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Boston University
Daniel Goldin named BU’s ninth president

Daniel Goldin, former NASA administrator, has been named BU’s ninth president. Goldin will assume his position on Nov. 1.

“I am both humbled and exhilarated by the opportunity to lead Boston University as its new president,” said Goldin. “I have a great deal to learn as I chart our future course, and I am counting on the help and support of the entire university community to help me guide Boston University to the next level of excellence.

“My ultimate goal is to develop a shared vision for the university that will take all of us to new levels of knowledge and accomplishment through the power of education.”

The University’s Board of Trustees voted unanimously to offer Goldin the position this summer, after a nearly year-long search in which some 50 candidates were reviewed. Goldin was the first choice of the nominating committee, which consisted of trustees, faculty, staff, alumni and students.

“Dan Goldin is a visionary. He is a man with a world view who shares our understanding of what higher education can and must do in order to be most effective in its service to students and to society,” said Christopher Barreca, chairman of the BU Board of Trustees.

John Silber, who became president in 1971 and has served as chancellor since 1996, will become president emeritus. “I am honored to be succeeded by a great man whose accomplishments in private and public institutions and in service to the nation position him by ability and experience to advance Boston University to unprecedented heights,” said Silber.

“President-designate Goldin is an outstanding leader whose distinguished career has been marked by a long list of important accomplishments,” said BUSM Dean Aram Chobanian, provost of BU Medical Campus. “His strong background in science and technology will be valuable in advancing the research efforts of the medical campus.”

Goldin served as administrator of NASA from April 1992 to November 2001 — longer than any previous administrator — under three presidents, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush. Innovation, expanded exploration, sound management and numerous awards marked his tenure.

Schools collaborate to offer graduate nutrition programs

In response to increased awareness and the growing importance of nutrition on personal and public health, BUSM, SDM and SPH are combining resources to offer two new multidisciplinary graduate programs in nutrition.

The Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy in Medical Nutrition Sciences degree programs make their debut this month at BUMC and are the first of their kind in the country. The collaborative programs involve senior faculty from all three schools – basic scientists, dental clinicians, epidemiologists and doctor-level public health faculty with expertise in a broad range of nutrition-related areas.

BUMC’s Division of Graduate Medical Sciences administers the programs, and the degrees — like all MA and PhD programs at BUMC — will be awarded by BUSM.

“As a result of recent scientific advances and social trends, there is an urgent need for scientists, clinical scientists, and public health professionals with expertise in medical nutrition sciences who can work effectively on multidisciplinary teams in a wide variety of settings,” said Barbara Millen, DPH, RD, FADA, professor of social and behavioral sciences at SPH, and professor of socio-medical sciences at BUSM, and chair of the new programs.

The 32-credit MA program requires core courses, including Medical Nutritional Sciences and Statistical Methods, as well as elective courses, such as Molecular Mechanisms of Growth and Development; Nutrition, Aging and the Elder Population; Oral Epidemiology; and Nutrition and Public Health.

“This program offers a unique option for people from a wide variety of backgrounds, including MD/PhD students, since it opens up different opportunities for research and practice,” said Susan Wilcox, administrative director, Division continued on page 7

Helping the homeless

SPH faculty, staff and students spent a hot day in August transforming rolls of polar fleece donated by Malden Mills Industry Inc. into warm winter clothing and other useful items for the homeless. Boston Healthcare for the Homeless, a Boston HealthNet community health center, will distribute the newly crafted mittens, hats, scarves and ponchos. Above, MPH students, Carrie Grundeleger (left), project coordinator, Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Robyn Keske, program manager, Partners in Health and Housing Prevention Research Center, prepare the fleece; and Mary Murphy-Phillips (inset), director of Student Services, cuts some fabric.
SPH undergoes reorganization; names four new deans

SPH undergoes reorganization; names four new deans

The past 10 years, SPH’s faculty has doubled, the student body has doubled, funded research has increased seven-fold and scholarships have increased by 25 percent — Robert Meenan, MD

Meguerdichian (‘06) spent his summer at both the Boston University School of Medicine and the Boston Medical Center. He learned the classification of spinal cord injuries, how to grade muscle strength, and also spent a week using a body weight-supported treadmill.

Recently approved by the FDA, the system allows patients to rest their blood at home with a quick fingertip and phone in the results directly to their physician.

"Medicare's approval of the system on July 1 opened the door for more insurance coverage, and we wanted to make the system and its benefits available to our patients as soon as possible," said Richard Shamlin, MD, chief of Cardiotoracic Surgery at BMC, and professor and chairman of Cardiotoracic Surgery and vice chairman of the Division of Surgery at BMC.

BMC’s annual WE CARE Walk set for Oct. 5

BMC offers home-monitoring system to heart-valve patients

"This system improves the safety for patients requiring anticoagulation with mechanical heart valves," he said. "Over- anticoagulation poses the risk for bleeding, while under-anticoagulation increases the risk for a blood clot to form, interfering with the valve's function, for breaking loose and traveling to a vital organ."

In checking their levels regularly, in the convenience of their own home, our patients increase their chances to remain in the therapeutic range, and also save time making fewer visits to the doctor," said Carmel Fitzgerald, MS, RN, CS, Clinical Service Manager, Cardiotoracic Surgery at BMC.

Child’s memory honored with new pediatrics room

MC is offering patients with mechanical heart valves a therapy-monitoring system that allows them to self-monitor their anticoagulation ranges at home.

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BMC’s annual WE CARE Walk set for Oct. 5

BMC is inviting friends, family and community to join in the event on Sunday, Oct. 5, and experience a coming together of a variety of individuals and groups who share commitment to improving the health and well-being of the community. The walk will help raise funds in support of critical hospital programs.

"This year's event takes on added importance as it honors the memory of Sister Claire Hayes," said Valérie Nave-Daniels, director of Community Relations at BMC. The late Sister Claire was a hospital chaplain who dedicated herself to serving the hospital and the BMCU community for more than 12 years.

This year’s presenting sponsors, the Boston Red Sox and Deutsche Bank, are joined by local and national sponsors that will help lead the five-mile walk on the day and ends on the medical center campus. Walkers will stroll through the neighborhoods BMC serves, including Boston’s historic South End, Lower Roxbury and Dudley Square. At the walk’s finish, participants may enjoy a free festival featuring live entertainment, refreshments, health information and children’s activities on the lawn near the Menino Pavilion.

To help publicize the event, Channel 5 is running those public service announcements featuring BMC employee Heather Unrath. In addition, Poprick, an interactive Web-based marketing company, is helping to create a convenient online pledge process for walk participants. Additional sponsors include Pioneer Investments, Maureen Raftner and Richard A. and Cheryl J. Tietge, who have sponsored the annual Red Sox 5K race for the past 10 years.

Walker groups are also being sought for all BMC departments, as well as neighborhood organizations and businesses. To obtain a pledge form, learn how to arrange online giving or volunteer for the event, call (617) 638-0101 or visit http://www.bmc.org/walk.

Second-year BUSM student undertakes spinal cord research

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A s one of 24 participants in BUSM’s Medical Student Summer Research Program, second-year student David Meguerdichian (’06) spent his summer exploring the world of research and rehabilitation medicine.

Throughout the annual program that pairs students with mentors from the BUSM faculty, Meguerdichian received a scholarship to carry out a collaborative research project in a specific area of interest — the genetic makeup of spinal cord injury patients.

He was selected to work with Steven Williams, MD, acting chief and chairman, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine at BMC, and assistant professor of rehabilitation medicine at BUSM.

"Spinal cord injury leads to devastating physiological alterations," said Meguerdichian. "Through this research, we will be able to see how gene expression has changed after spinal cord injury and, ultimately, use the DNA profile to direct therapy within this population."

"We have discovered through sounding rounds in BMC’s Rehabilitation Medicine Unit, the Union College graduate also had a rare opportunity to work with spinal cord injury patients — a patient population that, said Meguerdichian, most medical students have little exposure to during their first few years of study. He learned the classification of spinal cord injuries, how to grade muscle strength, the numerous ways the spinal cord may be injured, and whether or not damage is permanent.

In joining Williams for daily morning rounds at the hospital, "I was able to interact with patients and observe patients’ coping mechanisms and progress, how the patients feel and what they need from therapy," said Meenan. "We needed to expand our infrastructure in order for the school to run optimally.

"The new deans will oversee specialized areas how to improve the student services we offer, expand upon the SPH offerings to BU under­graduates, and intensify our recruitment efforts so that we can attract the highest caliber students," he added.

Gail Douglas, RN, MPH, associate professor of health services at SPH, is the new associate dean for students. She will have oversight responsibility for the Registrar, Student Services and Career Services offices as well as the Student Advising Program.

Douglas, who received her master’s in health law from SPH in 1988, previously served as assistant dean for Academic Affairs and as acting chair of the Health Services Department. She frequently consults with outside agencies on policy and management issues.

Judith Hull, who has held several positions at SPH, including that of registrar since 1993, is the new assistant dean for students. Her responsibilities will include direct supervision, evaluation and oversight of the Student Services and Career Services offices. She will also oversee the operational coordination between these offices and other groups in the Dean’s Office, including Admissions and Administration and Finance. Hull received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in music from BU’s School for the Arts. Hull received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in music from BU’s School for the Arts.

"We are also offering students excellent opportunities to explore numerous aspects of rehabilitation medicine and other specialties that are not part of the required medical school curricu­lum," Through the program, Meguerdichian also spent a week in the rehabilitation unit of the Color­Goldwater Specialty Hospital on Roosevelt Island in New York, and participated in weekly seminars where students explore general research topics, such as the safeguarding of human research.
H e a d an d Ne c k Surge ry

They also ate more fruits, vegetables and their diastolic blood pressure by three on average. The participants were told to take their medications as prescribed and to report any side effects to their doctors. The medication was prescribed by the doctors and the patients were advised to take it every day.

On average, participants lowered their total blood pressure by 15/6 mm Hg and their diastolic blood pressure by three points. They also ate more fruits, vegetables and their diastolic blood pressure by three on average. The participants were told to take their medications as prescribed and to report any side effects to their doctors. The medication was prescribed by the doctors and the patients were advised to take it every day.

Heart to Heart program helps children grieve

The Good Grief Program at BMC has created a new program that provides support to families who have lost a loved one. The program provides ongoing support and grief education to help families understand loss and move forward.

BU enhances Web-based training

To provide more application and technology training options to faculty and staff, the Medical Campus of Boston University-enhanced Web-based training (WebBT) service was launched. The new service provides a range of online courses and programs that are designed to help faculty and staff develop new skills and enhance their knowledge in specific areas.

Scientists receive NIH grant to study early cancer detection

Innemer Wang, MD, director of the Center for Innovative Technology, Division of Oncology Surgery at BMC, recently received a grant of more than $900,000 from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to develop new methods for detecting early cancer using spectroscopy.

The grant, which is one of the National Cancer Institute’s Early detection Research Network’s pilot projects, will focus on developing a technique that uses spectroscopic imaging and diagnosis of neoplasia. This is a five-year project costing more than $7 million, and is designed to develop a new method for detecting cancer.

The research team, which includes Wang, principal investigator, will work with the National Cancer Institute to develop a new method for detecting cancer.

cool team effort

B U S M Pharmacology graduate student, Cheng (left), Gan Zhen Hang and Felicia Tsai for (617) 414-4005.

Our mission is to provide a new way for faculty to enhance their knowledge in specific areas.

BU's recent annual Ice Hockey report was released, and featured a description of the 2007-2008 season, along with information about the medical campus.

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September is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

With a nationwide mortality rate of nearly 50 percent within five years of diagnosis, ovarian cancer is the deadliest form of gynecological cancer. This year alone, an estimated 25,400 new cases will be diagnosed and nearly 14,000 women will die from ovarian cancer. While ovarian cancer is not preventable, women can take steps to reduce their risk of developing the disease. 

September 23: Religious Observance: Rosh Hashanah (New Year) and Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) 

September 26: Health Literacy Awareness Day

October 2: Health Literacy Awareness Day

New program coordinates breast health care at BMC

An essential part of the program, Norton is a weekly breast cancer conference where the multidisciplinary team collaborates on diagnosis and treatment planning. The team members include radiation therapy professionals, obstetrician-gynecologists, medical oncologists, breast surgeons, radiation oncologists, radiation therapists, and nurses.

The program is the result of a collaborative effort by numerous BMC departments and individuals, including the Women's Health Group, breast surgeons, radiation and medical oncologists, radiologists and administrators.

"There are many entry points into care at BMC," said Sheila Norten, MSN, RN, clinical service manager for the Breast Health Program at BMC.

"We have assembled an interdisciplinary team that unifies the processes involved in coordinating care among the many departments and services that are involved with women and men with an identified breast issue."

When a patient arrives at BMC with breast problems, providers are encouraged to contact the program for assistance in selecting appropriate health care providers for further evaluation and treatment, as well as for multidisciplinary appointments. In addition, individuals may self-refer and receive assistance in identifying a care provider that best suits their needs.

For more information, contact (617) 638-8957.
People

Timothy Babineau, MD, MBA, chief of Gastrointestinal Surgery at BMC, and associate professor of surgery at BUSM, has been named associate director of the Surgical Residency Program at BMC, and vice chairman of the Post Graduate Medical Education Program at BMC. Babineau is also chief of Surgery at Quincy Medical Center.

Cheryl Barbanel, MD, MPH, MBA, FACOEM, chief of Occupational and Environmental Medicine at BMC, and director of the BU Occupational Health Center, is the new vice president of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM), an international medical society of 6,000 environmental medicine physicians and allied health professionals. The society provides leadership to promote optimal health and safety of workers, workplaces and environments. Barbanel has served the society in numerous capacities since 1992.

Michael Donovan, associate vice president for Administrative Services at BU Medical Campus, was a featured speaker at the Association of University Research Parks (AURP) Annual Bioparks Meeting, held in Baltimore on June 20. Donovan, who also serves on the AURP’s Board of Directors, works on bioparks and medical centers.

Karen Freund, MD, MPH, chief of the Women’s Health Unit and director of the Center of Excellence in Women’s Health at BMC, and professor of medicine at BUSM, is one of 45 senior women faculty from medical and dental schools in the United States, Puerto Rico and Canada to have been selected as 2003-2004 Fellows by the Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Program for Women. ELAM is the only in-depth national program that prepares senior women faculty for leadership positions at academic health centers.

Leonard Gottlieb, MD, MPH, former director of the Mallory Institute of Pathology at BMC, and chairman emeritus of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at BUSM, was recently appointed to the Fellowship Awards Committee of the American Physicians Fellowship for Medicine in Israel.

Elinor Levy, PhD, associate professor of microbiology at BUSM, is co-author of a recently published book The New Killer Diseases: How the Altering Evolution of Mutant Germs Threatens Us All (Crown Publishers).

Lauren Smith, MD, MPH, medical director, Pediatric Inpatient Unit at BMC, and assistant professor of pediatrics at BUSM, was one of three pediatric and child care experts to participate in a recent congressional briefing on critical health and child care issues as part of a discussion on welfare reform. Smith discussed research on children’s health and maternal employment at the briefing, which was organized by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs and the Society for Adolescent Medicine.

New Appointments

Hussam Batal, DMD ’98, has joined SDM’s Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery as an assistant professor. Batal, who is a 2003 graduate of the SDM Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Program, will also practice at both the SDM and BMC clinics. His special interests are maxillofacial trauma, implants and facial reconstruction.

James Borger, MD, has been appointed attending pediatric surgeon at BMC, and clinical professor of surgery and pediatrics at BUSM. Most recently, Borger served as chief of the Division of Pediatric Surgery at the Nemours Children’s Clinic in Jacksonville, Fla., and as clinical associate professor of surgery and pediatrics at the University of Florida College of Medicine. He received his medical degree from the University of Tennessee and completed his surgical internship and residency at the BU Surgical Service of the former Boston City Hospital, where he also served as chief resident. Borger’s special interests include the care of newborns and repair of chest wall deformities. He is also opening a practice in pediatric surgery at the South Shore Hospital in Weymouth.

Timothy Desmond Brown, MD, MS, MPH, has been appointed director of Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery at BMC, and assistant professor of orthopaedic surgery at BUSM. Most recently, Brown earned a master’s degree from the Center for the Evaluative Clinical Sciences at Dartmouth and was a research fellow at the Veterans Administration Center for Outcomes Research in White River Junction, Vt. From 1997-2001, he served as chairman of Pediatric Orthopaedics at the Nemours Children’s Clinic in Pensacola, Fla.

Brown received his medical degree from Tulane University School of Medicine, where he also completed an orthopaedic residency and received the Louisiana Orthopaedic Association Award. Concurrently, he received a master’s degree from the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. Brown’s research interests include the prevention and treatment of fractures in children and the assessment of bone density in children and its relation to the risk of fracture.

Arjun Gururaj, MD, has been appointed electrophysiologist in the Section of Cardiology at BMC, and instructor of medicine at BUSM. He will also spend one day a week at the BMC Medical Center at the Park, a new BMC practice in Plymouth. Gururaj received his medical degree in 1995 from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas. He completed the Residency Program in Internal Medicine at BUMC in 1999, and most recently held fellowships in cardiology and electrophysiology at BMC.

Cheryl Williams, MS, RN, NP, is the new clinical service manager for Medicine, Menino Pavilion at BMC. Williams, whose background is in emergency medicine, HIV and adult primary care, was previously an instructor in adult medical/surgical nursing at the University of Massachusetts.

Grants and Awards

BMC is one of 15 health care providers in Massachusetts to receive a Quality Awards Program grant from Harvard Pilgrim Health Care to improve clinical care, quality and services. The medical center will create a Diabetic Care Module to provide decision support, education and care management in a group setting to patients with diabetes in a diverse patient population.

The Section of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in the Division of Psychiatry at BMC has received a $2 million grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to study traumatic stress in injured children admitted to BMC. Glenn Saxe, MD, chief of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at BMC, and associate professor of psychiatry at BUSM, is principal investigator.

Tracey Wilson, MD, attending physician in urology at BMC and assistant professor of surgery at BUSM, has been selected to participate in the 2003-2005 Geriatrics Education for Specialty Residents Program, a component of the American Geriatrics Society/Hartford Foundation funded project, Increasing Geriatrics Expertise in Surgical and Related Medical Specialties. The initiative supports curricular innovations at institutions by providing a two-year grant of $32,000 to support specialty-specific programs designed to enhance education for residents in the geriatric aspect of their disciplines. Wilson will represent BMC’s Division of Urology and work to improve the quality of care for older patients.

BMC announces WE CARE Award recipients

Since June 1999, BMC has honored employees and volunteers who have shown exceptional care toward others with WE CARE Employee and Volunteer Recognition Awards.

The recipients of the individual employee WE CARE Awards for August 2003 are:

- Thomasina Baker, administrative assistant, Behavioral Health, Psychiatry; Robert Brown, medical laboratory technician, Microbiology Lab, Newton Pavilion; and Hattie Routhac, LPN, Pediatric Clinic.

The WE CARE Volunteer Recognition Award recipient for August is Maria Jones, who has worked for the past year as a volunteer attorney with BMC’s Family Advocacy Program. Jones has assisted pediatric patient families with housing, immigration, family law, disability and public benefits problems, and has helped them obtain services for which they are eligible, but would not otherwise obtain.

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