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MedCenter News

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

BIOSAFETY LAB CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN

BUMC recently received a decision from the federal government to fund construction of a biosafety laboratory on its campus. The facility will be called the National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories and will work to develop diagnostic tests, drugs, vaccines and treatments for emerging infectious diseases.

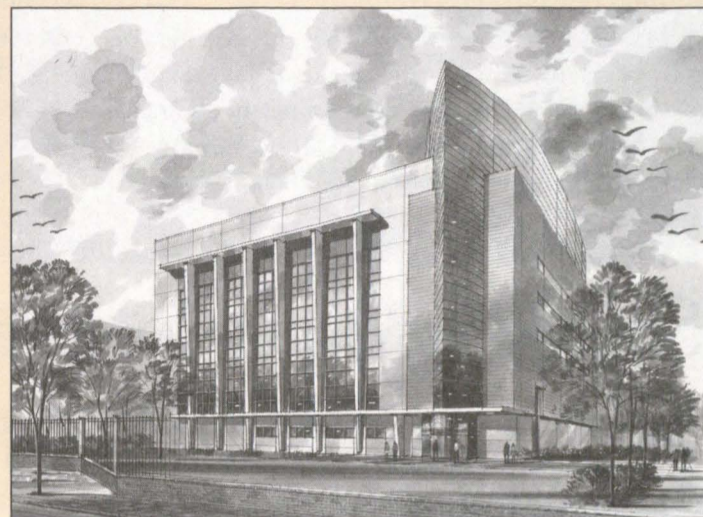
This Record of Decision was issued by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), after an extensive process that involved public meetings and reviews by federal agencies.

BUMC already had received state and local approvals following extensive reviews by many agencies and BUMC participation in more than 200 community meetings.

In September 2003, BUMC was awarded \$128 million by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, part of NIH, to build a laboratory that would study infectious diseases, whether they emerge naturally or are introduced through bioterrorism.

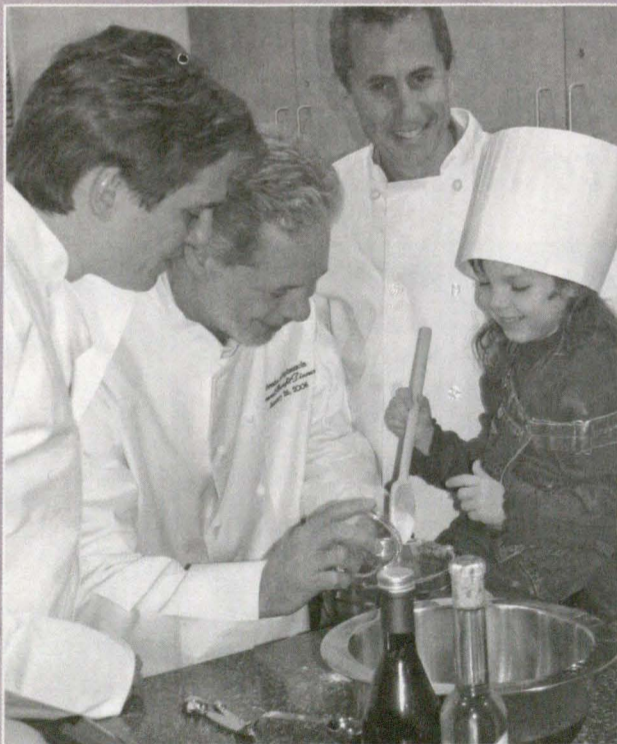
The laboratory will be part of a national network of secure facilities that study infectious diseases and will include Biosafety Level 2, 3 and 4 laboratories, where microorganisms such as the West Nile, equine encephalitis and ebola viruses may be studied under the most stringent safety and security requirements.

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Construction of the new biosafety lab at BUMC, shown above in an architectural drawing, will take about two years.

Someone's in the kitchen



BMC Grow Clinic patient Justina Riopelle, 5, gets a cooking lesson from Boston Pops conductor Keith Lockart (left), Chris Spinazzola, chairman of the Anthony Spinazzola Foundation, and restaurateur Danny Meyer at BMC's Demonstration Kitchen before the 21st annual Spinazzola Gala Festival of Food and Wine. The celebrity chefs visited the medical center to promote BMC's Grow

Clinic, which helps children who fail to thrive. Proceeds from the Spinazzola gala were donated to the clinic and other local food-and hunger-related charities.

BUSM helps launch major genetic research study

In collaboration with BUSM, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) will soon launch a comprehensive genetic research study to identify genes underlying cardiovascular and other chronic diseases.

The new effort, known as the Framingham Genetic Research Study, will be part of the NHLBI's long-running Framingham Heart Study and involve up to 500,000 genetic analyses of the DNA of 8,500 study participants across three generations.

For more than 50 years, the Framingham Heart Study has been the source of key findings about the contributions of hypertension, high

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March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

As part of National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, BMC gastroenterologists are encouraging people 50 years and older to learn more about disease prevention through regular screening and a healthy lifestyle.

"Colorectal cancer, which affects the large intestine (colon and rectum), is the second leading cause of cancer death in Massachusetts, and equally affects men and women across all racial groups," said Francis Farraye, MD, MSc, clinical director, Section of Gastroenterology, and co-director, Center for Digestive Disorders at BMC. "Yet it is one of the most preventable types of cancer and curable when detected early."

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Students gain research experience Page 5

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INSIDE

BU, BMC JOIN CONSORTIUM OF EXPERTS

BU and BMC have joined the Center for Integration of Medical & Innovative Technology (CIMIT), a Cambridge, Mass.-based consortium of clinicians, scientists and engineers that solves complex medical problems using novel technologies.

Founded in 1994, the center is based at Harvard Medical School and comprises Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston Children's Hospital, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Draper Laboratory, Massachusetts General Hospital, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Partners Healthcare System.

BU and BMC will be valuable to the center because the institutions combine the highest standards of patient care, medical training and biomedical engineering and research, according to John Parrish, executive director of CIMIT and chairman

of the Department of Dermatology at Harvard Medical School. BU and BMC are also the only participants with an academic medical center and engineering school.

"In the past, individual BU and BMC scientists received translational research grants from the center," said Parrish. "We look forward to working with more BU and BMC scientists, clinicians and engineers as we pursue our shared goal of finding novel solutions to improving patient care."

The center assembles teams of experts to help overcome barriers to implementation of innovative technologies. Currently, teams are working on solving and developing products for some of medicine's most challenging problems, including early detection of cancer, organ donor shortage, heart attacks and epileptic seizures.

Two BU and BMC experts will serve as

liaisons, or site miners, who will work closely with the center and its member institutions to establish collaborations between engineers and clinicians. George O'Connor, MD, MPH, MSc, professor of medicine at BUSM and an asthma researcher at BUMC's Pulmonary Center, and Mark Grinstaff, PhD, associate professor of biomedical engineering and associate professor of chemistry at BU, will seek out promising technologies for improving health care practice and help researchers apply for grants. [See related article, *MedCenter News*, February 2006].

"We are excited about the opportunities this new partnership presents that hasten the translation of research ideas into enhanced care for patients," said Thomas Moore, MD, interim chief of Medicine at BMC and assistant provost for Clinical Research at BUSM.

Smoking cessation program helps "kick the habit"

BMC's Division of Psychiatry has relaunched its Smoking Cessation Program to help BMC patients quit smoking.

According to Rob Sokolove, PhD, health psychologist at BMC and assistant professor of psychiatry at BUSM, smoking can lead to cancer, lung disease, pulmonary disease, heart disease and pregnancy complications.

"Smoking robs your body of oxygen while depositing highly toxic particulates in your lungs," said Sokolove. "Many young smokers and tobacco chewers develop life threatening cancers later in life. Research has shown that quitting at any time

greatly reduces the odds of dying from tobacco-related illnesses."

Within just 20 minutes of smoking abstinence, the heart rate drops to a healthier rate; after eight hours, the carbon monoxide level in the blood returns to normal; and after two weeks to three months, the circulation improves and the lung function increases, said Sokolove.

The Smoking Cessation Program features an eight-week curriculum that includes pharmacotherapy, nicotine replacement, stress reduction training, social support and relapse prevention counseling. The first four weeks focus on a patient's history of

nicotine addiction, discussions on previous cessation attempts, stress reduction methods and reasons for smoking/quitting. The last four weeks cover changes in behavior after quitting, relapse prevention, diet and nutrition, and increasing aerobic exercise. Follow-up sessions are held periodically.

Between 1999-2002, the program helped 450 people quit smoking. The outpatient program is open to all patients at BMC and the Boston HealthNet Community Health Centers.

For more information, call (617) 638-8670.

Team BMC: Marathoners dedicated to a cause

John Landry, an employee of Jordan's Furniture, took advantage of the unusually warm weather in January to train as a member of Team BMC for the 110th Boston Marathon on April 17.

The Quincy resident, along with nine other Jordan's employees, are part of this year's 46-member Team BMC that will help raise funds for the medical center by running the annual marathon. Each is committed to raising at least \$2,500 for BMC's various programs.

BMC received certification as an official Boston Marathon Charity last year, when 29 runners for Team BMC raised more than \$125,000.

"When Jordan's presented me with a chance to run the marathon and, at the same time, help a great institution like BMC, it seemed like the perfect situation," said Landry,

Jordan's assistant manager for Inventory Control. "I learned more about BMC and the great work it does every day, and feel privileged to support its commitment to providing accessible health services to all."

"BMC has assembled a great training program," said Landry. "I've had the opportunity to learn so much about injury prevention, the right equipment and the right approach to training. As a result, I can say that I'm running pain free."

"I'll never hit a ball out of Fenway, or score a touchdown at Gillette, but maybe I can cross the finish line in downtown Boston and take pride in having been a part of it," he added.

To sponsor a colleague and help raise funds for BMC, visit <http://development.bmc.org/marathon2006>.



Team BMC members gather at the Woodland MBTA stop near Mile 16 of the Boston Marathon course to begin a 10.5-mile training run up Heartbreak Hill and back to One Beacon St. in Boston. Back row, from left: Brian Brodt, Putnam Investments; Kevin Maguire, Neurology, BMC; David Brown, weekend meteorologist, WCVB-Channel 5; and Paul Noonan and Josh Tatelman, Jordan's Furniture; front, left: Beth Pfeil, Development, BMC; and Katie Douglass, New England Patriots.

Hospital participates in emergency preparedness drill

BMC recently participated in a citywide emergency preparedness drill that was attended by more than 250 representatives from other Boston hospitals, first responders, local, state and federal government agencies.

The exercise, held Feb. 1 at the Seaport World Trade Center, was the third large-scale exercise held during the last six months that focused on health and medical issues within the Metro Boston Homeland Security Region.

Called "The Medical and Public Safety Challenges Surrounding a Hospital Evacuation," the scenario focused on an improvised explosive device detonating in the ambulance bay of the Menino Pavilion Emergency Department and the building-wide evacuation that followed.

Seventeen BMC staff members, along with representatives from some of BMC's affiliated community health centers, tested the effectiveness of the BMC evacuation plan in response to the simulated explosion and subsequent evacuation of the inpatient facility. The BMC team worked closely with

staff from other hospitals, public health agencies, emergency management agencies, and emergency response agencies to evacuate 260 simulated adult, pediatric and

neonatal patients from the Menino Pavilion. While BMC concentrated on the evacuation, nine other Boston hospitals were activating plans to secure their facilities and find or make available the capacity to accommodate the complex needs of the inpatient evacuees.

"I was impressed with the composure of the participants. Not only did the BMC team respond to every challenge, but being the focal point of the drill, they did so in full view of all the other attendees," said Maureen McMahon, RN, BSN, MS, disaster coordinator, Office of Emergency Preparedness at BMC.

"These exercises and drills give us an opportunity to walk through, in a non-stressed environment, conditions we might face in a real event," said Stephen Morash, director, Emergency Planning and Response for BUMC. "We implement the plans we have on the books to see if they work and what surprises we might discover so if the event actually happens, we can adapt, adjust and accommodate."

The event was co-sponsored by the Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals, Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Emergency Medical Services, DelValle Institute for Emergency Preparedness and the Mayor's Office of Homeland Security.

BMC DOCTORS RANK AMONG STATE'S BEST

BMC physicians have ranked among the state's best in *Boston* magazine's annual "Top Doctors" issue. The magazine's February 2006 issue and Web site recognized 82 doctors at the medical center for excellence in 26 specialties, including cardiology, emergency medicine, endocrinology, gastroenterology, infectious diseases and medical oncology.

"The recognition of so many of our fine physicians demonstrates what the BMC community already knows — that our doctors provide the highest quality care to our patients," said Elaine Ullian, BMC president and CEO.

For a list of individual doctors, visit <http://www.bostonmagazine.com/index.cfm/>.



Red Socks Campaign scores for patient safety

As part of the hospital's focus on improving patient safety, a new program to prevent patient falls is being implemented at BMC. "Patient falls are the most reported incident at the hospital," said Linda Guy, RN, director of Nursing Operations at BMC, "and many are preventable with diligent assessment and interventions by nursing, medical staff and all employees."

The Red Socks Safety Campaign, developed by the hospital's Nursing Patient Safety Committee, provides red, slip-resistant socks to patients who are at risk for falling and should not be left alone. The bright colored socks alert staff to pay close attention, especially if the patient is observed walking unassisted, said Guy.

The campaign, adopted from similar programs at other hospitals, was launched in December at the Menino Pavilion on 6 East, 6 West and 4 West. Based on two months of positive feedback and results, the program was expanded throughout the hospital on Feb. 14.

Training sessions have been offered to BMC physicians and staff from many departments, including Care Management, Nutrition, Patient Transport, Environmental Services, Human Resources and Respiratory Therapy.

Guy mentioned recent successes when an Environmental Services associate and Human Resources representative helped patients wearing red socks who were alone and in need of assistance.

"Preventing patients from falling requires a team approach," said Guy. "Once our staff have been informed about the program and patients are identified, it's very easy to know what to do."

Kids Fund Dine-Out! March 21-23

Support BMC's Kids Fund by dining out at any of 12 South End restaurants participating in this year's Kids Fund Dine-Out on Tuesday, March 21, through Thursday, March 23.

Aquitaine, Bob's Southern Bistro, Caffé Umbra, Equator, Giacomo's, House of Siam, Icarus, Joe V's, Metropolis, Perdix, Pho République and Union will donate 10 percent of the bill to The Kids Fund at BMC for customers who bring the special Dine-Out flier inserted in this issue of *MedCenter News*. The flier is also accessible at <http://www.bmc.org/development>.

SWEET DELIBERATION



Leonard Glantz, JD, associate dean for Academic Affairs, Sally Dwyer, operations manager, and Suzette Levenson, MPH, director, Data Coordinating Center at BUSPH, carefully consider their experiential data as they judge more than 30 chocolate desserts submitted by faculty and staff for the school's annual Valentine's Day Chocolate Bake-Off. Tempting tryouts included prize-winning Gaudi Truffles, My Dream Birthday Cake and a chocolate espresso cheesecake.

Use of certain antidepressants late in pregnancy may harm fetus

According to a recently published study, women who use certain commonly prescribed antidepressants late in pregnancy may increase their babies' risk of developing persistent pulmonary hypertension, a serious condition that typically involves severe respiratory failure in a newborn infant and requires immediate attention.

The study was conducted by BU's Slone Epidemiology Center, with collaboration by researchers at the University of California, San Diego.

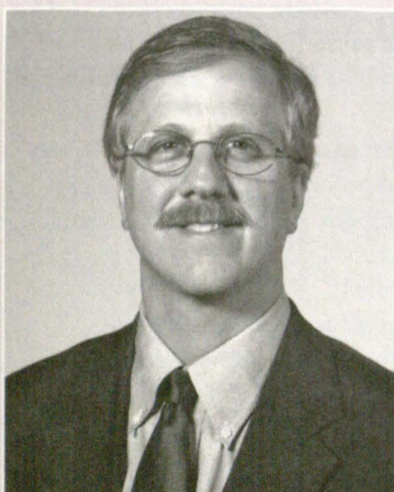
The study shows that pregnant women who take one of the antidepressants known as selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) such as Prozac, Paxil or Zoloft in the second half of pregnancy have a small but significantly increased chance of delivering an infant who develops persistent pulmonary hypertension. Researchers found that exposure to antidepressants other than SSRIs did not pose such a risk, nor was the risk increased among women who discontinued use of the antidepressants in the first half of pregnancy.

According to Allen Mitchell, MD, study leader and director of the Slone Epidemiology Center at BUMC, the findings may be important for pregnant women and clinicians when making decisions about the most appropriate treatments for depression in late pregnancy.

The study was published in the Feb. 9, 2006, issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

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Francis Farraye, MD

"The most important way to prevent colorectal cancer is to get screened starting at age 50. People with a family history may need to begin screening at an earlier age," said Farraye, associate professor of medicine at BUSM.

The majority of colon cancers develop over the course of several years from benign polyps, and can in most cases be prevented through screening and removal of these polyps. Recommended screening tests include colonoscopy every 10 years, flexible sigmoidoscopy every five years and stool testing for blood every year. Farraye encourages people to speak with their primary care provider about which test is best for them.

"Through regular screening and simple living habits, such as not smoking, eating a healthy diet and exercising, we can significantly reduce the number of cases of colorectal cancer," he said.

For a listing of lunchtime lectures this month on Colorectal Cancer see Calendar, page 7.

BMC commits to cultural change

"Business results are produced as a result of the actions people take. Those actions are the product of the culture of the organization. Creating the culture, which will produce the desired results, is the role of the management team and the accountability of every person in the organization."

Recently, 100 senior leaders at BMC participated in a two-day off-site retreat to develop the core beliefs and actions BMC will use to sustain the essential work and business goals of the medical center and begin the cultural transformation process. During the next few months, more than 275 additional managers will be engaged as partners in the process.

"Our goal is to involve every Boston Medical Center staff member as partners in this process," said Elaine Ullian, BMC president and CEO. "Working as partners, we can enhance our ability to focus on and successfully accomplish our goals of volume, safety, satisfaction and cost control."

"Cultural transformation means changing the way each employee thinks and acts to support the successful accomplishment of the hospital-wide goals," said Evelyn Hecht, EdD, director, Organizational Development and Training at BMC. Seven cultural beliefs were created at the retreat that will guide the organization through the transformation process:

- Own It – Take responsibility for our results and refuse to blame others*
- Teams Work – Achieve and sustain excellence through a commitment to working with others*
- Step Up – Take and support risk to innovate, advance and achieve results*
- Patient First – Create an excellent patient experience one patient at a time*
- Build Trust – Extend and earn trust by openly communicating, listening and encouraging new ideas*
- Deliver – Seek and provide feedback and data to produce results*
- I Can – Make exceptional things happen*

Medical center recognizes its stars

To recognize those who reach the medical center's patient satisfaction goals, BMC has created Shining Star Awards. Each month at the Leadership for Change meeting, BMC's Reward and Recognition Team will present four of these awards to two inpatient units, one outpatient unit, and one ancillary service provider.

At the January meeting, Shining Star Awards were presented to the units at the medical center with the highest overall Press-Ganey patient satisfaction scores: 7 East and 6 North inpatient units at the Newton Pavilion, the Gastroenterology Outpatient Unit and the Radiology Division.

"The trophies are a tangible way to recognize the outstanding work that BMC staff are doing," said Maureen Russell, RN, nurse manager, Transitional Care Unit at BMC, and chair of the Reward and Recognition Team. "The categories will change from month to month so that each unit will have the opportunity to showcase the work they've done to help BMC reach its goals and also have a chance to win a trophy."



Kathy Davidson, RN, MBA (right), vice president of Nursing at BMC, presents Kimberly Wood, RN, nurse manager, Hematology/Oncology at BMC, with a Shining Star Award for her unit during a recent Leadership for Change meeting.

SAVE THE DATE!

Annual BMC Gala
Saturday, June 10, 2006
Seaport World Trade Center

MEDICAL STUDENTS GAIN RESEARCH EXPERIENCE



Above: Second-year BUSM student Chris Shultz discusses his research project at this year's Student Summer Research Symposium held Feb. 15 in the Hiebert Lounge.

Inset: Symposium participant Katherine Bui, BUSM '08, chats with her research mentor, Mary Cerreto, PhD, research associate, Family Medicine at BUSM.

By participating in BUSM's annual Medical Student Summer Research Program this past year, Chris Shultz ('08) realized one of his career goals: to be part of a community that encourages student contributions to research.

Shultz was one of 30 BUSM students selected to participate in the program that matches second-year students with mentors from the medical school faculty for a summer research project. During his project, Shultz spent most of his time analyzing the deposition process of amyloid protein and the path it takes once inside the body, which may lead to various types of vascular disease.

Shultz came to BUMC because its mission of "exceptional care without exception" resonated with him. The South End resident and University of Texas at Austin graduate wanted to be enrolled in a school with the capability of making students feel as though they were directly contributing to the research that was

taking place on campus.

For his research, Shultz worked with Vickery Trinkaus-Randall, PhD, professor of biochemistry at BUSM. "This is a valuable experience for students," said Trinkaus-Randall, director, graduate program in Cell and Molecular Biology, BUSM's Division of Graduate Medical Sciences. "The program not only makes it possible for students like Chris to see works published but, more importantly, allows students to really participate in important research here at BUSM."

Shultz added that he feels very fortunate to have had the opportunity to do such extensive research while still a medical student. "By creating live movies of a cellular process, I was directly involved in scientific exploration that no one had ever seen before," he said.

"I feel proud knowing that I belong to a community that allowed me to contribute to new and exciting discoveries in the research field," added Shultz. "I have no doubt that my research and the resulting publications will strengthen my application for residency."

Faculty members interested in mentoring a student and students interested in a research project this summer should visit <http://www.bumc.bu.edu/busm/osal/research>.

Biosafety lab construction to begin

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"We are pleased and honored that BUMC has received this decision from the federal government and that the lengthy and rigorous process is completed," said Mark Klemper, MD, principal investigator for the new laboratory and associate provost for Research at BUMC. "We are proud to now be part of the national network of dedicated scientists and researchers who will use this state-of-the-art facility to safely find treatments and cures for some of the most dangerous infectious diseases that threaten Boston, the nation and the world."

The laboratory will be located at BioSquare on Albany Street. The lead architectural firm designing the facility is CUH2A. Construction on the facility began early this month and is expected to be completed in two and a half years.

The laboratory will contain 194,000 gross square feet of space, which will contain laboratories for BioSquare Lab 2, 3 and 4. Flexible core facilities will be devoted to a comprehensive array of research methodologies that contribute to the entire product-development continuum, from basic science to clinical research.

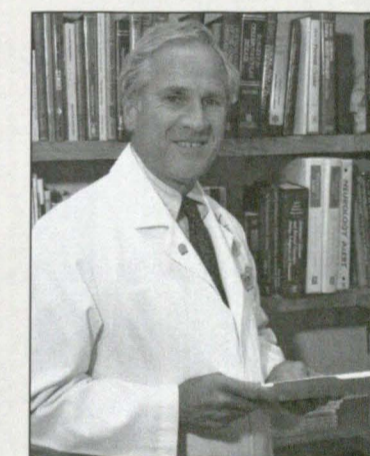
The building will house various sophisticated facilities such as high-powered microscopes and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machines.

The facility is incorporating state-of-the-art safety and security systems that will meet or exceed stringent federal standards in design, construction and operation to protect the researchers and the community. The lab will have its own air supply, power supply, safety cabinets, filtration system and waste disposal systems; and each of these systems will have a backup system. The building will be self-contained and will be one of the most safely designed structures of its kind in the world.

The biosafety laboratory at BUMC will create a positive economic benefit for the city and its residents. An estimated 1,300 construction jobs and 660 permanent jobs — jobs at all levels, including scientists, laboratory technicians, security and other support services — will be created. The laboratory will have an estimated \$2.9 billion impact in the city of Boston during the next 20 years as a result of construction, research and operational costs.

BUSM part of major genetic research study

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Philip Wolf, MD

cholesterol, smoking and other risk factors to the development of heart disease. BU scientists have worked in partnership with the NHLBI on the Framingham Heart Study since 1971. BU and NHLBI researchers, including physicians, geneticists, statisticians and epidemiologists, have conducted this research in partnership with the Framingham Heart Study for decades.

"This new effort will take genetic research in the Framingham study to the next level: accelerating discoveries on

the causes, prevention and treatment of major chronic diseases," said Philip Wolf, MD, professor of medicine at BUSM and principal investigator of the study.

"Using the latest technology, researchers will be able to obtain more information about the connection between unique genetic variations in DNA and cardiovascular disease risk factors, as well as the genetic basis for heart attack, stroke and other chronic diseases.

"In the past, we've been able to make fairly rough correlations of hypertension and heart disease," said Karen Antman, MD, BUSM dean and provost of BU Medical Campus. "Now we should be able to say more precisely which genes are associated with which diseases, and it should take many fewer people to make those correlations."

"This project will greatly expand the research possibilities, and hopefully lead to new treatments and better strategies to prevent cardiovascular and other diseases," said Wolf.

Friends, employees boost Moakley Campaign

Ongoing financial contributions from BMC friends and employees are helping to make BMC's J. Joseph Moakley Building a reality.

The Moakley building will offer consolidated cancer care and services in a spacious, centralized location on the BU Medical Campus, ensuring more timely and effective care for cancer patients. The building, now in the final stages of construction, is scheduled to open late this summer.

During the past few months, gifts and pledges totaling more than \$2.4 million have brought the Moakley Campaign closer to meeting its \$51.1 million goal, and closer to realizing a \$2.5 million match from the Kresge Foundation, according to Norman Stein, vice president of Development at BMC.

BMC doctors have contributed more than \$1 million toward the Physicians' Campaign goal of \$1.5 million. BMC's annual Employee Campaign has raised more than \$230,000 to date.

Several friends of BMC recently pledged more than \$1 million:

Richard and Rosalyn Slifka increased their campaign commitment by \$500,000 to \$1 million, as did Timothy Barberich and Eileen Gebrian. Additionally, through the Sidney and Esther Rabb Foundation and the Sidney R. Rabb Charitable Trust, Deborah Goldberg and Michael Winter and Carol and Avram Goldberg pledged \$100,000.

Ocean State Job Lots Inc. contributed \$105,000 to the Moakley campaign through a special holiday promotion at 25 of the company's stores in Massachusetts. Throughout December, the discount retailer sold festive mobiles to its customers for a \$1 donation to support cancer care at BMC.

"This campaign is a broad-based effort that seeks the participation of our BMC community, as well as our loyal contributors," said Stein. "We are very grateful for the many generous contributions from our employees and friends."

To make a donation to the Moakley Campaign, visit <http://www.bmc.org/development>.



Workers install glass into the curtain-wall frames on the front of the Moakley building, along Harrison Avenue.

Inset: A workman installs copper-coated panels that protect the building's south entry canopy on Albany Street.

South End Shop Walk set for May 6

Calling all shoppers! It's time to lace up your sneakers and get ready for BMC's South End Shop Walk on Saturday, May 6.

Family, friends and community members are invited to participate in this new event that begins on the Talbot Green and will help raise funds to support the women's health programs at BMC.

More than 30 establishments have signed up to participate in the event, including Aunt Sadie's, Sara Campbell, POSH on Tremont and Turtle. At 10 a.m., shops, restaurants and spas will open their doors and offer discounts to walkers. In order to receive the store discounts, participants must raise a minimum of \$50. Walkers will be provided maps of all the venues participating in the event.

"Our female patients are among Boston's least visible and often come from low-income, immigrant and underserved communities," said Norman Stein, vice president of Development at BMC. "This event offers our donors and friends an opportunity to support BMC's women's health programs, and also enjoy being outside and taking part in a fun day of shopping at the wonderful stores and restaurants in our South End neighborhood."

For more information or to register, visit <http://www.bmcouthendshopwalk.com> or call (617) 638-6910.

NURTURING CAREGIVERS



Gathered at a recent BUMC reception celebrating the creation of a new scholarship for BUMC nurses are (from left) Carlos Kase, MD, chief of Neurology at BUMC; Cathi Thomas, RN, MS, information and referral center coordinator, Parkinson's Disease Center at BUMC; Ernest Selig, MD, and his wife Rae; and BUSM Dean Karen Antman, MD, provost of BU Medical Campus.

Selig, a patient at BUMC's Parkinson's Disease Center, established the Cathi Thomas, RN, Scholarship Fund at BUMC to support the nurses who offer Parkinson's patients vital information, care and comfort throughout their treatment. The retired University of Massachusetts engineering professor came to the Neurological Referral Center at BUMC (formerly University Hospital) in 1995 and has since been treated for his symptoms of Parkinson's disease at the medical center. During his treatment, Thomas provided Selig with information and answers to questions about medications and their side effects. The scholarship will help nurses or other allied health professionals pursue courses related to Parkinson's disease.

BUSPH conference tackles birth outcome, infant death disparities

Maternal and child health experts from across New England recently gathered for a daylong conference at BUMC to discuss the impact of discrimination and disparity on birth outcomes and infant health.

"The Impact of Inequality on Birth Outcomes: From Analysis to Action," was coordinated by BUSPH's Department of Maternal and Child Health and held Jan. 30 in the Hiebert Lounge. More than 80 participants attended the conference, including epidemiologists, state and city health officials, and representatives from clinical programs and child health organizations.

The conference featured keynote presentations by Michael Lu, MD, MPH, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, and James Collins, MD, MPH, associate professor of pediatrics at Northwestern

University's Feinberg School of Medicine and neonatologist at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago. Together, the doctors have done research showing minority women are likely to deliver lower-weight infants than their white counterparts, despite access to prenatal care.

After the presentations, conference participants spent the afternoon considering what the findings mean for the populations within their states and discussed actions to combat the trends.

"Through a conference like this, our department is able to provide some helpful expertise to the people in the field dealing with these issues," said Deborah Allen, MS, ScD, associate professor of maternal and child health at BUSPH. "At the same time, this engages us with real world issues, which helps to make our teaching and research more relevant."

Ob/Gyn enhances patient services

BMC's three obstetrics and gynecology practice sites on the BU Charles River and medical campuses recently adopted a shared name.

The Women's Center in the Yawkey Ambulatory Care Center (ACC) and the ob/gyn clinics in the Doctors Office Building and on the Charles River Campus will now be known as Boston University Ob/Gyn Associates.

"We wanted a name that would identify us with Boston University's medical and Charles River campus," said Aviva Lee-Paritz, MD, vice chair for Obstetrics and Gynecology at BMC and associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology at BUSM.

Among the three sites, services are offered in high-risk pregnancy, gynecologic oncology, infertility, recurrent miscarriage, prenatal diagnosis and genetics. Specialized programs include family planning, ob/gyn for women with disabilities, and obstetrics care for women with substance abuse issues. Services for women refugees or victims of torture are available through BMC's Boston Center for Refugee Health and Human Rights.

To enhance patient care, added Lee-Paritz, BMC is building a new outpatient procedure unit in the Yawkey ACC for evaluations and therapies that are too complicated to be performed in a doctor's office but that do not need an operating room. A new post-partum service for the labor and delivery unit is also under construction in the Menino Pavilion, which is converting semi-private rooms to private rooms.

"These building enhancements will help us provide the highest quality of care to all our patients, regardless of their site of care or ability to pay," said Lee-Paritz.

BMC announces WE CARE Award recipients

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

The recipients of the WE CARE Employee Recognition Award for February 2006 are **Matthew Brown**, clinical social worker, Case Management, Newton Pavilion; **Patricia Kimball**, case manager, Geriatrics; **Gregoria Medina**, general service associate, Environmental Services; and **Kara Ourique, RN**, 8 West, Newton Pavilion at BMC.

The WE CARE Volunteer Recognition Award for February was presented to **Sandra Wong**, a Harvard University undergraduate who has given more than 260 hours of service to spinal cord injury patients at BMC's Center for Rehabilitation Medicine. Wong helped design and organize Helping Hand and Heart, a program through which Harvard students interact with staff and patients, and help patients improve their quality of life while on the rehab floor.

March

6 Women in Medical Sciences Lunch
"Women's Health, Emergency Contraception and the FDA" is the focus of this year's Women in Medical Sciences Lunch sponsored by BUSM. Susan Wood, PhD, former assistant commissioner for Women's Health and director of the Office of Women's Health, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, is the featured speaker. The program takes place Monday, March 6, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Hiebert Lounge. To make a reservation, visit <http://www.bumc.edu/wbirc> or call (617) 638-8036.

Religious holiday

Purim celebration

In celebration of Purim, the Jewish holiday that marks the historic triumph of the Jews of Persia, Rabbi Paul Levenson, Jewish chaplain at BMC, will present a special program on Monday, March 6, at 1 p.m. in the lobby of the Newton Pavilion, 88 East Newton St. At the event, Levenson will play songs and offer Purim pastries, and display show costumes that people wear on the holiday.

15 BU Employee Service Recognition

BU's annual Service Recognition Dinner honoring retirees and employees who have completed 25 years of service with the University will be held Wednesday, March 15, at 7 p.m. in the George Sherman Union on the Charles River Campus. A Service Recognition Luncheon will be held in honor of BU employees who have completed 10 years of service on Tuesday, March 21. For more information, call (617) 638-4610.

31 Health Law Program conference

Members of BUSPH's Department of Health Law, Bioethics, and Human Rights, along with distinguished commentators, scholars and politicians, will present their views on "The Terri Schiavo Case: One Year Later," at the second annual Health Law Program Conference on Friday, March 31. Free and open to the public, the all-day event is cosponsored by BUSPH and the BU School of Law. Sessions will be held at BU's George Sherman Union Auditorium, 775 Commonwealth Ave., Boston. To register, visit <http://www.bu.edu/law/news/schiavoschiavo.htm>.

LUNCHTIME LECTURES

Colorectal Cancer screening

As part of Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, BMC experts will discuss screening for colon cancer at special presentation for BUMC staff. The lectures will take place from noon to 1 p.m. on:

Friday, March 3, Dowling Amphitheater
Wednesday, March 15, Keefer Auditorium
Wednesday, March 29, Dowling Amphitheater

BMC staff from the Center for Digestive Disorders and section of Gastroenterology will also distribute pamphlets and blue bracelets outside the BMC cafeterias throughout March. For more information, call (617) 414-7539.

April

6 National Alcohol Awareness Day screening

BMC's Clinical Addictions Research and Education Unit is offering free alcohol screening and educational material as part of National Alcohol Awareness Day, Thursday, April 6. The screening will be held in the Yawkey Ambulatory Care Center and the Newton Pavilion lobby from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call Project ASSERT (617) 414-4399.

People

Marvin Cook, PhD, former vice president for Planning, Budgeting and Information at BU, was recently appointed to SDM's Board of Visitors. For the past 30 years, Cook served the University in numerous capacities, including chief operating officer at SDM.

Janet Crimlisk, MS, RNCS, nurse educator at BMC, is the lead author of a recently published article titled "Standardizing Adult Tracheostomy Tube Styles: What Is the Clinical and Cost Effective Impact?" The article was published in the January/February 2006 issue of *Dimensions of Critical Care Nursing*. Co-authors are **Charles O'Donnell, MS, RRT**, director of Respiratory Care at BMC, and **Gregory Grillone, MD, FACS**, vice chairman, Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at BUMC, and assistant professor of otolaryngology-head and neck surgery at BUSM.

William DeJong, PhD, professor of social and behavioral sciences at BUSPH, has been appointed to the National Academies' Committee on Contributions from the Behavioral and Social Sciences in Reducing and Preventing Teen Motor Vehicle Crashes. The committee is jointly sponsored by the Institute of Medicine and the Transportation Safety Research Board at the National Academies, which serves as advisers to the federal government and the public on matters relating to science, engineering and medicine.

New Appointments

Salomon Amar, DDS, MSD, PhD, professor of periodontology and oral biology at SDM, has been appointed associate dean for Research at SDM. In his new position, Amar will provide leadership and managerial expertise for existing programs at the school, establish new research initiatives and determine institutional research priorities. Amar is an internationally renowned scientist, educator and clinician who has contributed notably to SDM's research initiatives, including the discovery of two new genes. He serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of Dental Research* and was named to the U.S. Federal Drug Administration's Dental Products Panel in 2004.

Vassiliki Cartsos, DMD, MS, has been appointed assistant professor of orthodontics at SDM. Previously, she served as chief orthodontist at the Cambridge Health Alliance in Cambridge, Mass., where she also managed a private practice. Cartsos received her doctoral degree from the University of Athens, Greece, and a master's degree and orthodontics certificate from Tufts University School of Medicine.

Susan Fish, PharmD, MPH, has been named co-director of BUSM's Master of Arts in Clinical Investigation Program, where she will be responsible for curriculum development and student mentoring. For the past three years, she served as associate director, Office of Clinical Research at BUMC. Fish is also associate professor of biostatistics at BUSPH.

Deborah Fournier, PhD, MS, director of the Office of Educational Research and Evaluation and assistant professor of diagnostic sciences and patient services at SDM, has been named associate dean for Institutional Planning and Evaluation at SDM. In her new position, Fournier will continue to oversee predoctoral and postdoctoral evaluation and also seek collaborative opportunities and partnerships across the BU medical and Charles River campuses.

Evangeline Frederick, BSN, RN, has been appointed nurse manager, 6 West, Newton Pavilion at BMC. Prior to her arrival at BUMC, she was administrative supervisor for the past three years at the Albany Medical Center.

John Guarente, DMD, assistant clinical professor of diagnostic sciences and patient services at SDM, has been named assistant dean for Patient Services at SDM.

Guarente will provide leadership in the school's continuing development of patient-focused, comprehensive clinical care programs, including all intramural and extramural clinical activities and further development of patient management and advocacy programs. Guarente, an SDM graduate, has been a member of the school's faculty for the past 16 years, serving as teacher, clinician and administrator.

Jordan Harrison has been named manager of Web Communications, Department of Communications and School Relations at BUSPH. Harrison, who has worked in Web development and graphic design, was previously employed at Emerging Energy Research in Cambridge.

Michelle Henshaw, DMD, MPH, director of Community Health Programs and associate professor in the Department of Health Policy and Health Services Research at SDM, has been named assistant dean for Community Partnerships and Extramural Affairs at SDM. In her new position, Henshaw will oversee, expand and integrate the

school's activities in service learning, community services, community-based and translational research and experiential education. Henshaw is also dental director of the Boston Center for Refugee Health and Human Rights at BMC and a member of the Advisory Board, Office of Oral Health, Massachusetts Department of Public Health.



Evangeline Frederick, RN



Salomon Amar, DDS, PhD

PREMIER QUALITY CARE

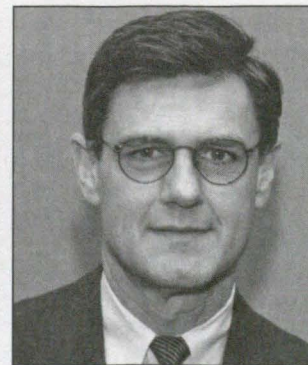


From left, Wanda Turner, patient navigator, Sheila Norton, MSN, RN, OCN, clinical service manager, Breast Health Program, and Deborah Richard-Kowalski, manager, Breast Imaging at BMC, display the Monroe E. Trout Premier Cares Award recently presented to BMC's Breast Health Services for helping breast cancer patients in its multicultural community access care more effectively and efficiently. Premier, an alliance of not-for-profit hospitals and health care systems that recognizes exemplary efforts by community organizations to improve the health of the medically underserved, sponsored the award. BMC received the recognition, along with a \$70,000 cash prize, at Premier's 14th annual Governance Education Conference held in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Sadru Kabani, DMD, MS, professor of oral and maxillofacial pathology at SDM, has been appointed acting chairman of the school's newly formed Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology. Kabani received his DMD and MS in oral pathology from Tufts University, and a BDS from Government Dental College and Hospital in Mumbai, India. Kabani, who is a diplomate of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, is also director of SDM's Surgical Biopsy Service, the largest such service in the Commonwealth.

Mari Megias, MS, has been appointed director of Communications at SDM. Megias, who joined SDM in 1997, was previously associate director of Communications at the school. She will continue directing SDM's numerous communications efforts and advise departments on advertising and marketing strategies.

The **Family Advocacy Program** at BMC recently received one of eight local grants awarded by Putnam Investments to support crisis-related services for children and families at risk of hunger and homelessness. The BMC program uses legal advocacy onsite in the pediatric clinic to help ensure that children's basic needs, including food, safety, housing and access to health care and appropriate education, are met.



Dan Natanson, DMD, MSD

Dan Natanson, DMD, MSD, chair, Department of Restorative Sciences and Biomaterials at SDM, was named Clinician of the Year at the 31st Yankee Dental Congress, an annual event sponsored by the Massachusetts Dental Society. The congress, attended by more than 27,000 dental professionals, took place in Boston Jan. 26-29.

Awards and grants

Sohail Ahmed, MD, a BMC rheumatologist and assistant professor of medicine at BUSM, has received a \$50,000, New Investigator's Grant from the Scleroderma Foundation for 2006. Scleroderma is a chronic, often progressive, autoimmune disease that causes serious damage to internal organs and may lead to their failure. Ahmed's research project, "Dissecting the Mechanism of Endothelial Cell Dysfunction Induced by Scleroderma Anti-Endothelial Cell Antibodies," will study the underlying causes of the disease.

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