Students meet their future on Match Day

The wait is finally over.

At noon on March 21, BUSM graduating students learned where they will spend the next years of their medical careers, as family members, friends and BUSM faculty and staff packed the mailroom to share in the students' excitement and to celebrate their achievements.

Match Day, held nationwide at medical schools each March, is when students learn where they will be spending their residencies. After interviewing for potential residency spots at hospitals and medical centers across the United States, students rank their top program and location choices. The rankings are then forwarded to the National Resident Matching Program, which matches the students to the highest-ranked residency program on his or her list that offered the candidate the position.

continued on page 5

BMC to honor lab professionals

Because of their collective commitment to excellence in laboratory medicine, many unsung heroes will receive some well-deserved recognition during BMC's Lab Week, April 7-13.

Lab Week 2002 will honor the approximately 170 medical technologists, medical laboratory technicians and laboratory support staff who are involved with the Department of Laboratory Medicine's 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week operation. Whether conducting specialized tests for leukemia, identifying routine pathogens, or collecting blood samples, these committed professionals perform nearly 3 million tests each year at the BMC labs.

During Lab Week, seminars, luncheons and dinners will allow laboratory professionals to celebrate and inform medical colleagues and the public about BMC's medical laboratory work. The celebration is part of National Medical Laboratory Week, which recognizes the medical laboratory professionals and board-certified pathologists who perform and interpret medical laboratory tests across the country.

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Program benefits new nurses

providing a forum that offers both peer support and educational opportunities, a new orientation program sponsored by BMC's Nurses Division is helping recently hired nursing school graduates make the transition into their first professional RN positions.

Called Transition into Nursing, the six-month program combines classes and clinical instruction with expert preceptors. Once a month, participants attend daylong seminars that blend lectures, interactive workshops, hands-on demonstrations and discussions on a variety of clinical topics, including medicine, surgery, cardiology and neurology.

"In today's competitive environment, the program is a wonderful recruitment and retention tool," said Kathleen Davidson, RN, MSN, MBA, vice president of Nursing at BMC.

The ongoing program offers two clinical options: medical/surgical, for nurses who have identified a clinical specialty, and float pool, for those who desire a broader clinical experience.

Coordinated by Janet Crimlisk, MS, RNCS, and Meg Grande, MS, RNCS, clinical educators at BMC, the program evolved from an intern program at the float pool that was expanded last year. The float "serves for groups of nurses with solid clinical foundations on which to build their professional practice. The program was so successful, according to Crimlisk and Grande, that it was redesigned and opened up to all newly graduated nurses starting at BMC.

Since its inception last May, the program has assisted approximately 50 nurses in making the transition into their new careers.

New nursing school graduates interested in the program may call BMC's Office of Human Resources at 617-638-8385, or check the Nursing Division section of BMC's intranet site www.internaL.bmc.org/.

The music of diversity

Wanda Rivera, left, and Ivelisse Rodriguez, health information representatives, Medical Records at BMC, enjoy an after-lunch entertainment in the background music of the Allure News Trust in the Harmonic Pastion conference during International Cultural Diversity Week held at BMC. The medical center from March 18-22, BMC's working celebration afforded employees the opportunity to celebrate diversity by sharing their cultural heritage through art, food and entertainment.

Scientific community honors pioneers in infectious diseases

Centennial celebration honors Finland legacy

Friends, colleagues and all the living fellows of the late Maxwell Finland, MD, gathered at the BU Medical Campus on March 16 for a scientific program titled, "The Legacy of Maxwell Finland: A Contemporary Perspective," as part of a weekend-long celebration commemorating the centennial of his birth.

Held in the Dowling Amphitheater, the program highlighted the contemporary importance of Finland's lifetime contributions. Former Finland fellows from all over the world led discussions and presentations including "The Pneumococcus and Pneumococcal Infection," "The Age of Thermochromes," and "Epidemiology of Emerging Antimicrobial Resistance."

For more than 50 years, Finland was a mentor, counselor and friend to researchers fellows in infectious diseases at the Thorndike Laboratory — the nation's first municipally funded medical research lab — as well as house officers at the medical services on Boston City Hospital and other institutions from throughout the world dedicated to lessening the burden of infectious diseases.

Finland, who died in 1987, was also the author or co-author of more than 800 scientific papers, including pioneering studies of the pneumococcus and the diagnosis and management of pneumocivia, clinical pharmacology of antimicrobial agents, and hospital epidemiology.

According to Jerome Klein, MD, professor of pediatrics at BUMC, vice chairman of Academic Affairs, Division of Pediatrics at BMC, and winner of the 2001 Finland Award, Finland was one of the most productive physicians in the world, and his contributions have made a significant impact in infectious diseases in the world from the late 1940s to 1970s. "Physicians came to the Thorndike Lab from overseas for advice, and students came from all over the world to study for postdoctoral positions at Maxwell Finland," said Klein. "It was very prestigious to be chosen as a fellow."

Jerome Klein receives Finland Award

 Jerome Klein, MD, professor of pediatrics at BUMC, and vice chairman of Academic Affairs, Division of Pediatrics at BMC, was honored on March 12 with the 2002 Maxwell Finland Award for Lifetime Scientific Achievement by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases.

The award, created in 1989, recognizes Klein for his groundbreaking work in vaccinology, critical media (middle ear infection), and pediatric infectious diseases. With more than 600 papers on pediatric infectious diseases, a major textbook, Otitis Media in Infants and Children, and years of research in the disease, Klein is a leading authority on middle ear infection.

"From 1963 to 1965, Klein was one of Finland's fellows, making him the first recipient of this award to have worked with the famed researcher. Klein has continued the tradition set forth by Finland in addressing the most pressing medical issues of our time, including vaccinology, neurolog y, and human immunodeficiency and AIDS/HIV/AIDS.

Receiving the Finland Award, Jerome Klein, MD, second from right, stands with left to right the National Foundation for Infectious Disease President, Susan Belkin, MD, and vice-presidents, Steven Matsuura MD, and BUMC Dean Irene Colacino, MD."

New lens improves vision

Individuals who suffer from low vision, cataracts and macular degeneration could one day see better, thanks to a new yellow plastic lens developed by Seymour Shapiro, MD, of the Eye Research Laboratory at Woods Hole and professor of ophthalmology at BUMC.

The Shore Lens, which may be prescribed for use in eyeglasses, contact lenses and clip-on glasses, works as a filter to screen out short wavelength light that can cause problems in eye vision.

"There is a visual significance of yellow optical filters," said Shapiro. "They prevent the short wavelength out of the eyes of elderly and visually compromised people, creating a positive influence on their vision."

At the same time, he explained, the yellow lens allows for longer wavelength light that is needed for vision to enter the eye. "Very few, if any other optical filters have been designed to optimize transmittance and enhance lighting," said Shapiro. "This is a significant advantage of the Shore Lens. It permits a person to perceive a brighter environment and objects appear sharper."

The lenses also improve vision improvement due to cataracts and may ease the need for surgery in many cases. "By incorporating the lenses in glasses worn regularly, cataract patients are able to function with much greater ease and clarity and perform their daily activities, such as driving a car with more security," added Zigmund.

NEW LENSES IMPROVE VISION

SDM's Science Day showcases student researchers

Several SDM students were honored for their research at SDM's twenty-first annual Science Day held on March 14.

Formerly known as Clinic and Research Day, the yearly event highlights student research and offers faculty, staff and students the opportunity to meet with dental vendors and exchange information on new technology and products.

This year, 25 students exhibited their findings with oral or poster presentations. Winners of the student research awards were honored the following evening at the Science Day Gala. Shalom Kukuznitsk, PhD, professor and director of the Predoctoral Research Program at SDM, presented awards to the predoctoral students, and Christopher Hughes, DMD, PhD, chairman of the Department of Preventive Dentistry, presented awards to the postdoctoral students.

In the predoctoral oral presentation category, Henry Huart, DMD, received first place for his research, "Diabetes Affects the Inflammatory Response in Prophylontosomas Gingivalis."

In the postdoctoral poster category, Mohammad Kamal, DMD, and Chen-Kuei Chen, DMD, tied for first place. Kamal's research was titled, "Regulation of Bone Sulfate Proteins in Metastasizing Breast Cancer Cells to Bone," and Chen's research focused on "New Studies of Cell Wall B 1, 6 Glcan Mutants in Yeast."

Other winners for their poster presentations included, Ana Helen Herrera, PhD, who was honored with a first-place win for "The Golgi GDase of the Fungal Pathogen Candida Albicans Affects Morphogenesis.

first place was awarded to Yong Ding, DMD, for "Superior Production of Mennocyctes in Diabetic Patients with or without Periodontitis."

In the postdoctoral poster presentation category, Ana Helen Herrera, PhD, was honored with a first-place win for "The Golgi GDase of the Fungal Pathogen Candida Albicans Affects Morphogenesis."

SDM's Science Day also included a keynote presentation by Sharon Gordon, PhD, director of the Office of Education at the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research at the National Institutes of Health. Gordon spoke about research training opportunities at the institute.
The study found that the use of other tobacco products, coffee and alcohol increased the risk of lung cancer.

"This information could be useful for motivating co-smokers to continue long-term abstinence, and to identify social, demographic, and smoking behavior characteristics that are related to the risk of future lung cancer," Kroll added.

Older adults likely develop high blood pressure

"The results showed that 90 percent of older adults are at risk for developing hypertension (high blood pressure) in their lifetime.

To determine the prevalence for hypertension in a study by Ramachandran Vasan, MD, associate professor of medicine at Framing­ham Heart Study and a researcher at the Framing­ham Heart Study examined 1,288 participants between the ages of 55 and 65, from 1976 through 1998.

The patients were divided into two groups — one group was followed for 10 years to determine who developed hypertension, the other was followed for 10 years of the study's inception. Lifestyle risk estimates were similar for men and women.

Selected from the Framingham Heart Study, patients underwent an examination every two years. This included medical history, laboratory assessments of cardiovascular disease risk factors and electrocardiography, and measurement of their blood pressure. They were followed for the amount of time of entry into the study until the end of the observation period, the development of hypertension, the last follow-up examination, or death.

Therapy dogs connect with patients

Therapy dogs provide comfort and offer companionship ro hospitalized patients between the ages of 55 and 65, from 1976 through 1998. Sir Bentley Bear visits BMC's rehabilitation center on 7 West of the Harrison Medical Center.

"By simply spending time with animals — brushing, petting or playing ball with them — people under going physical or occupational therapy can work on fine and gross motor skills, memory, communication, socialization, and other skills that they may need to return to functional living following a disability or illness," Rebecca Spero, registered pet therapy dog, said.

"This therapy is a fun and enjoyable way to help people undergoing rehabilitation improve their social, physical and cognitive disabilities and impairments," said Rebecca Spero, therapeutic recreation specialist at BMC. "By simply spending time with animals — brushing, petting or playing ball with them — people undergoing physical or occupational therapy can work on fine and gross motor skills, memory, communication, socialization, and other skills that they may need to return to functional living following a disability or illness."

Studies have also shown that caring for pets can help people undergoing rehabilitation improve their social, physical and cognitive disabilities and impairments. Objectives of this therapy are to increase the patient's physical fitness, improve lower blood pressure, increase relaxation, and lessen anxiety and stress.

Sir Bentley Bear visits BMC's rehabilitation center on 7 West of the Harrison Medical Center once a week with his owner, Jeanne Boulleau of Medford. He is a registered pet therapy dog from Therapy Dog International Inc., a national volunteer group organized to provide qualified handlers and their therapy dogs for visitations to institutions. Sir Bentley also passed the American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen Test, a test of what he had to meet requirements regarding his response to strangers and his ability to walk through crowds and obey commands.

Research in BRIEF

Smoking relapse rates drop after two years

According to the CDC and DHHS guidelines, staying away from cigarettes becomes easier after two years of smoking abstinence.

Published in the March 1, 2002, issue of Nicotine and Tobacco Research, the study is one of few to examine the long-term relapse rates of former smokers.

Former cigarette smokers who relapse for at least two years have a risk relapse of 2 to 4 percent each year within the second through sixth years of absti nence," said lead researcher Elizabeth Krull, PhD, associate professor of health policy and health services research at SDM. "This risk decreases further to less than 1 percent among smokers usually 16 years of absti nence.

The study included 483 men who, on the first quit attempt, had been smoking at age 18, smoked a pack a day and a half for more than three decades before quitting.

SMOKING CANCELS MEDICATION GAINS

"Former cigarette smokers who remain abstinent for at least two years of smoking abstinence. . . . " This information could be useful for motivating co-smokers to continue long-term abstinence, and to identify social, demographic, and smoking behavior characteristics that are related to the risk of future lung cancer," Kroll added.

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Dick A.J. Brown, MD, clinical associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology at BUSM, was recently honored as one of 56 physicians nationwide selected by medical students for the 2001 Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Humanism in Medicine Award.

"It is a high honor for any doctor to be singled out by his students as a caring role model and a physician to emulate," said BUSM Dean Aram Chobanian, MD, provost of BU Medical Campus. "This nomination is a tribute to Dr. Brown's commitment to training and mentoring of young physicians who, in turn, will pass on their knowledge and values to a new generation of physicians.

The AAMC Organization of Student Representatives nominates nominees based on five defining characteristics of humanism in medical education: positive mentoring skills, community service, compassion and sensitivity, collaboration, and observance of professional ethics.

Supporting the nomination, fourth-year BU student Mark Foster wrote: "Dick Brown teaches medicine as an art, a science, and an art of life. I believe his compassion is what I hope to have one day.

The AAMC Humanism in Medicine Award is sponsored by the AAMC through the Pfizer Medical Humanities Initiative. This award annually honors medical school faculty who exemplify humanism in medicine and exhibit the finest qualities in a teacher of healing.

Dick A.J. Brown, MD

New lectureship focuses on immunotherapy

The Immunology and Oncology Training Programs at BUSM introduced the annual Marshak Lectureship in Immunology, with the inaugural lecture presented on March 20.

Speaker, Dr. Fenda Stevenson, DPhil, MSc, professor of immunology at the University of Southampton, England, delivered a presentation titled, "DNA Vaccines against Cancer." Recognized worldwide as a leader in the development of vaccines for cancer research, Stevenson currently leads a team of researchers dedicated to finding new and more effective techniques for inducing anti-cancer immune responses.

The annual lectureship honors the late Ruth Marshak, whose daughter and son-in-law are on the BUSM faculty. Ann Marshak-Rothstein, PhD, is professor of microbiology and director of the Immunology Training Program at BUSM, and professor of environmental health at SPH. Thomas Rothstein, MD, is director of the Immunology Unit in the Department of Medicine, a member of the Immunology Training Program, and professor of medicine at BUSM. Ruth Marshak established the seminar series soon after she developed lung cancer at age 75. According to her daughter, it was Marshak's hope that the lectureship would facilitate the kinds of creative, collaborative human interactions that could stimulate research leading to more humane and effective therapies for future generations. The series is devoted to the development and potential applications of immunotherapy.

Ann Marshak-Rothstein, PhD, Fenda Stevenson, DPhil, and Thomas Rothstein, MD, gather in front of a panel to discuss the annual Marshak Lectureship in Immunology at BUSM.

April

National Occupational Therapy Month

In observance of National Occupational Therapy Month, BMC's Department of Rehabilitation Services will present special displays in the Newton and Harrison pavilion cafeterias for the month of April 1-10. For more information, call 617/638-6010 or view www.virtualcolonoscopy.net.

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Howard Bauchner, MD, pediatrician at BMC and professor of pediatrics at BUSM, was one of eight physicians nationwide recently named as associate editors of the new pediatric/adolescent journal, Journal Watch Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine (JWPAM), published by The New England Journal of Medicine. JWPAM surveys more than 28 prominent medical journals each month to provide clinicians with summaries of current, clinically significant studies in the areas of pediatrics and adolescent medicine, which are accompanied by commentary from the selected physician-editors.

James Becker, MD, James Utey Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery at BUSM, and chairman of the Division of Surgery at BMC, and Lawrence Saubermann, MD, gastroenterologist at BMC and assistant professor of medicine at BUSM, were recently appointed to the Chapter Medical Advisory Committee of the New England Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America (CCFA). They join member and former chairperson of the group, Francis Faraye MD, FACP, FAGS, co-director of the Center for Digestive Disorders and clinical director of the section of Gastroenterology at BMC, and associate professor of medicine at BUSM. This group advises the CCAF Board of Directors and coordinates education programs of the foundation for physicians and lay persons.

New Appointments

Kimberly Wood, RN, has been named nurse manager, Hematology/Oncology, Newton Pavilion at BMC, where she has served as acting manager since September 2001. Previously, Wood served as charge nurse in the hematology/oncology unit at the Winchester Hospital. The March Pavilion Palliative Care Center at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

Howard Bauchner, MD

BMC announces WE CARE employee and volunteer awards

Recognized for outstanding dedication and commitment to the mission of BMC, several employees were recently honored with WE CARE Individual Employee Awards. The awards honor employees who, in the course of their jobs, exceed required standards and responsibilities and help further the mission of BMC to provide exceptional care without exception.

WE CARE awards for March 2002 were presented to

Nerea Bercer, administrative assistant, Psychiatry; Kathleen MacDonald, manager of Patient Financial Services, Medicare/Self-Pay; Trinette Owens, team leader/customer service representative, Accounts Payable; and Mai Wong, general cleaner, Environmental Services.

Award winners

Alan Cohens, MD, FACP, Distinguished Professor of Medicine Emeritus, BUSM, and founder and former director of the Arthritis Center and the Amyloid Treatment and Research Program at BUMC, was awarded an honorary degree. Socrates Honors Causa, at the ninth International Symposium on Amyloidosis held recently in Budapest, Hungary. He was also one of three recipients of the Hungarian Amyloidosis Research Group of Amyloidosis, awarded on the 1.100th anniversary of the founding of Hungary. Cohen, who served as chief of Medicine at Boston City Hospital from 1972-1992, is also the founder and editor-in-chief of the BUMC-based journal JALYLOID. The Journal of Protein Folding Disorders.

Thomas Einhorn, MD, chairman of Orthopaedic Surgery at BMC, and professor of pediatric and chief of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at BUSM, is the recipient of the Orthopaedic Research Society's Marshall R. Lurie Award for Excellence in Tissue Regeneration. Einhorn received the award at the society's annual meeting, held recently in Dallas. The award recognizes Einhorn's contributions. Einhorn has made through-out his career to the repair and regeneration of bone and cartilage.

Ralph Hingson, ScD, associate dean for Research and professor of social and behavioral sciences at SPH, is the recipient of the Widmark Award of the International Congress on Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety (ICADTS). The award, presented during the opening ceremony of the congress that took place recently in Montreal, is the highest honor for the ICADTS can confer on individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the public's basic knowledge concerning the effects of alcohol and other mood-altering drugs on traffic safety. The award was established in 1965 in honor of Professor Erik Widmark of the University of Lund, Sweden, whose comprehensive research work during the first half of the 20th century touched on all aspects of the pharmacology of alcohol.

In addition, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson recently invited Hingson to serve on the National Advisory Council on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism of the National Institutes of Health. Hingson's term begins immediately and runs through October 2005.

BMC received the 2001 Savings Award for Contract Purchases from Yankee Alliance, which tracks cost savings through contract utilization. An engraved crystalline trophy was recently presented to BMC at the alliance's annual meeting for a facility in the 400 to 500-bed category. BMC was one of six regional hospitals to be recognized for cost-saving efforts and participation in Yankee Alliance.

BMC's Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology Program, which trains residents in the treatment of cardiac rhythm disturbances, recently received full accreditation from the American Council of Graduate Medical Education. The accreditation will allow trainees to be eligible for board certification.

BMC's Bedboard Team, consisting of staff from Information Technology Services and Patient Access Services recently received the Eclipsys Chairman's Award for innovative use of that company's products. Using an Eclipsys software system that houses patient information, the team developed an efficient, real-time electronic system of managing patient beds throughout the hospital. The award includes recognition in Eclipsys-sponsored publications and meetings and a $5,000 donation to BMC.

Ralph Martinez, a bilingual tobacco treatment specialist at BMC, has been recognized by the National Latino Council on Alcohol and Tobacco Prevention (LCAT) for his contributions in the advancement of Latino health. Martinez, nominated to receive national recognition, participated in the historic First National Latino Conference on Tobacco Control and Prevention, hosted by LCAT and held Feb. 14-15 in Washington, D.C.

David Ozonoff, MD, MPH, professor and chairman, Department of Environmental Health at SPH, has been elected to the Collegium Ramazzini, an order of environmental scientists formed in 1882 to advance the study of occupation and environmental disease around the world. The collegium is an international council limited to 180 elected fellows. Ozonoff research's work has centered on health effects to communities of various kinds of toxic exposures, especially from hazardous waste sites. Bernardo Ramazzini, whose book On the Diseases of Workers (1700) was the first work of its kind, is considered the "father of occupational health." Ozonoff joins two other SPH faculty on the collegium, Philip Grandjean, MD, PhD, adjunct professor of environmental health, and Roberta White, PhD, professor of environmental health.

Michael Siegel, MD, MPH, associate professor of social and behavioral sciences, SPH, has been selected for a Dr. William Cahan Distinguished Professor Award from the Flight Attendant Medical Research Institute. The award recognizes Siegel's contributions to the field of tobacco research, specifically, fighting the negative effects and diseases caused by the use of tobacco products and secondhand smoke. Siegel will receive $200,000 for each of the next three years for research in which he will guide the development of more effective policies to protect workers and the public from the hazards of secondhand smoke and to reduce smoking among youth and adults.

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