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Boston University
Center opening attracts state, hospital leaders

With the opening of its new Breastfeeding Center, BMC is continuing to promote breastfeeding as an important part of a healthy start for newborns.

Lt. Gov. Jane Swift, and hospital leadership, including Manuel Ferris, chairman of the Board of Trustees at BMC; Elaine Ullian, president and CEO of BMC; and Bobbi Philipp, MD, medical director of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine at BMC and associate professor of pediatrics at BUSM, joined patients and employees at a ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the center on Tuesday, Feb. 9.

"Women who are thinking about or have already chosen to breastfeed often need some initial support in the hospital and once they get home,” said Philipp. “We will now be able to provide the answers and support they need.”

Through the Breastfeeding Center, women will be able to attend breastfeeding classes, work with a lactation counselor, use the center’s telephonic support line, and have access to breastfeeding rooms and a variety of educational resources. The center continued on page 8

MedCAREERS provides online career counseling for students

A new computer-based career advising and planning program pioneered by Arthur Culbert, PhD, associate dean for Student Affairs at BUSM, is clicking into virtual reality.

MedCAREERS, a joint project of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and the American Medical Association (AMA), will equip medical students with skills and information needed for lifetime career planning.

Training for the program is underway for students and faculty, and the MedCAREERS website is expected to be launched in June. Officials at the AMA and AAMC are hopeful that this electronic advising resource will prove useful to students and faculty at BUSM and medical schools throughout the country.

Suzanne Sarfaty, MD, associate dean for Student Affairs, has been appointed to implement MedCAREERS at the school.

"How does it work? First-year medical students at BUSM and other participating schools will point their browsers at the MedCAREERS website, allowing them to conduct self-assessments and test their desires and inclinations against the real world. "These professional self-assessment tools provide insight on who they are and what they want to be at this point in time,” said Culbert, a scholar-in-residence at the AAMC.

"Over the course of their four years, medical students will complete modules on career exploration, decision-making, and implementation. MedCAREERS will give students a better understanding on how their interests and abilities match with the real world,” said Culbert. “We’re really putting them in touch with resources. We’re not re-inventing the wheel, we’re continued on page 5
Hematology service expands patient care beyond hospital walls

Providing comprehensive care to nearly Florida's elderly and adolescents with blood diseases each year, the Pediatric Hematology Service at BMC has rapidly become one of the subspecialties within the Division of Pediatrics. Under the leadership of Michael Osland, MD, director of the service and the new Fan P. Fleenor Pediatrics Program at BMC, as well as clinical professor of pediatrics at BUMI, the treatment teams address patients through young adults suffering from sickle cell anemia, nutrition-related anemias, white blood cell disorders, coagulation defects, and other blood and immunological diseases. The pediatric program also provides therapeutic and educational services, including the medical school’s training program. Pediatric blood and marrow disorder treatments in families, telephone consultations, educational seminars for other hospital staff, and monthly newsletters for patients and health care providers. In addition, the Pediatric Hematology Service was the first in Massachusetts to offer treatment for Fanconi anemia associated to predict which patients with sickle cell disease are at an increased risk for stroke.

At a more recent conference reviewing American adolescents to donate blood, Georgia Brown, MD, chief of Pediatric Hematology, said, "BMC is currently recruiting 400 patients, with plans to add 200 more by the end of the year. The goal is to reach 600 patients in a year." Giles added, "Our objective is to provide comprehensive care to patients and families who are at risk for blood disorders and to improve their quality of life." The conference was held at the Boston Children's Hospital, where the Pediatric Hematology Service is located.

Save your smile, stop the stogies

Although enjoying a stogie has become the latest Hollywood fad, researchers at BMC say the effects of smoking can be disastrous for the health of the patient. While many people say they will stop smoking, the fact is that most smokers will continue to smoke. A recent study conducted by the American Cancer Society found that 95% of smokers said they wanted to quit smoking, but only 5% actually did. The study also found that 85% of smokers who tried to quit failed. However, the hope is that with continued research and education, more people will be able to stop smoking.

R. Armour Ford, MD, PhD, Timothy Babineau, MD, Stephen Severson, MD, Peter Burke, MD.

Surgeons bring talents to BMC

At McGill and a research fellow in surgical medicine at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York, Foster was appointed associate professor of surgery at Harvard Medical School in 1992. He specializes in the surgical treatment of musculoskeletal and vascular disorders and is an active basic research program in metabolism, biochemistry, and molecular physiology. "Rediffusion" of doses and minimally invasive surgical oncology, he talks about his work from the University of Massachusetts. He completed his internship and residency in general surgery at the New England Deaconess Hospital, where he also served as a fellow in surgical nutrition and metabolism. Babineau became an assistant surgeon at Harvard Medical School in 1993 and served on the active staff of New England Baptist Hospital. He also served as chief of surgery at BMC in New York, California, Los Angeles School of Medicine. He completed his internship and residency at the University of California, San Francisco College of Medicine. He has been a fellow in colorectal surgery and his current major research interest involves molecular physiology, pelvic floor disorders and outcomes of quality of life issues. Gurke received his MD from Tufts University School of Medicine and completed his internship and residency in surgery at the University of California, San Francisco College of Medicine. He has been a fellow in colorectal surgery and his current major research interest involves molecular physiology, pelvic floor disorders and outcomes of quality of life issues. Gurke received his MD from Tufts University School of Medicine and completed his internship and residency in surgery at the University of California, San Francisco College of Medicine. He has been a fellow in colorectal surgery and his current major research interest involves molecular physiology, pelvic floor disorders and outcomes of quality of life issues.

"I am excited to be working alongside my new colleagues," said James Burke, MD, chief of surgery, BMC, and chief of surgery, BMC, who also worked at Harvard Medical School. "By bringing together the best minds in the country, we will be able to provide the best possible care for our patients."

The Journal of American Medical Association welcomes your contributions. Please send your articles and photographs to: The Journal of American Medical Association, 515 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60610.
Pap smear, as an early detection tool for cervical cancer, is a critical component of cancer screening for women with HIV. The procedure is recommended for all women, including those with HIV, and should be performed regularly to detect precursor lesions and reduce the risk of cervical cancer.

**Community workshops assist child-care providers**

A workshop titled “Spanking: How Should We Deal With It?” was held to discuss the role of physical punishment in child-rearing. Attendees were encouraged to explore alternative methods of discipline and to reflect on the potential consequences of spanking.

**New software offers clinicians easy access to patient information**

A new software solution has been developed to facilitate easy access to patient information for clinicians. The software is designed to streamline the process of gathering and accessing patient data, thereby improving patient care and reducing administrative burdens.

**BMC Development Committee strives to increase fund raising**

The BMC Development Committee is focusing on expanding its fund-raising efforts to support the continued growth and development of the organization. The committee is exploring various strategies to increase revenue, including increasing membership and donor engagement.

This system allows us to have much of the power of the Internet for a small fraction of the cost, and presented to us in a useful format.
At the forefront

At the first hospital in the Northeast region to obtain the Pathology Imaging Network, BMC is once again at the forefront of medical technology. The new system allows medical staff to instantly review high-quality, digital pathology images from several computer terminals throughout the campus. In addition, the system allows images to be permanently archived. Michael O’Brien, MD, chief of Biomedical Pathology at BMC, and professor of pathology, laboratory medicine, and public health at BUMC (above) recently hosted a presentation and reception to celebrate the implementation of the system.

Leonard Gottlieb, MD, chief of the Division of Pathology at BMC, and chairman of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at BUMC, was also honored at the reception for his leadership and dedication in BUMC.

ON Track

BMC is changing cellular telephone provider

BMC is changing its primary corporate cellular telephone provider from Cellestial One to Bell Atlantic Mobile (BAM). This change will affect all of the BMC Corporate One cellular accounts. In the near future, all corporate users will receive a 4 percent discount on their monthly charges. All corporate users have 28 days to convert service to BAM by March 31, 1999, or to convert their accounts to a corporate cellular provider.

The proposal also calls for the demolition of the Thombilino, MBH and MBH buildings between East Concord Street and the removal of those buildings. The various small existing open spaces on each of the BMC campuses will be combined to form a central utilization quad. The Thombilino, MBH and MBH buildings currently form a barrier between the Newton and Harrison Avenue campuses,” said Ieonid.

The project will begin with the demolition of the Administration Building at 811 Harrison Ave. BMC says, next major and fundamental. All members of the Administration Building will move to less than 1 mile of the Newton Harrison Avenue campuses.” said Ieonid.

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Substance Abuse Prevention. The grant — which will contribute $1,000,000 per year for three years — marks the first time that the center has funded training for SPH faculty in substance abuse prevention. The funds will go toward training both SPH faculty and Boston Public Health Commission staff, and will also help forge a closer collaboration between the two groups. “We are training four professors on addictions treatment and prevention,” said Amaro, "who will be able to offer new courses, and perhaps, a minor in the field.”

Amaro also received funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Those funds will be used to form the Boston Consortium of Services for Families in Recovery. The consortium will consist of SPH faculty, BMC clinicians and Boston Public Health Commission staff, and is part of a multisite study on women who are victims of violence.

Yasu Ido, MD, PhD, research assistant professor at BUSM, recently received a $150,000 grant from the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International. The funds will go toward research of C peptide, a protein that is secreted from the pancreas together with insulin. Since its discovery, C peptide has been considered a waste product without any biological function. This study will explore the mechanisms by which C peptide can prevent some chronic complications of diabetes and test optimal methods for its administration. The goal of the research is to provide a basis for human clinical trials.

Breastfeeding Center opens its door

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also sponsors Pumps for Peanuts, a program which assures every mother with an infant in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit access to a breast pump, and One Mother to Another, a peer counselor program for breastfeeding mothers.

Breastfeeding is a very healthy option for both mothers and infants. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life, and continued breastfeeding, with the addition of solid foods, through at least one year of age. These suggestions are based on research that indicates breastfed infants have fewer ear infections and episodes of diarrhea, better visual and cognitive development, and a decreased risk of developing diabetes. For prematurely- and low-birthweight babies, who make up nearly 20 percent of the births at BMC, breastfeeding is even more vital, as it protects against potentially fatal infections and intestinal complications.

“Breastfeeding is beneficial for mothers as well as infants,” said Phillip. “Not only does it help protect against breast and ovarian cancers, but it also enhances maternal self-esteem.”

The mission of the Breastfeeding Center lies beyond simply encouraging women to nurse their infants. One of the goals of the center is to establish BMC as the first World Health Organization-designated “Baby Friendly” hospital in Massachusetts. To earn the designation, which is held by only 18 hospitals in the nation, BMC must complete a lengthy qualification process, including the implementation of “10 Steps to Successful Breastfeeding.” The hospital also has to undergo an in-depth phone interview and on-site assessment. The center is located on the fifth floor of the ACC.