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Boston University School of Medicine

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October 2, 1990

Dear Member of the Media,

Members of Boston University's Schools of Medicine (BUSM) and Public Health (BUSPH) will present numerous abstracts on a variety of topics, including helping children cope with the loss of a loved one, the effect of heating prices on childhood malnutrition and the management of teenage acne at the 59th Annual Meeting of the Academy of Pediatrics. The meeting will be held October 5 through 10 in Boston.

Here are brief descriptions of some of the presentations:

- "Failure to Thrive"--Deborah Frank, M.D., an associate professor of pediatrics and an assistant professor of public health at BUSM and BUSPH, will discuss the heat or eat effect or how rising heating costs have contributed to the increase in malnutrition among children. Frank predicts this winter will result in an even greater amount of malnutrition cases because of the rising cost of heating oil and its limited supply. Frank recommends that failure to thrive should be approached as a chronic condition requiring long-term follow-up care under a team of health professionals, not just the pediatrician.

- "Otitis Media--New Perspectives"--Jerome Klein, M.D., a professor of pediatrics at BUSM, found that children at greatest risk for middle-ear infections had a sibling history of recurrent ear infections, were males, were not breast fed and experienced their first middle-ear infection before the age of six months. Klein tested children who experienced recurrent acute otitis media--fluid in the middle ear--and found they scored lower in speech, language and cognitive skills. Klein recommends stronger prevention and treatment for the problem.

- "New Reproductive Technologies: Ethical, Social and Policy Concerns"--Michael Grodin, M.D., Ph.D., the director of the Medical Ethics Programs at BUSM and BUSPH and an associate professor of pediatrics and public health, will discuss the lack of data available concerning the safety and outcomes of the new reproductive technologies. Grodin believes the rights and freedoms of the biological and social parents as well as general societal concerns should be considered prior to implementing these technologies.

- "Crack Babies: The Innocent Victims"--Barry Zuckerman, M.D., an associate professor of pediatrics and public health at BUSM and BUSPH; Michael Grodin, M.D., an associate professor of pediatrics and public health at BUSM and BUSPH; and George Annas, J.D., M.P.H., a professor of health law at BUSPH, will discuss the many issues concerning crack babies, including addiction, medical and developmental outcomes, ethical issues, and what doctors know and don't know.

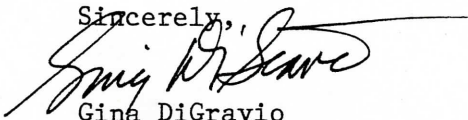
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- "Community and School-based Care for Children with Chronic Illness"--Michael Weitzman, M.D., an associate professor of pediatrics and public health at BUSM and BUSPH, will describe specific pediatric programs designed to provide chronically ill children with the best medical, psychological, social and educational care.

- "The Current Status of Maternal Screenings for Chromosome Defects"--Aubrey Milunsky, M.D., a professor of pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, pathology and biology at BUSM, will present information on a new combination of screenings for Down's syndrome. Milunsky found the combined screening three times more effective than standard screening for Down's syndrome.

If you are interested in any of the above abstracts or would like to interview any of the presenters, please give me or Betty Russell a call at (617) 638-8491.

Sincerely,



Gina DiGravio
Media Specialist
Boston University Medical Center