2007-12

MedCenter News:
December/January 2007-2008

https://hdl.handle.net/2144/22917
Boston University
**MED CENTER NEWS**

**DECEMBER 07 / JANUARY 08**

**In this issue**

PAGE 2  Hutter named dean ad interim at GSDM

PAGE 2  Oral-maxillo surgeons offer new hope to patients with complex needs

PAGE 3  Hospital intervention helps those touched by violence

PAGE 5  Albert Schweitzer Fellows return from Africa

PAGE 5  BMC participates in citywide mass-casualty drill

PAGE 6  Nutritionist's diet plan offers combined approach to weight loss

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**BMC PHYSICIANS AMONG BOSTON'S BEST**

BMC doctors were honored in 32 specialties – with some recognized in more than one category – in Boston Magazine’s new list of the city’s best physicians.

The publication’s October issue features an index of 76 medical specialties and subspecialties, and physicians in the Boston area. Of 37 general internists named, 10 hail from BMC – more than any other single health-care institution. In addition, 17 BMC physicians were found in various pediatric categories.

“Our physicians are passionately committed to excellent patient care,” stated Elaine Ullian, BMC president and CEO. “They excel in their professions and are truly among the very best.”

The list was developed by Best Doctors, a local company that polls the medical profession every two years for nominations of physicians in their specialty to whom they would send a loved one.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

**BUSM RESEARCHERS STUDY NEW MEDICATIONS TO TREAT ALZHEIMER'S**

Several new studies at BUSM's Alzheimer's Disease Center are focused on the efficacy of immunotherapy drugs in slowing the progression and reversing the effects of Alzheimer's disease.

Alzheimer's patients have an abnormal build up of a protein called beta amyloid in their brains. The studies are being conducted on patients with mild-to-moderate Alzheimer's disease to examine whether these new medications are capable of slowing down the symptoms of Alzheimer's by decreasing the buildup of the protein.

Current Alzheimer's disease treatments may slow the decline and help symptoms but do not halt brain deterioration, according to Anil Nair, MD, assistant professor of neurology at BUSM and a neurologist at BMC. “Better treatments are needed to halt, reverse and prevent Alzheimer's disease, and the only way to find effective new medications is by carrying out clinical research studies,” he said.

The DHA (Docosahexaenoic Acid) Study, an 18-month trial in progress at BUSM, is examining the effectiveness of treating Alzheimer’s disease with DHA, a compound of omega-3 fatty acids found in certain fish oil and algae, in the hope of slowing the rate of progression and for developing new medications. This study is classified as a Phase III study, which involves large-scale testing (hundreds to thousands of people) to provide a more thorough understanding of the drug's effectiveness, benefits, and range of possible adverse reactions.

The Gammaglobulin Liquid in Alzheimer's Disease (GLAD) Study will use the antibody product obtained from healthy donors that help protect the body against infection and other illnesses to...
"It's a miracle! My life has changed!" said Shirley Flanders, after oral and maxillofacial surgery at BMC performed a total temporomandibular joint (TMJ) replacement that relieved her of long-felt pain.

Pushkar Mehra, DMD, director, and David Cottrell, DMD, chief and chairman of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at BUMC, are among a handful of surgeons in the country with "super-specialized" training in the management of complex facial deformities, including one-stage management of TMJ disorders and associated facial deformities.

After an evaluation, Mehra gave the 71-year-old Flanders an option she had never heard of before—a state-of-the-art surgical procedure where her TMJ condition would be surgically managed at the same time as her sleep apnea—an in surgical operation.

Mehra, who has seen many patients with advanced degenerative joint disease and post-traumatic deformities, recommends the procedure especially for those patients who have had no relief of their symptoms through conventional therapy that involves several operations.

"To the average patient, the most common joint-replacement surgery in hip and knee replacement," stated Mehra, associate professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery at GSDM, "but for patients with chronic facial and joint pain, TMJ replacement—which is partly skull-based, partly lower jaw—is now a viable option."

Tammy Flanders had a developmental face and jaw deformity that could not be corrected with conventional facial reconstructive surgery. Rather than undergo multiple surgical procedures at most other medical centers, the teenager underwent a successful treatment at BMC, similar to Flanders'.

"Additionally," said Mehra, "the combined procedure is easier for patients and families. You avoid three separate admissions and spend less money for health care."

Most patients return home two-to-four days after surgery. They receive specific instructions on diet and then undergo a regimen of customized physical therapy and rehabilitation, with regular follow-up appointments.

HUTTER NAMED DEAN AD INTERIM AT DENTAL SCHOOL

Jeffrey Hutter, DMD, MEd, senior associate dean, professor of endodontics and the Herbert Schilder Chair of the Endodontics Department at GSDM, has been appointed dean ad interim of GSDM.

In 1996, Hutter retired with the rank of captain from the U.S. Navy Dental Corps, after a 21-year career. Prior to assuming his present position at BU, he was director of postdoctoral endodontics at the School of Dentistry, University of Maryland.

At GSDM, Hutter also directs the Advanced Specialty Education Program in Endodontics and previously was associate dean for academic affairs. In addition, Hutter is a diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics and has served in leadership positions in numerous professional associations, including the American Association of Endodontists. He also serves on the Scientific Advisory Board of the Journal of Endodontics.

Emerging leaders

Eljah Cheek, MS (left) and Yu Liu, MPH, have been selected as BMC's Emerging Leaders Fellows for 2007-2008. Cheek and Liu are working with various hospital departments, as part of BMC's 12-month program that enhances minority representation in professional, technical and management areas of the hospital.

Cheek is working in the Ambulatory Patient Access Department, developing policies and procedures that will be used to cross-train employees in various roles within the department. Liu is working the Quality Improvement Department to increase patient compliance with the Congestive Heart Failure Pathway. She will also help establish a standard procedure to ensure that BMC's eligible inpatient population receives interventions for smoking cessation.

NEW AMBULATORY BUILDING PROJECT UNDERWAY

Work will soon begin on two major BMC clinical services building projects on Albany Street.

The first is a two-story-plus-basement addition to the Menino Pavilion that will allow expansion of BMC's Emergency Department (ED). The second project is a state-of-the-art ambulatory center at 725 Albany St. that will be a replacement for the Doctors Office Building and other clinical space. The building at 91 East Concord St. will be demolished to accommodate the New Ambulatory Building (NAB).

In addition to improving and expanding ambulatory space, the new building projects will allow further consolidation of services and accommodate growth in volume.

"Consolidating clinical practices on campus ensures one standard of care practice and facilitates more efficient use of physician and staff time," said Gregory Grillone, MD, acting chief officer, and associate professor of ophthalmology and head neck surgery at BUMC.

According to Grillone, physicians will be involved in all space-programming discussions and in the design of the clinical floors in the new building.

The Menino addition, scheduled for completion in fall 2009, will increase the space by 21,916 square feet. The basement level includes mechanical and storage space. The Menino ED will expand by 11 beds (a 64 percent increase in adult medical/surgical ED beds), and the Radiology Department will gain a second magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) suite. The second floor will be shell space for future expansion of the Menino operating rooms and post-anesthesia care unit.

The NAB will have over 245,000 square feet of space and be nine stories high. The basement level will house radiology and phlebotomy services, IMAP (Internal Medicine Preparative Assessment Clinic) and support space. The first floor will house patient reception, financial services and retail space, while the second floor is designed for a call for patients and staff. Floors three through eight will hold ambulatory clinic services and the ninth floor will contain a new hospital clinical laboratory. The building is expected to be completed in December 2010.

Vehicular access and drop-off to the building will be via a covered two-story entrance off Albany Street. Parking will be available across the street at the 710 Albany St. garage.

HOSPITAL INTERVENTION HELPS THOSE TOUCHED BY VIOLENCE

Since BMC's Violence Intervention Advocate Program started nearly one year ago, more than 70 victims of violence have enrolled in the program, gaining access to an action plan assisting them through the process of discharge, recovery and reintegration into their communities.

"If you don't intervene in a way that addresses what got them in their predicament to begin with and help them move forward, they're just going to end up right back into the same situation," said Thea James, MD, Emergency Department, director of the Violence Intervention Advocate Program.

We don't just treat them and then give them a list of places to call for help. It's a lot of hand holding with the victims and their families."

After James and her staff of two violence-intervention advocates make contact with patients and express their support, they begin to establish a liaison between medical staff and the patient's friends and family. A screening tool is then used to determine if an action plan based on the patients' needs, which often are education, employment and mental-health counseling.

"The goal is for them to leave with some tools to help them, and some of them have been touched by violence suffer from post traumatic stress after the injuries they've sustained," said James.

The program has developed partnerships in the community with organizations that provide education, counseling and job training, education, mental-health counseling and life skills to victims of violence. Patients are also assigned a primary care physician if they do not already have one.

"We provide them with the tools, information and opportunities they need that will make it possible for them to make a different choice and make them capable of contributing to society," explained James. In addition, the program recently collaborated with the Brigham and Women's Institute in hosting a two-week training session on bringing violence-intervention advocates to Massachusetts General Hospital, Lawrence General Hospital, UMass Memorial Medical Center, Brockton Hospital and Bay State Medical Center, as part of a three-year, $600,000 grant awarded the institute by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. BMC advocates continue to assist each other with weekly conference calls, site visits and networking.

Men cook for women's health

Marshall Carter Jeff, chairman of BMC's Board of Trustees, and former Speaker of the House Thomas Finneran, chair of the 7th annual Boston Cook for Women's Health. The event, held in Codman Square, raised more than $425,000 for women's health services at the Codman Square Health Center and Dorchester House Multi-Services Center—both BMC Healthcare community health centers. Carter, along with Gov. David Paterson, Lt. Gov. Tim Murray, Boston Mayor Tom Menino, and Peter Hayles, vice president for operations at BMC, were 'grills' for the evening, serving food and drinks from more than 20 Boston restaurants to the 1,000 people in attendance.
RESEARCH IN BRIEF

Many African HIV patients drop out of vital treatment

According to a recent study by BUSPH researchers, more than one-third of patients receiving HIV medication in Africa die or discontinue treatment within two years.

The study was a systematic review of published reports on the retention of patients on antiretroviral treatment (ART) in sub-Saharan Africa. The researchers analyzed reports published during the past seven years that gave details on adult patients remaining on antiretroviral treatment for at least six months in 13 sub-Saharan countries.

"For ART to work, HIV-infected individuals whose immune systems have been damaged by the virus have to take antiretroviral drugs regularly for the rest of their lives," stated Sydney Rosen, MPH, assistant professor of international health at BUSPH. "If people take ART irregularly or stop taking their medications they may become worse or die, or the viruses they carry may become resistant to antiretroviral drugs."

Ways to improve retention, the authors noted, include treating people with HIV earlier, before they become seriously ill. They also suggested putting more focus on identifying why patients stop treatment and identifying associated issues, such as the cost of drugs or transportation to clinics.

The study was published on Oct. 16 in PLoS Medicine, an open-access journal of the Public Library of Science.

BUSM researchers study influences on central nervous system

BUSM researchers have found that the release of dopamine—a neurotransmitter formed in the brain that is essential to the healthy functioning of the central nervous system—can be influenced by numerous factors.

Factors include input from other neurotransmitters, as well as the reducing/oxidizing state of the cell. The level of oxidation and reduction of molecules reflects conditions within the nervous tissue.

Led by David Farb, PhD, professor and chairman of the Department of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics at BUSM, the researchers studied the relationship between antioxidants, which can protect the central nervous system from oxidative damage, and dopamine.

Increased levels of oxidative damage are believed to be involved in neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s and stroke.

In the brain, neurons communicate with each other via synaptic connections in which signals are transmitted by the release of chemical neurotransmitters from preynaptic nerve axon terminals. Farb and his team examined the release from such terminals of a specific neurotransmitter (dopamine). Inclusion of either of the water soluble sulfhydryl-containing therapeutic agents, N-acetyl cysteine or glutathione, lowered postsynaptic dopamine release by 85 percent; however, the antioxidant vitamin E had no effect on dopamine release.

"Our results suggest that therapeutic doses of certain reducing agents rapidly and reversibly stabilize the release of dopamine and raises the potential for the treatment of oxidative damage in neurodegenerative diseases," said Farb.

The Society for Neuroscience selected Farb’s abstract for presentation at its 27th Annual Meeting, where members discussed new advances in the understanding of the nervous system and its disorders.

Survey shows perceptions of stress among pathology residents

BUSM researchers conducted a nationwide survey to identify stressors perceived by pathology residents.

Pathology residents and residency program directors were asked to rate 17 stressors on a scale of one through five, with five considered most stressful. Unique stressors included faculty favoritism and bias, as well as lack of professionalism among faculty members.

Survey respondents, comprising 35 program directors and 168 residents, acknowledged that perceptions of stress exist in their programs. Both directors and residents identified work overload and variability in faculty professionalism among faculty members.

Program directors acknowledged board examinations, in-service examinations, family and financial concerns, and job opportunities as significant stressors.

"This survey is a preliminary attempt to identify stressors and provide objective data that program directors can use in their quest to orchestrate an ideal pathology residency program," said senior author Ujayi Joseph, MD, associate professor of pathology and associate director of the BUSM Residency Training Program in Pathology.

The survey appears online in the December issue of the American Journal of Clinical Pathology.

ALBERT SCHWEITZER FELLOWS RETURN FROM AFRICA

Two BU Medical Campus students recently returned to BUMC after serving as Albert Schweitzer Fellows at the Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Lambabaraé, Gabon.

In a competitive, nationwide process, Kevin O’Connor, BUSM Class of 2008, was chosen as one of four medical students to serve as a junior physician at the hospital. Meredith Collins, an MMS/MPH student with a concentration in international health, was selected as the single recipient of the 2007 Lambabaraé Public Health Fellowship.

For three months O’Connor worked on the pediatric service of the Albert Schweitzer Hospital, seeing children with sickle cell disease, tuberculosis, malaria and other parasitic illnesses. He also visited outlying villages to help provide maternal and infant care.

"A lot of the difference in the practice of medicine in Gabon as opposed to home can be traced back to the tests we have and don’t have here and how we use them to diagnose and treat disease," said O’Connor.

Collins spent almost five months at the Albert Schweitzer Hospital’s Community Health Outreach Program, which provides village-based health care, including maternal/child health, HIV/AIDS education and prevention, tuberculosis education, and malaria prevention and treatment.

Meredith Collins's service was marked by her dedication to the patients and the hospital staff. "It was a wonderful experience that will stay with me for a long time," said Collins.

Collins also served as a 2005-2006 Schweitzer Fellow volunteering at the International Rescue Committee of Boston, an organization that focuses on refugee and immigrant health.

Fourth-year BUSM student Kevin O’Connor (right) and Dr. Diana, general internist at Albert Schweitzer Hospital, visit a village in Gabon to give prenatal care, weigh babies, administer vaccinations and treat illnesses.

"Meredith took advantage of an important opportunity to test out and apply the skills and knowledge from her BUSPH training in the real world of public health practice," said Jonathan Simon, DSc, MPH, chair of the Department of International Health and director of the Center for International Health and Development at BUSPH. "Her educational experiences on our campus, coupled with her practical experience in Gabon as a Schweitzer Fellow, prepare her to become an exceptional public health professional."

BMC PARTICIPATES IN CITYWIDE MASS-CASUALTY DRILL

BMC was one of 13 area hospitals that recently participated in Operation Ready 2007, a citywide mass-casualty exercise created to simulate emergency preparedness and response.

The drill, held Oct. 27, tested the emergency response capabilities of Boston Logan International Airport, as well as local, state and federal agencies, and the ability of those agencies to communicate effectively with each other during a crisis. The main objective of the exercise was to challenge emergency medical teams to transport hundreds of casualties from the tarmac to area hospitals, and the ability of those hospitals to effectively and efficiently manage the surge of victims.

The scenario simulated a runway collision involving two airplanes at Logan Airport. In addition to the hospitals, more than 400 volunteer victims, 1,000 emergency Personnel, approximately 50 ambulances, 25 fire apparatus, two helicopters, 20 buses and eight boats participated in the exercise.

BMC activated a Phase C-disaster response, as dictated by the hospital’s Emergency Response Plan, and initiated procedures that included activating its Incident Command System, opening the Incident Command Center, and mobilizing equipment, materials and staff throughout the institution to operate casualty care areas to treat the victims and create additional critical-care and in-patient capacity. The hospital received almost 100 patients; of these, 27 were identified as critically injured, 27 seriously injured and the remainder as "walking wounded."

"The drill gave us an opportunity to test our critical care surge capacity, as well as the systems that support it," said Maureen McMahon, RN, MS, assistant director of medical nursing at BMC. "Overall, we were pleased with our ability to swiftly respond to the medical needs of the victims, while at the same time continuing to provide exceptional care to our patients. We also were able to identify several opportunities for improvement so that we may be better prepared to handle a crisis."
NUTRITIONIST'S DIET PLAN OFFERS COMBINED APPROACH TO WEIGHT LOSS

Caroline Apovian, MD, director of the Nutrition and Weight Management Center at BMC, was one of the primary researchers involved in the clinical trials to confirm the benefits of the active ingredients in Alli™, the only over-the-counter weight-loss aid approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Alli™ contains Lipase, a digestive enzyme that breaks down fat in food so that it can be absorbed, stored and used by the body as needed. Alli™ also contains orlistat, an ingredient used to prevent the absorption of fats from the diet, reducing caloric intake.

"Alli™ helps to overcome the common pitfalls that many people run across when starting a diet without the assistance of a medically supervised weight management program," said Apovian.

Apovian has developed a reduced-calorie, low-fat plan in her book, The Alli™ Diet Plan—your essential guide to success with Alli™. The plan consists of three phases to maximize weight loss and is designed to balance fat intake throughout the day. Apovian's book includes a fitness plan and more than 200 recipes for healthy meals, as well as strategies for staying fit and tips for keeping the weight off.

The diet plan is meant to complement the use of Alli™, to help those who want a lifestyle change, explained Apovian, associate professor of medicine at BUSM. "Alli™ is not a magic pill—losing weight and keeping it off requires hard work, and the diet plan can help ensure success.

In addition to weight loss, researchers have found that dieters who took Alli™ had a greater decrease in cholesterol and blood-pressure levels.

For more information, visit www.myalli.com.

STUDENT EFFORTS MAY HELP RECOVER MISSING CHILDREN

Boston-area parents now have a new tool to aid in the recovery of missing children thanks to GSDM's recently relaunched chapter of the Student National Dental Association (SNDA). The My Child Identification Program (CHIP) is held annually to aid in the rescue and recovery of Boston area children.

According to the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, a child goes missing every 62 seconds in the United States. More than 800,000 children are reported missing each year, and another 500,000 go missing without ever being reported.

In September, SNDA members took dental impressions and mouth swabs to obtain DNA of more than 75 children, ages two to 15, at Roxbury Community College. Parents will hold onto these impressions and swabs, which will help identify their missing children in the event of a kidnapping or disappearance. Children also were given the opportunity to be videotaped and have their voices recorded to aid families in their recovery efforts.

"Although the event was a success, more families need to be aware of programs like My CHIP," stated Kimberly Haynes, DMD '99, chapter vice president, SNDA. "We can not continue to ignore the blemishes of our society, especially when it comes to protecting our children."

In addition to dental impressions, the FBI recommends that parents have a recent photo of their children at all times.

BMC HealthNet Plan
Commonwealth Care—Leading the Way in Insurance Reform

As the first year of insurance reform came to an end, BMC HealthNet Plan maintained its leadership position in its efforts to bring health-insurance coverage to Massachusetts residents.

As of late 2007, more than 130,000 people had enrolled in Commonwealth Care, with 55,000 choosing BMC HealthNet Plan Commonwealth Care. BMC HealthNet Plan now has nearly 220,000 members overall, making it the largest plan in the state covering both Commonwealth Care and MassHealth recipients.

"Enrollment in Commonwealth Care statewide has far exceeded anyone's expectations," said John Cragin, BMC HealthNet Plan's senior director of Commonwealth Care. "And that's true for us at the Plan as well."

Despite this success, there is still much work to be done. Massachusetts residents who do not have health insurance by Dec. 31, 2007, face tax penalties from the state. These penalties amount to $279 per individual when filing a 2007 Massachusetts income tax return.

To reach uninsured residents at the grassroots level, the Plan has participated in numerous community events and in the formation of a workplace initiative to reach employees who may not have insurance through their employers.

The Plan also has been working to help BMC staff in patient financial services and registration to communicate to eligible patients the importance of signing up for insurance. The Plan encourages all BMC staff to help educate free-care patients about the significant penalties of not enrolling in a health-care plan.

For information on enrolling, call the Commonwealth Care Connector at 1877/MALENDI or BMC HealthNet Plan at 18800/792-4355.

- From BMC HealthNet Plan

CALANDER

December 2007

Religious observances
Services listed below for Christmas and New Year's Day will take place in the BMC Interfaith Chapel, second floor, Newton Pavilion. They also will be telecast on the hospital's television channel 6.

Dec. 25

Jan. 1
- Ecumenical service — The Rev. William Alberts, BMC chaplain, will conduct a New Year's Day ecumenical service at 11 a.m., Tuesday, Jan. 1.
- Catholic Mass — The Rev. Roger Bourgeois will celebrate a Mass in honor of the Feast Day of Mary at noon, Jan. 1.

February 2008

6 Student research symposium
BUSM's seventh annual Medical Student Summer Research Symposium takes place Wednesday, Feb. 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the Hebert Lounge. Students participating in the program will discuss their research from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. For more information, call (617) 438-4167 or send an e-mail to abdelak@bu.edu.

6 Public health forum
Frances Venter, MD, president of the Southern Africa HIV Clinicians Society, is the featured speaker at a public forum sponsored by BUSM's Department of International Health. Venter's presentation is titled, "The AIDS Crisis in Africa: What Crisis?" The event, which is free and open to the community, will take place Wednesday, Feb. 6, from noon to 1 p.m., Room 101, Instructional Building. For more information, call (617) 414-1423 or send an e-mail to jostelh@bu.edu.

A flu-free community
Alan Silin, RRT, BFFT (left), a respiratory therapist at BMC, receives his flu vaccination from Francois Venter, MD, Senior Medical Director of the Department of Occupational and Environmental Medicine at BUMC. During the hospital's Community flu shot program, more than 3,000 BMC employees, physicians and BUMC students received the vaccine on Nov. 1. A second day of flu shots was held with a total of 450 shots administered to the community BMC serves.

Physicians and nurse practitioners from BMC's Office of Occupational and Environmental Medicine joined students from BUMC and other local medical and nursing schools in administering the vaccine. Employees wishing to receive a flu shot should call (617) 438-8409.

SAVE THE DATE!!
12th ANNUAL BMC GALA
May 10, 2008
Seaport World Trade Center
PEOPLE

Joseph Blansfield, RN, NP, coordinator, Trauma Program; Bob Czarniak, RN, Surgical Intensive Care Unit; Jamie Kirby, RN, West, Mark Pomerleau, RRT, Radiology; and Jack Twomey, RN, Emergency Department, recently returned to BMC after serving an 18-month tour of duty in Iraq as part of the 399th Combat Support Hospital.

Janet Eagan, RN, MS, clinical instructor, critical care at BMC, is participating in an eight-hour program that reviewed how to interpret 12-lead electrocardiographs and apply changes to the clinical presentation of a cardiac patient. The event, organized by Nursing Education International Concepts, was held Nov. 10 in London.

Davidson Hamer, MD, associate professor of international health at BUSM and professor of medicine at BUSM, and colleagues recently published an article in the Journal of the American Medical Association. The article was titled, Improved Diagnostic Testing and Malaria Treatment Practices in Zambia.

Brian Jack, MD, vice chair of the Department of Family Medicine at BMC and professor of family medicine at BUSM, was recently named Patient Safety Investigator of the Month by the Patient Safety Research Coordinating Center, U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Through the Re-Engineered Discharge Process, Jack and his colleagues are working to reduce inappropriate readmissions, increase patient satisfaction and promote primary care services in the community after a hospital stay.

Jacob Joseph, MD, FACC, associate professor of medicine at BUSM and director of the Heart Failure Program at VA Boston Healthcare, presented a plenary lecture at the World Congress on Heart Failure in Budapest. His topic was the role of an elevated blood-homocysteine level as a risk factor for heart failure. The conference, which assembled over 400 experts on the role of homocysteine and human disease, was held in Saarbrucken, Germany.

Robert White, PhD, chair of the Department of Environmental Health and Safety at BUSPH and professor of nutrition at BUSM, was a featured speaker at this year’s meeting of the Child Neurology Society. White spoke on neuroimaging methods for detection of toxin-related brain damage in children in her talk titled, Using Functional MRI to Understand the Effect of Prenatal Methymercury Exposure. The event was held in Quebec City.

Gail Wilkes, MS, RNC, clinical instructor, Nursing at BMC, recently published several articles, including Peripheral Neuropathy Related to Chemotherapy, which appeared in Seminars in Oncology Nursing.

Grants and Awards

Daniel Alford, MD, associate professor of medicine at BUSM and medical director for the Massachusetts Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral and Treatment program at BMC, recently received the Nywester-Dole Award from the American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence. Alford is considered an expert in policy development and best practices for opioid treatment. The award was presented at the organization’s recent national conference.

Jacques Denis, hospitalist assistant, Pediatrics Unit at BMC, was selected as the People First Team Member of the Year by Morrison Management Specialists, which manages BMC’s Food and Nutrition Services. Denis was honored for his commitment to caring for people and unwavering dedication to service and quality. He was one of only six individuals from a nationwide pool of more than 16,000 employees.

Steven Perlman, DDS, MScD, associate professor of pediatric dentistry at GSDM, received the Man of the Year Award from the East Midlands Association for Retarded Citizens, a nonprofit organization assisting people and families of those with disabilities. Perlman, who serves as global clinical director of Special Olympics Special Smiles, was recognized for his’“exceptional dental care to people with disabilities locally and around the world.”

A team of faculty and staff at BUSPH’s Department of Health Policy and Management and the Center for Health Quality, Outcomes and Economic Research, Veterans Affairs, in Bedford, Mass., received the Peter Reimerstein Prize for the best article published in the International Journal for Quality in Health Care in 2006. Alfredo Selim, MD, senior scientist, Center for Health Quality, Outcomes and Economic Research, is lead author of the article titled, Use of Risk-Adjusted Change in Health Status to Assess the Performance of Integrated Service Networks in the Veterans Health Administration. The award was presented by the International Society for Quality in Health Care Inc.

BMC received a $442,852 grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The award will facilitate access to substance abuse treatment for individuals through prevention and treatment for HIV. Alexander Valley, MD, attending physician, General Internal Medicine at BMC, is principal investigator.

WE CARE Awards

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

WE CARE Employee Recognition Awards for October were presented to Yolanda Breunes, certified nursing assistant, 6 East, Menino Pavilion; Robert Epps, lab support specialist, Laboratory Medicine; Rhonda Johnson, unit coordinator, Emergency Department, Menino Pavilion; and Marlene Stewart, practice assistant, Obstetrics/Gynecology at BMC.

The employee awards for November were presented to Kathleen Byrne, RN, Emergency Department, Pediatric Walk-In Unit; Karen Gunter, birth sister, Midwifery Program; Anne Joseph, technologist, Radiology/Nuclear Medicine; and Linda Rockwood, RN, staff nurse, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at BMC.

The WE CARE Volunteer Recognition Award for October was presented to Obinna Orji, a volunteer for C’s Project Breathe, certified nursing assistant, 6 East, Menino Pavilion; John Gittinger Jr., MD, associate professor of medicine, Psychiatry; and Jennifer Hester, volunteer, 6 East, Menino Pavilion.

WE CARE Volunteer Recognition Award for November was presented to Delores Adams, table server, 6 East, Menino Pavilion; Stephanie Lee, lab support specialist, Laboratory Medicine; and Linda Rockwood, RN, staff nurse, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at BMC.