1992-06

Connections: June 1992

https://hdl.handle.net/2144/23100

Boston University
BUMC/UH staff put their hearts...and 'soles' into Walk for Hunger

With 200,000 hungry Massachusetts children serving as their inspiration, some 300 Medical Center employees participated in this year's Walk for Hunger on a picturesque Sunday in May. Most of those who took part opted to walk, while others served as volunteers at a first-aid stop, a lunch stop and at a pre-registration session that was held in the Atrium Lobby on the morning of the event. The boisterous BUMC/UH contingent—the largest organized group ever to walk from the Medical Center—raised upwards of $17,000. By turning out such a large number of participants, UH trounced by a 2-to-1 margin its proclaimed competition, Massachusetts General Hospital. Weeks before the walk, the Hospital had challenged MGH to see which institution could turn out the most walkers, volunteers or pledges.

At press time, the spirit and generosity of BUMC/UH employees prevailed during the “From All Walks of Life” AIDS pledge walk on Sunday, May 31. Look for complete coverage in next month's Connections.

Free concerts in Blackstone Square start June 24

Boston University Medical Center/The University Hospital has pledged $25,000 annually to help restore three South End parks to their former elegance. In celebration of this commitment, members of the Medical Center community are invited to attend a series of free summer concerts in Blackstone Square that will be sponsored by BUMC/UH.

The first concert, to be held on Wednesday, June 24, at noon, will be performed by the New Black Eagle Jazz Band.

An enriched 'brand name':

In July 1, 1962, a new force in Boston academic medicine, called “Boston University Medical Center,” was created by The University Hospital and Boston University to reflect the institutions' joint commitment to improved patient care, medical education and medical research.

To celebrate and build upon the effectiveness of that 30-year collaboration, a new identity for the Hospital—Boston University Medical Center/The University Hospital—will come into effect on July 1, 1992. Two weeks later, on Thursday, July 16, members of the Medical Center community will celebrate that they are proud to be BUMC at BUMC's Tenth Annual Ice Cream Social (see story, page 7). To help promote the new identity, employees will receive 24-ounce water bottles, carrying the BUMC/UH logo.

Although UH and Boston University School of Medicine had been closely associated for nearly a century prior to 1962, creation of the Medical Center enriched the existing relationship by permitting greater collaborations and attracting talented clinicians, researchers and academic leaders in medicine, and with them, an outstanding support staff.

According to Donald R. Giller, UH vice president of external relations, the Hospital now is "sharpening its image" by including Boston University Medical Center in its identity. "We are adopting a new public identity that is intended to support public and professional awareness of the Hospital's staff, employees and programs. The new identity builds upon our 30-year partnership with BUMC.

"Measurable evidence points to the fact that Boston University's medical programs enjoy widespread positive recognition," Giller noted. "By identifying our institution as Boston University Medical Center/The University Hospital, we are aligning ourselves with a 'brand name' that will better clarify our identity internally as well as externally," he concluded.

Employees honored at service-recognition events

The monthly newspaper of The University Hospital • June 1992

Employees honored at service-recognition events

The University Hospital
88 East Newton Street
Boston, Massachusetts
ANATOMY OF A BUILDING:

Research building takes its shape in steel

The following is an account of recent construction activity taking place at the Boston University Center for Advanced Biomedical Research, the first building under development in the planned University Associates Medical complex on Albany Street.

The Boston University Center for Advanced Biomedical Research is no longer just a design on a blueprint. Two thousand tons of structural steel have been hoisted into the upper segments of the emerging structure, giving form to the crane. Ironworkers guide them into position as the development in the planned University Associates medical complex on Albany Street.

New bicycle-storage area to be located near Lot A

A new bicycle-storage area for employees and students will be established near the entrance to Lot A, as part of the new configuration of the Medical Center's Albany Street parking lots. The area will be secured and monitored by the Lot A attendant.

The new storage space will replace the bicycle racks that currently are located at the entrance to the School of Medicine. A rack outside of the Hospital's Emergency Department remains available for use.

Phase II: New Parking Configuration

UP AND AWAY: Workers guide a steel beam into the air by crane for the Boston University Center for Advanced Biomedical Research.

New parking rates take effect July 1; repurposing under way

New parking rates will be introduced on July 1 to the Medical Center Lots A, C, D, S, and T. The rates represent an up to five-person increase depending on the parking lot, according to John Sullivan, director of the Office of Parking and Transportation Services.

The new rates are as follows: Lot A/S: $16.96 per week or $77.32 per month, Lot C: $7.75 per week or $33.45 per month, or pay $85.65 with the purchase of a 20-coupon booklet; and Lot D/T: $19.48 per week or $84 per month.

Meanwhile, new permits will be issued through the end of June to employees and students who park in those lots. Permits are available to complete and return their parking confirmation data sheets. The information is due back to the Office of Parking and Transportation Services by Tuesday, May 30. The new permits may also be picked up at the parking office located in the School of Medicine's Research Building, Room 102 (I-102), or they may be mailed to employees upon request.

World Class Commuting Day is a 'match' for BUMC employees

W orth Commuting Day struck a chord in some 500 employees who stopped by the H-2 bridge on Friday, May 15, to learn about alternative modes to the car for commuting to work. Of the 500, several hundred employees signed up to participate in a computer database that matches people up for carpooling.

The event was the latest effort by the BUMC and Boston City Hospital, commuters to reduce the number of cars being used to commute to the medical area daily. The goal of the group, called the Interinstitutional Transportation Management Association (ITMA), is to reduce the high level of air pollution caused by automobile emissions in the Boston area and to reduce the traffic congestion approaching the city and the medical area.

A schedule, a large pop corn machine, and raffle prizes on the H-2 bridge, employees pick up brochures providing information about commuting options and the devastating impact of auto emissions on the quality of life in the area. There was information about carpooling, vanpooling, vanpooling, and taking public transportation.

The employees who signed up for Ridershare, a ride-matching database operated by CARAVAN for Commuters, Inc., will learn about people from their home or work area with whom they could commute to work. Representatives of the ITMA, the Commuter Buses, Commuter Bus Carriers, and representatives of the Central Artery/Third Harbor Tunnel project were also on hand.

To encourage people to participate in the event, preferential parking spaces were given to cars carrying three or more commuters and cyclists and runners were offered free access to showers in the South End Recreation Center for the day, compliments of the Boston Area Bicycle Coalition and representatives of the Central Artery/Third Harbor Tunnel project.

LOOKING TO SHARE THE RIDE: Hundreds of commuters turned out for World Class Commuting Day to register for Ridershare, a non-matching database, and to learn more about communting alternatives to driving solo.

UH selected for landmark study of breast-cancer drug

be University Hospital has been selected as one of 100 sites in the United States and Canada that will participate in a clinical trial of a new breast cancer drug, a drug that is considered to have the potential to prevent breast cancer.

The two-year study, led by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), will involve 16,000 American and Canadian women age 35 and older who are at an increased risk for developing breast cancer. The participants will take tamoxifen each day for five years and will be monitored for seven years.

"The Massachusetts medical community is extremely excited to be participating in clinical research of such potential consequence," says Maureen Flaherty, M.D., a UH surgical oncologist and a member of the NCI committee that designed the study. "Without new preventive measures, 1.5 million women in the United States are expected to be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer in this decade," she says. "The potential number of lives to be lost, perhaps as many as 30 percent of those women diagnosed, is staggering."

Kavanah and Maureen Prat, M.D., a medical oncologist working with the U.S. Section of Surgical Oncology, have been named as principal investigators of the NCI study. Both women serve as codirectors of the Breast Health Center at Boston University Medical Center/The University Hospital.

Tannenbaum has been used for almost 20 years to treat women with advanced breast cancer, and since 1985, has been used as adjuvant, or additional, therapy after radiation and/or surgery for breast cancer in its early stages. It has been shown not only to prevent recurrences of breast cancer, but also to prevent the development of new cancer in the opposite breast.

Improved outlook for breast-cancer patients

In 1992, an estimated 105,000 American women were diagnosed with breast cancer. Of that number, about 45,000 will die. The good news is that the outlook for breast cancer has improved dramatically over the years. Between 75 and 90 percent of breast cancers can be cured if they are detected in their early stages. Fifty percent of all breast cancers are cured.

In addition to its potential benefit for preventing breast cancer, tamoxifen may also be helpful in preventing osteoporosis and cardiovascular disease, an important consideration when tamoxifen is given as an adjuvant to breast cancer treatment.

"There are some peculiarities about tamoxifen," says Prat. "One is that not only does it prevent estrogen from binding to breast tissue, but it also acts like estrogen. So we think that it may have a role in preventing bone loss and may possibly affect blood lipids and, potentially, cardiovascular disease.

CANCER AWARENESS DAY: held on Wednesday, May 27, culminated a month-long effort by the University Associates membership to highlight the importance of early detection and prevention of breast cancer.

The efforts have been focused on two sites: the University Hospital and the Boston Flower Exchange. Those who stopped by the Atrium for a slice of cake also were treated to a variety of scenes that were prepared by staff of the Department of Food and Nutrition Services.

CHARTER DAY CELEBRATION: Hospital President J. Scott Almen-Dersen, Jr. and executive vice president for operations Jacobson of the Boston Children's Hospital, during the Hospital's Charter Day, on Monday, May 18. Those who stopped by the Atrium for a slice of cake also were treated to a variety of scenes that were prepared by staff of the Department of Food and Nutrition Services.
The University Hospital sent a symbolic "thank you" to 229 employees honored during Employee Recognition Week 1992, held in May. Employees who have served the institution for five to 30 years, as well as those who have retired, were acknowledged during the week's worth of activities that included a breakfast, two luncheons and dinner and cocktails at the St. Botolph Club on Commonwealth Avenue.

229 honored for dedicated service
Campaign to deter kids from smoking backed by UH

Boston University Medical Center/The University Hospital has lent its support to a statewide initiative to deter children from smoking and encourage adults to quit. The Massachusetts Coalition for a Healthy Future, backed by the local chapter of the American Cancer Society (ACS), is trying to place a question on the November ballot asking voters to approve a 25-cent-per-pack excise tax on cigarettes. To gather signatures, the ACS estimates its group will need to collect 30,000 new signatures.

The money generated by the tax, an estimated $80 million annually, would be used to educate children about the dangers of smoking and to fund smoking-cessation and other health programs for both children and adults, according to UH oncologist and dermatologist Howard K. Koh, M.D., chairman of the state's ACS Professional Education Committee.

"The prognosis for kids who become addicted before they become adults is poor," says Koh. "This is a very important issue and we just need to get the message to children early, before they're old enough to make bad decisions.

"The ACS is making a commitment to help kids reach a healthier, more productive life, which means a tax on cigarettes."

In the last 30 years, Koh notes, "This is a key issue. We want to look at the numbers and see what we can do."

An estimated 28,000 teenagers will choose not to take up smoking under the new levy, according to Koh.

"The excise tax is a way to break the cycle of smoking."

"We're all aware of the public health dangers of smoking, but we need to get kids to understand that smoking can kill them."

"We're trying to teach the kids the facts and let them choose for themselves."
New UH program focuses on caring for injured employees

On June 1, UH unveiled an Injury Management Program that is designed to ensure that employees who are injured on the job are given proper and attentive care, and that their progress is followed closely until they are able to return to work. Managers recently completed a training program for putting the program into practice. The UH program has been created in response to legislation that was enacted in December—Chapter 98—that revised workers' compensation regulations in Massachusetts.

“We’re very pleased with this program,” says Susan Hancock, vice president for human resources and operations. “The new state law changed the nature of injury reporting and injury management in the workplace, and many people here have responded well in creating a program that will benefit our employees as well as the institution as a whole. However, let me add that our overriding goal is to keep employees safe and well at work.”

The principle that guided the development of the Injury Management Program was the desire to create a personal, effective and responsive system that would improve the quality of the work environment for employees and would send a clear message that employees are the Hospital’s most important resource. The care and attention given to injured employees will range from the assessment and remitting of employees’ medical conditions to regular phone calls made to them by their managers or supervision to keep them abreast of their job situations. Depending on the circumstances, an employee may be reinstated to his old job or to a different position under what is known as “modified work duty.” Employees who are injured while at work will continue to be managed medically by staff of the Occupational Health Program, which assumed the clinical arm of the program several years ago.

Satellite outpatient registration site opens

In an effort to expedite the patient-registration process at UH, a new outpatient registration site has opened on the second floor of the Atrium Pavilion, next to the chapel. The desk is staffed Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and is used to register patients for most procedures at the Ambulatory Surgery and Endoscopy Center on H2.

Ambulatory surgery patients and patients who are admitted and will have their surgical procedures on the first day of their admission will continue to be registered at the main admitting desk, on the first floor of the Atrium Pavilion.

Volunteer Opportunities

The appointment of Patricia P. Barry, M.D., as chief of the Division of Geriatrics, effective this August, culminates a one-year, worldwide search to fill the post. Barry, a longtime physician with the Home Medical Service, will succeed R. Knight Steel, M.D., UH’s first chief of the Section of Geriatrics, who left the Hospital last fall to assume a top post with the World Health Organization.

Barry received her medical degree from the University of South Florida College of Medicine in 1975, and her master’s degree in public health from Boston University School of Public Health in 1976, and her master’s degree in genito-urinary tumors. He received his medical degree from Harvard Medical School in 1982 and his undergraduate degree from Harvard College in 1978.

BUMC mourns loss of Peter Knapp, M.D.

A memorial service was held on Tuesday, May 26, in the Hiebert Lounge for Peter H. Knapp, M.D., a long-time member of the Department of Psychiatry, who died on April 7, at age 75.

In addition to doing outstanding work as a clinician, Knapp was a pioneer in diagnosing psychosomatic and psychogenic illness. Throughout his long and distinguished career, he authored 75 articles and edited four books.

Knapp also served on the editorial boards of several professional journals and was affiliated with a number of professional organizations, including the Boston Psychosocial Institute and the American Psychosomatic Society. A native of Syracuse, N.Y., Knapp received his medical and undergraduate degrees from Harvard University.