MedCenter News: June 2004

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Boston University
BMC NAMED A TOP 100 HOSPITAL

Boston Medical Center (BMC) was recently named one of the nation's top 100 hospitals by Solucient, a leading source of health care business information.

The award recognizes hospitals that have achieved excellence in quality of care, operational efficiency, financial performance and adaptation to the environment. BMC was named one of the top 15 major teaching hospitals in the country and was the only Massachusetts hospital in that category.

"This is an extraordinary recognition of the hard work and clinical and operational excellence performed by our staff each day," said Elaine Ullian, BMC president and CEO. "Providing top-quality care and maintaining operational efficiency is no longer enough for hospitals, and I'm delighted that Solucient has acknowledged BMC's industry-wide leadership in performing above and beyond the traditional hospital role."

Solucient's research found that patients at the 100 Top Hospitals had 13 percent fewer complications, and mortality rates were lower. In addition, patients identified their inpatients, the patient's name and date of birth or medical record number will be verified. For outpatients, the patient's name and date of birth or medical record number will be verified.

The second NPSG, to improve the effectiveness of communication among caregivers, requires that any RN, LPN, pharmacist or respiratory therapist at BMC receiving a verbal order must write the order on a physician order sheet or enter the order into the physician computerized order entry form. A verbal read back of the order is then done for verification.

A staff member receiving a test result deemed critical will document the test result and complete a read back of the result. In addition, a list of potentially harmful abbreviations — as well as their corrections — has been compiled. The complete list is available in the BMC Administrative Policies and Procedures.

The NPSGs are part of JCAHO's effort to improve the accuracy of patient identification, as well as their corrections — has been compiled. The complete list is available in the BMC Administrative Policies and Procedures.

JCAHO survey begins July 12

With BMC's Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) survey set for the week of July 12, staff members are preparing for the surveys' visit. A special focus is on ensuring that all staff are aware of, and understand, JCAHO's seven National Patient Safety Goals (NPSG).

According to Denise Mehegan, director of Quality Improvement at BMC, all staff should be prepared to answer questions about BMC's procedures and safety protocols. The first NPSG, to improve the accuracy of patient identification, means that BMC will take more stringent measures prior to the administration of medications; whenever taking samples (not just blood); and when hanging blood or blood products. For inpatients, the patient's name and medical record will be verified. For outpatients, the patient's name and date of birth or medical record number will be verified.

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Graduates step forward with hope and expectation

Overcast skies did not dampen the high spirits of students from the Boston University schools of Medicine, Public Health and Dental Medicine as they gathered in locations across Boston for commencement exercises on Sunday, May 16.

Surrounded by family and friends who came to celebrate their achievements, the soon-to-be graduates listened attentively as commencement speakers offered words of congratulation and advice on the exciting, new phase of life ahead.

School of Medicine

Promptly at 3 p.m., BUMC's class of 2004 entered the grand ballroom at the Boston Copley Marriott Place to the familiar strains of "Pomp and Circumstance." With cameras held high and flashes popping, family and friends crowded in to capture the moment.

Commending the students' "outstanding achievements," John McCahan, MD, acting dean, encouraged the class to have both a personal theme and a team approach to their work as physicians.

"I have great hopes for you," he said. "I hope you will realize your personal potential. Take care of yourself, and take care of those you love and those who love you."

RALPH FEIGIN, MD, physician-in-chief of Texas Children's Hospital and a 1962 BUMC graduate, offered the keynote address. He said the world of medicine the students were about to enter was poised to change dramatically during the next decade.

"You are graduating in the most spectacular era that medicine has ever seen — an era of high expectations about what medicine can and should be able to do," Feigin said. "The promise of the future has never been greater."

Feigin cautioned students that significant challenges await them. Emerging diseases, such as SARS, are taking center stage. Physicians will also need to make decisions like whether or not to vaccinate.

From left, Ana-Maria Antoniu, DMD, Yousif Akhikan, DMD, Ramita Amini, DMD, and Sherwin Arman, DMD, celebrate their accomplishments during SDM's commencement ceremonies on the Charles River Campus.

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BMC launches new Cardiovascular Center

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Emergency Department improves patient flow

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HOPE study tackles memory problems

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BMC launches new Cardiovascular Center

Patients and staff recently celebrated the grand opening of the new, consolidated Cardiovascular Center (CVC) at BMC, now located on the fourth floor of the Preston Family Building. The CVC is a regional referral center integrating cardiology, cardiopulmonary, and vascular surgery. Until recently, each service was located in a different area on the medical campus. The new center combines all cardiovascular services in one convenient location.

"By bringing all the cardiology services we offer into one location, patients can obtain the care they need without having to travel throughout the medical center," said Wilson Colucci, MD, chief of Cardiovascular Medicine at BMC. "It is more convenient for patients and their families and ensures the patient has the best possible experience while undergoing treatment."

Led by Colucci, a professor of cardiology at BMC, and Richard Shemin, MD, vice chairman of the Division of Surgery and chief of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at BMC, and professor and chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine at BUSM, "for these patients, being granted asylum is the first step in starting a new life."

While the BCRHHR is well known for its clinical and counseling services for refugees and survivors of torture, the staff also spends a great deal of time working together to help survivors from other countries win asylum. Patients are referred to the center through BMC, outside agencies, attorneys, or mouth-to-mouth. The staff guides them through the process of applying for asylum, finds a lawyer to represent the patient, writes affidavits and provides testimony during asylum hearings. In its five-year history, the center has helped more than 150 survivors in their pursuit of asylum. In its five-year history, the center has helped more than 150 survivors in their pursuit of asylum.

Refugee Center aids patients seeking asylum

Each year, millions of people around the world flee their homes for fear of being persecuted. Displaced by war, famine, civil and political unrest, and persecution, asylum seekers are often among the most vulnerable groups of people in the world. The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that there are currently over 25 million refugees and nearly 40 million internally displaced persons worldwide. In the United States, the refugee resettlement program, which is administered by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), is responsible for helping refugees adjust to life in their new country.

BREAST HEALTH INITIATIVE RECEIVES ADDITIONAL FUNDS

Continuing its support of the Avon Breast Health Initiative at BMC, the Avon Foundation has awarded the program $500,000 for the next two years. Launched in 2000 by the Women's Health Group at BMC, the initiative helps women in low-income urban communities gain access to cancer screening, diagnostic care and treatment. This marks the third grant the program has received from the Avon Foundation, which has already distributed $640,000 and $51 million since the program's outset.

Karen Freund, MD, MPH, chief of the Women's Health Group at BMC, and director of the Susan G. Komen Breast Health and Treatment Center, said, "This is a significant grant for our program. The funds will be used to support the program's services, including mammography, diagnostic and treatment services. The new funds will help us to continue our work and provide care to women in need."

Emergency Department improves patient flow and lessens closures

Emergency nurse Anne G. Hargreaves, RN, MA, was named the 2002 recipient of the prestigious National Nurses Week Nurse of the Year Award. Hargreaves is a staff nurse in the Emergency Department at BMC, where she has been employed for 20 years.

The Award was posthumously awarded to Lynn Roman, RN, ED, received by Lyn Roman, RN, Memorial Award. "Nurses Week is a time when nurses recognize their peers and colleagues and the important role they play for one of the many awards offered to celebrate our success," said Kathy Davison, RN, MBA, vice president of Nursing at BMC. "I feel an incredible sense of pride to be able to provide care for patients every day, and to have the opportunity to work with such a phenomenal group of nurse leaders, educators and staff."

Know your numbers

In a community-wide effort to help fight heart disease among women, the Women's Health Program at BMC participated in the fourth annual Boston Heart Party, a free cardiovascular education program designed to raise awareness about heart disease.

On May 28, in the Medical Center, BMC offered free electrocardiogram (ECG) testing and blood pressure testing to visitors. This year, more than 600 people were screened at both the Newton and Melrose pavilions — an increase of more than 250 from last year.

The Heart Party initiative consists of a series of free screenings that take place every year, from the first day of spring through Mother's Day. The screenings are led by physicians, medical centers and other locations throughout the neighborhood of Greater Boston.

EndoCare: Meteleti, RN, Cancer Care; Lisa Bressman, RN, 6 West; Gloria Ferns-Conception, RN, 6 East; Salem E, RN, RCU; Donna Williams, RN, Clinical Educator; Ann McDonough, RN, Geriatric Clinic; and Daniel Hume, RN, SICU.

Tim Mag, MS, senior clinical pharmacists for BMC. Preoperative Catalytic Procedure, the blood plasma of a Heart Party participant.

National Nurses Week celebrates with all-day educational program

In celebration of National Nurses Week, BMC, Division of Nunning, and the Massachusetts Memorial Hospitals Nurses' Alumnae Association presented an all-day educational program and awards ceremony in May.

The day featured keynote speaker Tim Porter-O'Grady, PhD, RN, FAAN, RN, senior partner with Tim Porter-O'Grady Associates and an international expert in health systems, culture, governance, leadership and conflict issues. An associate professor on the graduate faculty at Emory University, Mr. Porter-O'Grady delivered a leson titled "Professional Nursing Practice in a New World for Healthcare," which focused on nursing transformation in an integrated and restructuring system.

The day culminated with an awards ceremony honoring BMC nurses. Nurse Excellence Awards were awarded to: Masami Minamison, RN, Endoscopy; Sue Rillins, RN, SICU, Ado Bourque, RN, and others.

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Tom Mag, MS, senior clinical pharmacists for BMC. Preoperative Catalytic Procedure, the blood plasma of a Heart Party participant.
Operative time increases when training surgical residents

According to a recently published study, young doctors may take longer to complete when the operation involves training a surgical resident.

Led by Timothy D. Schreiber, MD, MBA, associate professor of surgery at BUMC and general surgeon at BMC, a team of researchers compared the operative times of four experienced academic surgeons performing four common surgical procedures before and after the introduction of a pregratuate resident into the operating team.

For 18 months, the academic surgeons either operated alone for hernia surgery, or assisted each other for laparoscopic gall bladder removal, removal of part of the colon or removal of plaque from an artery that supplies blood to the brain. In the months following, a surgical resident assisted the surgeons on the same procedures.

According to Schreiber, researchers found the amount of time required to perform each of the procedures increased with the addition of the surgical resident.

Researchers concluded this "time of increase when a resident normally assists a faculty in training a surgical resident" must be balanced against the amount of time saved by the residents who handle many of the preoperative and operative patient care tasks that would otherwise fall to the attending staff. The test found no difference in patient outcomes.

The study was published in the April 2004 issue of the Archives of Surgery.

Report offers guidelines to enhance patient care

The report offers guidelines to enhance patient care and balancing patient safety with the need for training.

The report includes recommendations to protect patient safety and enhance residency education by balancing the need for training with the need for patient safety.

Researchers used data from a national survey of program directors and program evaluators to develop recommendations for improving residency education.

The report was published in the March 2004 issue of the Journal of Graduate Medical Education.

Volunteers recognized for time and talents

BMC's 14th annual Volunteer Appreciation Night was a resounding success in 15 volunteers, staff and guests gathered to celebrate the significant contributions that volunteers make to the medical community.

Eline Ullian, president and CEO, welcomed the volunteers, as did John Chesare, M.D., MPH, senior vice president and chief medical officer, thanking them for their time and expertise.

Peter Moyer, M.D., former chairman of Emergency Medicine at BUMC, was the evening's keynote speaker. Moyer, now the medical director for Partners HealthCare's Emergency Medical Service, recounted his experience in emergency medicine and shared with those present some life lessons learned along the way.

The evening was capped with a video titled "Celebrate Who's Right with the World," a compilation of photographs by DeWitt Jones, a National Geographic photographer.

Faculty and Student Awards

At the conclusion of each school year, numerous awards and prizes are distributed to talented faculty and students at BUMC. The following are some of this year's highlights.

BUMC Medical Alumni White Coat Ceremony Awards

SDM

Karle Keynes Prize for Excellence in Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching

International College of Surgeons Award

American College of Surgeons Award

American Urological Association Award

International College of Surgeons Award

Nanette A. Scutch Award for Excellence in Research

Kenneth J. Marquis, MBBS, MPH, assistant professor of preventive health

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Grant helps continuity of women's health care at medical center

A new $24,000 grant from the Department of Public Health will allow 300 additional women to enroll in the Women's Health Network (WHN) this fiscal year.

A state-funded program affiliated with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, WHN pays for yearly physicals, Pap smears, mammograms, and diagnostic tests for women. Committed to ensuring access to quality health care for low-income women, the network has provided these services since 1994.

"Every woman is at risk for breast cancer, the most common form of cancer in American women and the leading cause of death in women between 40 and 55," sayscha Chapman, MBChB, MPH, director of the Women's Health Network at BMC, and clinical associate professor of medicine at BUSM. "There are many reasons breast cancer is often not detected early, including fear of discovering the disease, ignorance of the importance of regular screening, lack of medical insurance, and not having a primary care physician."

Cultural beliefs that contradict the notion of breast cancer diagnosis, as well as language and other logistical difficulties, all contribute to low screening rates among provisions that women who lack health-care services, added Chapman.

The grant increases the total funding for WHN to $62,000 and will allow the WHN to educate women and refer them to free or low-cost mammograms and clinical breast exams in their own communities. The program also provides diagnostic services and will refer women to affordable treatment.

JCAHO survey begins July 12

As a result of JCAHO's third goal, to improve the safety of high-risk medications, all hospitals have reviewed and eliminated electrolytes from patient care areas. In addition, the pharmacy has limited the number of drug concentrations available in the organization.

Responding to the fourth goal, to eliminate wrong site, wrong patient, wrong procedure, BMC introduced a protocol for wrong site, wrong procedure verification process. The RN, radiology technician and/or registered respiratory therapist, physicians and physical therapist will conduct a "site time" immediately prior to the administration of a medication or the beginning of an invasive procedure. This "site time" should be used to verify the correct patient, consent, procedure, site, size and level markings, and for proper orientation and required implants/equipment.

In the inpatient and outpatient settings, the "site time" will be conducted prior to the start of any invasive procedure according to the appropriate consent. This "site time" can be done by the attending and/or designee and nursing, respiratory therapy or radiology technicians.

In response to JCAHO's fifth goal, to improve the safety of using infusion pumps, BMC has committed itself to ensuring free-flow protection on all general-use and infusion pumps. The tubing will be primed and opened, and the pump activated prior to setting up an infusion at the patient-controlled analgesia pump. As part of the sixth NSPS, to improve the efficiency of using hemodialysis systems, engineering and clinical engineering staff maintain records of all performance maintenance and alarm functions. An additional number of alerts should direct service staff to alarms, and check if alarms are activated according to current diagnostic settings.

The seventh and final NPSG is to reduce the risk of infection and adherence to infection and follow hand hygiene guidelines. BMC is following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendations for hand hygiene. Emphasis is placed on hand hygiene before and after patient contact, as well as the use of alcohol-based hand rubs. In addition, direct caregivers and food handlers are not allowed to wear artificial nails or nail extensions.

The hospital will be surveyed for the full five days. The Intensive Residential Treatment Program will be surveyed on Monday and Tuesday. The hospital will be surveyed for the full five days. The Intensive Residential Treatment Program will be surveyed on Monday and Tuesday. The hospital will be surveyed for the full five days. The Intensive Residential Treatment Program will be surveyed on Monday and Tuesday. The hospital will be surveyed for the full five days. The Intensive Residential Treatment Program will be surveyed on Monday and Tuesday.
BMC named a top 100 hospital

patients at ranked hospitals returned to everyday life faster than those at non-ranked hospitals. These patients were released nearly half a day sooner, on average, than patients at peer hospitals.

The hospitals that Solucient recognized had lower acquisition costs from more than 6,000 acute care and specialty hospitals across the United States. The results of the study appear in a special supplement to the May 24 edition of Modern Healthcare magazine.

Carolyn Drew, RN, MS, CCRN, has been named clinical instructor for pediatrics and the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) at BMC. Drew comes to the medical center with extensive clinical experience in pediatrics and the PICU, having most recently served as a clinical educator at Brockton Hospital and as pediatric trauma nurse coordinator and PICU staff nurse at New England Medical Center.

Alan Garstka, MD, FACC, has been appointed clinical cardiologist at BMC, and clinical assistant professor of medicine at BUSM. Prior to BUMC, he was affiliated with New Hampshire Cardiology Consultants, P.C., in Manchester, N.H. Garstka received his medical degree from the University of Massachusetts, where he also completed a cardiology fellowship. His postdoctoral training also includes an internal medicine internship and residency at Rochester General Hospital.

Bob Burke, RN, nurse epidemiologist, Infection Control/Epidemiology at BMC, won a competitive contract awarded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for his description of BMC's efforts to comply with the CDC's recommendations for preventing antimicrobial resistance. The prize included airfare, hotel and tickets to the annual conference of the Society for Healthcare Epidemiologists of America, held in April in Philadelphia. At the conference, Burke described the aims and accomplishments of BMC's PROTECT Task Force as part of a CDC forum titled “Prevent Antimicrobial Resistance in Healthcare Settings: From Vision to Reality.”

Six researchers in the Department of Health Services at SPH were featured presenters at the Veterans Administrations’ Health Services Research & Development Service National Meeting, held recently in Washington, D.C. Ann Borzeki, MD, MPH, assistant professor; Beth-Hung Chang, ScD, assistant professor; Jack Clark, PhD, assistant professor; James Rothenberg, MD, assistant professor; Carol Van Duesen Lukan, EdD, researcher assistant professor; and Judith Jones, DDS, MPH, DScD, associate professor of health services at SPH, and associate professor and chair of General Dentistry at SOM, have served on NIH granting committees for the past years, also served eight years with the Army nurse corps.

Paul Bolton, MPH, MSc, has been named director of BMC’s Section of General Internal Medicine. The diversity of their background and skills has enabled them to bring a level of expertise and innovation to the field of nursing care.

New Appointments

Christine Campbell-Reardon, MD, assistant professor of medicine at BUSM, has joined BMC’s Center for Thoracic Oncology as pulmonary liaison for the Section of Pulmonary Medicine. She will work closely with lung cancer patients treated at Boston HealthNet health centers, as well as those under the care of a BMC primary care physician, to expedite their referral and ensure their rapid diagnosis and treatment at the multidisciplinary center. Campbell-Reardon will also supervise pulmonary fellows in training.

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Grants and Awards

Paul Bolton, MPH, MSc, MBBS, associate professor of international health at SPH, recently received a $270,000 grant from USAID’s Victims of Torture Fund. Congress established the fund to address the needs of torture victims throughout the world by funding organizations that provide psychosocial interventions and other services to torture victims. Bolton will help these organizations develop assessment methods for their services with training in how to design, monitor and evaluate their programs.

The Diversity Curriculum Task Force of BMC’s Section of General Internal Medicine has received a $45,000 faculty training grant from the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation to support cross-cultural communication between health care providers and recipients. Through its Pathways to Culturally Competent Health Care grant program, the task force will work on developing the capacity of participating clinicians and residents to better serve the medical center’s diverse patient population.

Michael Holick, PhD, MD, director of BMC’s General Clinical Research Center, and professor of medicine, physiology and biophysics at BUSM, received a three-year, $150,000 grant from the UV Foundation for Education and Research. A leading researcher who studies the role of sunlight in boosting vitamin D, Holick conducts ongoing research concerning the potential health benefits of brief exposure to sunshine.

Claire Miller, RN, a staff nurse in the Obstetrics Unit at BMC, and Pauline Sheena, RN, chief of Ambulatory Medicine at BMC and assistant professor of pediatrics at BUSM, are the recipients of the 2004 Nourishing the Future Awards presented by BMC’s Breastfeeding Center. The annual award recognizes hospital staff who exhibit excellence in protecting, promoting and supporting breastfeeding.

Elaine Ullian, BMC president and CEO, received the 2004 Edna W. Smith Pioneer in Community Health Care Award for her leadership in public health at a recent benefit for the Mattapan Community Health Center’s Family & Community Health Programs and Services. The event, called Rock the Boat, was held aboard the Spirit of Boston on May 1.

BMC announces WE CARE Award recipients

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

The winners of the individual employee WE CARE Recognition Awards for May 2004 are Anthony Brau, pharmacy technician III, Pharmacy, Newton Pavilion; Saoud Kheifi, medical care manager coordinator, General Gunderson Eye Center; Paul Guzman, maintenance mechanic, Transport; and Marie Tetzague, administrative assistant, Volunteer Services at BMC.

The WE CARE Volunteer Recognition Award for May is Jorge Gonzalez, a recent graduate from the South End’s Cathedral High School, who has volunteered after school and during his vacations at BMC’s Volunteer Services since January 2003. His contributions include organizing the school’s National Honor Society to give a day of service at BMC, moving and organizing toy donations, as well as bake sales that netted $600 to purchase gifts for BMC pediatric patients.
**Gala 2004 raises record amount**

Sharing BMC's Gala spotlight are (from left) Lauren Baker; event co-chairs Charles Baker, president and CEO, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Inc., and Karen Kaplan, president, Hill, Holliday Boston; Ken Kaplan; Elaine Ullian; Claire Perlman; and event co-chair Marc Perlman, president, Ocean State Job Lot.

**BMC receives $2.5M for Moakley building campaign**

The family of a grateful patient has pledged $2.5 million to BMC in support of the J. Joseph Moakley Medical Services Building. Elaine Ullian, BMC president and CEO, made the official announcement of the gift from the family of Cheryl Dempsey at BMC's eighth annual Gala, and stated that the donation will be acknowledged in support of the J. Joseph Moakley Medical Services Building.

Dempsey, who eventually lost her long battle to cancer in November 2003, had grown close to many of her clinicians and friends and community. In making the five-year campaign pledge, Cheryl Dempsey's husband, Joe, and children, Becky, Annie and Ben, expressed gratitude to James Becker, MD, surgeon-in-chief at BMC, and to BMC staff for a lifetime-extending surgical intervention performed on Dempsey in 2002.

Dempsey, who eventually lost her long battle to cancer in November 2003, had grown close to many of her clinicians and invited friends and family members to contribute to BMC in gratitude for the care she received at the medical center.

"Everyone at the hospital who met Cheryl was profoundly touched by her kindness, her goodness and her strength," said Ullian. "She was grateful by her kindness, her goodness and her strength," said Ullian. "She was..."
Project ASSERT: A decade of distinguished service

Project ASSERT, a BMC Emergency Department service that facilitates screening for alcohol, drug and substance abuse among BMC Emergency Department patients, celebrates its 10th anniversary with a press conference that included presentations by Boston Mayor Thomas Menino. Students from BUSM and SPH joined a nonprofit organization called Bridges to Community to travel 2,200 miles to the town of Tuxpanatepe, where they worked to construct a community health center with concrete cinder blocks in only five days. The Scarborough, N.Y.-based organization, which promotes cross-cultural learning and a deepening awareness of the global interdependence, paired groups of six student volunteers with six Nicaraguan families who spearheaded the effort. "Learning medicine is so much more than going to class and taking exams. It's about giving back to the community and helping others achieve human excellence," said Bernstein, professor of emergency medicine at BUSM and professor of social and behavioral sciences at SPH.

Save Oct. 3 for BMC's annual WE CARE Walk

It's time to put on your sneakers and get ready for BMC's fourth annual WE CARE Walk, a 5-kilometer event, which brings together walking teams from the medical campus, community schools, churches, colleges, organizations and businesses, to help raise funds in support of hospital-based programs. BMC is inviting friends, family, and community members to join this year's walk on Sunday, Oct. 3, and experience a coming together of individuals and groups who share a commitment to improving the health, safety and well-being of the community.

This year, walkers can register online for the event, which is a new, easy-to-use Internet link called Kinesta. By using state-of-the-art technology, participants will be able to build their own fundraising Web page and send and receive emails for walking tips and support.

"The added feature will help motivate and engage individual walkers or teams as well as help recruit more participants," said Valerie Nary-Daniels, director of Community Relations at BMC.

In the finish line area, free refreshments will be served from all BUMC dining services, 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) 739-3080 or visit http://www.bmc.org/health/.
New dose-checking system enhances patient safety

BMC's commitment to medication safety has been further enhanced with the implementation of a new, state-of-the-art infusion pump system.

According to Lisa O'Connor, RN, MS, director of Nursing at BMC, between 70 and 80 percent of inpatients at BMC use infusion pumps at any given time for the intravenous delivery of fluids or medications. Patients who are critically ill and unable to take oral medications often require two pumps in order to receive up to eight different medications. The intravenous dosage must be delivered at the proper rate to the patient.

The hospital’s new Alaris Medley Infusion Pump ensures proper dosage by providing a built-in safety system with an innovative programming mechanism called Guardians. This system alerts clinicians if the pump has been programmed for a dosing range above or below the standard range set by BMC.

"Previous infusion pumps used at BMC did not have this dose-range alert safety feature," said O'Connor. "This new technology will prevent pump programming errors and further protect our patients from adverse drug events."

The standard-dose ranges in the Alaris system were created by a multi-disciplinary team at BMC and benchmarked against medication guidelines at the medical center. The team, which began its work this past January so that implementation could begin in the spring, included representatives from BMC’s Pharmacy, Nursing, Information Technology and Biomedical Engineering departments, as well as anesthesiologists and other physicians.

"We’re at the forefront of patient safety," said O'Connor. "The Alaris pump system meets JCACHO’s Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations’ new National Patient Safety Goal that calls for free-flow protection of intravenous (IV) pump devices, and complements existing medication safety systems already in place at the hospital.

Three other systems include the Clinical Order Entry System, where physicians order patient prescriptions online; the Electronic Medication Administration Record, which administers records of a clinician's order to the pharmacy; and the Coalescent U-CLIP device, which tests such clinical reasoning in some cases, faculty.

The treatment I received at your hospital was superb, starting with Dr. Sheffert and his team, to the staff on Still and 6. It was clear they have great respect and dignity from all the staff. I found the staff to be very helpful, understanding, and kind. All the staff were well educated and well trained. I appreciate the high standards you set and carried out by your staff of wonderful, dedicated people."

M.J., Somerville

I want to bring attention to the excellent care I received at Valerie Nappen, UMD, MD, at the BU School of Dental Medicine. She is an exceptionally versatile individual who earned that I was confident and comfortable with her. She did didactic job in caring for me and showed hard to make sure that my decision were then carried out before I went home. I have no doubt that she is an outstanding dental professional"

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C.C., Chelsea

 grated New Clinical Skills Center expands teaching capabilities

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USM recently opened in Clinical Skills Center, created to teach medical students clinical skills using live patients and then to assess their ability to provide these services in the real world. The center, which is run by the Office of Medical Education (OME), includes 13 exam rooms and video-monitoring equipment that faculty may use to observe student interactions. To test their students, standardized patients—trained laypeople—act as patients and provide students with feedback.

"We had standardized patients at BUSM for more than 20 years, but we’ve never had a dedicated place to hold exams," said Lorraine Stanfield, MD, director of the new center and associate professor of family medicine at BUSM. "This past spring we started to look for some students to participate in the standardized patient program."

The new Clinical Skills Center expands teaching capabilities in a number of ways. By providing a more realistic learning environment, it provides students with an opportunity to assess and improve their communication skills, which are crucial for success in medicine. In addition, it allows students to practice clinical decision-making in a controlled setting, which can help them develop confidence and build their professional skills. Overall, the center serves as an important tool for medical education and prepares students for the challenges they will face in their future careers. It is a testament to the dedication of the medical faculty and staff at BUSM who have worked tirelessly to create this valuable resource for students and educators alike. The center is a significant step forward in the evolution of medical education and a legacy of the commitment of the Medical Education (OME) to providing high-quality education for future health care providers.
BMC receives $2.5M for Moakley building campaign

Emerging leaders 2004

ED nurses teach stroke, heart disease prevention

MBC's Gala 2004 raises record amount

BMC announces WE CARE Award recipients

Emerging leaders 2004

MBC honors long-time employees

Medicated stents help prevent renarrowing of arteries

BMC recently held its annual Employee Service Recognition Program to honor employees who have reached service milestones. More than 500 staff members who have served the medical center for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 40 years as of Dec. 31, 2003, were recognized and presented with gifts commemorating their achievements at the ceremony, held June 22 in the Inpatient Lounge.

25 Years

Betty Asia
Kathleen Barry
Barbara Baughn
Patitik Basil
Cathy Bencason
Katie Berrady
Pamela Bonti
Gloria Bourn
Dean Carder
Ed Christian

Joan Collins
Judy Cook
Marcia Croghan
Linda Renee Doran
Christine Driscoll
Dena Dwyer
Kathy Egan
Ezra Foxx
R. J. Fitzgerald
Michael Fleming
Helen Gaffey
Thomas Gable
Norma Gaebe
Pauline Gilbert
Walter Gillis-Ivey
Ri Gomes
David Haddock
Anita Hagen
Joseph Harter
Oscar Hess
Brinda Henry
Theresa Ann Howley
Ismael Katnun
Margaret Kiel
Theresa Knight
Richard Kozak
Alira Gate
Linda Balbin
Robert Brawdy

30 Years

Mary Barbara
Linda Barlow
Barbara Battie
Gale Blanchette
Robert Brydor
Phyllis McKinno
Monee Monmegg
Helen Paris
Del Ponti
Janet O'Leary

Emerging leaders 2004

2004 Emerging Leaders are (from left): Dimitria Demetriou, Michael Kagan, Susan Ladd, Cheryl Zelmer and Anuwat Chaiyatanasak. The group gathered recently to participate in the program's comprehensive workshop.
Sondra Crosby, MD, general internist and physician in the Center for HIV/AIDS Care and Research at BMC, and assistant professor of medicine at BUMC, presented legal and medical perspectives on immigration concerns of HIV-positive individuals at a recent Massachusetts congressional luncheon. The New England Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association sponsored the event, held on May 19 in Boston.

Nancy O'Rourke, MSN, ACNP, clinical services manager, Division of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery at BMC, was elected as the Massachusetts representative for the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. In this capacity, O'Rourke, who also works per diem in the Urgent Care Clinic and Emergency Department at BMC, will organize statewide political support for legislative issues facing nurse practitioners in health care today. Her two-year term began July 1.

Benjamin Quamina, MD, ophthalmologist at BMC and Boston HealthNet community health centers, recently received the Community Clinician Award from the New England Eye Institute in recognition of his lifetime achievement and dedication to community health. The institute is an affiliate of the New England College of Optometry. The award will also be named for Quamina, clinical instructor of ophthalmology at BUMC. Additionally, Boston Mayor Thomas Menino proclaimed May 12, 2004 to be Dr. Benjamin Andre Quamina Day to honor the physician for his dedication to teaching and service to the city's neighborhoods.

Alan Sager, PhD, professor of health services at SPH, delivered the keynote address titled "Drug Importation: Habinger of Doom or Hope?" at the fourth annual Therapeutic Insight Conference held recently in Jersey City, N.J. Therapeutic Insight is a global pharmacology and biotechnology conference that attracts industry executives, Wall Street investors and venture capital firms.

Stanley Shapshay, MD, FACS, otorhinolaryngologist at BMC and professor of otolaryngology - head and neck surgery at BUMC, was recently voted president-elect of the Triologic Society, the prestigious national academic society in otorhinolaryngology. Shapshay will assume the presidency at the society's next annual meeting in May 2005.

New Appointments

Sheilah Bernard, MD, director of the Cardiology Ambulatory Clinic at BMC, and clinical associate professor of medicine at BUSM, has been appointed director of Boston HealthNet's Cardiology Services at BMC. Boston HealthNet is an integrated service delivery network that includes BMC, BUMC, and 13 neighborhood health centers. In the newly created position, Bernard will oversee and ensure comprehensive cardiac care provided to HealthNet patients while they are at BMC. She will facilitate timely cardiac consultation and testing for these patients and work with administrators at individual neighborhood health centers to assess their need for on-site cardiac services.

Tom Dauria, MS, manager of Research Systems at SPH's Data Centering Coordination since 1998, has been named director of Technology Solutions and Financial Operations at the school. In his new role, Dauria has primary responsibility for the development, implementation and day-to-day management of all technology systems and databases in the school, including linkages between SPH, the medical campus and the university. He also will supervise day-to-day financial operations and direct departmental responsibilities including financial policies and processes.

Lynne Dery, RN, MSN, has been appointed nurse manager for Pediatrics and the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at BMC. Dery comes with charge nurse experience from Lowell General Hospital's Emergency Department. Her clinical experience includes emergency nursing with a focus on pediatrics.

Gary Gibbons, MD, FACS, executive director of BMC's Foot Care Specialists and professor of surgery at BUSM, has been appointed chief of Surgery at Quincy Medical Center. A nationally recognized leader in the field of diabetic and vascular surgery, Gibbons will oversee a wide range of surgical services for the 232-bed hospital.

Gibbons received his medical degree from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and completed residencies at the former University Hospital and the New England Deaconess Hospital in Boston.

Joseph Waters, MA, has been named senior development officer for Corporate Relations at BMC. Prior to his arrival at BMC, Waters served as director of Corporate Relations at the Cambridge Health Alliance. His professional experience also includes working in various capacities for the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, the Arthritis Foundation and the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Grants and Awards

The Breastfeeding Center at BMC has been awarded $40,000 from the Trustees of the Theodore Edison Parker Foundation to help support the Hospital Education of Lactation Practices Lowell Program, an education-based program that aims to raise breast-feeding rates among new mothers in the city of Lowell, found to have the third lowest breast-feeding rate of any city in Massachusetts.

With the grant, BMC will partner with several Lowell-area hospitals to update institutional policies, improve the maternity environment, and educate health care providers on the best maternity care practices to support breast-feeding families. The effort will focus on women from medically and socially impoverished backgrounds.

Chang-Yun Chen, MD, PhD, assistant professor of medicine, Cancer Research Center at BUMC, has received a $605,625 Idea Development Award from the U.S. Department of Defense's Prostate Cancer Research Program, a competitive awards program that focuses on innovative research concepts to prevent, detect and treat prostate cancer. Chen's research proposal is titled "Modulating Neuroendocrine Signaling in Prostate Cancer.''

BUMC's Department of Corporate Communications was recently honored by the Publicity Club of New England with awards in the newsletter and press conference categories. For the second consecutive year, MedCenter News received a Bell Ringer Award for Excellence - the region's premier award for public relations and communications professionals. The department also received a Merit Award for planning, implementation, and results generated from the press conference announcing the Yawkey Foundation's $15 million gift to BMC.

Thomas Einhorn, MD, professor and chairman, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at BUMC, recently received a $3.5 million program project grant award from the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases for the study of molecular mechanisms of skeletal repair. Einhorn's research program will elucidate the basic mechanisms that guide fracture healing and bone regeneration after trauma.

Mark Franciosa, a third-year BUMC student, is one of 20 medical students across the country to receive the Fogarty-Ellison International Health Fellowship. The newly established award, coordinated through the National Institutes of Health, allows recipients to spend one year doing research in any of 14 different sites located in the Caribbean, South America, Africa, India or Thailand. Franciosa will spend the 2004-2005 academic year at the Medical College in tripura, India, researching an area to be determined in the fall.

Primary Care LLC has named BMC its exclusive tertiary facility for ophthalmology services for Secure Horizons patients. Primary Care LLC is an independent physician network of more than 180 primary care physicians practicing throughout Eastern Massachusetts. With this selection, all BU Eye Associates physicians are now participating in the group's preferred ophthalmology physician network for Secure Horizons.

Elizabeth Rouke, MD, senior resident in the Section of Internal Medicine at BU, and primary care physician for the Boston Center for Refugee Health and Human Rights at BMC, received the 2004 Award for Outstanding Clinical Vignette Presentation of the Society of General Internal Medicine. Her presentation, which was titled "An Unexpected Cause of Peripheral Neuropathy" and discussed the beating on the soles of feet as a method of torture, was selected among more than 200 submissions. Rouke was precepted by Sondra Crosby, MD, general internist at BMC and assistant professor of medicine at BUMC. The award was presented at the society's national meeting, held on May 13 in Chicago.

Robert Witzburg, MD, chief of the Section of Community Medicine and professor of medicine at BUMC, was recently chosen physician of the year by the Home and Health Association of Massachusetts. Witzburg, who is also associate dean for Admissions at BUMC, was nominated for the award by the Visiting Nurse Association of Boston in recognition of his contributions to community health and special commitment to underserved populations. The award was presented at the association's Annual Banquet, held in May at the Sheraton Framingham.

The Women's Health Network at BMC has received $14,000 from the Massachusetts affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Inc. to help support its breast-screening services and outreach to women. The grant will enhance the group's outreach to women in the Haitian, Eastern European, African American, Hispanic, elderly and homeless communities, as well as those who are chronically mentally ill.

© Copyright 2004
Call all walkers! It’s time to lace up your sneakers and get ready for BMC’s fourth annual WE CARE Walk. The event, which brings together walking teams from the medical campus and community, raises funds in support of the hospital’s mission to provide exceptional care without exception.

Set for Sunday, Oct. 3, family, friends and community members are invited to join this year’s 5-mile walk that begins and ends on Talbot Green. Participants will stroll through the historic South End and Roxbury neighborhoods that BMC serves and enjoy a free festival featuring live entertainment, refreshments, health information and children’s activities at the finish. Team participation is being sought from all BUMC departments, as well as neighborhood organizations and businesses.

Defibrillators accessible throughout BMC

Improving its readiness to treat patients with cardiac arrest, BMC has placed automated external defibrillators in clinics and clinical units throughout the medical campus. The devices help restore normal heart rhythm to patients suffering from a massive heart attack.

Every year in the United States, sudden cardiac arrest claims the lives of more than 250,000 people. More than 90 percent of sudden cardiac arrest victims survive when defibrillation occurs within two minutes of the onset of sudden cardiac arrest.

The portable Philips HeartStart FR2 has been installed in white cabinets near hospital elevators and other designated areas for quick access. BMC nursing educators Don Johnstone, RN, Kate Whalen, RN, and Janet Crimlisk, RN, check the new defibrillator on 7 West, Menino Pavilion.

A new operating room (OR) scheduling system, implemented this year in BMC's Menino Pavilion, has nearly eliminated the bumping of elective surgeries, smoothed the processing of emergency operations, and improved overall OR efficiency.

“We’ve really tried to get as many patients as possible into the OR in a timely manner, minimizing the wait and delays of our patients and their families,” said Keith Lewis, MD, chief and chairman, Division of Anesthesiology at BUMC.

Traditionally, an OR scheduling system blocks predetermined times for surgeries. Lewis said, but if emergencies arose and a room were not available, those elective surgeries would be bumped—sometimes for hours—or even postponed. “In the Menino Pavilion, emergencies can fill up to as much as one-third of the case load each day,” said Lewis, associate professor of anesthesiology at BUSM.

Blocking also often resulted in inefficient use of the rooms in general, added Lewis. At times, surgeons who had blocked times did not need the rooms, while other surgeons with cases had to wait until the blocks were freed to schedule their cases. Additionally, in-house cases that needed surgery within 24 hours had to wait until the elective schedule was completed or bump another case.

To deal with this problem, Lewis, along with James Becker, MD, James Udey Professor and Chairman of the Division of Surgery at BUMS and surgeon-in-chief at BMC, and Gail Spinale, RN, director, Perioperative Nursing at BMC, consulted with Eugene Litvak, PhD, MS, research professor, operations and technology management at the BU School of Management, to devise ways to improve the system. Litvak had worked with John Chessare, MD, MPH, senior vice president and chief medical officer at BMC, to improve the flow of the Emergency Department as part of BMC's successful Urgent Matters grant.

Litvak suggested devoting a room entirely to emergency cases with a dedicated nursing and anesthesia staff. The OR team agreed, and decided to take the overhaul even further by replacing the blocking system with an open scheduling system that could be booked by surgeons as their needs dictated. In the new system, one of the eight operating rooms is set aside for urgent cases, two for orthopaedic surgery due to its large number of daily cases and emergencies, and the

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BMC training initiatives improve geriatric education

BMC physicians have been integrating multidisciplinary initiatives to reach across all levels of medical training and experience. It is hoped that “a ripple effect” will be created, which ultimately will help physicians provide better care to geriatric patients.

BMC nurses get Magnetized

MC nurses have begun a yearlong Magnet Recognition Program that will help nurses recognize the very best in nursing. The Magnet Recognition Program was developed as a way of recognizing the very best in nursing. It is hoped that nurses will be able to identify the best practices and improve patient care. The program has been successful, and the hospital is now recognized as a Magnet Hospital.

New treatment offered for spinal fractures

In kypheoplasty, surgeons insert specially designed balloons through small tubes into the affected vertebrae to help reduce the pain. The balloons are inflated with a sterile liquid that allows the surgeon to visualize the balloons via an X-ray and remove the bone back to, or near, its original dimension. Once the balloons are deflated and removed, bone graft inserted into the bone, and the patient is ready to stand up to 30 minutes.

Endowment drive distributor donates $50,000 in OR equipment

Kardex Endoscopy, a distributor of endoscopes, instruments, imaging systems and electromechanical devices, has created a strategic partnership with BMC, resulting in a donation of more than $50,000 in operating room equipment.

BMC HealthNet Plan installs new phone system

BMC HealthNet Plan recently installed a new telephone system that has changed its local telephone and fax numbers. With the new system, BMC and BMC HealthNet Plan will now be able to access each other's extensions directly without having to go through the main directions of the other's extensions. To reach individual staff members, dial the extension numbers at (617) 740-4900.
Medical center staff respond to Blood Bank's call for help

Although summer is traditionally a time when blood supplies are low, BMC's Blood Bank had ample amounts of blood available for patients in need this summer, thanks to a generous response from employees and other donors.

This past May, the BMC Blood Bank co-hosted an American Red Cross Blood drive, which kicked off with the new slogan Consider Yourself Asked.

"We worked hard to put out the word and encourage others to make blood donations, and people responded," said Quillen. "Asking people made all the difference."

The need for blood donations always exists. Members and friends of the BUMC community interested in donating blood should contact BMC's Blood Bank at (617) 638-7833.

A NATIONAL EXCHANGE

SDM recently held an Advanced Programs in Clinical Endodontics Symposium that provided, for the first time, an educational program solely for residents currently enrolled in endodontic postdoctoral programs. Speakers from throughout the country presented lectures on topics that included an evidence-based approach to the use of antibiotics, dentin, legal and ethical issues in clinical endodontics and prosthetic treatment following endodontic treatment. North American postdoctoral students from 30 countries in the United States participated in the event, held Aug. 6-8 at BU's School of Management.

Jeffrey Heath, DMD (left), MD, chair of SDM's Department of Endodontics, and SDM Dean Charles F. Poitras, PhD, co-sponsored this major event, SDM endodontics residents, Brian Chang, DMD, and Jessica Barn, DDS.

Emergency Medicine awarded $4M for drug and alcohol research

MC's Division of Emergency Medicine recently received three National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) totaling close to $4 million to study drug and alcohol abuse intervention during the time of emergency treatment.

A $237,721 Alcohol Education Project grant was awarded to Edward Bernstein, MD, professor of emergency medicine, BMC, and associate professor of surgery at BUMC, to study alcohol abuse intervention during the time of emergency treatment.

A $1 million grant will fund a peer intervention program. The intervention project will use innovative interactive methods, including video streaming, to deliver a curriculum and a self-assessment tool to ED providers nationwide via links to the Web sites of the major professional organizations in emergency medicine. At 13 ED grant sites, 390 ED physicians, nurses and physicians' assistants have been recruited to receive an educational intervention and implement SBIRT with ED patients who are at-risk and dependent drinkers.

The principal investigator for the BMC site is William Ferrendelli, MD, attending physician, Emergency Medicine, BMC, and assistant professor of emergency medicine, BMC. Co-investigators are James Feldman, MD, vice chair of Research, Emergency Medicine, BMC, and associate professor of medicine, BUSM, Patricia Mitchell, RN, BSN, assistant director for emergency medicine, BMC, and research assistant professor of emergency medicine, BUSM, and David Barr, DDS. Co-investigators for the SBIRT grant include Richard Green, MD, associate professor of emergency medicine, BMC, and clinical instructor of emergency medicine, BUSM.

BMC's Division of Emergency Medicine was also awarded a five-year, $2 million grant from NIDA to study the effectiveness of a brief alcohol screening and counseling program. The project will study the effectiveness of a brief alcohol screening and counseling program among ED patients who are at high risk because they use heroin and/or cocaine.

In this study, peer educators will enroll 3,000 cocaine- and heroin-dependent emergency department patients at one of two academic ED and Urgent Care Centers. Led by the Bernsteins, the co-investigators are Supriya Mehra, PhD, assistant professor of emergency medicine, and Kaplan, and Philip Braslins, MD, attending physician, Infectious Disease, BMC, and assistant professor of medicine, BUSM.

"Follow-up research on patients who received treatment showed recovery rates improved as a result of the work our Emergency Department has done with alcohol screening and counseling," said Jonathan Olsbaker, MD, chair, Division of Emergency Medicine, BMC, and chair, Department of Emergency Medicine, BUSM. For more information, visit http://www.ed.bmc.edu/rgi.
Ob/Gyn offers outpatient sterilization method for women

BMC's Division of Obstetrics and Gynecology is now offering a safe and effective outpatient female sterilization procedure using a device called Essure.

The procedure is performed vaginally, using a hysteroscope, rather than laparoscopically, or with an incision into the abdomen. The hysteroscope is passed through the vagina and cervix into the uterus. Developed by Conceptus Inc., the Essure device, which resembles a small, flexible spring, is then placed into each fallopian tube that enters the uterus.

The procedure has some significant advantages over traditional sterilization methods, such as no anesthesia, and almost no pain afterward," said Lynn Borgata, MD, attending physician, Obstetrics and Gynecology at BMC, and clinical professor of obstetrics and gynecology at BUMS. "Recovery is generally fast and the safety record is for it is very good."

The Essure device will remain in place as long as that sterility is not, however, instant with Essure. "The small spring stimulates the lining of the tube to grow into the spring and the spring is placed inside the tube. It takes approximately three months to be certain that the tube is closed. Once the tubes are closed, Essure is extremely effective," for more information, call (617) 414-6577.

BMC's annual WE CARE Walk scheduled for Oct. 3

Registration this year is quicker and easier, thanks to BMC's new WE CARE Walk Web site designed by Kostena, a company that provides software to non-profit organizations.

Participants can sign up, build their own fundraising pages, and receive e-mails for walking tips and support. Sponsors and volunteers may also register online. "Sign up for this walk has never been easier," said Valerie Nya-Nyani, director of Community Relations at BMC. "This user-friendly Web site will help walkers, sponsors and volunteers get more involved and reach their fundraising goals.

The walk, sponsored by Liberty Mutual, is the state's largest walk to raise money for breast cancer awareness. For more information, call (617) 638-5291 or e-mail jtrout@bu.edu.

Radical changes improve operating room management

remaining fire for all other services.

Both ideas—establishing an "urgent room" and instituting open block scheduling—were suggested by Mildred Lewis. "The fear of creating an open room is that you lose volume, but to date, we have not had a decrease in volume. In fact, the month of June was one of the largest volumes we've had in the Menino Pavilion," he said.

Lewis credits Mary Fingliss, RN, coordinator, OR, Mercedes Powell, and Joel Lopes Jr., MD, medical director, OB/GYN, for initiating the change. "With their leadership, the system has created a natural selection process, letting supply and demand fill the rooms," Lewis said.

Although the system has only been in place since April 26, it has been a tremendous success. In its first three months of operation, there were about 90 situations in which elective cases normally would have been bumped. "We only had to bump two cases, and for no more than 30 minutes each," said Lewis.

"The new system has made operations a lot smoother. It's definitely a less stressful environment," said Fingliss. "The surgeons are generally happier because they can get their cases through in a reasonable amount of time and their cases aren't bumped or delayed. And the patients are happier because they don't have to wait in the open block system. The system has created a natural selection process, letting supply and demand fill the rooms."

"The surgeons were generally convinced that they may not be able to get their cases on," added Lewis. "But they've been satisfied with the open block. The system has created a natural selection process, letting supply and demand fill the rooms."
Cheryl Barbanel, MD, MBA, MPH, chief of Occupational and Environmental Medicine at BUMC and director of the BU Occupational Health Center, is the new president-elect of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM), an international medical society of more than 6,000 occupational and environmental medicine physicians and allied health professionals. Barbanel began her one-year term at the society’s 89th annual membership meeting held recently in Kansas City, Mo., and will assume the presidency next May. ACOEM provides leadership to promote optimal health and safety of workers.

Martin Chams, DBA, professor of health services at SPH, delivered a presentation on managing organizational change at the American Heart Association’s fifth Scientific Forum on Quality of Care and Outcomes Research in Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke, held recently in Washington, D.C. The forum focused on new and developing initiatives, policies and research relevant to measuring and improving the quality of care and outcomes for persons with, or at risk for, cardiovascular disease and stroke.

N. Anthony Coles, MD, MPH, was recently elected to fill a vacant seat on the BMC Board of Trustees, Class of 2006. Coles is the senior vice president of Commercial Operations for Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc., a drug design company that produces Lexiva, a relatively new HIV medication. Coles previously held several senior positions at Bristol Meyers Squibb Co. He is the recipient of many awards and honors, including the Davidson Society Award, Merck Award and YWCA Black Achiever’s Award.

Gail Douglas, RN, MPH, associate professor of health services and associate dean of Students at SPH, has been elected to the Board of Trustees of Caritas Norwood Hospital. The hospital is part of Caritas Christi Health Care, a comprehensive health care delivery network that provides community-based medicine and tertiary care.

James Gallagher, director of Purchasing at BMC, is president-elect of the New England Society for Healthcare Materials Management, a group that provides professionals with timely education on the industry’s best practices and sponsors forums for the exchange of useful information. Gallagher will serve as the society’s president next year.

Bethelyn Vergo Houlihan, MSW, MPH, senior project manager, Department of Health Services at SPH and the Center for Health Quality, Outcomes and Economic Research at the Veterans Health Administration in Boston, Mass., gave a presentation on access to health care services for persons with disabilities as part of a panel discussion at the AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting held recently in San Diego. The yearly conference brings together health services researchers, providers and key decision makers to address critical challenges confronting the nation’s health care delivery system.

Harold Lazar, MD, director of Cardiothoracic Surgical Research and attending cardiothoracic surgeon at BMC, and professor of cardiothoracic surgery at BUSM, has been elected a Fellow of the American Surgical Association. The association provides a national forum for leading surgeons and scientists from North America and other continents to openly discuss their latest clinical and research findings.

Anita Loscalzo, MS, research librarian, Whitaker Cardiovascular Institute at BUSM, has been elected to the Massachusetts Health Sciences Library Network (MAHSLIN) Hall of Fame in recognition of her professional achievements and contributions to the organization and medical librarianship.

Carol Mostow, LICSW, associate director, Psychosocial Training Program, General Internal Medicine at BMC, was invited by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Minority Health to present at a conference recently held at Tuskegee University. The conference was titled “Strengthening the Process of Informed Consent to Address Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care and Research.” As part of a panel, Mostow discussed efforts in training physicians and strengthening the doctor-patient relationship. She also discussed the RESPECT model developed by BMC’s Diversity Curriculum Task Force to address communication differences of culture and race.

Lisa O’Connor RN, MS, QCN, director of Nursing at BMC, has been awarded certification from the American Nurses Credentialing Center in Advanced Nursing Administration.

Carol Simon, PhD, associate professor of health services at SPH, has been invited to serve on the Board of Directors of the Kerr L. White Institute for Health Services Research. The institute is a not-for-profit research and educational organization that focuses on population-based research to improve health care effectiveness, efficiency and quality.

New Appointments

George Barth, RN, MMHC, CCRN, has been named nurse manager for 6 West, Newton Pavilion at BMC. Previously, he was clinical manager of the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at the New England Baptist Hospital and clinical care manager of the Telemetry Unit at the Newton-Wellesley Hospital. Barth also served as a staff nurse in BMC’s ICU and Cardiac Catheterization Lab. He recently received a master’s degree in health care management from Cambridge College.

Egobudike Ezeli Jr. has been appointed director of External Affairs at BUMC. A Dorchester resident, Ezeli will coordinate BUMC’s community resources agenda and outreach activities. Most recently, he was deputy director of Political Affairs with the Democratic National Convention Committee. He also managed the Boston office of U.S. Rep. Michael Capuano and worked with the Private Industry Council, serving at Charlestown and Madison Park technical vocational high schools.

Douglas Ferguson has been named senior development officer for Foundation Relations at BMC. Prior to his arrival at the medical center, Ferguson was a program officer for the Boston-based health and human rights group, Physicians for Human Rights, and foundation administrator for the FleetBoston Foundation.

Mark Glickman, PhD, has been named associate professor of health services at SPH. Glickman, who joined the SPH faculty in 2003, is also senior statistician at the VA Center for Health Quality, Outcomes and Economic Research in Bedford, Mass.

Brad Pelouquin is the new director of the Office of Admissions at SPH. He was most recently director of Admissions and Student Services for the College of Fine Arts School of Music at BU. Pelouquin comes to BUMC with a background in computer science and 10 years of experience in the computer industry.

Suzanne Lewis Ship has been named senior development officer for Foundation Relations at BMC. Ship comes to the medical center from the Commonwealth Foundation Trust in Boston, where she raised money for affordable housing, social services and historic preservation. She was also a development officer for the BU School of Social Work, where she raised money for scholarships and research projects that included BU’s Institute for Geriatric Social Work.

Grants and Awards

BMC HealthNet Plan recently received three Telly awards for English, Spanish and accentuate spot ads broadcast on local non-network television. The Telly awards were founded in 1978 to showcase outstanding non-network and cable television commercials. The ads were produced by Worldways Social Marketing.

James Feldman, MD, physician in BMC’s Emergency Department and associate professor of emergency medicine at BUSM, received the State Award for Excellence from the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners for his contributions to health care delivery and advocacy on behalf of nurse practitioners. The award was presented at the academy’s Annual National Conference, held this past June in New Orleans.

Thomas Fredro, OD, PhD, professor and vice chairman for Research, Division of Ophthalmology at BUMC, received an honorary Doctor of Science degree from the State University of New York. Fredro was awarded the degree for his research redefining the currently used model for understanding the blood-aqueous barrier, one of the central physiological principals of the human eye.

John Hermes, MD, associate professor of social and behavioral sciences at SPH, has received a Fulbright Lecturing Award in Public Health for the spring 2005 semester. Hermes, associate professor of medicine at BUMC, will lecture in the Community Medicine Department of Kasturba Medical College at the Manipal Academy for Higher Education in Karnataka, in southwest India. He will also participate in rural health programs.

BMC’s Department of Laboratory Medicine has been awarded accreditation from the Commission on Laboratory Accreditation of the College of American Pathologists (CAP). The department, under the direction of Barbara Jean Magnani, PhD, MD, associate professor of pathology and laboratory medicine at BUSM, was recognized for providing quality laboratory services after an on-site inspection completed this past spring. CAP’s rigorous laboratory accreditation standards are part of a program that has long been considered the gold standard.

Angela Reffel, PA, Section of Gastroenterology at BMC, is a recipient of the 2004 American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases’ Nurse Practitioner, Physician’s Assistant Clinical Hepatology Fellowships. The fellowship provides salary support during a one-year postgraduate hepatology training program for physicians’ assistants and nurse practitioners in a clinical outpatient setting so that recipients may develop a specialization in clinical hepatology.
BU announces $1 million job-training initiative

BU President ad interim Aram Chobanian, MD, and Boston Mayor Thomas Menino recently announced that BU will fund a $1 million job-training initiative providing biomedical research and biotechnology job training to approximately 100 Boston residents.

This new BU job-training program will prepare Boston residents for some of the job opportunities created by new laboratories being built on the medical campus, including the biosafety laboratory, as well as by the growing biotech industry in Boston. The initiative is a major expansion of BUMC's CityLab Academy, a nine-month program that prepares students who have a high school

continued on page 6

BUSM's class of 2008 steps into medical profession

First-year BUSM students (from left) Jenny Li, Amy Lightner, Denita Lima and Luke Macyszyn prepare to take the Hippocratic Oath.

Held on Sept. 3, the event opened with greetings from Phyllia Carr, MD, associate dean of Student Affairs and associate professor of medicine at BUSM; and Robert Witzburg, MD, associate dean, director of Admissions and professor of medicine at BUSM.

Witzburg noted that this year's class is the most diverse group in all of BUSM's history, consisting of students from 23 countries, Olympic- and professional-level athletes and volunteers

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October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

As part of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, BMC's Breast Imaging Center has developed special internal and external initiatives to encourage women to obtain mammograms.

Throughout October, the Breast Imaging centers at both the Newton and Menino pavilions will offer all female BUMC employees their yearly mammograms on a walk-in basis.

Appointments may also be scheduled in advance by calling (617) 414-MAMO (6266).

"We want to encourage all women at the medical center to come and have their mammogram done—and also to bring their sisters, mothers or friends," said Deborah terMeulen, MD, chief of BMC's Breast Imaging Section and assistant professor of radiology at BUSM. Women who are screened this month at BMC will also receive a free carnation.

As part of BMC's educational outreach, the display case on the second floor of the Newton Pavilion will feature information on breast cancer prevention.

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The Center for HIV/AIDS Care and Research at BMC has awarded a $2.25 million grant to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to lead a coalition created to provide more efficient HIV prevention projects throughout Boston neighborhood health centers. The center, which oversees all HIV/AIDS services at BMC, provides comprehensive primary care services to newly diagnosed or underserved HIV-positive patients, and also conducts large-scale testing, education and intervention efforts for high-risk HIV-negative patients. The Center for HIV/AIDS Care and Research Coalition will provide targeted outreach, counseling, HIV testing and referral services to underserved, high-risk individuals in six health centers and their communities. Along with BMC, the following community health centers comprise the coalition: Boston Health Care for the Homeless; Mattapan Community Health Center; East Boston Neighborhood Health Center; Dorchester Community Health Center; and the Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center. This unique collaboration will allow HIV counseling and testing activities to serve the specific needs of different target populations. The CDC estimates that 25 to 30 percent of people living with HIV in the United States do not know they are infected. This poses individual health risks, puts the community at risk and sustains the transmission of HIV. Statistics show that Boston has the 10th highest case rate from the CDC's national case-rate data, with a 59 percent increase in cases among heterosexuals in recent years, according to Massachusetts Department of Public Health HIV-surveillance data. The grant will enable each health center to employ one full-time BMC HIV counselor dedicated to its individual site and community. The program is composed of six academies, each of which has proven expertise in mentoring students. Upon entering their first year, students join an academy of their choosing, and are assigned an academy advisor. Students within the same academy also have come up to me and said 'this is wonderful,' she said. "It draws them into the academic experience of our students. It makes us all much more of a community, being involved together in this," she added.

The program offers students advice and role models. The Academies of Advisors program is composed of six academies, each of which has six core advisors who are BUSM faculty with proven expertise in mentoring students. Upon entering their first year, students join an academy and are assigned an academy advisor. Additionally, advisors-at-large at a supplementar for students within the same academy also serve as peer advisors to students in the class that follows them. "All kinds of avenues are opened to students while they are here. But they're so busy with their studies, they sometimes don't have time to pursue them or to figure out who they should talk to about things," said Phillips Carr, MD, associate dean for Student Affairs and associate professor of medicine at BUSM. Having a mentor who knows the school and the medical profession helps students maximize their education, she added.

Second-year student John Solaris, who was assigned Carr as an advisor, has already asked her for advice on 2004 summer programs and plans to turn to Carr for help as he progresses through medical school. "Residency positions are all competitive," he said. "You want to make the right moves at each step of the way." To date, Carr has received positive feedback from both students and faculty about the program. "Professors who've been here for years have come up to me and said this is wonderful," she said. "It draws them into the academic experience of our students. It makes us all much more of a community, being involved together in this," she added.

In the future it helps to talk to someone who knows the profession, who knows the school and who knows the medical profession. It helps students maximize their education, she added. Advisors-at-large at a supplementar for students within the same academy also serve as peer advisors to students in the class that follows them. "All kinds of avenues are opened to students while they are here. But they're so busy with their studies, they sometimes don't have time to pursue them or to figure out who they should talk to about things," said Phillips Carr, MD, associate dean for Student Affairs and associate professor of medicine at BUSM. Having a mentor who knows the school and the medical profession helps students maximize their education, she added.

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**FUND HONORS YOUNG 9/11 VICTIM**

MC has received a gift of $200,000 from Eunice and Lee Hanson to support the work of BMC’s Division of Pediatrics. The donation was made in honor of their two-year-old granddaughter, Christine Lee Hanson, who died along with her parents among the victims of the hijacked planes that were flown into the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. Christine’s parents were the Hansons’ son, Peter Hanson, MBA, a 1994 graduate of BU’s Graduate School of Management, and Sue Hanson, MA, PhD ’02, who was a researcher and graduate student at BMC’s Division of Graduate Medical Sciences.

The Christine Fund will assist the Division of Pediatrics by supporting research initiatives, innovative health care services, and programs such as the Family Advocacy Program and the Child Witnesses to Violence Program.

In August 2003, the Hansons also created the Christine Lee Hanson Treatment Room at BMC as a tribute to the memory of their loved ones lost on Sept. 11, 2001. The redesign of this room created a friendly environment for children undergoing painful procedures, brightening the treatment area, and providing equipment, such as DVD players, to distract young patients during long procedures.

We are deeply touched by the efforts and generosity of our friends, the Hansons,” said Susan Stein, vice president of Development at BMC. “Their ongoing generosity and vision will be of enormous help to our pediatric research, as well as to our brave young pediatric patients.”

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**Risk of suicidal behavior similar among users of different antidepressants**

According to a recently published BUMC study, the risk of suicidal behavior increases in the first month after starting antidepressants and is similar among users of four antidepressant drugs.

Hershel Jick, MD, associate professor of medicine at BUMC, and his colleagues at the Boston Collaborative Drug Surveillance Program, found that the risk of suicidal behavior after starting antidepressant treatment is similar among users of amitriptyline, fluoxetine, and paroxetine, compared with the risk among users of desipramine.

The risk of suicidal behavior is increased in the first month after starting antidepressants, especially during the first one to nine days,” wrote Jick. “We think the most likely explanation for this finding is that antidepressant treatment may not be immediately effective, so there is a higher risk of suicidal behavior in patients newly diagnosed and treated than in those who have been treated for a longer time.”

The study was published in the July 21, 2004, issue of The Journal of the American Medical Association.

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**Presence of diabetes prolongs inflammation**

A recently published SDM study sheds light on the response to infections in people with type 2 diabetes, i.e., diabetes associated with obesity.

The study revealed that controlling a specific protein produced by the body, known as a cytokine, reduces the expression of other cytokines and helps control inflammation. According to lead author, Dana Green, DDS, DMD, professor of periodontolgy and oral biology at SDM, this finding is significant because many complications associated with diabetes trigger an inflammatory response.

Tnemst nonchronic type, cytokines can cause inflammation and damage in soft tissue infections, bice strains and periodontal diseas.

In Green’s study, two groups of laboratory mice—one normal, the other diabetic—were injected with anaerobic bacteria that causes endocarditis. The heart murmur and physical examinations in mice were used to determine the inflammatory response in mice.

Results demonstrated that the presence of diabetes prolongs inflammation. Following infection, the normal mice were able to resolve within three days the ensuing inflammation and stop the heart murmur.

"It may be particularly important in diabetics to consider the impact prolonged inflammation might have on the course of events,” said Green. According to the study, diabetics are particularly susceptible to the detrimental effects of infection associated with inflammation.

The study was published in the August 2006 issue of the Journal of Investigative Dermatology.

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**SPH launches new Web site**

SPH has launched a new Web site that makes it easier for Internet browser to locate information about departments, research and events at the school.

Launched last week, the colorful and interactive new SPH Web site replaces SPH’s earlier Internet and intranet sites. According to Karen Gannon, SPH’s Web master, the school focused on creating a tool that would be especially easy for prospective, new and current students to navigate. Generic topics, such as “careers” and “events,” were incorporated to present information more quickly and easily, for example, than location-oriented terms such as “Office of Career Services”.

The new site also provides resources and services for current students, faculty, staff and alumni. Highlights include links on student life, SPH’s academic departments (both at-a-glance and in-depth), admissions information, and a Calendar link for lectures, committee meetings, social programs and special events. To ensure that the site stays accurate and engaging, each department and office has designated editors who will be responsible for keeping their section’s Web content up-to-date.

With all of Web sites, the SPH Web site will be constantly changing and evolving. We want this to be a useful, attractive and easy tool to use,” said Laurie Lippman, JD, associate dean for Academic Affairs and associate professor of health law at SPH. “We want our Web site to be the first place students, faculty and staff go to obtain information.”
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Marl-Lynn Draiononi, PhD, assistant professor of health services at SPH, gave a poster presentation titled "Internet Use and Quality of Life for Persons with Spinal Cord Injuries" at the recent Annual Conference of the American Association of Spinal Cord Injury Psychologists and Social Workers. At the conference, held Sept. 7-9 in Las Vegas, Draiononi presented her findings on how Internet and computer use affect the quality of life for persons with spinal cord injuries.

Irwin Goldstein, MD, professor of urology, obstetrics and gynecology at BUSM, has been named editor-in-chief of the Journal of Sexual Medicine, the new official journal of the International Society for Sexual and Impotence Research. The journal debuted in August and communicates and disseminates preeminent, peer-reviewed research and information on sexual medicine in men and women to the scientific community.

Alice Jacobs, MD, FAHA, professor of medicine at BUSM and director of the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory and Interventional Cardiology at BMC, will serve as national president of the American Heart Association for the 2004-05 fiscal year. Jacobs was elected president at the association's annual Volunteer Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., this past spring. She will serve as spokesperson for all medical, scientific and public health matters of the association.

Lauren Smith, MD, medical director of the Family Advocacy Program at BMC and assistant professor of medicine at BUSM, has been elected to the board of trustees of the Women's Union, an organization that focuses on promoting economic self-sufficiency for women and their families.

Carol Tobias, MMHS, assistant professor of health services and director of the Health and Disability Working Group at SPH, was a principal contributor to a report recently issued by the Massachusetts Medicaid Policy Institute and titled "Understanding MassHealth Members with Disabilities." The report discusses key policy issues related to the provision and financing of essential services and promotes a broader understanding of the 200,000 children and adults who qualify for MassHealth coverage because of disabilities.

John Wiecha, MD, MPH, director, Distance Education for Health, Department of Family Medicine at BUSM, was a lead presenter at the Capitol Lunch Session to Focus on eHealth Tools for Chronic Disease Management held Sept. 8 in Washington, D.C. The program featured national experts from government, academia and industry, and explored how personal health care records and other monitoring technologies may be used to improve care of those with chronic illnesses.

New Appointments

William Halpin, Jr., executive director of the South Boston Community Health Center, has been named president of Boston HealthNet. Established in 1995, Boston HealthNet is an integrated health delivery system that comprises BMC and 15 local community health centers.

Mary Mitchell has been appointed assistant dean for Research Administration at SPH. Her most recent position was director of Awards Management for Harvard University's Office of Sponsored Research, where she established and chaired several committees focusing on research compliance, operations and policies. A BU graduate, Mitchell has also held administrative positions at BU and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Geralyn Saunders, RN, MSN, has been appointed director, Information Technology Services (ITS) Department at BMC. Saunders, who received both her undergraduate and graduate degrees in nursing from BU, has served BMC for more than 25 years. Saunders' accomplishments during her recent tenure as manager of Clinical Applications at ITS include the implementation of BMC's computerized physician order-entry system, Echipsy.

Ilya Voloshin, MD, has been appointed orthopaedic surgeon at BMC, where his specialty will be shoulder, elbow and sports medicine. He will also be named assistant professor of orthopaedic surgery at BUSM. Voloshin, who received his medical degree from Dartmouth Medical School, recently completed a fellowship at the Center for Shoulder, Elbow and Sports Medicine at Columbia University, and another fellowship this past summer in elbow surgery at the Mayo Clinic. He performed his orthopaedic surgery residency and general surgery internship at the University of Rochester Medical Center.

Grants and Awards

BMC's Breastfeeding Center received the two awards presented at the Annual International Lactation Consultant Association Meeting held recently in Scottsdale, Ariz. Marcy McMahon, RN, IBCLC, won the Outstanding Clinical Program Poster Award for "Pumps for Peanuts - A Hospital Based Initiative to Provide Pumps to Urban Women." This program, funded by BMC's Kids Fund, ensures that all breastfeeding mothers with infants in the NICU obtain a top-quality electric breast pump, regardless of their ability to pay. Laura Beth Chamberlain, research assistant, received the Research Poster Award for her poster "Effect of NICU-based Peer Counselors on Breastfeeding Duration among Premature Infants." This study used data from a BMC Breastfeeding Center study, which showed that peer counselors greatly help improve breastfeeding duration rates in BMC's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, especially among African-American women.

Harold Lazar, MD, director of Cardiologic Surgical Research and an attending cardiothoracic surgeon at BMC, and professor of cardiothoracic surgery at BUSM, recently received a $181,000 grant from the American Heart Association to improve outcomes in diabetics patients during a coronary artery bypass graft procedure (CABG) by optimizing blood-sugar levels.

A colorful mural recently created by 40 patients and staff of the Boston Center for Refugee Health and Human Rights at BUMC now hangs in the center's conference room in the Dowling Building. For more than a year, women and men from seventeen countries worked with an artist to create a welcoming image that includes references to their native cultures and countries of origin.

WE CARE Awards

BMC honors employees and volunteers who have shown exceptional care toward others with WE CARE Employee and Volunteer Recognition Awards.

The winners of the individual employee WE CARE awards for September are Debra Garrett, unit coordinator, Emergency Department and Urgent Care Center, Newton Pavilion; Lawrence Orflina, dosimetrist, Radiation Oncology; Yu Chi O'Rourke, PharmD, operations manager, Pharmacy, Newton Pavilion; and Karen Proctor, program coordinator, Nursing Administration at BMC.

The volunteer recognition award for September was presented to South End resident Esperance Dufaut. Dufaut has helped BMC patients for more than a year, contributing more than 600 hours of service as a book cart and pastoral care volunteer in the Menino and Newton pavilions.
Biosafety Lab planning continues at BUMC

In September 2003, BUMC received a $128 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to build a biocontainment laboratory to be located at BioSquare. The mission of the laboratory is to study emerging infectious diseases, whether they occur naturally or are introduced through a bioterrorism event. It is expected that construction will begin in late spring 2005 and will be completed in late 2007.

Plans to build a Biosafety Laboratory at BUMC are moving forward. As part of ongoing efforts to provide information to the community on the proposed laboratory, a new Web site has been established. Important information, such as fact sheets, frequently asked questions, news articles and links to other resources, can be found at http://www.bostonbiosafety.com. Many activities have also been scheduled to provide further opportunities for the community to ask questions and obtain information on the project. Egbudike Ezedi Jr., director of External Affairs at BUMC, has been hosting office hours at various locations in the South End and Roxbury for interested residents. Also, weekly breakfast meetings are being held to provide others with the opportunity to meet the principal investigators and hear more detailed plans about the laboratory.

Annual lectureship focuses on academic freedom in new era

PH's sixth annual William J. Bicknell Lectureship in Public Health focused on a controversial issue among scientists and researchers — academic freedom in an age of bioterrorism — with a lecture by a world-renowned expert in the field of biotechnology. Rita Colwell, PhD, professor of microbiology and biotechnology at the University of Maryland, delivered the lecture titled "Science, Academic Freedom, and Policy in an Era of Bioterrorism." The event was held in Bakst Auditorium on Oct. 8.

Colwell, former director of the National Science Foundation, discussed the challenges that scientists and researchers now face following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and subsequent anthrax virus mailings. She explained that while most people recognize the tremendous need for science, many worry terrorists could misuse scientific information for deliberate harm. Colwell warned these fears could lead to counterproductive government restrictions, stifling scientific and medical advancement.

"We cannot limit scientific interaction without limiting scientific progress," said Colwell. "Measures that inhibit dialogue impede advancement. Scientific progress is imperative, as our country is ill-prepared to cope with an epidemic."
BMC offers patients access to advanced cancer treatment

BU counseling service comes to the medical campus

Scholarly community

Endoscopy Center broadcasts live for international course
Model diabetic care

A new pilot project created to lower the number of abandoned phone calls made in BMC has made it easier for people who call the hospital to get through to the person or department they want.

"When the caller hangs up before the call is answered because the wait is too long or too much time is spent transferring the call — are a key indicator for measuring customer service on the phone," said Barbara Gilchrest, MD, professor and chairman of Dermatology at BUSM, now available once it has spread beyond the skin," said Barbara Gilchrest, MD, professor and chairman of Dermatology at BUSM, and opposite the Talbot Building. The

For more information, visit http://www.bu.edu/features/shuttle.pdf

James Becker, MD, surgeon-in-chief at BMC, and chairman of the Division of Surgery at BUMC, chairs the Ambulatory Care Standards Sub-Council, whose members include several chairs and leaders from various BMC divisions. "The members were charged with establishing a set of ambulatory standards to help improve customer service and improve the efficiency of outpatient care," said Becker. "The group's members set the phone abandonment standard at less than 3 percent as an achievable goal. "We wanted to set the bar high enough so that a significant improvement would be achieved in those areas with a high abandonment rate, which ultimately would improve customer service," added Becker.

In the first month of the pilot program, after the training, all of the clinics showed a significant reduction in abandoned call rates and one went below 3 percent, according to Hilchey-Masters.

With the program's recent completion, a recommendation will soon be made for a hospital-wide, abandoned-call-rate standard and then rolled out across all BMC's outpatient clinics.

BUMC students named Schweitzer Fellows

Five BU Medical Campus students are among the 130 students selected from across the nation to Schweitzer Fellows for 2004-2005. BUMC students MichelleBoston, Velma Echols, Shana Lee, and Stefani Wolf, are among the 30 students from 25 Boston area health and human service schools selected to participate in the Boston Schweitzer Program. Each student receives a $2,000 stipend to design and carry out a health-related community service project that will assist individuals or communities lacking adequate health services. The fellowships are inspired by the life of Albert Schweitzer, who gave up promising careers in music and theology to work as a physician and established a hospital in what is now the African country of Gabon. Boston, and Schweitzer will work in an after-school program in the Boston Public School system to educate adolescent girls about health and science. Lee, working with Union for Sight, will help organize and conduct eye exams at shelters, schools and other community centers. Khouzam, an international health consultant, will provide outreach to refugee and immigrant families regarding health issues and education. Wolf, a social and behavioral sciences concentrator, will continue his work with Boston Health Care for the Homeless, a Boston HealthNet community health center. A second-year Schweitzer recipient, Wolf will interview homeless people in the Boston area and compile and publish their stories as a means of sharing the human side of homelessness.

With the support of a mentor at both the community site and school, each fellow will work with a local agency and provide at least 500 hours, focuses on educational topics such as nutrition, exercise, stress management, medication design and side effects. The patients gain support from each other, share experiences and help each other through the challenges they face in getting their diabetes under control.

The researchers studied the effects of certain small DNA fragments, also called T-oligos, on aggressive human MM-Melanoma cells on mice with weak immune systems. They discovered that the T-oligos could cause human melanoma cells to undergo extensive apoptosis (cell death), while surviving melanoma cells become more differentiated and therefore less aggressive.

"Melanomas is a deadly disease, resistance to all treatment modalities may have little or no spread beyond the skin," said Dr. Barbara Gilchrest, MD, professor and chairman of Dermatology at BUSM, and principal investigator of the study. "Our research, in the United States, and we very hopeful this finding will provide a novel means of treating melanoma.

The study findings appeared in the September 2004 issue of The PASHER Journal, a publication of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology.
BMC nurses honor World AIDS Day Dec. 1

To honor those affected by HIV/AIDS, BMC's Center for HIV/AIDS Care and Research (CHACR) is inviting friends, family and community members to attend this year's World AIDS Day event on Wednesday, Dec. 1, and participate in a forum and concert that bring together a variety of individuals and groups who share a commitment to fighting the AIDS epidemic.

The forum, beginning at 10 a.m. in the Minot Pavilion, will feature a keynote address by Liz Walker, award-winning journalist for WBZ-TV 4, as well as a performance by Del Soul recording artist Kelly Price. An informational health fair and free rapid-HIV testing will also be provided.

World AIDS Day is an opportunity to heighten awareness and inspire action in the fight against HIV/AIDS, said Paul DeSouza, MD, director of the CHACR at BMC and professor of medicine at BUSM.

"This event provides a means for remembrance and healing, and also increases a deeper understanding of this widespread epidemic."

An added feature to this year's event is the public display of the AIDS Memorial Quilt. A visual reminder of the AIDS pandemic, the quilt has come to symbolize and commemorate millions of lives lost to HIV.

This year's theme: Women, Girls, HIV and AIDS, seeks to address how the inequality of women helps fuel the transmission of HIV and AIDS. Globally, young women and girls are more prone to acquire HIV than men and boys, with studies showing they are 2.5 times more likely to be HIV-infected than their male counterparts. According to Shabot, females constitute a means for remembrance and healing, and also increases a deeper understanding of this widespread epidemic.

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With sponsorship assistance, Dinker, now a second-year student, flew to Kigali, Rwanda, to learn firsthand about AIDS and cancer care in a Sub-Saharan African nation, as well as to better understand how to conduct public health surveys in an international setting.

In agreement with Hospice Uganda, which provides palliative medicine for AIDS and cancer patients, the majority of the care took place in patients' homes and involved pain management and symptom control. "It was an extremely humbling experience," he said. "I learned how to better care for the sick and dying. I also gained a deeper appreciation for holistic medicine and integrating the emotional, physical, spiritual and social aspects of sickness, disease and death."

While there, Dinker also conducted an informational public health survey about current attitudes and beliefs concerning HIV/AIDS. Of the approximately 60 people he surveyed, nearly all of them were aware of misconceptions about transmission and understood how they might contract the disease.

"This was the perfect opportunity to blend medical work, public health work and a phenomenal international experience," said Dinker. "Overall, it was a great experience, and I hope the results of my survey can have some small benefit to future education and treatment in the region."

BUSM student travels to Africa to help the terminally ill

This past summer, John Dinker '07 was one of many BUSM students who traveled to other countries to enhance their medical skills, learn languages and help others.

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BUSM student John Dinker (right) stands with Dr. Abraham, one of the physicians at Hospice Uganda, in front of the walk-in to clinical facility.

Lectureship focuses on academic freedom

Golwebl emphasized that open and collaborative research is key to protecting people from bioterrorism. Barriers that block the free flow of scientific information will, she added, undermine the best defenses against bioterrorism and put the general public at risk. "Unintentionally, in a letter to a Nobel laureate, I offered different perspectives on some issues and answered the questions from the audience."

The William J. Bicknell Lectureship in Public Health was established by William Bicknell, MD, MPH, professor of international health at SPH, and professor of socio-medical sciences and community medicine at BUSM. The lectureship is intended to stimulate innovative and rigorous thinking and renew student and faculty commitment to making a difference in the lives of the poor and underserved.

""Today, successful leaders must be able to shift their goals and not focus on narrow pathways. Kathy understands the shifting sands of the current health care environment and is always willing to listen to a new idea or forge ahead toward a newly developed goal. Although she is very flexible, she never forgets the overriding principles of high quality and safe nursing care."--Michael Davidson, RN, MS, MBA, board chairman, Bicknell Lectureship Fund

November

BMC benefit weekend

Representations from BMC's insurance benefit vendors will be on hand to provide information on their programs, and experience a drawing for a trip to New York City. Nov. 15, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Pine Street Inn. Meet April 40 to 70 to pick up your survey for cancer care, as well as high blood pressure, cholesterol and diabetes. For more information, call (617) 638-6108.

Premier cancer screening

BMC's Division of Otolaryngology is offering a free cancer screening on Nov. 15, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Pine Street Inn. Meet April 40 to 70 to pick up your survey for cancer care, as well as high blood pressure, cholesterol and diabetes. For more information, call (617) 638-6108.

Public Health Forum

This month's PF public health forum will feature Kathryn McKenzie, PhD, director of the EPA's Office of Exposure Assessment, Chronic Disease, Prevention, Periss and Toxic Substances. McKenzie will speak about working as a statistic in a regulatory role at the EPA, and the various approaches being used to level the playing field. The forum will take place in BUSM's Instructional Building, Room 115, on Wednesday, Nov. 17, from noon to 1 p.m. For more information, call (617) 638-6280.

Piano concert

A tribute to the late Armenian-American pianist, born in 1863,逝 in 1947, and remembered as the 'Forgotten Heroine of Normandy,' will be held on Nov. 15, at 7 p.m., in the Pine Street Inn. General admission is $15, $10 for students. For more information, call (617) 638-4672.

December

BMC Holiday Choir

The BMC Holiday Choir will perform a variety of Christmas favorites on Nov. 17, from 6 to 9 p.m., in the Pine Street Inn Chapel. The choir, composed of BMC staff and medical students, will perform an average of 12 concerts per year in various locations throughout the Greater Boston area. For more information, call (617) 638-6910.

Dear readers ...

The Combined December 2006/January 2007 issue of MedCenter News will be published in mid-December.

BMC nurses honor World AIDS Day Dec. 1

To honor those affected by HIV/AIDS, BMC's Center for HIV/AIDS Care and Research (CHACR) is inviting friends, family and community members to attend this year's World AIDS Day event on Wednesday, Dec. 1, and participate in a forum and concert that bring together a variety of individuals and groups who share a commitment to fighting the AIDS epidemic.

The forum, beginning at 10 a.m. in the Minot Pavilion, will feature a keynote address by Liz Walker, award-winning journalist for WBZ-TV 4, as well as a performance by Del Soul recording artist Kelly Price. An informational health fair and free rapid-HIV testing will also be provided.

World AIDS Day is an opportunity to heighten awareness and inspire action in the fight against HIV/AIDS, said Paul DeSouza, MD, director of the CHACR at BMC and professor of medicine at BUSM.

"This event provides a means for remembrance and healing, and also increases a deeper understanding of this widespread epidemic."

An added feature to this year's event is the public display of the AIDS Memorial Quilt. A visual reminder of the AIDS pandemic, the quilt has come to symbolize and commemorate millions of lives lost to HIV.

This year's theme: Women, Girls, HIV and AIDS, seeks to address how the inequality of women helps fuel the transmission of HIV and AIDS. Globally, young women and girls are more prone to acquire HIV than men and boys, with studies showing they are 2.5 times more likely to be HIV-infected than their male counterparts. According to Shabot, females constitute a means for remembrance and healing, and also increases a deeper understanding of this widespread epidemic.

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With sponsorship assistance, Dinker, now a second-year student, flew to Kigali, Rwanda, to learn firsthand about AIDS and cancer care in a Sub-Saharan African nation, as well as to better understand how to conduct public health surveys in an international setting.

In agreement with Hospice Uganda, which provides palliative medicine for AIDS and cancer patients, the majority of the care took place in patients' homes and involved pain management and symptom control. "It was an extremely humbling experience," he said. "I learned how to better care for the sick and dying. I also gained a deeper appreciation for holistic medicine and integrating the emotional, physical, spiritual and social aspects of sickness, disease and death."

While there, Dinker also conducted an informational public health survey about current attitudes and beliefs concerning HIV/AIDS. Of the approximately 60 people he surveyed, nearly all of them were aware of misconceptions about transmission and understood how they might contract the disease.

"This was the perfect opportunity to blend medical work, public health work and a phenomenal international experience," said Dinker. "Overall, it was a great experience, and I hope the results of my survey can have some small benefit to future education and treatment in the region."

BUSM student John Dinker (right) stands with Dr. Abraham, one of the physicians at Hospice Uganda, in front of the walk-in to clinical facility.
Richard Babayan, MD, chief of Urology at BMC, and professor and chairman, Department of Urology at BUMC, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the American Urological Association (AUA). Babayan will represent the AUA's New England Section, and has previously served as that section's treasurer and president.

Gerald Keusch, MD, assistant provost for Global Health at BUMC, was selected to serve as the U.S. Chairman of a National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) working group overseeing a bilateral Indo-U.S. vaccine program. Keusch, associate dean for Global Health at SPH, assumed the chairmanship at a meeting of the program's Joint Venture Group, held in New Delhi, India, in September.

Winnie Roche, JD, MEd, assistant professor of health law at SPH, has been appointed by Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney to serve as a member of the Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund Commission. The commission acts as the final authority in reviewing expenditures from the fund, which was established as a safety net for families who live in the Commonwealth.

Rebecca Silliman, MD, PhD, MPH, chief of Geriatrics at BMC and professor of medicine at BUSM, is one of six academic leaders nationwide to be selected for participation in the John A. Hartford Geriatric Leadership Scholars Program for the 2004–2007 term.

Elaine Ullian, BMC president and CEO, has been appointed to serve on the board of the Advisory Committee on Veterans Health Administration Resident Education. The committee was established to provide advice and consultation to the U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs on reassessment of physician resident positions in relation to future veteran health care needs. Ullian’s appointment runs through July 2006.

Gary Young, JD, associate professor of health services and co-director of the Program on Health Policy and Management at SPH, presented “Evaluation of Rewarding Results” to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on Sept. 8 in Baltimore. Young presented preliminary results from data collected as part of a federally supported evaluation of seven demonstration sites that are testing effects of offering providers financial and non-financial incentives to achieve quality targets.

New Appointments

Patricia George has been appointed director of Information Technology Services (ITS) at BMC. Since 1994, George worked with Partners Information Systems, where she most recently served as corporate manager of Enterprise Services in Information Systems, focusing on the Skilled Nursing Division, Mental Health Services, and the development of integrated clinical applications.

Leonard Gottlieb, MD, chairman emeritus of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at BUSM, has been named director of Hillel Programming at BUSM. Gottlieb will also assume the role of faculty advisor and director of the Hillemson Society, BUSM’s Jewish student society.

Jane Mendez, MD, has been appointed assistant professor of surgery at BUSM and recently joined BMC as a new breast surgeon for the Section for Surgical Oncology. This past summer, she completed a Breast Fellowship at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Mendez received her medical degree from Mount Sinai School of Medicine, where she also performed a surgery residency from 1992-1998. From 1998-2003, she was an instructor of surgery at New York Medical College.

Jane Mendez, MD

Awards and Grants

The Alzheimer’s Disease Clinical Research Program at BUSM was one of five nonprofit groups to receive an annual award presented by Trans National Group, a Boston-based company that specializes in charter vacations. At a recent special ceremony, the program’s director Robert Green, MD, MPH, professor of neurology and genetics at BUSM, accepted the $5,000 donation presented by the company’s chairman and founder Steve Belkin. Belkin is also a member of BMC’s Board of Trustees.

Ruben Azocar, MD, anesthesiologist at BMC and assistant professor of anesthesiology at BUSM, has received the 2004 Anesthesiology Teaching Recognition Award, Honorable Mention, from the International Anesthesia Research Society. The award recognizes Azocar for his “superb teaching ability and extraordinary contributions to education in anesthesiology.” The award will be formally presented next March at the society’s 79th Clinical and Scientific Congress in Honolulu.

BMC received one of 14 awards from the U.S. Department of Justice to establish a Family Justice Center. BMC’s Chief Witness to Violence Project will participate in the project.

Thomas Perls, MD, MPH, director of the New England Centenarian Study (NECS) at BUMC, received a five-year, $3.7 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to support ongoing research of exceptional longevity among families with at least one living centenarian. The NECS is the largest genetic and social study of centenarians and their families in the world. Perls is also associate professor of medicine in the Geriatrics Section at BUSM and directs the outpatient Geriatrics Consultation Clinic at BMC.

Gene Stollereman, MD, professor emeritus of medicine at BUSM and professor emeritus of health services at SPH, received the Infectious Diseases Society of America 2004 Mentor Award. The award recognizes individuals who have served as exemplary mentors and have been exceptional in guiding the professional growth of infectious diseases professionals. Stollereman received the award at the society’s Annual Meeting held recently in Boston.

SDM awards

SDM recently announced recipients of three of the school’s awards for 2004.

Carole Green, senior administrative secretary in the Department of General Dentistry at SDM, received the Goldman Award for Distinguished Service. Greene joined the school in 1986, holding several positions along the way, and now works closely with more than 80 clinical faculty and staff members.

Carolyn Mills, who joined SDM in 1998, is the staff recipient of the school’s Community Award for Excellence. In her current position as manager of the fifth-floor Patient Treatment Center, Mills sees the patient coordinators at SDM’s predoctoral patient treatment center on the fifth and sixth floors and directs student-patient assignments.

Bruce Robinson, DDS, assistant professor, Department of General Dentistry, and clinical director, predoctoral patient treatment center at SDM, received the school’s faculty Community Award for Excellence. Robinson joined the School’s Division of Oral Diagnosis in 1991.

WE CARE Awards

BMC honors employees and volunteers who have shown exceptional care toward others with WE CARE Employee and Volunteer Recognition Awards.

The individual employee WE CARE Recognition Awards for October are:

Chris Andry, PhD, administrative director, Pathology, Madeline Banks, administrative coordinator, Cancer Care; Veronica Garcia, practice assistant, Geriatrics; and Cathy McDonough, RN, nursing information technology education coordinator.

The WE CARE Volunteer Recognition Award for October was presented to Pam Sass, Esq., a volunteer attorney from Belmont who has used her legal experience and skills in direct service, research and systems work to serve patient families in BMC’s Family Advocacy Program.
BUSM to participate in landmark Alzheimer's study

Project is part of $60 million partnership launched by the National Institute on Aging

BUSM has been chosen by the National Institute on Aging (NIA) as one of 50 sites across the United States and Canada to participate in a groundbreaking effort that will track the progression of early Alzheimer's disease.

The research is part of a $60 million, five-year public-private partnership known as the Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative recently launched by the NIA in conjunction with other federal agencies, private companies and organizations.

As part of the initiative, researchers will use magnetic resonance imaging to scan brains, as well as other tests to track people who have either early stage Alzheimer's or a milder type of memory loss known as mild cognitive impairment. Additionally, researchers will utilize blood samples to look for biological markers of disease onset and progression.

The project — the most comprehensive effort to date to combine neuroimaging and other biomarkers for cognitive changes associated with mild impairment and Alzheimer's — aims to identify relationships among the data that will track and predict the progression of memory loss from its earliest stages. The study could help researchers and clinicians develop new treatments and monitor their effectiveness, as well as lessen the length and cost of clinical trials.

In April 2005, investigators will begin recruiting about 800 adults, aged 55 to 90, to participate in the research that will follow approximately 200 cognitively normal older individuals and 400 people with mild cognitive impairment for three years, and 200 people with early Alzheimer's for two years.

"The Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative represents a powerful commitment by the federal government and private industry to understand and identify the earliest changes that take place in the brain with Alzheimer's disease," said Robert Green, MD, MPH, professor of neurology and genetics and co-principal investigator of the project at BUSM. "It is the largest study of its kind that has been undertaken to date, and should provide new targets for preventing and slowing this devastating disease."

We are delighted to be a part

continued on page 7

BMC celebrates construction of the J. Joseph Moakley Building

BMC employees, donors and trustees joined Sen. Edward Kennedy, Congressman Edward Markey, Boston Mayor Thomas Menino and members of the Yawkey Foundation board on Nov. 29 for a topping-off ceremony of the J. Joseph Moakley Building. Throughout the morning, BMC employees and dignitaries signed a ceremonial beam that was erected and placed atop the steel frame of the building. Construction is scheduled for completion in spring 2006.

The ceremony typically involves placing the last major steel beam on the structure and placing a fir tree atop the beam.

The J. Joseph Moakley Building will consolidate cancer care for patients and allow BMC to expand cancer care delivery. The building will fill a major gap in

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BUMC cancer expert named to Grunebaum professorship

Douglas Faller, MD, PhD, director of the Cancer Research Center at BUMC, has been named the first recipient of the Karin Grunebaum Professorship in Cancer Research at BUSM.

Faller, who is also professor of medicine, pediatrics, biochemistry, microbiology, and pathology and laboratory medicine at BUMS, as well as vice chairman of the Division of Medicine at BMC, has made numerous contributions to the medical and scientific literature.

"We are thrilled that Dr. Faller is the first person named to the Grunebaum professorship," said Andrew Culbert, Esq., former chairman of the Karin Grunebaum Cancer Research Foundation. "We are very happy that the first recipient is someone as committed to excellence in cancer research as is Dr. Faller."

continued on page 7
Grant helps neglected, vulnerable children

BMC recently received a $100,000 pledge from the TJX Foundation that will help the hospital’s Child Protection Team respond to the needs of abused and neglected children.

Created in 1999, the Child Protection Team is a multidisciplinary group of professionals from BMC who meet weekly to review and consult on cases of suspected child maltreatment. Co-directed by Irene Tien, MD, assistant professor of pediatrics at BUSM, and Beny McAlister Groves, LICSW, director of the Child Witness to Violence Program at BMC and assistant professor of pediatrics at BUSM, the 17-member team provides social and medical consultation to clinicians and other professionals caring for neglected and abused children. The meetings also allow for a seamless relationship with the Massachusetts Department of Social Services.

“Child abuse cases are inherently complex,” said Tien. “Adequate evaluation of these patients requires cooperation from multiple professionals, including health care, social work, DSS, attorneys and police. Thanks to the generous support of the TJX Foundation, we can continue to foster greater communication between these individuals, ensuring the highest quality of care for abused children.”

Serving children under age 18 at BMC and its Boston HealthNet Community Health Center partners, the Child Protection Team provides care in some of the most tragic cases of child abuse. Research shows that many children who are abused are more likely to abuse their own children. Abused children also have significantly greater physical, behavioral and psychosocial problems than their peers who are not abused.

“This four-year pledge will help us develop and implement prevention strategies, produce education materials for clinicians and patients, and as well as create increased clinical time for the program’s medical staff,” said Tien. “The donation helps us stay close to helping our most vulnerable children.”

The TJX Foundation is part of The TJX Companies Inc., which operates eight businesses, including Marshalls, HomeGoods, TJ Maxx and Bob’s Stores.

Environmental benefits

BUMC donates computers to local community groups

B

UMC recently donated 48 refurbished computers to seven local community and civic organizations. The organizations receiving the computers are the South End Neighborhood Health Center, the Roxbury Boys and Girls Club, METCO, Cape Verdean Community Unit, the Visiting Nurse Association, Boston Public Baseball, the Community Worship Center and the Friendly Center.

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The teams created a system that utilizes the technology and to reach next year’s goals of 85 percent compliance.

Teamwork improves diabetic care

Through a dedicated team effort possible by a $156,000 grant from Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, BMC has improved the care of its diabetic patients.

More than 8,000 patients at BMC have diabetes, a chronic disease that causes serious health problems if not controlled. Current recommendations are that diabetic patients take a blood test called Hemoglobin A1C (HbA1c) at least once every six months. The test is used to assess how well a patient’s diabetes is controlled and to guide changes in his or her therapy.

Recognizing the challenge of caring for patients who do not have diabetes, BMC recently increased the number of times the test is ordered from a once a year test to a once a quarter test.

The team created a system that utilizes numerous strategies and centers around direct communications with patients and their families. One strategy involves calling the diabetic patients who are due or overdue for their six-month HbA1c blood test and then sending them to a physician who is accompanied by an order for a test; when the patient comes for the test, a follow-up appointment is scheduled with the provider.

Other strategies include the use of a specially created template in BMC’s Epic system that reminds the physician of upcoming appointments with diabetic patients and their necessary tests. The team will now utilize these strategies, to reach next year’s goal of 85 percent compliance.

The Nutrition and Fitness for Life program helps children and their families make broad improvements in fitness and eating through physical activity, behavior modification, education and assessment of contributory medical factors.

In 2003, the BMC program collaborated with the Dorchester House Multi-Services Center, Johnson HealthNet, community health center, and successfully piloted FAINTGals, a faith-based health education and physical activity program for overweight-12-year-old girls. The New Balance Foundation grant will be used to expand the program to seven additional Boston HealthNet Community Health Centers and also train primary care pediatricians to assess and treat overweight children.

This grant advances the hospital’s efforts in meeting the enormous public health challenge of obesity among young people,” said Yvonne Morris, MS, RD, MPH, administrative director, Nutrition services. “It provides the BMC ‘the help us address excessive pedi­ tric weight among low-income families across the city of Boston, helping to change behaviors while providing a much needed outlet for youth with decidedly limited physical activity and nutrition education options.’

‘We are committed to participating in the fight against obesity and to affecting permanent societal change in the regions in which we have our facilities,’ said Anne Divine, executive vice president, New Balance Athletic Shoe Inc., and founding trustee of the charitable New Balance Foundation.

Begun as a pilot clinic for 17 over­ weight teens in 2002, the Nutrition and Fitness for Life program has placed more than 70 percent of active children also have significantly greater physical, behavioral and psychosocial problems than their peers who are not abused.

‘This four-year pledge will help us develop and implement prevention strategies, produce education materials for clinicians and patients, and as well as create increased clinical time for the program’s medical staff,’ said Tien. ‘The donation helps us stay close to helping our most vulnerable children.’

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SDM holds successful mock accreditation visit

A newly appointed thoracic surgeon at BMC, who has expanded the range of services offered to cancer patients by viewing three thoracic groups in which a new surgical process is not available at BMC and, in some cases, in the Boston area.

SDM Dean Spencer Frankl, DDS, MSD, said that the mock site visits were staged at most the schools in the region to provide feedback on their self-study report and to practice logistics for the actual visit.

The study was published in the October 2004 issue of the Journal of Dermatology.

Vigilant sun protection needs to start early

In a recent study, BUMC researchers investigated whether an intensive intervention program aimed at mothers of newborns would increase sun protection behaviors. The study was published in the Journal of Pediatrics.

Generous servings

Nearly 200 people attended BMC's 113th annual Fund for Thought dinner last Nov. 22 at Wahl's in Cambridge. The successful event raised more than $5 million to benefit BMC's Grow Clinic, which helps children diagnosed with failure to thrive.

BUSH receives $720,000 for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma research

A new surgical technique helps patients with diabetic retinopathy

Researchers compared transscleral function and behavior of 61 children with and without symptoms. Symptoms of sleep-disordered breathing were reported by participating parents included frequent snoring, heavy, loud or noisy breathing during sleep, or observed apneas (brief pauses) during sleep. Researchers also administered an overnight sleep test called a polysomnogram to measure objectively the severity of the sleep-disordered breathing.

"One of the more remarkable findings in this study was that the polysomnography scores were significantly greater in children who had symptoms of sleep-disordered breathing but no actual sleep apneas," said lead author Daniel Guriczak, MD, MPH, associate professor of medicine at BUSM. "Parents need to be aware that their child's sleep could signal serious problems."

The study was published in the March 2007 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Perspective: postingship motherhood

When is the best time for a woman to try to get pregnant? And how realistic is it for a young woman today to expect to delay childbearing into her 40s or even 50s?

Linda Heffner, MD, PhD, chair of the Division of Obstetrics and Gynecology at BMC and professor of obstetrics and gynecology at BUMC, answered this question in a perspective published in the Oct. 2004 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Research IN BRIEF

SDM holds successful mock accreditation visit

In planning for an upcoming accreditation process, SDM recently hosted mock site visits to better prepare the school's faculty and staff.

Next fall, SDM will undergo a comprehensive accreditation process during which consultants from the American Dental Association's (ADA) Commission on Dental Accreditation will evaluate the school's predoctoral and postdoctoral programs. The accreditation process takes place every seven years.

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BMC to develop mental health workplace program

BMC has been awarded a three-year, $1.4 million grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to research and implement a confidential, automated workplace program aimed at better diagnosing and treating mental health disorders among working individuals.

The Telephone-Linked Communications for Detection of Mental Health Disorders in the Workplace (TLC-Detect) initiative will use a computerized telephone system to communicate with employees, evaluate whether they have a mental health disorder, and provide referrals to undertrained and inadequately trained counselors.

Led by Robert Friedman, MD, general internist at BMC, research will focus on the program's impact on workplace productivity. They will also focus on the improvement of symptoms among employees who have diagnosed, as well as undiagnosed and/or untreated, mental health disorders, such as major depression, anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorders, and social phobia.

The confidential system will be developed and refined this coming year by researchers in BMC's Medical Information Systems Unit. Recruitment for participants, expected to take place by fall 2005, will involve mass e-mail and be voluntary within a given organization.

"Mental health disorders are the leading cause of disability in the United States," said Friedman. "While these disorders are treatable, only 16 percent of individuals seek support or treatment.

"This project will focus on educating and motivating employees to engage and remain in treatment, in which turn will help increase workplace productivity and reduce absenteeism," he added.

BMC is one of 57 institutions nationwide to receive a grant from the CDC for developing an effective health promotion and disease prevention program in the workplace.

September 2004

BMC celebrates Moakley Building construction

continued from page 1

cancer care for Boston's minority and low-income residents and also provides a long-needed, state-of-the-art cancer care facility at a central location.

Construction of the building has been supported in part by a $15 million donation by the Yankee Foundation and a $5 million gift by BMC Board of Trustees Chairman Marshall N. Carr and his wife, Mary.
People

BMC was ranked 31st in the recently released 2004 Massachusetts Corporate Reputation Survey, which rated 69 well-known businesses and organizations in the state. Ratings were based from 200 executives at area companies who rated each institution on overall reputation, products and services, social responsibility, ethics and corporate governance, workplace environment and financial stability.

Michelle Bordeu, MPH, was recently named deputy director of the Boston Public Health Commission. Bordeu received her degree in 1993 from SPH, where she was a social and behavioral sciences concentrator. For the past two years, she has served as assistant director of AIM, the AIDS Integrated Model Program in Uganda, a project funded by the Centers for Disease Control and USAID.

Boston MedFlight achieved full accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems, the national organization that verifies critical care transport programs. The achievement recognized MedFlight's success in meeting the most rigorous best-practice standards of the commission, which evaluates factors ranging from training of the clinical crew to maintenance standards to pilot training.

Janet Crimlisk, MS, RNCS, nursing educator at BMC, presented a poster at the 28th Annual Congress of the Society of Otolaryngology and Head-Neck Nurses held Sept. 17 in New York City. Her poster was titled "Standardizing Adult Tracheostomy Tube Sizes: What Are the Clinical and Cost Effective Outcomes?"

Francis Fararay, MD, clinical director, Section of Gastroenterology at BMC, and associate professor of medicine at BUSM, was elected vice chair of the Board of Governors and member of the Board of Trustees of the American College of Gastroenterology at its annual meeting in November. Fararay also serves as the chair of the Patient Care Committee and state governor for the organization.

Barbara Gilchrist, MD, chairman of Dermatology at BMC, and professor and chairman of Dermatology at BUSM, and Daniel Liu, MD, BMC dermatologist and associate professor of dermatology at BUSM, collaborated on a chapter about skin that was recently published in the most rigorous best-practice standards of the commission, which evaluates factors ranging from training of the clinical crew to maintenance standards to pilot training.

Jeffrey Hutter, DMD, Med, associate dean of Academic Affairs and chairperson, Department of Endodontics at SDM, has been appointed commissioner for the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation. During his four-year appointment, Hutter will be involved in all issues relating to predental and postdoctoral dental accreditation. He will also serve as chairperson of the commission's review committee on endodontics education.

Alice Jacobs, MD, director of the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory and Interventional Cardiology at BMC, and professor of medicine at BUSM, discussed the need to restore trust in science and medicine in her first presidential address before the American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions. The meeting was held Nov. 7-10 in New Orleans.

Pushkar Mehra, DMD, director of the Department of Dentistry, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at BMC, and associate professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery at SDM, was a guest speaker at the American Dental Association's 145th Annual Meeting held recently in Orlando, Fla. Mehra was selected to speak as part of the Rising Stars lecture series that is reserved for dental school-based academicians with new concepts and groundbreaking research.

Thomas Ryan, MD, professor of medicine, chairman of Section of Cardiology and senior constant in Cardiology at BMC, was made an honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland at a special ceremony on Oct. 16 commemorating the 350th anniversary of the Royal College in Dublin, Ireland.

Richard Shemlin, MD, chief of Cardiologic Surgery and vice chairman of the Division of Surgery at BMC, was elected vice president of the Massachusetts Chapter of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons for 2004-2005 at the group's Annual Meeting recently held at the Lahey Clinic. The chapter consists of all 50 of the thoracic surgeons who practice in Massachusetts. Shemlin, professor and chairman of Cardiologic Surgery at BMC, will serve as chapter president for the next academic year beginning Oct. 1, 2005.

New Appointments

The Division of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at BMC and the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at BUSM recently appointed several new faculty members. They include, above, from left, Robert Pilstrey, MD, staff pathologist, Anatomic Pathology, BMC, and assistant professor, BUSM; Tom King, MD, PhD, medical director, Molecular Pathology. Anatomic Pathology, BMC, and assistant professor, BUSM; and Lila Joseph, MD, staff pathologist, Anatomic Pathology, BMC, and assistant professor, BUSM.

Samuel Frank, MD, has joined BMC as a neurologist and has been appointed assistant professor of medicine at BMC. Prior to BUMC, Frank completed a National Institutes of Health-funded fellowship in experimental therapeutics with a focus on movement disorders. He also served as an instructor of neurology at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. Frank specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of movement disorders, particularly Huntington's and Parkinson's diseases and dystonia. A 1998 BUSM graduate, Frank received the Robert G. Feldman Prize in Neurology that same year and the Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award in 2001.

Niels Krejci-Papa, MD, has been named medical director and chief cosmetic surgeon of the BU Center for Cosmetic and Laser Surgery and assistant professor of dermatology at BUSM. Before joining BUMC, he was director of Cosmetic Surgery at the New England Medical Center. His specialty training includes research fellowships in plastic surgery at Yale University and dermatology at Stanford University. Krejci-Papa has lectured worldwide and is author of several scientific papers and book chapters.

Elaine Alpert, MD, associate professor of social and behavioral sciences at SPH, and associate professor of medicine at BUSM, received the Family Violence Prevention Fund's Educator Award. The award recognizes an individual's efforts in providing educational leadership and advocacy for health care providers, systems and community entities to improve the lives and safety of those affected by violence and abuse. Alpert received the award at a special presentation during the third National Conference on Health Care and Domestic Violence, held Oct. 21-23 in Boston.

James Becker, MD, surgeon-in-chief at BMC and James UTley Professor and Chairman of the Division of Surgery at BUSM, received the Humanitarian of the Year Award from the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America, New England Chapter, at a special ceremony held Nov. 6 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Boston. Becker is the first surgeon to ever be accorded this honor.

Anna Bissinnette, RN, MS, was named Shattuck City Champion by the Boston Municipal Research Bureau. The honor was presented several announced at a special ceremony held Oct. 28 at the World Trade Center in Boston. Bissinnette is the founder of the Committee to End Elder Homelessness.

BMC was recently awarded $110,000 from Pfizer Inc. and the Gillette Co. to fund the Massachusetts Program in Uganda, a project funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the United States Agency for International Development. The grant, which represents more than a half-million dollars, will support the development of innovative curricula for residents in mental health, public health, patient advocacy, cultural diversity, health care for the homeless and community outreach projects.

Lewis Katz, ScD, Scm, director of the Center for Health Outcomes and associate professor of Medicine at BUSM, was recently awarded a two-year, $750,000 grant from the Centers for Disease Control to examine the quality of care in patients with epilepsy. Dr. Katz's research will facilitate future validated assessment tools that will be used nationally in the treatment and care of epileptic patients.

Eileen O'Brien, executive director of the Elders Living at Home Program at BMC, received the sixth annual Edward L. Cooper Award as Outstanding Advocate from the City of Boston's Commission on Affairs of the Elderly. The award recognizes "dedication, caring and generosity in support of the elder community in Boston." O'Brien was honored, along with other senior advocates, civic and business leaders, at a ceremony held in October at the Parkman House in Boston.

Alan Solomont, vice chairman of BMC's Board of Trustees, was honored as the 2004 Leader in Philanthropy by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Massachusetts Chapter. Solomont and his wife, Susan, were recently awarded a national award for leadership and commitment to the field of fundraising. Solomont was honored at a special breakfast celebration of National Philanthropy Day at the Boston Colonnade Hotel on Nov. 4. Solomont was cited for playing vitally important roles in many non-profit organizations through his active involvement and support, and for his "profound commitment to making the world a better place."

Cancer Research Program: Remco Spanjaard, PhD, associate professor of otolaryngology and research assistant professor of biochemistry at BUSM, $484,940; Seyaj Ghosh, PhD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Cancer Research Center, BUSM, $121,125; and Margarit Maragot, MSc, a PhD student in the graduate program in Molecular Medicine at the University's Division of Graduate Medical Sciences, $90,000. The researchers won the awards in a competitive global competition for novel concepts in breast cancer research.

Angela Jackson, MD, director of Primary Care Training at BMC and associate director for the Boston University Training Program in Medicine, recently received a Title VII grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration. The grant, which represents more than a half-million dollars, will support the development of innovative curricula for residents in mental health, public health, patient advocacy, cultural diversity, health care for the homeless and community outreach projects.