at the school. "It has been said that the success of a school is based on the names of those who come from it," she said. "We are the future legacy of BUSM. We — as teachers, students and physicians — will work toward another 150 years of excellence."

Numerous events honoring the school's sesquicentennial are planned, including the publication of a new history of BUSM; many different scientific symposia; the first annual Student/Alumni Career Day; a 5K Road Race; Alumni Weekend; and the Sesquicentennial Gala in October. The winter edition of BU Medicine, to be published later this month, will also celebrate the anniversary. The publication will focus on the school's roots as a female medical college, as well as feature perspectives from former female medical students.
Five chosen as Black Achievers for 1998

As a result of a joint venture with the Greater Boston YMCA Black Achievers Program, Barbara Catchings, director, Employment and Employee Relations at BMC; Janis Johnson, administrative assistant at SDM; Charles Merley Jr., director, Materials Management at BMC; Julie Watts, project coordinator at SPH; and Drew West, TDM, director, General Practice Residency Program at SDM, were honored at a city-wide ceremony on Jan. 22, at the Boston Copley Hotel, and at the Eleventh Annual Dinner, Roslindale Medical and Dental Center teams up with BMC

The Greater Roslindale Medical and Dental Center (GRMDC) recently became affiliated with BMC, allowing the organization to provide more services to neighborhood residents, including the addition of weekend hours, increased home visiting services and expanded mental health services. The Greater Roslindale Medical and Dental Center is the fifth community health center to receive a license under BMC.

According to Paul Drew, vice-president of Network Development at BMC, the affiliation between GRMDC and BMC will provide an opportunity to expand health services in the Greater Roslindale area. "We are impressed by the good work and dedication exhibited by the medical staff at the Greater Roslindale Medical and Dental Center and are proud to include them as part of the BMC Medical Center team," says Drew. "This affiliation will help BMC Medical Center to serve an even larger number of residents with the best community health care possible."

Roslindale medical and dental center teams up with BMC

The other four health centers are Codman Square Health Center, Dorchester House Multi-Service Center, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center and South Boston Community Health Center. GRMDC was formerly known as the Recovering Man, under the Faulkner Hospital. The decision to realign with BMC was the result of a unanimous vote by GRMDC’s board of directors. The affiliation was effective Jan. 1, 1998.

Clearing the air on smoking in Bay State bars

Over the past 10 years, smoking has been faced with the objection of public places, movie theaters, public transportation and government buildings. Amidst this banishment, smoke has been known to rise in the neighborhoods where it was banned—the tail, holder, and the menagerie place employed in a bar of smoke.

This smoker's haven may soon disappear, because the researcher from SPH has just given a bar and restaurant owner in Massachusetts who allow smoking a big incentive to stop: they'll make more money.

According to Michael Siegel, MD, PhD, assistant professor of Health at SPH, a "smoke-free" policy could potentially entice thousands of new customers. "Our study shows that a smoking ban probably wouldn't decrease business, and it may in fact increase business," he says.

Siegel’s study, which appeared recently in the American Journal of Public Health, surveyed the attitudes of 2,356 adults toward smoking in bars and restaurants. If smoking were banned in bars, 89 percent of patrons and 92 percent of those who would go to bars as often or more often, while 11 percent would go less often. However, the study also found that two-thirds of the adults who avoid bars would start patronizing them if smoking were not permitted, according to Siegel. The survey, conducted by the Harvard School of Public Health, involved 120,000 new customers. Restaurant owners could also reap a financial benefit. "Our data showed that 50 percent of restaurateurs would cut our more for a smoke-free policy if a smoking ban were in place, while only 8 percent said they would cut our less off," he says.

Being named as a Black Achiever is very exciting,” says West. “Working within the community and working with young people is something that is very near and dear to my heart.”

BU Medical Campus hosts successful fair

A new director named

Kate Ackerman, MD, MPH, has been named medical director of the BMC HealthNet Plan (BMCHP), following Robert West, MD, who managed the functions in the program’s first phase.

Ackerman comes to the program with more than 15 years of clinical and management experience with managed care for commercial and special populations, including Medicaid and Medicare. Her initial practice was as a primary care internist, at which time she also developed quality assurance programs for managed care populations. She will continue at a review for the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) and with committee activities for the American Geriatrics Society. At BMC she will retain her position as director of Quality and Utilization Management in the section of Geriatrics. She will also continue as a practicing physician.

"We are delighted that Dr. Ackerman will work closely with Jane Franninsson, RN, MBA, who was recently named executive director of the plan. (See December 1998 Grad News)"

Enrollment continues to grow

In her new role, Ackerman takes over a plan that is continually growing with more than 4,000 members joining since enrollment began in August.

There are high expectations for this innovative program that aims to provide full medical coverage to some of the state’s uninsured.

Thomas Thayer, vice president of BMCHP says the goal is to enroll 20,000 members over the next year and 40,000 over three years. To help get the word out, BMCHP has launched a massive advertising campaign, targeting the MassHealth-eligible audience throughout Greater Boston. The advertisements are featured on TV, radio, billboards, Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority buses and trains and in 15 community newspapers. The program is also a member of the 30,000 current members of the Boston Health Net Piko Program to become BMCHP members.

Once enrolled in BMCHP, members receive a membership card and have access to adult, adolescent and pediatric primary care, obstetrics, an intensive care nursery, trauma treatment, HIV testing, appropriate doctor visits, necessary hospital services and 24-hour emergency care. In addition to the full MassHealth benefit package, members are also covered for the following extra benefits once enrolled in BMCHP: free over-the-counter medicines, car seats and childbolts, home safety supplement access to free health education classes, and a 24-hour, seven-day member hotline. The plan is accepted at BMC and the 11 Boston HealthNet health centers. Wizburg will now turn his attention to his other full-time responsibilities at BMC, including serving as chairman of the Department of Medicine and associate chief medical officer for the hospital and chief of the Section of Community Medicine. Wizburg played a key role in developing and implementing BMCHP.

"Enrollment continues to grow — thanks to such advertisements as the BMCHP spon sores which are pur- chasing the place throughout the city."
BMC's Cardiothoracic Surgery scores among nation's best

Patients who come to BMC for heart surgery are more likely to recover faster and have less surgery-related complications than at comparable hospitals in the northeast, according to data amassed by Yankee Alliance, Inc., a collaboration of regional hospitals. BMC's clinical outcomes for heart surgery patients scored the highest in Massachusetts and are in the top 1 percent of the nation.

The Yankee Alliance data were cited in a "report card" of the top percent of the nation. "It's a report card looked at two separate measures of success: how quickly patients recovered from surgery and how many patients survived the surgery. The combined results place BMC at the top of its class, and this information will be shared with referring physicians. According to Richard Shemin, MD, professor of cardiothoracic surgery at BMC and chair of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at BMC, the data on clinical outcomes come as no surprise, given the department's commitment to excellence in all facets of heart surgery. "We try to evaluate each aspect of surgery, from the technology to our own techniques and protocols for patient care, then we make any adjustments that will improve patient outcomes," he said. BMC credits its clinical outcomes for heart surgery patients scored the highest in Massachusetts to its excellent outcomes in part to the spirit of innovation, as exemplified in such state-of-the-art technology as minimally invasive operations. These operations are designed to avoid the standard 12-inch incision and complete opening of the breastbone known as a "sternotomy," which takes as long as six weeks to completely heal. "It is this forward-thinking approach that has kept our department at the front," says Shemin. For more on the new techniques in heart surgery, see future issues of MedCenter News."

"We're certainly pleased to be among the best in the nation," says Gabriel Aldea, MD, associate professor of cardiothoracic surgery at BMC and a cardiothoracic surgeon at BUSM and a cardiothoracic surgeon at BUSM and chairman of the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery at BMC. "The department is resting on its laurels. "Our society says don't take naps during the day," says Auerbach. "But if you feel the urge and can work it into your lifestyle, there is nothing wrong with it." To get a better idea of how naps affect your energy and the quality of your nighttime rest, try this simple test. For one week, take a daily nap; then the next week, don't. During the two-week period, keep a sleep log, recording when you go to bed at night, how long it takes you to fall asleep, how many times you wake up, how many total hours you sleep, and how you feel in the morning. During the week you take naps, also record how you feel after your midday snooze. At the end of the experiment, try to judge whether naps are good for you based on how they affect your sleep habits and energy levels.

If you find, however, that after getting a reasonable amount of nighttime sleep, you cannot get through the day without a nap or are constantly feeling tired and sluggish, you should consult with a physician.

If you have questions concerning napping or wish to discuss any other health issues, contact the BMC Health Connection at 617-279-2020.

How do you report a patient accident or an unusual incident that happens at the hospital? By completing a "Blue" incident report. If an employee accident occurs, an Accident Reporting Form should be completed.

Who is BMC's safety officer? BMC's safety officer is Robert Whifield, who can be reached at 638-7244.

What does MSDS stand for and where can you find them? Material Safety Data Sheet. Check with your supervisor, but in most departments it can be found in the safety and disaster manual.


Who is responsible for shutting off oxygen during a fire emergency? The charge nurse.

Where are the emergency power receptacles located? Each department has BMC policy manuals. Please check with your supervisor as to where the manual is located within your department.

What are BMC's Values? Respect, Commitment, Diversity, Competence, Education, Research and Cost Effectiveness.

How do you ensure patient care equipment is safe? What do you do if it malfunctions? By checking the performance maintenance sticker prior to use. If equipment malfunctions, it should be removed from use, labeled and Clinical Engineering should be notified.

Where are the emergency power receptacles located? The emergency power receptacles are identified by red outlets.

BMC's Missions Statement

We will provide consistently excellent and accessible health services to all those in need, regardless of status or ability to pay.

The following are various questions surveyors may ask of any employee:

What do you do in case of a fire? Follow the R.A.C.E. acronym on your red card. (Rescue, Alert, Contain, Evacuate or Evacuate)

What are the hospital's policies on smoking and safety? BMC is a smoke-free environment. Smoking is allowed only in designated external areas.

What do you report a patient accident or an unusual incident that happens at the hospital? By completing a "Blue" incident report. If an employee accident occurs, an Accident Reporting and Treatment Form should be completed.

Who is BMC's safety officer? BMC's safety officer is Robert Whifield, who can be reached at 638-7244.

What does MSDS stand for and where can you find them? Material Safety Data Sheet. Check with your supervisor, but in most departments it can be found in the safety and disaster manual.


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Making way for mom

Carlotta McClintock, a patient access representative at the Women's Center and a BMC patient, shows off the new reserved parking spots outside the Inpatient Care Center. The spots are reserved for patients in labor or pregnancy related emergencies.

A short catnap benefits humans too

I have been hearing a lot of talk lately about the benefits of taking daily naps. Will napping help me beat sleepiness without making me sluggish the rest of the day?

When 3 p.m. rolls around and you find yourself nodding off at your desk, don't despise. There is nothing wrong with you that the much-maligned, much loved, catnap can cure. A midday snooze not only helps beat sleepiness, but also can increase energy and productivity.

According to Sanford Auerbach, MD, assistant professor of medicine at BUM and director of the Sleep Disorders Center at BMC, the urge for a midday nap is built into the body's biological clock and typically occurs between 2 and 3 p.m. During a 24-hour period, there are fluctuations in the body's physiological processes, called circadian (24-hour) self rhythms. Associated with changes in body temperature, circadian rhythms are closely linked to sleep-wake rhythms. As body temperature goes up, we enter our natural wake zone, and as it goes down, we enter our sleep zone.

There are various ways to get through this part of the day. When we feel tired and sluggish, says Auerbach, "Some will opt for a cup of coffee or a brisk walk. However, the most effective way to overcome sleepiness and replenish ourselves and our energy stores is to take a nap. Although our 'internal' clock communicates this urge for naps, more people fight the urge and make it through the day without one."

Excessive daytime sleepiness is the result of not getting enough good-quality sleep at night, often because of environmental disturbances such as noise or temperature, or behavioral disturbances such as stress. The difference between how much sleep we get and how much sleep we need accounts for the intensity of the desire to nap during the day. "Sleep need varies for different people, usually seven to eight hours on the average," says Auerbach. "If an individual does not get enough sleep, then the urge to nap is more powerful."

Today, taking a "siesta", or midday break, is still common practice in many countries. However, the habit was dismissed by Americans in the Industrial Age as a time-waster. "Our society says don't take naps during the day," says Auerbach. "But if you feel the urge and can work it into your lifestyle, there is nothing wrong with it."

To get a better idea of how naps affect your energy and the quality of your nighttime rest, try this simple test. For one week, take a daily nap; then the next week, don't. During the two-week period, keep a sleep log, recording when you go to bed at night, how long it takes you to fall asleep, how many times you wake up, how many total hours you sleep, and how you feel in the morning. During the week you take naps, also record how you feel after your midday snooze. At the end of the experiment, try to judge whether naps are good for you based on how they affect your sleep habits and energy levels.

If you find, however, that after getting a reasonable amount of nighttime sleep, you cannot get through the day without a nap or are constantly feeling tired and sluggish, you should consult with a physician.

If you have questions concerning napping or wish to discuss any other health issues, contact the BMC Health Connection at 617-279-2020.
Hospital uses state-of-the-art food service

With more than 4,000 meals delivered each day at BMC, quick and efficient meal preparation and delivery — BMC is on the cutting edge of hospital food service.

The new method provides a high-quality and cost-effective way of serving patients and staff.

Food is coolled in bulk, then stored in rethermalization containers that keep food warm for up to eight hours.

Needless to say, it's a win-win situation for both BMC and its patients.

Just the right touch of technology

Qualities of food service at BMC are similar to those at high-quality restaurants, but on a large scale.

The facility uses state-of-the-art technology to store and prepare food.

The Cook-Chill system is a state-of-the-art method of food production and delivery — BMC is on the cutting edge of hospital food service.

The new method provides a high-quality and cost-effective way of serving patients and staff.

Food is coolled in bulk, then stored in rethermalization containers that keep food warm for up to eight hours.

BMC receives donation from First Lady

BMC recently received a generous $10,000 donation from the proceeds of First Lady Laura Bush's Red Ribbon Clinton's book, It Takes a Village and Other Lessons Children Teach.

The money will be used to fund the Reach Our and Read program, part of Red Ribbon.

In a letter to Barry Zuckerman, MD, BMC chief of Pediatrics and founder of Reach Out and Read, the First Lady writes, "I appreciate the important difference that your work is making in the lives of children and families. I hope this donation can make a difference in your continuing efforts and that America's villages will use it to support the work of organizations like yours."

We are very grateful for Mrs. Clinton's generosity," says Zuckerman. "For families that don't have a lot of discretionary income for books, don't have much money, we're very grateful for this. I hope this donation can make a difference in your continuing efforts and that America's villages will use it to support the work of organizations like yours."

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BMC is proud to be a part of this program and continues to support it through donations and partnerships.

Reach Out and Read is a national program that helps children in low-income families develop the reading skills they need to be successful in school and in life.

Boston University Medical Center

Boston University Medical Center staff appear as experts for various media stories on a wide range of topics. Recent highlights include:

- Samuel Elias, MD, PhD, director of the Carol M. Tabbard Laboratory for the Study of Motor Control and Tissue at BMC and assistant professor of neurology at BUSM, appeared on the Public Broadcasting System Network program Health to discuss his research on transplanting fetal pig cells into pigs with Parkinson's disease.
- Robert Krane, MD, chief of the Department of Urology at BMC and professor and chairman of urology at BUSM, was featured on WBUR-FM and WCVB-TV on News, appearing in stories on prostate issues, a device used to treat benign prostatic hyperplasia.
- Richard Shenkin, MD, chief of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at BMC and professor and chairman of surgery at BUSM, appeared on WGBH-TV Channel 4 News regarding minimally invasive cardiac surgery, after a procedure was featured on the television show Chicago Hope.
- A recent study about the economics and health benefits of smoke-free bars in Massachusetts by Michelle Stahler, MPH, assistant professor of social and behavioral sciences at SPH, was featured on WGBH-TV Channel 5 News, WCVB-TV News, WBUR-FM and WBZ-TV Channel 4 News.
- WGBH-TV Channel 5 News, WBZ-AM, 1040-AM, WCVB-TV Channel 5 and WXEN-AM, 1060-AM are assemblers of the Broadcast System Network program Boston University Medical Center.
- Erwin Hirsch, MD, professor of surgery at BUSM and director of Trauma at BMC, is a principal investigator of the Nuclear Disaster/Radiation Training Program at the Radiation Emergency Assistance Center/Training Site in Tennessee, which was attended by physicians and radiation protection specialists from various countries.

When winter weather hits

BMC Medical Center

In the event of a winter emergency, the BMC Medical Center has a "no-close" policy and usually will remain open. In the event of a winter emergency, BMC classes will not be canceled unless a state of emergency (a snow emergency is not considered a state of emergency) is declared in Boston, and roads are closed to all but emergency vehicles. BMC students may call 617-559-1111 to receive updates on class cancellations.

If the BMC Medical Center, which includes BUSM, SGM and SPH, is closed, or is in schedule to closed due to emergency conditions, an announcement specific to the medical center will be made on the following authorized stations: WRKZ (1050 AM), WRKO (680 AM), WMXQ (98.5 FM), WCRB (90.5 FM), WCVB-TV (Ch. 5), WCVB-AM (980 AM), and WHDH-TV (Ch. 7). When a Boston University closure is announced on the radio or television, the announcement refers only to the Charles River Campus, unless specifically stated otherwise.

The decision to shorten the work day will normally be made by 3 p.m. on such occasions. The Office of Personnel will notify department heads, who will communicate this information to their respective employees.

Boston Medical Center

When winter weather hits

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People

Sara lynh Alla ire, RN, ScD, assistant research pro­fessor of medicine at BUSM, received the Addie Thomas Services Award from the Association of Rheumatology Health Professionals (ARHP). The award recognizes an individual who has been an active volunteer with local, regional and national arthritis-related activities separate from the person’s employment. Allaire is also the recipi­ent of the Arthritis Foundation’s National Volunteer Service Citation, the James H. Faircloth Award for Distinguished Service and an Award of Recognition from the Scleroderma Association.

Howard Bauchner, MD, director of General Pediatrics at BMC and associate professor of pediatrics at BUSM, has been appointed to the editorial board of Pediatrics, the journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics. As a member of the editorial board, Bauchner will be respon­sible for writing and reviewing articles, as well as solicit­ing articles for review.

At a recent American Society of Anesthesiologists meet­ing, Rafael Ortega, MD, associate professor of anes­thesiology at BUSM and Harold Arkoff, MD, assistant professor of anesthesiology at BUSM, won first prize in the ASA’s scientific exhibit contest for their presentation entitled “Port Access Cardiac Surgery for the Anesthesiologist.” This is the second consecutive year the two have won prizes for their computer-aided instruction work.

Tufan Tarcan, MD, urology research fellow, received the Jack Lapidus second prize in the 1998 Essay Contest on Urodynamic and Neurology Research.

Tarcan received this prestigious international prize in the urology field for his paper, entitled “Atherosclerosis-induced Chronic Ischemia Causes Bladder Fibrosis and Non-compliance: The Role of the Growth Factors.” The article was co-authored by Kazem Azadzoi, MD, associate research professor of urology and pathology at BUSM; Robert Edelstein, MD, assistant professor of urology at BUSM; Robert Krane, MD, chief of the Department of Urology at BMC and professor and chair­man of Urology at BUSM; and Mike Siroyk, MD, pro­fessor of urology at BUSM.

Marcelle Willock, MD, chief of the Division of Anesthesiology at BMC and professor and chair of Anesthesiology at BUSM, has been elected assistant secretary of the American Society of Anesthesiologists.

New Appointments

David DiFiore has been named associate director in the Department of Pediatrics. He is responsible for the implementation of strategic initiatives to enhance the pediatrics service product line and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the delivery system.

DiFiore comes to BMC from the Lahey-Hitchcock Clinic in Burlington, MA, where he held the position of clinical services manager since 1994. There, he was responsible for the oper­ational and financial performance of cardiac group practices and services in the Massachusetts region. He oversaw the development and implementation of strategic business plans to pursue long range market, business and technology opportunities.

Susan Dale has been named special assistant to BMC President and CEO Elaine Ullian. Dale had been working for the ground-break­ing BMC HealthNet Plan (BMCHP), which provides full medical coverage to many of the state’s uninsured. Her new responsibilities at BMC include working closely with the Board of Trustees, external agencies and other orga­nizations with which BMC works. She will also perform general administrative functions under the aegis of the president’s office. Prior to BMCHP, Dale served as chief operating officer for the Boston Public Health Commission. She has also directed the Mayor’s Health Line, a citywide program providing information and refer­ral on access to health care for all Boston residents.

Grants

The National Institutes of Health has awarded a five-year research grant to Project LINK Principal Investigator Edward Bernstein, MD, and his colleagues at SPH and BUSM. The funds will be used to test Project LINK, an invention designed to link patients using drugs with drug abuse treatment systems. Members of the research team include Kathy Bennett, MD, assistant professor of medicine at BUSM; Judith Bernstein, PhD, assistant professor of maternal and child health at SPH; Tim Heeren, PhD, associate professor ofepi­demiology and biostatistics at SPH and associate pro­fessor of pediatrics at BUSM; Ralph Hingson, ScD, chairman of Social and Behavioral Sciences and profes­sor of public health at SPH; Suzette Levenson, MPH, director of the Data Coordinating Center; and Vilma Ruddock, MD, medical director of the Women’s Center at BMC and assistant clinical professor of obstetrics and gynecology at BUSM. The research team will investigate the effective­ness of brief motivational interviewing, using a peer educator model to reduce harm associated with crack/cocaine and heroin drug use.

Institutional abbreviations

BMC – Boston Medical Center
BU – Boston University
BUSM – Boston University School of Medicine, Public Health and Dental Medicine
BUMC – Boston University Medical Center (includes BU Medical Campus and Boston Medical Center)
BWSM – BU School of Medicine
SDM – Goldman School of Dental Medicine
SPP – BU School of Public Health

Vivien Morris’ commitment to improving the health care of children is apparent in her work as a pediatric dietician. For 12 years Morris has provided nutritional care to children with AIDS and gastroin­testinal disorders at BMC.

“Vivien's dedication and compassion to patients and the community is demonstrated in everything she does,” says Ellen Cooper, MD, medical director of the Pediatric AIDS Program at BMC and associate professor of pediatrics at BUSM. “She writes out special recipes, collects kitchen utensils for those in need, and even visits some patients at home.”

Morris’ dedication to children extends far beyond BMC exam rooms — she co-founded the Boston Organization of Nutritionists and Dietitians of Color, helped create the nutrition program of the Children’s AIDS Program in Boston and teaches nutrition education to community groups and to employees at day care centers. “I’ll always be a dietitian, because I love direct service. I want to broaden my clinical work by teaching, testing my ideas with research, and focusing more on the community,” says Morris. Recently, Morris graduated from the SPH Leadership Program in Maternal and Child Health. For one of her courses, she wrote a grant to set up a community-based weight loss program for children. Although the grant is yet to be funded, BMC’s Division of Pediatrics has committed to implementing the comprehensive program in early March.

“Most pediatric nutrition problems are related to larger public health issues,” says Morris. “I hope that my experience and my SPH education will help put it all in perspective.”

A graduate of Boston College, DiFiore received his master’s degree from BU in 1988.

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