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Boston University
Professorship celebrates four decades of vascular expertise

Friends and colleagues of Jay Coffman, MD, gathered in the Hiebert Lounge on April 20 to celebrate the establishment of the Jay and Louise Coffman Professorship in Vascular Medicine and to salute his work as a physician-scientist.

Richard Cohen, MD, professor of medicine, physiology and pharmacology and experimental therapeutics at BUSM, and director of the Vascular Biology Unit of the Department of Medicine at BMC, has been named as the first recipient of the professorship.

Coffman, professor of medicine at BUSM, and section head, Peripheral Vascular Department at BMC, is known by his peers as the quintessential physician. A clinical specialist in peripheral vascular disease, Coffman has also had a distinguished career as a clinical investigator and an outstanding educator. He was named a Distinguished Alumnus of BUSM in 1994.

A graduate of Harvard College and BUSM's class of 1954, Coffman completed his internship and residencies in medicine at the Massachusetts Memorial Hospitals, the predecessor of Boston City Hospital, now BMC. After two years of cardiovascular research at Walter Reed Army Institutes of Research, Coffman returned to

Nurses provide connections at BMC

Navigating through the maze of managed health care can be a daunting task. Fortunately, for BMC patients and physicians alike, three knowledgeable and experienced guides are making the process less difficult.

Rita Galvin, RN, Mary Ann McCarthy, RN, and Linda Viano, RN, staff the Health Connection line and the Physician Consult Center — two valuable resources offered by the medical center for patients, physicians and the community.

The Health Connection is a telephone information center that assists patients, their families and members of the community to access BMC's physicians, programs and services. Along with providing basic health information, the nurses assist patients in finding a primary care physician or specialist; find specialty physicians for students from Boston University Student Health Services; help patients recently seen in the Emergency Department set up follow-up appointments; and facilitate appointment scheduling and referrals from the Primary Care, LLC Group, an organization of more than 225 primary care physicians on the South Shore and Cape Cod. The nurses also assist physicians who have recently joined the BMC staff by helping transfer their existing patients to BMC. Additionally, the nurses screen patients for clinical research trials and, in fiscal year 2000, screened more than 300 patients.

The nurses also work with BMC private practice physicians and the Boston HealthNet community health centers to secure appointments and referrals for patients. "We provide seamless entry into Boston Medical Center," continued on page 2

Cohen named to professorship

Richard Cohen, MD, professor of medicine, physiology and pharmacology and experimental therapeutics at BUSM, and director of the Vascular Biology Unit of the Department of Medicine at BMC, has been named as the first recipient of the Jay and Louise Coffman Professorship in Vascular Medicine.

Cohen is a former clinician-scientist and established investigator at the American Heart Association, past president of the American Federation for Clinical Research, and a current member of the board of trustees of the American Federation for Clinical Research Foundation. He has served as a member of the Experimental Cardiovascular Sciences review panel of the National Institutes of Health. He is also the author and co-author of more than 100 publications and an editorial board member of several journals, including American Journal of Physiology: Heart and

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From left, Linda Viano, RN, Peggy Hebard, data specialist, Rita Galvin, RN, and Mary Ann McCarthy, RN

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I wouldn't want anyone to go through...
**B U schools announce commencement speakers**

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**Alcohol screening tool debuts**

A person who has ever wondered if his or her alcohol use has the potential to lead to problems can now take advantage of a new, automated telephone screening system that is quick, simple, anonymous and confidential.

Using speech production and recognition software, the Medical Information Systems Unit at BUMC has set up an automated, completely anonymous hot line that allows a person to call and answer 13 questions concerning his or her alcohol use. The system is capable of recognizing answers, and depending on those answers, will inform callers whether or not their drinking patterns place them at risk for possible health or societal problems.

The questions used in the survey were developed by the World Health Organization and have been used for screening alcohol problems throughout the United States and other countries. Those questions do not determine whether or not a person is an alcoholic, said Jeffrey Migneault, PhD, research associate, Medical Informatics Unit, BUMC. "The purpose is to inform people in a quick and easy way whether their drinking patterns may lead to other problems. Some may take the survey and find nothing to worry about. Others may decide to cut down on their drinking, while others may seek further assistance."

At the end of the survey, the device conveys a sentence summary telling them if they are at a higher risk for alcohol-related problems. If so, the system will provide contact information and resources that may be beneficial. All callers are given the Massachusetts state hot line number to call for more information and referrals.

Because the BUMC hot line is in its early stages, answers will be recorded so that researchers may compare the answers and develop a stronger database. "We want to fine tune the software to ensure that it is in the best interest of understanding accountable alcohol use in all calls, however, are completely anonymous. No identifying information is collected from callers."

Another added advantage of the system is that it will make this tool available to offer substance programs in hospitals or other businesses and in primary care clinics.

"They are interested in incorporating the survey into the automated line," said Jeffrey Migneault, Associate Professor of Medicine at BUMC and a member of the principal investigatory team. "We hope this will provide us with a new option that will relieve symptoms and improve the quality of life for our patients."

**BUB prepares for Alumni Weekend**

- Rufus awards
- A helping heart
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Rufus awards

**A helping heart**

*Glen Stimson,* a third-year BUMC student, stops to admire "Glen Stimson," a photograph by Kenneth Pratt, MD, MPH, assistant professor of surgery at the Department of Surgery at the University of California, San Francisco.

"I am very proud of this picture of a retired R.N. and her granddaughter, whom she has named Glen," said Dr. Pratt. "Glen is a survivor of breast cancer and her granddaughter is a typical example of someone who has given her life to caring for others."

The photograph was selected as the grand prize winner in the annual Alumni Weekend Photography Contest. The contest is sponsored by the Creative Process, a non-profit organization that promotes the arts and culture.

"It is a great honor to have this picture selected as the grand prize winner," said Dr. Pratt. "I am very proud of the work that I do and I am very grateful to the Creative Process for supporting this contest."
Nurse fellowship builds OR staff

A new program is allowing BMC's registered nurses to build upon their nursing skills and helping to increase the number of highly trained staff for the operating room (OR).

The Perioperative Registered Nurse Fellowship is a six-month, intensive specialty training aimed at enabling registered nurses with no prior OR experience to become proficient in both circulating and scrub roles in the operating room.

“Our goal is to be able to add to our current group of highly skilled, licensed operating room staff members,” said Ellen Lones, RN, RN, CNOR, director of the program, which is run through BMC’s Perioperative Services.

The actual training consists of both classroom and clinical experiences. Perioperative RN fellows are also required to receive some time outside of class reading, writing case analyses, taking tests and attending lectures.

Clinical assignments are coordinated to match the classroom aspect of the courses and nurses gain hands-on experience rotating through all available surgical specialties, including general, urology, otolaryngology, vascular, gynecology, orthopedics, neurosurgery and cardiothoracic, as well as central processing and preoperative holding areas. Staff nurses, perioperative RN experts, and experts from other BMC departments participate in the lecture series portion of the educational experience. Perioperative educators, operating room preceptors and staff participate in the clinical part of the fellowship training.

The program is mutually beneficial to the nurses and our patients,” said Lones. “By educating and strengthening our OR staff, we are ensuring nothing but the highest quality care for our patients.”

Culture festival

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BUMS is an instructor in medicine in 1960.

“Every institution like ours has to have a heart and a soul in order to be very special. No one more than Jay Coffman is our heart and soul of our institution,” said BUMS Dean Aram Chobanian, MD, president of BU Medical Campus.

Coffman has served BMC for nearly 50 years as a member of its house staff, chief medical resident, lead of the Section of Vascular Medicine, and associate chief of the Department of Medicine. A member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation, his research on vascular disease is renowned nationally and internationally, and his laboratory was funded continuously by the National Institutes of Health for more than 30 years.

“Coffman’s early research established the principle of blood flow drug repayment following acute occlusion of cardiovascular flow to leg muscles. His studies of vasospastic cold fingers (Raynaud’s disease) in patients with scleroderma demonstrated the benefit of treatments with reserpine. Joseph Locasale, MD, PhD, Wade Professor and chairman of the Department of Medicine and director of the Whizkier Cardiovascular Institute at BUMS, and physician-in-chief at BMC, described Coffman as the founding father of the vascular medicine subspecialty in the United States.”

Cohen named to professorship

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Circulatory Physiology, Vascular Medicine, and Journal of Vascular Research. Cohen is known for his research on the role of von Willebrand factor and its function in vascular function, and the influence upon its function of disease, most notably diabetes.

Cohen graduated from Johns Hopkins University Medical School in 1976 and came to BUMS and the BMC (then University Hospital) in 1978. He worked with Coffman as a vascular fellow from 1978 to 1981.

Stay healthy with MedInfo

linking to the BMC website.

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the Mesh’s online catalog, as well as search the archives of various subject areas that would intersect visitors to the site.

Through the BMC website at www.bmc.org, visitors can click on the MedInfo logo and conduct searches. This link is helpful to those who are looking for navigation from the BMC site to MedInfo — that’s you never left the main page,” said Innes.

Once the MedInfo icon is clicked, users can view pages on alternative medicine and breast cancer risk factors, as well as links to articles on sports and fitness, aging and health, and food and nutrition that are found on the left-hand side of the MedInfo navigation bar. A medical dictionary providing definitions to more than 55,000 medical terms and weekly briefings based on original research from The New England Journal of Medicine are also featured on the site.

Fit pedaling into spring

A week of fun and events is planned for National Bike Week, May 13 – 19. The event will be held at BUMC, along with other Boston area transportation management associations, are uniting to promote cycling as a valuable mode of transportation.

Leading up to the week, TransComm will be holding an on-site registration on May 5 and a free bike safety check-up on May 9.

To participate in this year’s events you will need a Bike Odyssey, employers and students must first register and ride their bike to work or school at least one day during National Bike Week. Participants will be treated to a free brunch on May 16 and invited to attend the Boston Bike Festival on May 17 at City Hall Plaza. The institution with the most stylish in their category will also win an 18-in cruiser prize from Ben & Jerry’s, the event’s corporate sponsor. BMC has won the party two years running.

“We are excited to be able to participate in the annual bike week again this year,” said Maureen Lacey, director of Creative Services. “It’s a fun week of events that is promoting both individual health and a cleaner environment.”

For more information, call 617/638-5800.

Free skin cancer screenings planned

In recognition of Melanoma Awareness Month, the Department of Dermatology at BUMC is offering a free skin cancer screening clinic on Thursday, May 17, from 4 to 6 p.m. in its office on the 9th floor of the Doctors Office Building. Those interested should pre-register by calling 617/638-7420.

The screening will be led by Marie-France Demierre, MD, director of the Skin Cancer Program at BUMC, and assistant professor of dermatology and medicine at BUMC, and Thomas Raymond, MD, associate director of Dermatologic Surgery at BMC, and assistant professor of dermatology and surgery at BUMC.

Later this month, BUMC dermatologists will be heading into the community to spread awareness of the importance of early detection. Demierre and her colleagues have teamed up with Mayor Thomas Menino and the city of Boston to join in on the nation’s largest free skin cancer screenings.

On May 23, a free screening for the city’s meter readers will be held at 200 Fort Point Rd., followed by a free screening that will be open to the public on May 29 from 9 a.m. to noon in the Heartland Amphitheater. Entitled, “Prophecies of Child Development,” the lecture will be delivered by W. Thomas Boyce, MD, professor of pediatrics and psychology at the Duke University School of Public Health and Institute of Human Development, University of California at Berkeley, and will be held at BUMS Department of Pediatrics.

Allergies/Asthma Workshop

As part of a spring educational series sponsored by the Commonwealth Medical Group, a workshop entitled, “Allergies and Asthma: New Medications & Treatments,” will take place on May 7 at the Commonwealth Ave., Boston. The workshop is led by Steven Miren, MD, clinical professor of medicine at BUMS, and will explore the cause of allergies and asthma, as well as new medications and treatments on the market.

BMC prepares to honor nurse

In celebration of National Nurses Week, May 6-12, BMC will recognize its nurses for their dedication and exceptional service. National Nurses Week, with the theme, “Nurses: The true spirit of caring,” honors the nearly 2.7 million registered nurses in the United States.

At BMC, the Division of Nursing and the Massachusetts Memorial Hospitals’ Alumni Association are hosting an education program from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., on May 8 at the Hobart Lounge. The keynote speaker will be Marie Manthey, RN, MNA, president of Creative Nursing Management Inc.

Following the program, an awards reception will take place between 5 and 6:30 p.m. Elaine Ullian, BMC president and CEO, will present several awards, including the Maura Mitchell Nurse Manager Excellence Award, which recognizes a nurse manager’s contribution to the advancement of the professional nursing practice; the Peggy Coffman Memorial Award, which honors a BMC nurse who demonstrates outstanding clinical expertise, compassion and professionalism; and the Anne Hargreens Award, which recognizes a nurse who displays a commitment to advancing the nursing profession; and the BMC Nursing Excellence Merit Award.
Service Recognition Dinner honors long-time BU employees

BU's annual Service Recognition Dinner was held on April 23 to honor employees for their dedicated service to the university. At this year's event, held at the George Sherman Union on the Charles River Campus, 66 medical campus employees were honored for 10 years of service, 18 were honored for 25 years of service, and 13 were honored in recognition of their retirement from the university.

25 years

David Atkinson, PhD, Physiology & Biophysics, BUSM
Paula Bardes, LPN, Whittaker Cardiovascular Institute, BUSM
William Bourassa, DMD, PhD, Pediatric Dentistry, SDM
Virginia Crowe, Health Policy and Services, SDM
Jean Emerling, DDS, Restorative Services, SDM
Harriette Gavras, MD, Medicine, BUSM
Irene Gavras, MD, Medicine, BUSM
Thomas Kemper, MD, Neurology, BUSM
Mona Lauture, RN, General Clinical Research Center, BUSM
Suellen Letterman, PhD, MPH, Epidemiology & Biostatistics, SPH
John McFarland, MD, Administration, BUSM
Allen Mitchell, MD, Medicine, BUSM
Cheri Myra, Finance Office, SDM
Paul O'Bryan, MD, Physiology & Biophysics, BUSM
Genevieve Offner, PhD, Medicine, BUSM
Somnath Prusty, MD, Surgery, BUSM
Mary Roeder, Drug Surveillance Program, BUSM
William Ryan, MS, Ophthalmology, BUSM

Retirees

Charles Bliss, MD, Medicine, BUSM
Harold Gooldglass, PhD, Neurology, BUSM
Louise Hale, Framingham Heart Study, BUSM
Barbara Howard, Neurology, BUSM
Harold Kauffman, MD, medical director of Labor and Delivery, Department of Obstetrics-Gynecology, Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine at BUSM, and assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at BUSM, spoke at the meeting. Frank's presentation is titled, "Reduction/Loss of Welfare and Food Stamps: Family Impact on Family Food Security and Children's Hospitalizations." Kauffman's presentation is titled, "An Evaluation of the Effects of Sucrose on Neonatal Pain with Two Commonly Used Circumcision Methods."

Kwabena Kyi-Abogae, MD, PhD, notified the Department of Pediatrics at BMC, and Associate Professor of Obstetrics/Gynecology, was honored by the Boston Public Health Commission, Substance Abuse Services, for his years of commitment to improving the health of women and reducing barriers to health care. Kyi-Abogae received his award at a presentation during Women's Addiction Awareness Week.

New appointments

Grace Lubwama has been named as community outreach coordinator for the STAR Community Outreach Program for Education (SCOPE). SCOPE is a special program developed by the National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Program (NSABP) to educate minority women about breast cancer risks and clinical trials. Lubwama has extensive experience in public health and community outreach, and received her undergraduate degree from Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, and her master's degree in public health from SPH.

The position was created after a community outreach coordinator was hired to educate underserved and minority communities about breast cancer prevention. These two drugs are participating in the breast cancer prevention trial called STAR (Study of Tamoxifen and Raloxifene), which compares the effectiveness of the two drugs for reducing the incidence of breast cancer in post-menopausal women.

Grants and awards

Marlene Oscar Berman, PhD, professor of psychiatry, professor of neurology (neuropsychology), and director of the PhD Program in Behavioral Neuroscience at BUSM, has been awarded a four-year grant from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA). The grant will support collaborative research with Massachusetts General Hospital on the brain and cognitive changes associated with long-term chronic alcoholism. In addition, Berman, who also holds an appointment as research scientist in the Addiction Research Program at Massachusetts General Hospital, has been selected as a STAR Institute Award recipient by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA). The award will support collaborative research with Massachusetts General Hospital scientists on the brain and cognitive changes associated with long-term chronic alcoholism. In addition, Berman, who also holds an appointment as research scientist in the Addiction Research Program at Massachusetts General Hospital, has been selected as a STAR Institute Award recipient by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA). The award will support collaborative research with Massachusetts General Hospital scientists on the brain and cognitive changes associated with long-term chronic alcoholism. In addition, Berman, who also holds an appointment as research scientist in the Addiction Research Program at Massachusetts General Hospital, has been selected as a STAR Institute Award recipient by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA). The award will support collaborative research with Massachusetts General Hospital scientists on the brain and cognitive changes associated with long-term chronic alcoholism.