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2003-06

# MedCenter News: June 2003

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# MedCenter News

BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER, BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS OF MEDICINE, PUBLIC HEALTH AND DENTAL MEDICINE

## CLASS OF 2003 SETS FORTH WITH NEW HOPES AND CHALLENGES

Proud families and friends cheered in celebration as more than 500 graduates of BUSM, SDM and SPH received diplomas at individual commencement exercises on Sunday, May 18.

Commencement speakers offered the class of 2003 congratulations and heartfelt words of advice, as the medical and health care professionals of the future set forth with new aspirations and challenges.

### School of Medicine

Convening at the Boston Marriott/Copley Place, 155 BUSM graduates received their diplomas this year.

BUSM Dean Aram Chobanian, MD, provost of BU Medical Campus, commended the graduating class for its "spectacular academic record" and outstanding residency appointments. He also expressed pride at the amount of community work performed by the graduates.

This year's class included 27 PhD students, of whom 10 were in the MD-PhD program. The dean praised the quality, breadth and depth of their numerous research accomplishments.

After noting the impressive scientific advances of the last several years, such as the rapid identification and genome sequencing of the SARS virus, Chobanian described U.S. health care as still "imperfect in many ways."

"We spend more than \$5,000 per person, per year on health care — \$1.4 trillion — but one out of six people in the United States is without health insurance and access to health care remains spotty," he said. "We cannot forget our obligation to provide health care for all. We must get there somehow."

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SDM graduates, from left (back row), Jesse Engle, Kyle Findly, Michael Dudi Fish, Daniel Funk, Craig Foisie, along with (front row) Maria Fernandes Morais, Erica Bly and Amy Bowman offer "thumbs up" to receiving their diplomas.



BUSM alumna and keynote speaker, Mary Jane England, MD, addresses the graduates.

## \$5 million gift to fund Moakley building

Responding to BMC's commitment to address the disparity in cancer care among Boston's minority and working poor, Marshall Carter, chairman of the Board of Trustees and former chairman of State Street Bank, and his wife Missy have made a \$5 million gift to support the proposed new J. Joseph Moakley Medical Services Building.

The Moakley building will provide consolidated and comprehensive care for cancer patients; enable the hospital to undertake a major redesign and expansion of cancer care delivery, including a critical social service program component; and hopefully lead to marked decreases in cancer morbidity and mortality among its unique patient population.

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## BUSM receives \$7.6 million to create autism research center

BUSM has received a \$7.6 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to establish the Boston University Autism Research Center of Excellence.

One of six medical schools selected by the NIH to develop an autism center of excellence, BUSM will house an integrated, interdisciplinary program that focuses on basic science and treatment research for autism — a severely handicapping disorder that begins at birth or within the first two to three years of life.

Distributed over a five-year period, the grant will help form a center that brings together leading investigators from a variety of disciplines, including neurosciences; psychiatry and pediatric neurology; developmental clinical psychology and psycholinguistics; and fami-

ly studies and social policy. The center will investigate the underlying neurobiological mechanisms of the disease, further the understanding of the development of children with autism, and investigate the reciprocal effects of having a child with autism on family functioning. It will also evaluate the effects of different interventions on children with autism.

"We are extremely proud of the work of Dr. Helen Tager-Flusberg and the other faculty and staff that helped make this grant possible, and grateful to the NIH for funding this important research," said Dean Aram Chobanian, MD, provost of BU Medical Campus.

Helen Tager-Flusberg, PhD, professor of anatomy and neurobiology at BUSM is the principal investigator of

*continued on page 6*

## State awards two grants to HIV/AIDS center

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) recently awarded the Center for HIV/AIDS Care and Research at BMC two grants totaling \$2.8 million for counseling and testing, as well as prevention and education.

"With the state budget cuts, these increased and new awards are a testament to our hard work in making BMC a major site for HIV/AIDS care in the Commonwealth," said Paul Skolnik, MD, FACP, director of the Center for HIV/AIDS Care and Research at BMC, and professor of medicine at BUSM. "This support enables the center to expand its efforts in traditionally underserved communities."

DPH more than doubled its support for the center's counseling and testing program, part of "Project Trust," from \$162,000 last year, to \$380,000 for each of the next five years. This grant targets Boston's underserved communities and will make BMC one of a handful of locations designated as a "comprehensive"

testing site in the state. Although it is only one of about 40 state-funded counseling and testing programs, Project Trust has been responsible for identifying more than 10 percent of new HIV-positive patients found through such programs during the past two years.

DPH also awarded the center a new, five-year prevention and education grant of \$945,000 to support an innovative, nurse-led, peer-driven outreach program for vulnerable and high-risk women in the community. Called Mission Possible, the program will address gender specific and socio-cultural barriers to HIV/hepatitis C (HCV) testing and counseling. It will also conduct culturally competent and sensitive HIV/HCV education and outreach efforts for high-risk women, including intravenous drug users and their partners, in the Greater Boston area. Mission Possible plans to use a portion of the money to purchase a van to go into the community and reach women who might not otherwise come in for testing.

## Kiosk offers information access

In a collaborative effort that will enhance advocacy services for patients, BMC has installed a state-of-the-art information kiosk in the Ambulatory Care Center's pediatric waiting room. The computer kiosk provides hospital patients with quick and easy access to health and social services, goods and other information.

During the past year, BMC's Division of Pediatrics, Project HEALTH and the Family Advocacy Program, along with Project Bread, collaborated with kiosk company CityKi to develop the high-speed Internet kiosk.

Currently, the kiosk has an online food stamp application, health insurance screener, BMC provider information, free e-mail access and links to other useful Web sites.

"Kiosks can be powerful tools that help connect families to critical information and bridge the digital divide," said Michael Tang, Boston site director for Project HEALTH at BMC. "This collaboration with CityKi and Project Bread has created an interactive advocacy tool accessible to hundreds of BMC patients."

## BUSM creates new master's program in mental health

Placing the school as a leader in clinical mental health education, BUSM recently created a new master's degree program that will prepare students for independent licensure as mental health counselors. Developed by the school's Division of Graduate Medical Sciences in collaboration with the Division of Psychiatry and the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, the master of arts degree in mental health and behavioral medicine is the first of its kind in the United States.

The program's primary objective is to prepare individuals in mental health counseling with a complementary background in behavioral medicine and neuroscience. The two-year, 60-credit program combines mental health, behavioral medicine and neuroscience curricula in a hospital and medical school environment. In addition to regular classes, students are required to complete a practicum and internship.

The coursework prepares students to provide clinical services to a range of individuals in a variety of settings. Students are also taught to perform brief assessments and interventions in a medical care environment.

The program, directed by Stephen Brady, PhD, assistant research professor of psychiatry at BUSM, meets the educational requirements for licensure as a mental health counselor in Massachusetts.

According to Brady, students graduating from the program will be able to pursue a variety of careers, including those of independent private practitioners, mental health treatment team members, and consultants to individuals seeking lifestyle changes, such as smoking cessation or weight management.

For more information, contact BUSM's Division of Graduate Medical Sciences at 617/638-5120.

## Laboratory Medicine chief appointed

Barbara Jean Magnani, PhD, MD, director of Clinical Chemistry at BMC, and associate professor of pathology and laboratory medicine at BUSM, has been appointed chief of Laboratory Medicine at BMC.

Magnani said she will focus on improving the general laboratory service at BMC. "Timely result reporting, accuracy of results, and a broad test menu impact patient treatment, length of stay and customer satisfaction," she said. "To achieve these goals, we are bringing in automated systems to reduce both errors and turn-around-times, optimizing the transportation of specimens, which will also reduce turn-around-times, and adding new assays that will improve diagnostic capabilities."

Magnani was previously associate chief of Laboratory Medicine at BMC and began serving as acting section chief last November. She has been at BUMC since 1997, starting as director of Clinical Chemistry at BMC, and assistant professor of pathology and laboratory medicine at BUSM. Her previous appointment was at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School.



Barbara Jean Magnani, PhD

Magnani completed her PhD in oral biology and pathology at the State University of New York (SUNY), Stony Brook, and received her MD from BUSM. She also holds an MS in marine environmental sciences from SUNY Stony Brook and a BA in biology from Hofstra University.

She completed a residency in clinical pathology at New England Medical Center Hospitals and served as administrative chief resident, Clinical Pathology, at New England Medical Center.

Magnani is a consultant to the Regional Poison Control and Prevention System serving Massachusetts and Rhode Island and has been a consultant to Boston's chief medical examiner for forensic toxicology. In 1996, the Massachusetts Poison Control Systems presented her with its Recognition Award for Significant Service, and she received the American Association of Clinical Chemistry's Outstanding Speaker Award in 2002. Magnani was appointed member of the Toxicology Resource Committee for the College of American Pathologists in 2002.

## BMC's EVERYDAY HEROES HONORED

"I am always amazed at how, after 10 hours of work, they find the energy to come to me ... and make sure there isn't one more thing they can do. They are angels, every one." — A grateful patient

As part of the celebration of National Nurses Week, BMC recently honored its more than 1,100 nurses for their skill and compassionate care during a week of events, themed Everyday Heroes.

In a thank you letter to BMC nurses, Elaine Ullian, BMC president and CEO, said, "the theme you have chosen for this year's salute to nursing is so fitting. Indeed at Boston Medical Center, all our nurses are everyday heroes. You are heroes to your patients, whom you care for and make comfortable; you are heroes to patient's families, whom you comfort; you are heroes to the physicians, whom you ably assist; you are heroes to your colleagues, and you are heroes to me."

The highlight of the week was the day-long nursing education program, featuring a presentation by keynote speaker Liz Jazwiec, BSN, RN, CEO of Liz Inc., titled "Nursing: Our Heroic Service."

Several nursing awards were presented at a reception in the Hiebert Lounge on May 7. The fourth annual Peggy Cenci, RN, Memorial Award, which honors a BMC nurse who demonstrates outstanding clinical expertise, compassion and professionalism, was presented to Shioban Nevin, RN, 8 West, Newton Pavilion. Carol Daly, RN, 6 West, Menino Pavilion, was present-

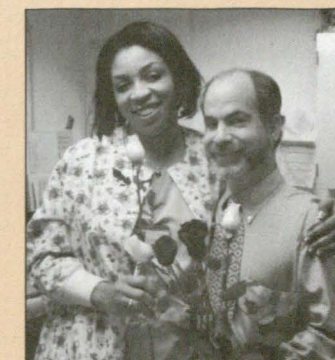
ed with the Anne G. Hargreaves, RN, Award for her commitment to the advancement of the nursing profession.

In addition, the following nurses received Nurse Excellence Awards:

Marsha Adams, RN, NICU, Menino  
Janet Crimlisk, RN, Education, Menino  
Maureen Donnellan, RN, AD/ED, Menino  
Maria Giangregorio, RN, 7 West, Newton  
Patricia Kelly, RN, Endoscopy, Menino  
Sheila Leonard, RN, SICU, Newton  
Jeanne Martin, RN, 5 East, MICU, Menino  
Gertrude Simon, RN, 6 West, Menino  
Kathy Talbot, RN, 7 West, Newton  
John Tocio, RN, Float Pool, Menino



Standing, from left, are Theresa Flaherty, RN, Maureen Frappier, RN, and Joan Sham, MS, RN. Seated, from left, are Pat Dowd, RN, Diane Courtney RN, and Maureen Cooper, RN.



Jeffrey Greenwald, MD (right), general internist, BMC, hand delivers a rose of gratitude to Caroline Onyiriuka, RN, 6 East, Menino Pavilion.

All nursing award winners were nominated by their peers in recognition for their outstanding commitment to patients and the nursing profession. "Today we celebrate who we are, why we do this and why we love nursing," said Kathleen Davidson, RN, MS, MBA, vice president of Nursing at BMC. "It is an opportunity to honor and recognize our everyday heroes."

## SDM given oral care tech

Recognizing SDM's expertise in creating innovations in dentistry, Proctor & Gamble (P&G) has donated emergent technology for treating and preventing gingivitis and periodontitis that could, once developed, help millions of people.

Known as H2 Antagonist Technology, this P&G innovation has shown potential in preclinical and clinical studies and, with further development, could provide significant oral health benefits to millions of people around the world. As sole new owner of the technology, BU will benefit from all future revenues if the technology is successfully commercialized.

"The donation of a partially developed technology allows us to expand our translational research mission of taking technology from the laboratory to the patient," said SDM Dean Spencer Frankl, DDS, MSD. "Our service mission, which in part includes the provision of low-cost care to the community, will be enhanced by a technology that replaces high-cost surgical procedures with a lower-cost medical alternative for the treatment of periodontal diseases."

With its current oral care research focused in other areas, P&G hired an outside consultant to identify the most qualified institution to further develop and commercialize the technology. In addition to SDM's proven track record, the consultant noted that the person who will lead

the future development of the donated technology, Thomas Van Dyke, DDS, MS, PhD, director of the Postdoctoral Program in Periodontology and professor of periodontology at SDM, is an internationally recognized leader in periodontology and clinical trials for oral therapeutics.

"With its widely respected reputation for periodontal research, the Boston University School of Dental Medicine has the skills, staff and resources to continue the development of H2 Antagonist Technology," said Scott Whalen, PhD, director, Technology Division, Oral and Personal Health Care at P&G. "With a little more research and FDA approval, this important discovery may one day play an important role in protecting the oral health of millions of consumers."

Traditional anti-gingivitis and anti-periodontitis treatments use anti-microbial chemicals to kill naturally occurring bacteria in the mouth. The H2 Antagonist Technology enhances the body's protective response by locally blocking the effects of the chemical histamine. Histamine is released in tissues as a result of inflammation and has been shown to reduce the activity of those cells necessary for a protective response to bacterial invaders. Due to the specialized manner by which H2 Antagonist Technology blocks the effects of histamine, it locally enhances the body's natural defense mechanisms in both gingivitis and periodontitis.

## BMC vascular surgeon assists in war effort

Following their recent rescue from an Iraqi prison, seven American prisoners of war were brought to the 865th Combat Support Hospital in Kuwait. Col. Jonathan Woodson, MD, a vascular surgeon at BMC and a U.S. Army reservist, served as deputy commander of clinical services with the 865th.

"I couldn't think of a situation that would justify sending soldiers off to war without an adequate health care system in place, and that means reservist doctors with civilian skills need to participate," said Woodson, a former commander of the Army Reserve 399th Combat Support Hospital. "Urban medical centers in the United States see more trauma patients than most military hospitals — we've got valuable experience that is needed."

The 865th Combat Support Hospital Unit that deployed from its home bases in Utica, Syracuse and Niagara Falls, New York, to run the military wing of this hospital is supported by rotations of "90-day docs" from units across the United States. The rotation is short to lessen the hardship of military service on the doctors and their patients back home.

"We're proud of Dr. Woodson and his services with the U.S. troops," said John Chessare, MD, MPH, senior vice president and chief medical officer at BMC. "He brings a wealth of clinical experience to this role."

Woodson, who volunteered his services in Kuwait, chose to extend his tour of duty at the combat hospital to continue treating troops returning from the front lines.

"I have been thoroughly uplifted by my contact with them," said Woodson of the returned POWs. "Their spirit, their courage, and their high morale — it brings me joy to see how they've banded together to support one another and how resilient they've been in terms of coming back and being integrated into a normal life."

**Researchers find alcohol and medication interactions common, yet unrecognized**

Researchers at BUSM have shown that many patients who report hazardous drinking (drinking amounts of alcohol known to increase the risk for health consequences) simultaneously use medications that could interact negatively with their alcohol consumption. However, the researchers also discovered that discussions about the use of alcohol, and therefore about alcohol and medication interactions, were uncommon between patients and their primary care physicians.

The study involved interviewing patients who drank hazardous amounts of alcohol. Seventy-eight percent of the participants reported use of a medication that could interact with alcohol. However, 37 percent of those reported they did not discuss alcohol with their physician during their visit. Use of a medication that could interact with alcohol did not affect the likelihood of having a discussion about alcohol.

The researchers also found that the unemployed, female patients and those experiencing medical symptoms were more likely to use a medication that could interact with alcohol.

"Screening for alcohol problems is recommended in the primary care setting and counseling can decrease drinking and prevent injuries, illnesses, hospitalizations and even death," said lead author Richard Saitz, MD, MPH, FACP, FASAM, associate professor of medicine at BUSM, and director of the Clinical Addiction Research and Education

Unit at BMC. "That the majority of patients who report hazardous drinking also take medications that can interact with alcohol is yet another reason to talk with patients about their use of alcohol," he added.

The findings can be found in the April 2003 issue of the *American Journal of Medicine*.

**Study finds that 20 percent of HIV patients discontinue medical care**

BMC researchers found that 20 percent of HIV-infected patients from two northeastern U.S. hospitals discontinued their primary medical care within six months of initiation.

The researchers also identified several factors that were similar among the patients who discontinued their care, including higher CD4 lymphocyte counts. "Possibly, patients who feel better (those with higher CD4 lymphocyte counts) avoid regular physician follow-up, or perhaps they or their physician perceive the care to be less essential," said lead author Jeffrey Samet, MD, MPH, chief of General Internal Medicine and vice chair of Public Health at BMC, and professor of medicine at BUSM.

Of the 198 outpatients interviewed at their initial HIV primary care visit, researchers found 40 who did not schedule two or more follow-up appointments in the next six months. When the time period was extended to 12 months to include two or more follow-up appointments, 29 patients had discontinued their care.

Other characteristics associated with discontinuing care included less education, previous jail time and

proximity of the medical site.

The results of this study are reported in the May 2003 *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*.

**Low blood sugar protects diabetics during CABG surgery**

Patients with diabetes who undergo coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery traditionally have more complications following the procedure, including greater risk of heart attacks, more wound infections, and reduced long-term survival. New research, however, suggests that maintaining low blood sugar during surgery can reduce these risks.

New findings by Harold Lazar, MD, attending cardiothoracic surgeon at BMC and professor of cardiothoracic surgery at BUSM, indicate that a glucose-insulin-potassium-solution (GIK) administered during surgery can reduce complications for diabetic patients, which currently account for 25-30 percent of CABG recipients, a number that is rapidly increasing. Presented at the 83rd annual American Association of Thoracic Surgeons Meeting in May, Lazar's study found that maintaining blood sugar at less than 200 mg/dl resulted in fewer complications, shorter hospital stays and longer life for diabetic CABG patients, compared to diabetic patients who received only intermittent insulin therapy and had higher blood glucose levels during their procedure.

**CityLab Academy celebrates graduation**

On May 9, instructors, students, families and friends celebrated the graduation of the class of 2003 at the eighth BUSM CityLab Academy graduation ceremony, held at 801 Albany St.

Thirteen graduates received certificates of completion that will help many of them obtain a job through which they can continue their college education. "The academy has opened doors for me that I would have never even known existed," said graduate Robert Hennessy. "This program has taught me that with hard work and dedication, anything is possible."

BUSM's CityLab Academy offers high school graduates a free, nine-month academic and job skills program in biotechnology. It provides the hands-on experience necessary for college-level work and career placement. Upon successful completion of four courses, as well as laboratory training, job shadowing and job-skill preparation, students earn 12 credits from BU's Metropolitan College.

"CityLab students are predominantly from disadvantaged backgrounds, whether academic or socio-economic," said Connie Phillips, MA, MPH, director of CityLab Academy. "The academy provides them the opportunity and the skills to gain confidence and pursue a better future. We are very proud of our students and wish them the best."

Enrollment is now open for the CityLab Academy's 2003-2004 semesters. For more information or an application, contact Phillips at 617/638-5622 or [cphilli@bu.edu](mailto:cphilli@bu.edu) or visit <http://bumc.bu.edu/citylab>.



From left (top row) are CityLab Academy graduates Nan Lz, Khadija Rhourida, Jean Eveillard and Robert Hennessy; (middle row) Elisabeth Caldeira, Young Harris, Arminda Marroquin and Terick DuPont; (front row) Elisabeth Chiulli, Alisha Josey, Jennifer Deady, Jessi Robinson and Nicole Teabo. At far right is CityLab Academy Director Connie Phillips.

**Supporting new mothers**

BMC's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) is offering a new support group for new mothers of NICU infants that focuses on helping them adjust to their changing roles, as well as providing encouragement and support for breastfeeding mothers.

"The group is for the mothers and families of current and past NICU infants to discuss the issues that they have with their infants, such as breast feeding, transition to home and other issues of prematurity," said Pamela Corey, RN, nurse manager, NICU, Menino Pavilion at BMC.

Facilitated by the NICU staff nurses, with special educational sessions by a lactation consultant and physicians and therapists who specialize in neonatology, the group also provides new mothers the opportunity to bond with experienced mothers and staff by sharing stories and experiences.

The support group is open to all new mothers of NICU infants.

For more information, call 617/414-4359.

**CLASS OF 2003 SETS FORTH WITH NEW HOPES AND CHALLENGES**

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Keynote speaker and 1964 BUSM alumna Mary Jane England, MD, president of Regis College in Weston, spoke of the ongoing transformations to Boston. She described her hometown, between the "Big Dig" and the Leonard P. Zakim, Bunker Hill Memorial Bridge, as a new city, drawing a parallel between these changes to a city considered the hub of medical knowledge and those she said were necessary within health care.

"Boston University School of Medicine and Boston Medical Center have positioned you to be the makers of a new agenda for the new city, and new agenda of universal health care for the new century," said England. "A city or a civilization may accept its unwell condition, but you must not. You belong to the new city that is coming to be, and you are its advocates."

England charged the graduates to be guided by their vocation, rather than party affiliation, but to also be integrators, analysts and political movers, as well as healers. "Finally, then, you personally can bring about significant change because, inwardly and outwardly, you are rooted, after all, in this significant place," concluded England. "I urge you to persevere, to take courage - and to get to work."

**School of Public Health**

SPH Dean Robert Meenan, MD, MPH, MBA, congratulated graduates on their achievements and noted that the School is also marking some milestones. "This commencement is particularly personal for me as I celebrate 10 years as dean," he said. He noted that, in the past decade, the faculty has tripled, the student body has doubled, funded research has increased seven-fold, scholarships have increased five-fold, the percentage of women faculty has increased from 41 to 56 percent and the number of departments has increased from five to eight.

"But by far our proudest achievement every year," he said, "is our graduates who take what they have worked so hard to achieve in academia and go and make a difference in the community."

Commencement speaker Christine Ferguson, JD, commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, told the graduates that the current focus on SARS, bioterrorism, West Nile Virus and smallpox should not be seen as a drain on limited resources, but

as the first opportunity in many years to reinvigorate the public health infrastructure. She said it was also an opportunity to remind the public of the importance of a community response to health threats.

The challenge, said Ferguson, is to communicate what public health professionals do, demonstrate outcomes of interventions in a timely manner and use fiscal resources wisely.

"Effective communication is everything ... there must be a rededication to filling the gaps in access to health information and care," she said. "And let's not forget common sense. The most important public health advice our parents gave us is to wash our hands."

The SPH graduation ceremony took place at the Sheraton Hotel in Boston. Of the 137 students to graduate in May, 129 received MPH degrees, including 14 who received combined degrees in law, arts, social work or business. Four graduates received MSC degrees, and four received DSc degrees.

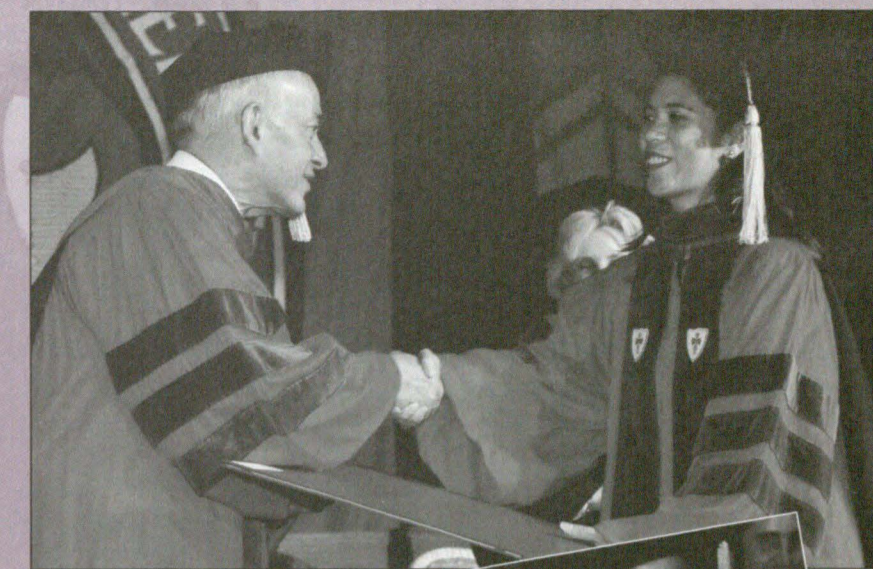
**School of Dental Medicine**

At SDM's commencement exercises, keynote speaker Dominick DePaola, DDS, PhD, president and CEO of the Forsyth Institute in Boston and professor of oral health policy and epidemiology at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, exhorted the graduates to strive for improvements in health care.

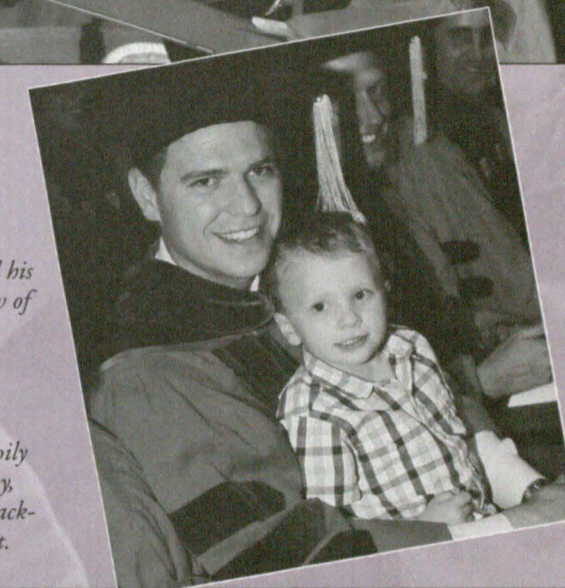
"You have the opportunity to participate in and shape your future," he said. "What you must avoid, at all costs, is to embrace the status quo because you have a responsibility to uphold the public trust as a health care professional."

DePaola reminded the graduates that their profession is not isolated from the rest of health care, higher education, society or the world. "Thus, you have an obligation to maintain your credibility, integrity, creativity, commitment and personal ethic in all you do so that you can enhance the public trust in your ability to care for our global citizens," he said. "This should be your injunction for the future."

Of the 222 SDM graduates who received their diplomas at a ceremony held at Case Center on the Charles River Campus, 147 students received DMD degrees and 75 received postdoctoral Certificates of Advanced Graduate Education, MSD, DSc or DScD degrees.

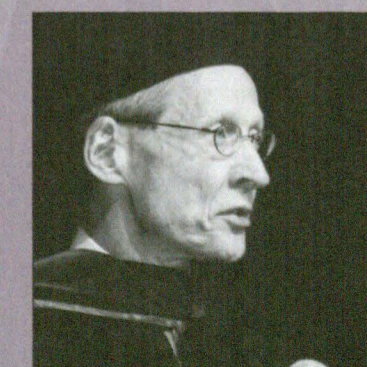


Dean Chobanian congratulates Stephanie Agular.

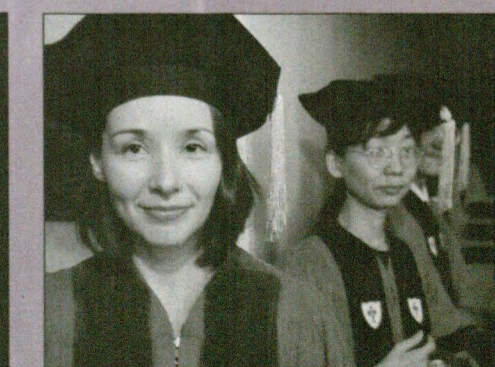


Robert Blocker and his son light up the row of new BUSM grads.

Jocelyn McCree (below) happily anticipates the SPH ceremony, while Matthew Mimiaga (background) shares his excitement.



Dean Meenan addresses the assembly at SPH's commencement.



Yelena Bogdanova (left) is ready for the ceremony, along with Yang Chao and her other classmates from BUSM's Division of Graduate Medical Sciences.

Faculty and Student Awards: page 8

## BUSM hosts Project Medical Education day

Providing congressional staff members with a first-hand glimpse of what it takes to become a physician, BUSM cosponsored Project Medical Education on April 24 and 25.

The program educates congressional staff about the medical education process — the benefits it provides society, its complex funding mechanisms, and the essential role government plays in providing financial support. Participants spend two days assuming the role of medical student, resident and research faculty member.

This year, eight staffers, including representatives of Sen. Edward Kennedy, Sen. John Kerry and Rep. Michael Capuano, took part in the program.

Day one kicked off with staffers participating in a white coat ceremony, where they donned lab coats and were welcomed by BUSM Dean Aram Chobanian, MD, provost of BU Medical Campus. Chobanian provided the "students" with an overview of BUMC and spoke about its research and the unique patient population the medical campus serves. Participants were then directed through a variety of activities, including medical rounds, laboratory research, and scrubbing in for sur-

gery. They also attended lectures on bioterrorism preparedness and hospital economics.

"We hope the participants share their experience with co-workers and use their new found perspective to shape policy that benefits medical education," said Elizabeth Stengel, director of Government Relations at BUSM. "It is critical for Congress and others to understand how policies made in Washington impact medical schools' academic missions, hospitals and the patients they care for."

Congressional staffers were also escorted to lunch by BUSM medical students and took part in a lively discussion with the students concerning health policy. Participant Annie Russo, legislative assistant to Rep. John Olver, found the time with the students especially useful. "The students were candid and taught me a great deal about medical school. I have a greater respect for doctors' training and commitment," said Russo.

Project Medical Education is a national program of the Association of American Medical Colleges. The program at BUSM was jointly run with Tufts University Medical School, Harvard Medical School and their affiliated teaching hospitals.



Maureen McMahon, MS, RN, disaster coordinator at BMC, provides congressional staffers with information about emergency preparedness outside BMC's Emergency Department.

Suzy DuMont, a staffer from U.S. Rep. Martin Meehan's office, receives her Project Medical Education diploma from BUSM Dean Aram Chobanian and Elaine Ullian, BMC president and CEO.



## Hospital honors its volunteers

In recognition of the dedicated efforts of past and present volunteers, BMC held its 13th annual Volunteer Appreciation Night on May 1 in the Newton Pavilion cafeteria.

This year's event featured keynote speaker Jim O'Connell, MD, president of the Boston Healthcare for the Homeless Program, and the presentation of a special volunteer award.

Dan Gorman received the Barbara Levy Pediatric Volunteer of the Year Award, which honors the spirit and dedication of the former pediatric volunteer coordinator, who died in 2001. Gorman has helped bring holiday cheer to

pediatric patients for more than 12 years, often dressing as Santa Claus on Christmas Eve.

This past fiscal year, 720 volunteers logged more than 77,000 hours at BMC. Almost half of the volunteers worked in Pediatrics, 120 in the Emergency Department and 45 in Pastoral Care. Five hundred volunteered in patient care areas.

"Our volunteers are an integral part of the BMC family," said David Hinchey, director of Volunteer Services. "Volunteer Appreciation Night is always a special night to honor some very special people."



BMC volunteers (from left) Sherry Bowman, Nancy McTigue, Joe McHugh, Helen Fidler, Helen Oliver and Joe Oliver enjoy the festivities.

## BUSM receives \$7.6 million for autism

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the grant. According to Tager-Flusberg, current statistics show that autism occurs in all racial, ethnic and social groups and that the number of reported cases of autism seems to be growing in children.

"The establishment of a research center for autism could not have come at a better time. The rate of autism has increased enormously throughout the world, and no one is quite sure why," said Tager-Flusberg. "This grant will help further the understanding of the disease and hopefully lead us closer to better treatments."

The BU Autism Research Center of Excellence will be part of an existing collaborative network, known as the National STAART Centers (National Studies to Advance Autism Research and Treatment) program, investigating autism and other developmental disabilities.

## THE FINISH LINE

On April 21, the following friends and employees of BMC took on the challenge of the Boston Marathon and raised more than \$30,000 for BMC's mission of delivering exceptional care without exception:

Remi Rosenberg, MD, resident, BMC  
Christine O'Brien, MD, resident, BMC  
Marie Seifer, ultra-sound technologist, BMC  
Annie Choquette, manager, Financial Information Systems, BMC  
Zoe Pierce, Choquette's running partner

Beth Manning, MD, MPH, assistant director, Internal Medicine Residency Program, BUMC  
Paul Hendessi, MD, physician, Obstetrics and Gynecology, BMC  
Kevin Duff, husband of Toni Duff, RN, BMC  
Joe and Amy Cuzzupoli, friends of BMC

Individuals interested in running next year's Boston Marathon and raising funds for the medical center may contact BMC's Office of Development at 617/638-8990.

## Boston Foundation helps BMC

BMC recently received two grants from the Boston Foundation to help expand several community programs.

A \$75,000 grant will be used by BMC and its affiliated community health centers in a joint initiative to reduce the epidemic of diabetes by making major systems and clinical improvements. BMC specialists and community health center staff will work to reduce diabetic complications, improve the daily life functioning of diabetic patients, and introduce screening, community-based education and prevention strategies within Boston's low-income, ethnically diverse population.

"Diabetes poses a significant public health challenge for the communities BMC and the Boston HealthNet health centers serve," said Larry Culpepper, MD, MPH, chairman of the Division of Family Medicine at BMC, and professor of family medicine at BUSM. "Diabetes disproportionately affects minorities, especially blacks and Hispanics. Given the current magnitude of the epidemic, it is important that we play an integrated, team-based role in working to reduce the problem in our communities."

The Boston Foundation also renewed a \$50,000 grant given to

BMC's Center for Children at Risk (CCR) last year. The seed grant will allow the center's pilot program, the Advocacy for Traumatized Children Project, to continue to care for traumatized children treated at BMC, while providing a foundation for policy improvement on behalf of traumatized children statewide. A joint effort between the CCR and the Family Advocacy Program, the project has instituted a new model of care for traumatized children that not only provides for treatment, but also for the reduction or elimination of environmental barriers to patient recovery.

"With the generous help of the Boston Foundation, the Advocacy for Traumatized Children Project has so far provided case consultation and intensive advocacy services to more than 35 patient families," said Glenn Saxe, MD, chief of the Section of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at BMC, and assistant professor of psychiatry at BUSM. "Most importantly, we are finding it is improving traumatic stress outcomes in these families."

The Boston Foundation fosters active philanthropy, connecting donors to nonprofit organizations working to improve the lives of the residents of Greater Boston.

## \$5 million gift to fund Moakley building

continued from page 1

Cancer disparities in Boston are dramatic. Among Medicare beneficiaries over the age of 65, the mammography rate is 34 percent lower for black women than it is for white women, and the cancer mortality rate for Boston's black residents is 22 percent higher than the citywide average. The rate of cervical cancer diagnoses among BMC's predominantly minority patient population is also high — 11 of the 19 Boston women who died of cervical cancer in 1999 and 2000 were black. With BMC serving a large portion of Boston's minority community, an investment in the Moakley building, funded by gifts such as the Carter's, can help ease cancer disparities in Boston.

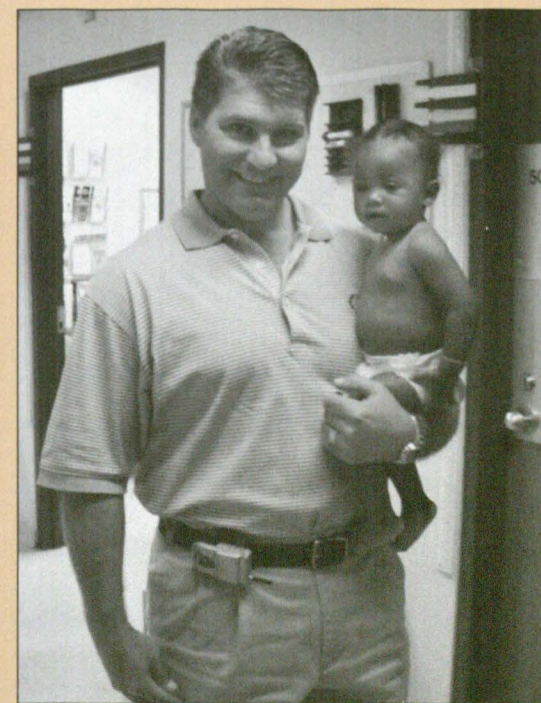
"Boston Medical Center has an unparalleled commitment to make the highest quality care available to all citizens in our community, particularly the underserved, and Missy and I want to help maintain and expand that mis-

sion, particularly for those BMC patients struggling with cancer," said Carter. "Every cancer patient deserves to have the best possible care, and we hope this gift will help to ensure that they do."

"This generous gift will touch thousands of people's lives and make a huge impact on our community," said Elaine Ullian, BMC president and CEO. "Marsh and Missy Carter have always done an enormous amount for this hospital and the people it serves, so this is just one more in a long line of contributions to the health of Boston Medical Center patients."

The Carter's \$5 million contribution kicks off a \$41 million fundraising endeavor with the goal of realizing the vision of the Moakley building. The building is currently in the design phase and ground breaking will take place within the next 12 months.

## Helping children grow



On April 30, Ray Bourque, former Boston Bruins captain, and Michelle Dufort, executive director of the Anthony Spinazzola Foundation, visited children at the Grow Clinic at BMC. Through the annual Anthony Spinazzola Gold Classic hosted by Bourque, more than \$700,000 has been donated to the Grow Clinic since 1992.

CALENDAR

## June

**18 Safety and Infection Control Training**  
Safety and Infection Control Training will be held for BMC employees in the Dowling Amphitheater from 7:30 - 9 a.m. and from 3:30 - 5 p.m. All hospital employees must undergo the training once every 12 months. For more information, call 617/638-8830.

**20 Financial Friday Seminars**  
Ewart McKay from TIAA-CREF will be conducting a seminar titled "Reviewing Your Investment Options" from noon to 1 p.m. in the Human Resources training room, first floor, 85 East Concord St. The seminars are informal "brown-bag" sessions and all employees are welcome.

**24 Employee Service Recognition Program**  
BMC will hold its annual program to recognize the service of its long-time employees from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. in the Hiebert Lounge, 14th floor, BUSM Instructional Building. The employees who will be recognized this year met their five-, 10-, 15-, 20-, 25-, 30-, 35-, and 40-year service milestones between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2002. For more information, call 617/638-8585.

**WE CARE Walk, Oct. 5**  
BMC's third annual WE CARE Walk, which will honor the memory of former hospital chaplain Sister Claire Hayes, will take place on Sunday, Oct. 5. Volunteers are needed to help support the effort. For more information, or to register, visit [www.bmc.org/walk](http://www.bmc.org/walk) or call 617/638-6910.

**MedCenter News**  
will be publishing a combined July/August issue. Look for it on the news racks in mid-July.

# People

**Thomas Moore, MD**, assistant provost for Research and director of the Office of Clinical Research at BUMC, and professor of medicine at BUSM, was elected for a three-year term to the Massachusetts Medical Device Industry Council (MassMEDIC) board of directors at its 7th Annual Meeting in May. Moore becomes one of two affiliate board members who represent nonprofit organizations. MassMEDIC was established in 1996 to promote the interests of the medical device community in Massachusetts.

**Richard Shemin, MD**, chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery at BMC, and professor and chairman of Cardiothoracic Surgery and vice chairman of the Division of Surgery at BUSM, recently presented an abstract at the 9th annual Cardiothoracic Techniques and Technologies meeting in Miami. Titled "U-CLIP™ Anastomoses in Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting — Initial Clinical Experience," the retrospective study compared the outcomes of 59 patients who had CABG surgery using the U-CLIP anastomotic device to 138 similar patients who had the surgery using conventional polypropylene sutures. Shemin's study found the device to be versatile, safe, and associated with excellent late graft patency rates.

## New Appointments

**Cindy Baird-James, MEd**, has been named manager of Surgical Support and Materials for the Operating Rooms at BMC. Baird-

James has more than 20 years experience in central sterile processing management. Prior to BMC, she served for 10 years as director of Central Sterile Processing at the former Boston Regional Medical Center in Stoneham, Mass.

**Michael Bridges, MA**, has been appointed director of Application Delivery in Information Technology Services at BMC. Bridges has spent more than 20 years in health care technology, most recently as vice president of Product Development and Delivery for a cardiology software unit of General Electric Medical Systems.



Michael Bridges, MA

**Cheryl Dunnington, BSN, MS, RN**, has been appointed nurse manager of

BMC's Critical Care units, 5th floor, Menino Pavilion. Dunnington was previously a critical care nurse manager at Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island in Pawtucket, and a clinical research nurse coordinator at St. Elizabeth's Medical Center.

**Gail Spinale, RN**, has accepted the position of director of Nursing,

Perioperative Services at BMC. She has been the nurse manager for Perioperative Services at the Menino Pavilion and for Endoscopy Services at both the Menino and Newton pavilions.



Cindy Baird-James, MEd

## Awards

**The Center for Cancer Care and Blood Disorders** at BMC has been accredited as a research and treat-

ment program by the American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer. Only one in four hospitals that treat cancer receives this recognition for comprehensive, multidisciplinary patient care.

The 2003 BMC Breastfeeding Center's Nourishing the Future awards were presented to **Eileen Duff, RNC**, staff nurse, Labor and Delivery, Menino Pavilion at BMC, and **Benjamin Siegel, MD**, attending pediatrician at BMC and director at Medical Student Education in Pediatrics, and professor of pediatrics and psychiatry at BUSM. The award recognizes Baby-Friendly BMC staff who exhibit excellence in protecting, promoting and supporting breastfeeding.

**Julie Mottl-Santiago, CNM, MPH**, staff nurse midwife, Ob/Gyn at BMC, recently received the 2002 Best Article of the Year Award from the *Journal of Midwifery and Women's Health* for her article titled "Women's Public Health Policy in the 21st Century."



Cheryl Dunnington, MS, RN

**Nicole Prudent, MD, MPH**, co-director of the Haitian Health Institute at BMC, and clinical assistant professor of pediatrics at BUSM, has been awarded the Church of God's Valley of Blessings 2003 Humanitarian Award, for

her commitment to improving the structure of communities throughout Boston.

**Richard Saitz, MD, MPH, FACP**, director of the Clinical Addiction Research and Education Unit at BMC, and associate professor of medicine at BUSM, recently received one of the Boston Junior Chamber of Commerce's Ten Outstanding Young Leader Awards for 2003. Since 1952, the group more commonly known as the Jaycees has honored leaders from Greater Boston younger than 40 for their exceptional professional and personal achievement and unwavering commitment to the community. An independent panel

of Boston leaders cited Saitz' clinical, research and educational efforts as an academic primary care physician in alcoholism treatment and prevention.

**Catherine Walker, CNM, MPH**, staff nurse midwife, Ob/Gyn at BMC, recently received the first annual alumni leadership award from SPH's Department of Maternal and Child Health for her work with Urban Midwife Associates and the Birth Sisters<sup>SM</sup>.

## BMC announces WE CARE Award recipients

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

The winners of the individual employee WE CARE Awards for May 2003 are **Lynda Cohen McCarthy, RN**, Surgical Nursing, 5 East; **Maria Fontes**, practice assistant, Med Surgical; **Yvette Foster**, medical record coder, Medical Records; and **Lewis Jordan**, material support assistant, Volunteer Services.

The WE CARE Volunteer Recognition Award winner for May is South Weymouth resident **Joe McHugh**, who has served for the past six years as chairman of the Boston Edison Retirees Association (BERA) Volunteer Program. McHugh is responsible for gathering the volunteers and connecting them with organizations that need their help. In 2002, BERA volunteers clocked nearly 3,000 hours at BMC and other organizations.

## 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.

### BUSM Council on Faculty Affairs Educator of the Year 2003 Awards

#### Graduate Sciences

Paul O'Bryan, PhD, assistant dean for Student Affairs and professor of physiology and biophysics, BUSM

#### Preclinical sciences

Richard Hoyt Jr., PhD, associate professor of anatomy and neurobiology, BUSM

#### Clinical medicine

Joseph Loscalzo, MD, PhD, Wade Professor of Medicine and professor of biochemistry, BUSM

**The Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism in Medicine Faculty Award**  
Nicole Prudent, MD, MPH, clinical assistant professor of pediatrics, BUSM

### Stanley L. Robbins Award for Excellence in Teaching

Mark Moss, PhD, professor of anatomy and neurobiology, BUSM

### SDM

#### Spencer N. Frankl Award for Excellence in Teaching

Sydell Shaw, DDS, associate dean for Admissions and Student Services and assistant clinical professor, SDM

### Alumni Award

Gregory Pezza

### American Student Dental Association Award of Excellence

Lily Ghafouri

### American College of Dentists Award

Amy Bowman

### International College of Dentists Award

Shola Abatti

### Pierre Fauchard Academy Award

Michael Dudi Fish

### SPH

#### Norman A. Scotch Award for Excellence in Teaching

Eugene Declercq, PhD, MBA, professor of maternal and child health, SPH

#### Herb Kayne Prize for Excellence in Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Carrie Reed

#### John Snow Award in International Health

Richard Mihigo  
Jennifer Westfall

#### Rex Fendall Award for Excellence in Public Health Writing in the Department of International Health

Shuo Zhang, MPH

#### Allan R. Meyers Prize for Excellence in Health Services

Kristin Elifson  
Joshua Rising

#### Dean's Award for Student Research

Michele Jara

## MedCenter News

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