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MedCenter News

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

SDM welcomes new dental students

"The health and well-being of my patients will be my first consideration ..."

Nearly 200 incoming dental students pledged their service to humanity, patients, the community and to dentistry as they recited an oath at a recent SDM ceremony welcoming them into the profession.

"As doctors of dental medicine you will be contributing to your patients' general health and well-being," said SDM Dean Spencer Frankl, DDS, MSD, in a welcome speech. "The education you will receive will give you the broad knowledge needed to understand the advances being made in dental medicine."

Michelle Henshaw, DMD, MPH, assistant dean for Community Partnerships and Extramural Affairs at SDM, urged students to give back in the future by doing research and seeking faculty positions and leadership roles in the field.

During the Aug. 3 ceremony, the new students received SDM pins with the University seal, commemorating their entry into the dental profession.

Following the ceremony, SDM faculty, students, family and friends celebrated at an indoor barbecue held in the Hiebert Lounge.



Paola Argaez-Coto (left) and Saumya Arora, class of '08, take the professional oath for new dental students at a recent SDM ceremony held in Bakst Auditorium.



Jeffrey Hutter, DMD, MEd, associate dean for Academic Affairs at SDM, welcomes Jae Ik Lee '08, a new Advanced Standing student.

BUSM FACULTY RECEIVE IGNITION AWARDS

Three BUSM researchers received the inaugural round of BU's Ignition Awards that will help them move their ideas and research into practical and helpful medical applications.

Each award, from BU's Office of Technology Development, is approximately \$50,000.

"This first group of winning projects represents diverse and potentially life-saving applications in health and medicine," said Stanford Willie, PhD, executive director of the Office of Technology Development at BU.

"This first group of winning projects represents diverse and potentially life-saving applications in health and medicine."

— Stanford Willie, PhD

Responding to the growing need for nonaddictive painkillers, David Farb, PhD, chairman and professor in the Department of Pharmacology at BUSM, developed a compound that acts on different nervous-system receptors than addictive, opiate-based narcotics. In mice studies conducted by Farb and his research team, the compound has been effective at killing pain

without causing addiction. Farb's Ignition Award will help speed the drug on to human trials.

M. Michael Wolfe, MD, professor of medicine at BUSM and chief of the Section of Gastroenterology at BMC, received an award to develop a needle-free way to manufacture and deliver hormonal therapies, such as insulin for diabetics. Wolfe and his research team are working on genetically modifying a patient's stem cells (derived from fat or bone marrow) into little "hormone factories" that can be re-implanted into the patient

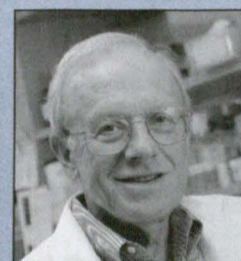
continued on page 5



David Farb, PhD



M. Michael Wolfe, MD



Jerome Brody, MD

Guide Program assists patients and visitors

To make navigating the medical campus easier, BMC has created a new Guide Program that helps patients and visitors get to the right place at the right time.

A key component of the hospital's Patient Satisfaction Initiative, the program trains staff volunteers to greet and provide patients with directions and assistance. Often, guides will walk patients to appointments to ensure they find their way.

To date, 55 employees have volunteered to be guides and are stationed in the Yawkey Ambulatory Care Center. To be identifiable, they wear a white "Guide" ribbon.

"We want to make certain our patients reach their destinations safely, on time and without the frustration that can accompany a search for the correct building, office or test site," said Sheryl Katzanek, director of Patient Advocacy at BMC.

Hospital employees interested in volunteering for the program may click on the BMC Guide icon on the BMC intranet or e-mail BMCGuide@bmc.org.

INSIDE

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Year of research helps med students' career focus
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Nurses provide callers with connections at BMC

Whether it's connecting patients with a special medical service or fielding questions from doctors in the community, three knowledgeable and experienced nurses are making the health care process less difficult to navigate.

Rita Galvin, RN, Linda Viano, RN, and Jan Ziljian, RN, staff BMC's Health Connection, a telephone information center created to help patients, their families, members of the community and referring physicians access BMC's doctors, programs and services.



Health Connection nurses are (from left) Jan Ziljian, RN, Rita Galvin, RN, and Linda Viano, RN.

In addition to providing basic health information, the nurses assist patients in selecting a primary care physician or specialist; setting up follow-up appointments; finding specialty physicians for students from BU Student Health Services; and, if needed, working with BMC's Interpreter Services. They also facilitate appointment scheduling and referrals from several preferred physician groups.

"Introducing new patients from the surrounding community to the medical center is a major aspect of our job," said Galvin. "We connect callers without health insurance to Patient Financial Services, and we work to find these callers an appropriate physician or clinical service."

The nurses also assist referring physicians by helping transfer patients to the hospital. Additionally, the nurses help patients obtain information for participation in clinical research trials.

"We help provide seamless entry into Boston Medical Center," said Viano. "The Health Connection helps make BMC more user-friendly."

Health Connection

1 (800) 841-4325

BUMC seeks subjects to find secrets to long life

BUMC is one of three U.S. sites selected to participate in an international research project on the factors that contribute to a long and healthy life.

The Long Life Family Study — the first of its kind to research long-life factors that run in families — is funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and codeveloped by NIH's National Institute on Aging.

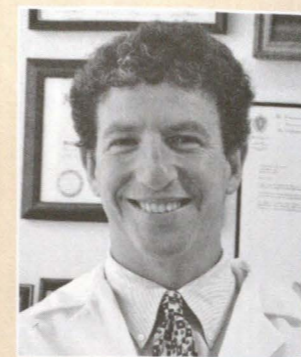
BUMC, along with centers at Columbia University, the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Southern Denmark, will recruit long-lived families within their respective area. Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis will act as the Data Management and Coordinating Center.

BUMC researchers are seeking a large number of families with several long-lived members for the three-year study. They are particularly interested in hearing from families with at least two living members, age 90 years or older, who have children residing in Massachusetts and neighboring parts of New Hampshire, Maine, Rhode Island and Connecticut. Family members who live outside these areas may also be asked to participate.

Trained clinical staff members will meet with study participants in their homes to ask questions about their family and health history and to conduct physical assessments. Study participants will also be asked for a small blood sample to obtain genetic information that will help determine the role genes might play in longevity among family members.

According to the researchers, previous studies have indicated that exceptional longevity tends to run in families. "By studying these families, we hope to determine the genetic and environmental factors that may contribute to longevity and to the ability to escape diseases normally associated with aging," said BUMC principal investigator, Thomas Perls, MD, MPH, director of the New England Centenarian Study, and associate professor of medicine in the Section of Geriatrics at BUSM.

Persons interested in participating in the study may call the BUMC recruitment office at 1 (888) 333-6327. For more information, visit <http://www.longlifefamilystudy.org>.



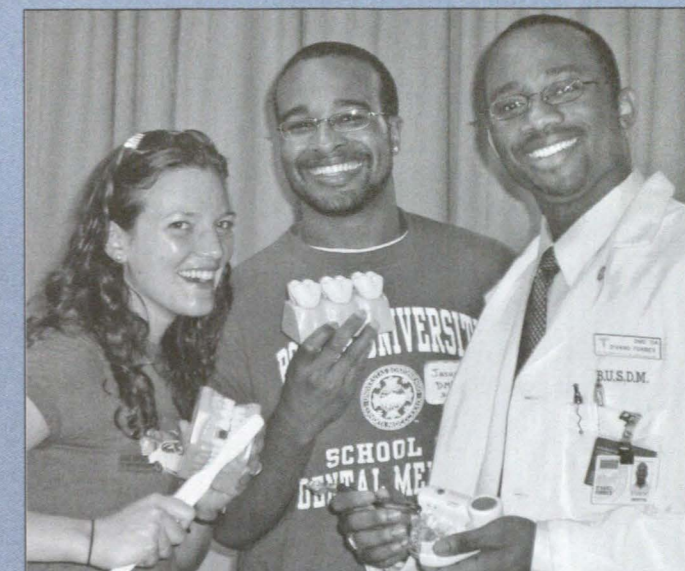
Thomas Perls, MD, MPH

Exceptional care



Each year, BMC pediatricians nominate nurses in the Division of Pediatrics for special recognition within their areas. Recipients of this year's awards are (from left) Tamzen McKenzie, RN, Pediatric Emergency Department; Sandra Montrond, RN, Primary Pediatric Care and Adolescent Center; Virginia Fernandez, RN, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit; Jeanine Bienaime Midy, RN, Inpatient Pediatric Unit; and Lindsay Volk, RN, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit.

HEALTHY FUTURES



SDM students Carolyn Dicus '08, Jasun Mahaffey '09, and D'Vano Forbes '08, were volunteers in the dental school's interactive exhibit at the Boston Public Health Commission's recent annual Boston Area Health Education Center Expo. The trio, along with members of SDM's Office of Admissions and Student Services, spoke to about 80 Boston-area high-school students on careers in dentistry and also offered lessons on flossing.

The local students were part of the center's Youth to Health Careers summer enrichment program, which offers Boston high-school students a chance to take classes and complete internships at sites including BMC and SDM.

Partnership lets asthma patients Breathe Easy at Home

In partnership with the City of Boston, BMC has created a new program to help asthmatic patients.

Breathe Easy at Home, a program of BMC's Division of Pediatrics and the Medical Legal Partnership for Children, formerly known as the Family Advocacy Program, connects BMC health care providers who treat children with asthma with city inspectors who can solve the housing conditions that have been found to worsen the asthma.

The program, led by BMC, allows doctors to send referrals from their offices via e-mail to Boston's Inspectional Services Department (ISD). Referring doctors then receive automatic e-mail

updates as their cases progress through ISD review, as well as online access to review all their referrals. Housing inspectors visit patients' homes to look for code violations that are also asthma triggers — such as mold, rodent infestation, poor ventilation and sanitation, cigarette smoke and unsanitary carpeting.

"Given that a home inspection to remove asthma triggers is often the best prescription for children with asthma, we salute Mayor Menino for bringing his team together with us to address this serious problem," said Barry Zuckerman, MD, chief and chair of Pediatrics at BUMC.

The referral system also includes a Web page

where physicians may sign up with the partnership and review their referrals, and where the general public may obtain information about asthma.

"Using modern technology, we are connecting two entities that normally would have little-to-no contact," said Megan Sandel, MD, a BMC pediatrician and assistant professor of pediatrics at BUSM. "Research shows that children who live in conditions they are allergic to, such as cockroach infestation or mold, are much more likely to end up in the emergency room or hospitalized.

"This program helps me help my patients with asthma to lead a better life," she added.

For more information, call (617) 414-3649.

International health professor is encyclopedia editor

A new comprehensive encyclopedia of public health that will address a full range of public health issues when it rolls off the presses next year is being put together under the editorial guidance of H. Kristian Heggenhougen, PhD, MA, professor of international health at BUSPH.

The *Encyclopedia of Public Health* will be an authoritative, seven-volume guide to the major issues, challenges, methods and approaches to global public health, according to Heggenhougen, an anthropologist with special interest in the sociocultural aspects of health. The encyclopedia will include articles on topics as diverse as global strategies for preventing and treating AIDS/HIV, effects of pesticides, religion and healing, and the psychological effects on children of witnessing violence.

"This encyclopedia should be useful to people who are concerned with very different aspects of public health — from those who are involved in

biomedical aspects of infectious diseases to people who are concerned with the social determinants of public health," said Heggenhougen.

Nearly 600 public health scholars and researchers from around the world are contributing articles to the encyclopedia. BU faculty from the Charles River Campus and the medical campus who are participating in the project include BUSPH faculty Gerald Keusch, MD, associate dean for Global Health, Davidson Hamer, MD, associate professor of international health, and Richard Clapp, DSc, MPH, professor of environmental health.

"I'm very much concerned that it be scientifically accurate, up-to-date, comprehensive and as even-handed as possible, and it should be equally accessible and relevant for people who are practicing in upstate New York or Iringa, Tanzania," said Heggenhougen. "Another concern is to make sure that the work reflects the most current thinking on

health and social justice and human rights."

The encyclopedia will be published in hard-bound volumes and an online version in 2007 by Elsevier Press.



H. Kristian Heggenhougen, PhD, MA

HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENTS FIND PATH TO SUCCESS AT BMC

In a successful inaugural year, BMC's partnership with the Parkway Academy of Technology and Health (PATH) has provided new opportunities for urban students to cultivate their interests in science and health.

The public high school, located in West Roxbury, was established in 2005 to prepare students for careers in health sciences, biotechnology, health services and informatics.

The PATH students, hailing from the Boston neighborhoods of the South End, Jamaica Plain, Mattapan, Roslindale and Hyde Park, gained experience and first-hand exposure to the operation of a busy urban hospital with innovative programs and cutting-edge technology.

In June, six PATH students completed the first cycle of BMC internships in a 20-week, after-school, part-time job at the medical center. They and three additional students returned in July to spend 30 hours per week in professional roles in units such as Surgical Specialties, Respiratory Therapy, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Radiology and Patient Financial Services.

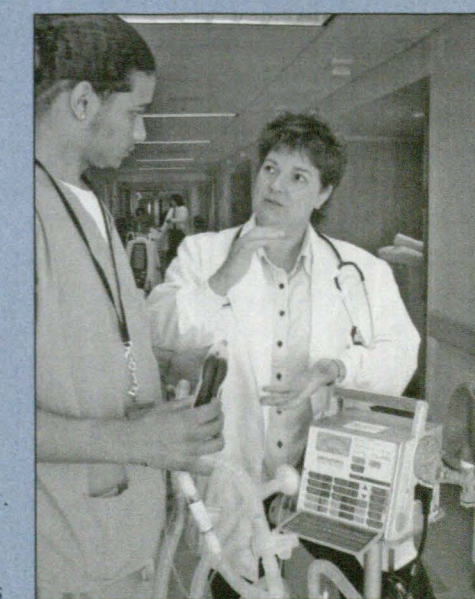
Students are selected for the program based on strong

academic performance and personal conduct. With support from BMC's Organizational Development and Training, departments develop their own strategies for integrating PATH students into their operations.

Julie Silva, RRT, Respiratory Care Unit at BMC, noted that the interns in her department, Janise Colon and Edwin Diaz, became part of patients' lives, observing and assisting in complex pre-discharge preparation for surgical patients.

Part of their experience, said Silva, included caring for a young quadriplegic, who was about to be discharged under the care of his Spanish-speaking mother. After learning how to explain the operation of the breathing machine, the interns used their native Spanish to help instruct the mother, so that she could help her son function at home. Both interns are interested in careers in health care — Colon as a midwife or pediatrician, Diaz as a surgeon or X-ray technician.

"This partnership hooks students on compassion and high performance — the core of how a teaching hospital works," stated Patricia Webb, vice president for Human Resources at BMC.



Julie Silva, registered respiratory therapist at BMC, explains how a machine delivers breath to a patient to PATH student Edwin Diaz, 17, of Mattapan.

National study identifies effective treatment for alcohol dependency

Results from a five-year study on alcoholism treatment show that medication and counseling are equally effective treatments for alcohol dependence when delivered with structured medical management.

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism launched the Combining Medications and Behavioral Interventions for Alcoholism (COMBINE) Study in 2001 to identify the most effective current treatments for alcohol dependence. COMBINE — the largest clinical trial ever conducted of pharmacologic and behavioral treatments for alcohol dependence — was carried out at 11 academic sites throughout the nation that recruited and randomly assigned 1,383 recently abstinent, alcohol-dependent patients to one of nine treatment groups.

Study results show that patients who received the medication naltrexone, specialized alcohol counseling or both, demonstrated the best outcomes, such as less craving, after 16 weeks of outpatient treatment. All patients also received medical management, an intervention consisting of nine structured outpatient sessions provided by a health care professional.

“Medical management in primary care and general mental health care settings can dramatically expand access to effective treatment, while offering patients greater choice,” said Domenic Ciraulo, MD, psychiatrist-in-chief, BMC, professor and chairman of Psychiatry at BUSM and principal investigator at the BUSM site.

“Effect of Combined Pharmacotherapies and Behavioral Interventions for Alcohol Dependence” was published in the May 2 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Early drinking linked to risk for alcohol dependence

Individuals who begin drinking alcohol at a young age may face a higher risk of alcohol dependence throughout life, according to a recently published BUSPH survey.

Ralph Hingson, ScD, MPH, professor of social and behavioral sciences at BUSPH, and colleagues at BUSPH’s Youth Alcohol Prevention Center, analyzed results from a national survey of 43,093 adults age 18 years and older conducted in 2001 and 2002. The researchers identified respondents with alcohol dependence who met at least three of seven criteria, including tolerance for alcohol, withdrawal symptoms, foregoing important activities in favor of drinking, and willingness but inability to cut down on drinking.

Overall, 12.5 percent of all respondents and 19 percent of those who had ever drunk alcohol met criteria for alcohol dependence at some point in their lives. Nearly half of those who began drinking at age 13 or younger experienced alcohol dependence during their lifetimes, compared with 9 percent of those who began drinking at age 21 or older.

“This study highlights the need for pediatricians and other health care professionals to discuss alcohol use with adolescent patients and implement policies that discourage drinking at young ages,” said Hingson.

The results were published in the July issue of *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine*.

New group supports ovarian cancer patients

In recognition of Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, BMC is enhancing its patient care with a new support group for women diagnosed with the disease.

The monthly Mind-Body Support Group meetings will offer ovarian cancer patients and their family members an opportunity to learn about alternative therapies and coping strategies, such as yoga, massage therapy, meditation and journal writing.

“This support group will encourage patients to take a holistic approach to healing and offer strategies they can use to relieve stress and discomfort during and after treatments,” said Kathleen Finn, coordinator of the support group and director of Cancer Clinical Trials at BMC. “It also will provide a forum for patients to openly discuss the emotional issues surrounding their illnesses, as well as learn valuable information from guest speakers.”

With a nationwide mortality rate of nearly 50 percent within five years of diagnosis, ovarian cancer is the deadliest form of gynecological cancer.

“Early symptoms of ovarian cancer are often undetected or ignored,” said John Durfee, MD, co-director of the Gynecologic Oncology Program at BMC and assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at BUSM. “Becoming aware of the signs of ovarian cancer can help save your life or that of someone you love.”

The group was created with a grant from the M. Patricia Cronin Foundation to Fight Ovarian Cancer. To learn more about the foundation and its campaign against ovarian cancer, visit <http://www.patsfriends.com>.

For more information about the support group, call (617) 638-8256, or e-mail ktf@bu.edu.

August coolers

Members of BUMC’s Radiation Protection Office, David Villarreg, technician, and Kimberly Clayton, assistant health physicist, enjoy a make-it-yourself sundae at BU’s recent annual Ice Cream Social on the medical campus.



Year of research helps medical students plan their future

Instead of spending the past year in the traditional medical-school curriculum, three BUSM students chose to work as full-time researchers and postpone their graduation for at least a year.

Rebecca Johnson and Solomon Graf, who arrived on the medical campus in 2003, and Annelly Richardson, who arrived in 2002, will receive their medical degrees with BUSM’s class of 2008.

With funding from private organizations, the students conducted individual projects mentored by experts at various research sites this past academic year. The experience not only strengthened their commitment to academic medicine and research, but also helped them decide how much of a focus research would play in their medical careers.

The recipient of a fellowship from the Stanley J. Sarnoff Foundation for Cardiovascular Research, Johnson spent the year examining cardiovascular calcification at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston. She attempted to show that vascular smooth muscle cells, which normally line blood vessels, can differentiate into bone cells when exposed to the proper stimulus. Johnson presented her research at the annual conference of the Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology Society this spring and will also present at the upcoming annual meeting of the American Heart Association.

“Spending a year thinking creatively in a research context gave me new insight into clinical medicine as well,” said Johnson. “This will ultimately make me a better doctor.”

Graf and Richardson were among 100 students from medical schools across the country selected as 2005-06 Howard Hughes Medical Institute Research Scholars. The program allows students to choose any lab at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Md., for biomedical research.

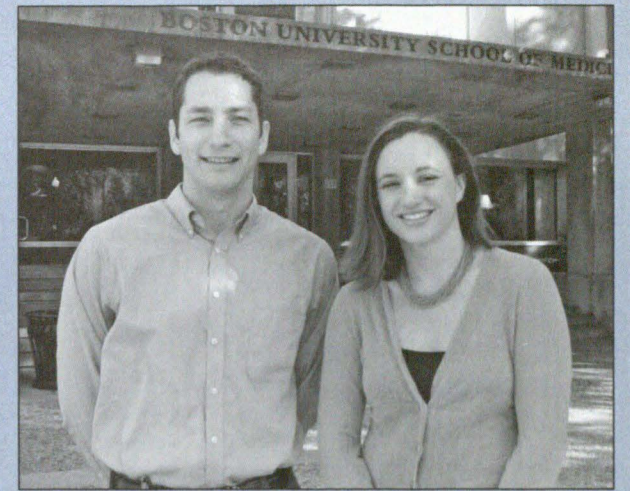
In the Hematology branch of NIH’s National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, Graf researched congenital bone-marrow failure syndromes. He studied the genetic contribution in acquired aplastic anemia, a condition where bone marrow does not produce enough or any new cells to replenish the blood. He also helped elucidate molecular consequences of mutations to the gene responsible for a rare disease that is a common cause of pancreatic insufficiency in children.

Graf will present his work at the annual meeting of the American Society of Hematology in December.

Richardson, a graduate in Biomedical Engineering at BU, was drawn to the National Cancer Institute’s (NCI) Pathology Laboratory because of its integration of molecular pathology and technology development.

Using human prostatectomy tissue, she compared the molecular profiles of supporting cells (considered passive or nonparticipants in cancer) around normal prostate glands and cancerous ones. She found that some genes known to have increased production in tumor cells also had increased production in the supportive cells surrounding the tumor cell.

These findings prompted Richardson to stay at the NCI lab for a second year to pursue more in-



After spending the past year in research, third-year BUSM students Solomon Graf and Rebecca Johnson are back at BUMC doing clinical rounds. Not pictured is Annelly Richardson, who is staying at the National Cancer Institute for another year of research.

depth research. She recently received new funding from the institute and, having completed the first three years at BUSM, will graduate in 2008.

Richardson presented her research at this year’s Annual Meeting of the American Association of Cancer Research and, like Johnson, is preparing it for publication.

“We are thrilled to see our future physician-scientists develop their curiosity and talent by committing to a year of research half-way through medical school,” said BUSM Dean Karen Antman, MD, provost of BU Medical Campus. “We look forward to the contributions that they will make to medicine and to health in years to come.”

BUSM faculty receive Ignition Awards

continued from page 1

to create the needed treatments. They have successfully engineered stem cells to produce human insulin in the stomach and small intestine of mice.

Jerome Brody, MD, director of the Pulmonary Center and professor of medicine at BUSM, received an Ignition Award to develop a noninvasive test that could predict a smoker’s risk for lung cancer. “All epithelial cells (surface cells that line the respiratory tract), from the nose to the lung, are exposed to inhalants such as cigarette smoke and allergens,” said Brody. “By analyzing gene expression in airway epithelial cells, we can derive the profile of genes that establish the diagnosis of lung cancer.”

“We give a lot of credit to Stan Willie and his Office of Technology Development for starting this award program,” said Thomas Moore, MD, associate provost for Clinical Research at BU Medical Campus. “These grants will help these investigators as they try to transform their basic research findings into products and tests that will benefit patients.

“We are proud that our faculty received three of these awards this year. That’s a credit to the quality and value of the research we do here,” added Moore.

New treatment offered for damaged esophagus

Thoracic surgeons at BMC recently began offering a noninvasive procedure to treat Barrett’s esophagus, a precancerous condition in which a thin layer of tissue lining the lower esophagus is damaged due to chronic acid reflux.

Twenty percent of the U.S. population is believed to suffer from reflux disease, and 10 percent of those individuals are estimated to have Barrett’s esophagus.

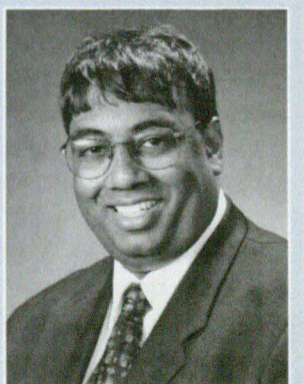
The procedure utilizes the HALO³⁶⁰ System, which places a balloon catheter into the esophagus during endoscopy. After the balloon is inflated, radiofrequency energy is delivered, removing the diseased tissue lining the esophagus.

BMC is one of the first centers in New England to offer this therapy. Multicenter clinical trials in the United States have demonstrated that in the majority of procedures, Barrett’s esophageal tissue was

removed and replaced with normal, healthy tissue.

“Prior to the availability of the HALO³⁶⁰ System, the only treatment option available for Barrett’s esophagus involved frequent surveillance endoscopies to look for any progression to dysplasia (precancerous tissue) or cancer,” explained Hiran Fernando, MD, director of Minimally Invasive Thoracic Surgery at BMC and associate professor of cardiothoracic surgery at BUSM.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (617) 638-5600.



Hiran Fernando, MD

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCE CENTER OPENS

Through a partnership with mental-health consumer leaders and the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health, BMC has helped create an innovative resource center featuring peer support and education for individuals with mental health disorders and their families.

The MetroBoston Mental Health Resource Center, initiated and endorsed by members of the National Alliance on Mental Illness/Greater Boston Consumer Advocacy Network, is located on the fifth floor of the Solomon Carter Fuller Building at 85 East Newton St.

Based on the Rehabilitation and Recovery Model approved by the Joint Commission on

Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), the center includes program design, decision making and operation by the people it serves. The center is staffed by BMC volunteers, sponsored by the hospital’s Division of Psychiatry, who have experienced psychiatric disorders and are in the process of recovery. Activities and resources — which are available at no cost — include arts and crafts, entrepreneurial projects, exercise and discussion groups, a legal clinic and peer advocacy.

Persons with any mental health issue, as well as their families and friends, may utilize the center’s services. According to Joan Taglieri, RN, MSN, director of Clinical Services, Division of Psychiatry

at BMC, individualized services will be designed to meet the needs of the diverse multicultural, multilingual populations served by BMC and the state’s Department of Mental Health.

The center will also provide resources and education about psychiatric conditions and treatment options to the community, said Taglieri, through educational programs for BUMC staff and trainees, schools, community organizations and faith-based groups.

For more information, call (617) 305-9976 or visit <http://www.bostonresourcecenter.org>.

Camera pill offers alternative to traditional endoscopy

BMC gastroenterologist Daniel Mishkin, MD, is one of only a few physicians in Boston using a camera-in-a-pill to see if chronic heartburn sufferers have other serious health problems.

The PillCam™ is the first noninvasive alternative to traditional endoscopy. The esophageal capsule is used in a 20-minute diagnostic procedure that requires no sedation, and patients have an immediate recovery.

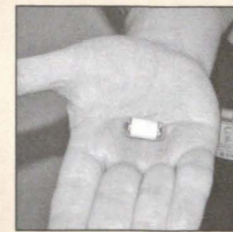


Daniel Mishkin, MD

"The images we receive from this tiny pill allow doctors to determine if something more serious than heartburn is going on inside the esophagus," said Mishkin, an instructor of medicine at BUSM. "We hope this breakthrough technology will lead to more patients getting screened for more serious diseases, like esophageal cancer, which is the fastest rising cancer in America."

The PillCam™ ESO is a smooth, plastic

capsule about the size of a large pill that has tiny video cameras on each end. A patient lies on his or her back and swallows the pill with water. The pill then glides down the esophageal tract taking about 2,600 color pictures that are transmitted wirelessly to a recording device. After 20 minutes, a physician will have sufficient images to make a diagnosis. Studies show the method has accuracy comparable to traditional endoscopy.



The "PillCam"

"There also is a camera pill for the small bowel that allows us to see areas of the GI tract that have never been seen before," said Mishkin. The pill is the only FDA-approved, naturally ingested method for direct visualization of the entire small intestine.

Mishkin is the lead author on the recent review on wireless capsule endoscopy that was published for the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy.

For more information, call (617) 638-PILL or 638-6525.

BMC HealthNet Plan provides diabetes management

To help its members with diabetes be healthier and reduce risks of serious complications, BMC HealthNet Plan has developed several new initiatives.

As part of this effort, BMC HealthNet Plan recently sent 'trigger reports' to providers to alert them about patients who are plan members and who are due for diabetes screenings or tests. The plan also began sending diabetic members a pocket calendar containing recipes, tips and daily reminders on how to control their diabetes. The calendar also includes a section where members may keep track of their blood sugar and jot down appointments with their doctor.

Additionally, the plan established a committee of internal medical professionals that reviews the medication compliance of individual members and works with providers to ensure that members receive the optimal blend of diabetic medications.

Ongoing initiatives include sending letters to remind members of diabetes tests and doctor visits they need to schedule, and assisting those who are due for retinal eye exams set up their appointments.

Diabetes, which can cause serious health complications including heart disease, blindness, kidney failure and lower-extremity amputations, is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States.

"The prevalence of diabetes is on the rise among our members, as it is nationwide," said Richard Kalish, MD, MPH, medical director at BMC HealthNet Plan and a primary care physician at South Boston Community Health Center. "We will continue to create programs and interventions directed at both our members and providers to ensure that our diabetic patients receive the best quality care."

Established by BMC in 1997, BMC HealthNet Plan is the largest MassHealth (Medicaid) managed-care organization in Massachusetts, with nearly 160,000 members.

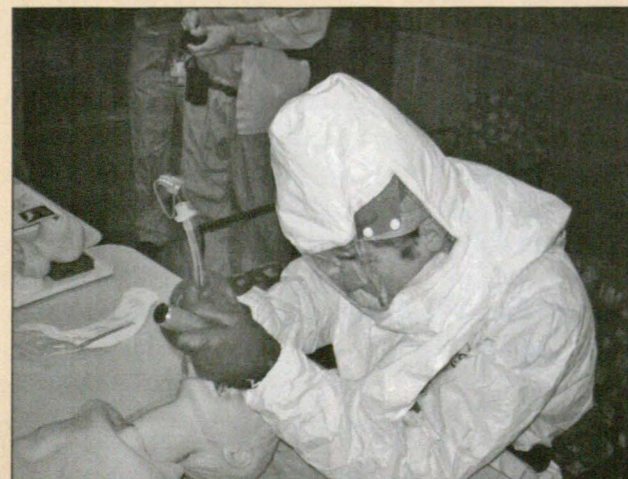
Recognizing the stars



BMC presents Shining Star Awards to recognize those who help reach the medical center's patient satisfaction goals. At the July Leadership for Change meeting, the Reward and Recognition Team presented awards to four units with the highest percentile rank for their specialty in Press-Ganey patient satisfaction scores.

From left are David Maffeo, director of Food Services, accepting for the Department of Food and Nutrition; and Kathleen Davidson, RN, MBA, vice president of Nursing, who accepted on behalf of 7 East, Newton Pavilion. Also accepting on behalf of their units are Heather Baggett, RN, nurse manager, 6 North, Newton Pavilion, and Courtney Urlick, RN, Cardiovascular Center, Preston Family Building.

Emergency responders



Wearing a powered air-purifying respirator, Joseph McBrine, MD, an anesthesiology resident at BMC, intubates a dummy during a practice session held at BMC to train anesthesiologists during emergency responses. If necessary, physicians would use the specially designed respirator to manipulate airways of patients.

CALENDAR

September

8 BUSM White Coat Ceremony
First-year BUSM students will receive their traditional white coats at the annual ceremony to be held Friday, Sept. 8, at 1 p.m. on Talbot Green. Keynote speaker is Karen Freund, MD, MPH, professor of medicine at BUSM and director of the Center of Excellence in Women's Health at BUMC. A welcoming reception will follow. For more information, call (617) 638-4166.

11 Sue Kim Hanson Lecture in Immunology
The fifth annual Sue Kim Hanson Lecture in Immunology at BUSM will feature Jonathan Yewdell, MD, PhD, chief of Cellular Biology, Laboratory of Viral Diseases, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Yewdell will speak on how the immune system monitors cells for the presence of viruses or abnormal genes by sampling short peptide fragments of newly synthesized proteins. The lecture takes place at 4 p.m., Monday, Sept. 11, in Keefer Auditorium. For more information, call (617) 648-4136.

A former researcher in BUSM's Pulmonary Center, Sue Kim Hanson, MA, PhD '02, her husband and daughter were passengers on one of the planes that hit the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.

National Housekeeping Week
BMC will honor its housekeeping staff with the celebration of National Housekeeping Week, Sept. 11-15. Each day of the week will feature a different festivity, such as a bake sale, raffle, games and a luncheon. For more information, call (617) 414-5188.

19 Street Survival course
BUMC's Department of Public Safety is offering a free, two-session course on personal safety awareness and response for members of the BUMC community. Training will focus on effective verbal and physical responses, with emphasis on risk management and avoidance techniques. The course will take place from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 19, and Thursday, Sept. 21, at BUMC. To register, call (617) 414-4425.

"Who Will Live? Power, Politics and the Future of Global AIDS Treatment"

William J. Bicknell Lectureship in Public Health

Thursday, Sept. 28, 4 to 6 p.m. — Public health science lecture

Bruce Walker, MD, professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and director of the Partners AIDS Research Center at Massachusetts General Hospital, will deliver a lecture on the evolution of African HIV strains and its implications for prevention and care.

Friday, Sept. 29, 9 to 11 a.m. — Public health policy and practice lecture

Jim Yong Kim, MD, PhD, founding chief, Division of Social Medicine and Health Inequalities, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and former director, HIV/AIDS Department/Boston, World Health Organization, will deliver a lecture on the global treatment of AIDS, followed by a panel discussion. Both lectures will be held in the auditorium at 670 Albany St.

For more information, visit <http://www.sph.bu.edu/bicknell> or call (617) 638-5291.

21 SPARK Center benefit
The SPARK (Supporting Parents and Resilient Kids) Center, formerly the Children's AIDS Program, will hold its second annual SPARK of Hope Benefit and Auction. The center offers medical, mental health and educational services to children whose lives are affected by medical, emotional and/or behavioral challenges. The event will take place Thursday, Sept. 21, from 6 p.m. to midnight at the Radisson Hotel, 200 Stuart St., Boston. For more information, visit <http://www.bmc.org/SparkOfHope> or call (617) 534-2050.

26 Alzheimer's Disease Research Day
BUSM's fourth annual Alzheimer's Disease Research Day will feature a keynote lecture by Dennis Selkoe, MD, Vincent and Stella Coates Professor of Neurologic Diseases at Harvard Medical School and co-director of the Center for Neurologic Disease at Brigham & Women's Hospital. Selkoe's presentation is titled "Alzheimer's Disease: APP, Presenilin and the Origin of Synaptic Failure." The lecture will take place at noon on Tuesday, Sept. 26, in Room 110 of the Instructional Building, and will be followed by lunch and poster sessions in the Heibert Lounge. The event is cosponsored by the Department of Biochemistry and the Alzheimer's Research Center at BUSM. For more information, call (617) 638-4302 or e-mail pharm3@bu.edu.

Jewish religious observances

In observance of the Jewish Holy Days, BMC's Pastoral Care TV Channel 6 will broadcast a Rosh Hashanah (New Year) video at 3 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 22 and Saturday, Sept. 23, and at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 24. A video about Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) will air on Yom Kippur Eve, at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 1, and at 10 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 2. Rabbi Paul Levenson, Jewish chaplain at BMC, will explain the ceremonies.

BMC's Halloween Town

To benefit The Kids Fund at BMC

Saturday, Oct. 28 and Sunday, Oct. 29
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Seaport World Trade Center

Ghoulish games, Monster Mash Dance Party, Pumpkin Patch decoration and more!

Advance tickets \$13-\$16
\$10-\$13 at participating Shaw's Markets

For more information, or to volunteer, visit <http://www.halloweentownboston.com> or call (617) 638-0100.

Religious services

In addition to providing comfort and spiritual support for hospital patients, families and staff, BMC's Department of Pastoral Care offers a variety of religious services on a regular basis for members of the BUMC community.

Catholic — A Catholic Mass is celebrated on even-numbered days of the month (Sept. 8, 10, etc.) at noon in the Chapel on the second floor of the Newton Pavilion and can be viewed simultaneously on the hospital's Pastoral Care TV Channel 6.

Ecumenical — An ecumenical service is offered every Sunday at noon in the Newton Pavilion Chapel and can be viewed simultaneously on Channel 6.

Interfaith — A Moment of Rest at Midday service is offered Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m. in the Menino Pavilion lobby.

Muslim — Weekly Jumu'ah Prayer meets every Friday from 12:30 to 1 p.m. in Robinson 2855, a meditation and prayer room.

Jewish and Muslim services may also be viewed on TV Channel 6 Fridays at 3 p.m. and 4 p.m., respectively.

In observance of major religious holidays, special services also are held at BMC. For more information, call (617) 638-6850, 414-5336 or 638-5795.

ON THE GREEN



BMC radiologists gather on the links at the hospital's recent Golf Tournament to benefit The Kids Fund: from left, Jorge Soto, MD, vice chairman of Radiology at BUMC; Bradd Millian, MD, resident; Alexander Norbash, MD, chief and chairman; and Jamie Carricciolo, MD, fellow, radiology body imaging.

One hundred friends of BMC participated in this year's event that raised nearly \$90,000 to help the hospital's most needy young patients. The tournament, presented by Spaulding & Slye, took place July 17 at the Nashawtic Country Club in Concord.

People

BMC is one of 173 hospitals in the United States recognized in a recent ad for the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's "Get with the Guidelines" program. The program helps hospitals ensure that patients consistently receive cardiac and stroke care in accordance with the most up-to-date guidelines and recommendations. The ad appeared in the July 17 issue of *US News & World Report*.

Several BUMC faculty published articles on care for the elderly in the May issue of *Emergency Medicine Clinics of North America*. Attending Emergency Department (ED) physicians at BMC, **Adeyinka Adedipe, MD**, instructor in emergency medicine at BUSM, and **Robert Lowenstein, MD**, assistant professor of emergency medicine at BUSM, described the challenges specific to diagnosing and treating emergency infectious diseases in the elderly; and **Jonathan Olshaker, MD**, chief and chair of Emergency Medicine at BUMC, described the role of emergency care providers in recognizing and assisting abused elders. Additionally, **Joanna Piechniczek-Buczek, MD**, attending psychiatrist at BMC and instructor of psychiatry at BUSM, reviewed common psychiatric emergencies among the elderly.

BMC's Committee of **Interns and Residents** and BUSPH's **Health and Human Rights Caucus** received Certificates of Appreciation from the Boston Center for Refugee Health and Human Rights (BCRHHR) BUMC at "A Night of Remembrance and Rejoicing." The annual event recognizes support of survivors of torture in commemoration of the signing of the United Nations Convention Against Torture. BMC patients, staff and guests participated in the event, cosponsored by the BCRHHR and the Health and Human Rights Caucus.

Adrienne Cupples, PhD, MA, professor of biostatistics at BUSPH, has received a six-month appointment as visiting professor in the Faculty of Medicine and Health at the University of Leeds in Leeds, England. Cupples will pursue research on the genetics of coronary heart disease, a topic she has been studying as part of the department's work with the Framingham Heart Study.

Paula Friedman, DDS, professor of general dentistry and associate dean for Administration at SDM, was recently selected as a member of the board of the American Society of Geriatric Dentistry, a component of the Special Care in Dentistry Division of the American Dental Association. Serving a three-year term, Friedman will help shape the strategy and agenda for addressing future oral-health needs of the nation's aging population.

The Section of **Geriatrics** at BUMC recently hosted the 18th annual BU Summer Institute in Geriatric Medicine. Fifteen third- and fourth-year medical students came from throughout the country for a week of clinical and research education in geriatrics. The course is directed by **Rebecca Silliman, MD**, chief of Geriatrics at BMC and professor of medicine at BUSM, and co-directed by BMC geriatricians **Sharon Levine, MD**, associate clinical professor of medicine at BUSM, and **Lara Terry, MD**, assistant professor of

medicine at BUSM. The institute was recently funded by the National Institute on Aging through 2011.

Patricia Hynes, MA, MS, professor of environmental health at BUSPH, gave a presentation at the North American Conference on Energy Efficiency in Multifamily Buildings recently held in New York City. Hynes spoke on the success of a pilot program that she coordinated for the Boston Housing Authority on integrated pest management.

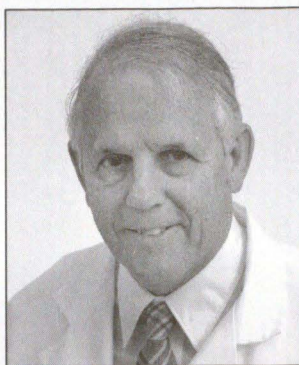
Ellen Jamieson, MS, MBA, associate director of Grants Administration at BMC, was recognized by the National Center for Research Resources (a component of National Institutes of Health) for providing information on behalf of BMC for the center's FY 2005 Survey of Science and Engineering Research Facilities. This data will be forwarded to the National Science Foundation, which together with the NIH, provides information on biomedical research facilities to decision makers in the U.S. Congress and throughout federal and state agencies.

Barbara Jean Magnani, PhD, MD, chief of the Department of Laboratory Medicine at BMC, and associate professor of pathology and laboratory medicine at BUSM, has been appointed chair of the College of American Pathologists Toxicology Resource Committee. The charge of this committee is, in part, to "define and monitor state-of-the-art and emerging technologies in toxicology and to assist the college in providing accurate information to regulatory and other government agencies."

Pushkar Mehra, DMD, director of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at BMC and assistant professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery at SDM, was the keynote speaker at the 41st Venezuelan National Dental Meeting. Mehra also gave courses on TMJ (temporomandibular joint) surgery, and lectured on topics connected to recent developments in maxillofacial reconstructive surgery. Approximately 4,000 dentists and oral and maxillofacial surgeons attended the meeting, held July 26-29 on Margarita Island, Venezuela.

The Department of **Rehabilitation Medicine** at BMC was the local sponsor for this year's annual meeting of the American Spinal Injury Association/International Spinal Cord Society. More than 600 scientists and physicians representing more than 25 countries attended the June event in Boston. Additionally, six members of the department gave presentations on various topics related to the care of persons with spinal cord injury.

David Rosenbloom, PhD, professor of social and behavioral science and director of the Youth Alcohol Prevention Center at BUSPH, has been named chairman of the Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital Network Board of Trustees. Rosenbloom is also director of BUSPH's Join Together, a program that helps communities throughout the country prevent and reduce substance abuse.



Neil Ruderman, MD, DPhil

Neil Ruderman, MD, DPhil, director of the Diabetes Research Unit and physician at the Diabetes Clinic at BMC, and professor of medicine, physiology and biophysics at BUSM, recently received the American Diabetes Association's Albert Renold Award. The award, named for the late, renowned researcher, is given to an individual whose career is distinguished by outstanding

achievements in the training of diabetes research scientists or the facilitation of diabetes research. Ruderman was presented the award at a special ceremony during the association's recent annual meeting held in Washington, D.C.

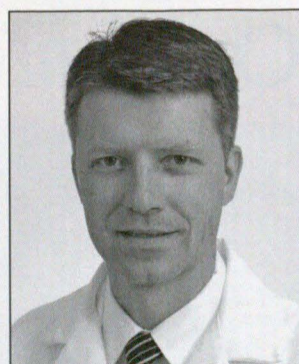
Miklos Sahin-Toth, MD, PhD, associate professor of molecular and cell biology at SDM, shared first authorship of a research article on pancreatitis published recently in *Nature Genetics*. The article describes the first known genetic variant of a trypsinogen gene that protects its carriers against pancreatitis.

New Appointments

Margaret Errante, DDS, RDH, has been appointed director of BU Dental Health Center at 930 Commonwealth Ave. Errante has 18 years of experience in a multilocation group practice, and also four years as a principal of Associated Health Plans, the largest dental-maintenance organization in Arizona. She received her DDS from the University of the Pacific School of Dentistry.

Holly Lindner has been appointed director of Development and Alumni Relations for the Alumni Association of BUSM. For the past 11 years, she served as associate director of Development for the Alumni Association of BUSM.

J. Pieter Noordzij, MD, has been appointed attending otolaryngologist at BMC and an associate professor of otolaryngology at BUSM. Noordzij recently completed a fellowship in laryngology and care of the professional voice at Vanderbilt University. After receiving his medical degree at the University of Virginia, he completed his internship and a research fellowship at New England Medical Center and an otolaryngology – head and neck residency at the University of Virginia. His expertise includes adult and pediatric laryngology;



J. Pieter Noordzij, MD

airway, thyroid and swallowing disorders; and head and neck cancer.

Christopher Shanahan, MD, MPH, assistant professor of medicine at BUSM and director of Community Medicine at BMC, has been appointed medical director of Information Technology Services (ITS) at BMC. For the past year, he served as medical director *ad interim* of the department. Shanahan will continue to serve as medical director for the Community Health Access Record Technology Project, the ambulatory electronic medical record for eight of the Boston HealthNet Community Health Centers.

Jonathan Woodson, MD, an attending vascular surgeon at BMC, has been named associate dean for Student and Minority Affairs *ad interim* at BUSM.

In addition, Woodson was recently promoted from the rank of Colonel to Brigadier General, U.S. Army Reserve, with nomination by the President of the United States and confirmation by the Senate. Woodson's assignment is Commanding General for the 330th Medical Brigade, Ft. Sheridan, Ill., which has an authorized strength of more than 6,000 soldiers. Woodson also will assume additional duties as consultant to the U.S. Surgeon General for surgical matters.

Grants and Awards

BMC has received a 5-year, \$3.4 million research grant from the National Institutes of Health. The grant will help fund the Addiction Health Evaluation and Disease (AHEAD) management program that will determine whether chronic disease management for drug dependence problems integrated in to the primary-care setting will decrease drug use and related problems, as compared to routine care. **Jeffrey Samet, MD**, chief of General Internal medicine at BMC and professor of medicine at BUSM, is principal investigator.

Kathleen Murray, RN, director of Risk Management at BMC, received the 2006 Distinguished Service Award from the Massachusetts Society for Healthcare Risk Management. The award is presented annually to an individual, nominated by the society membership, who has made significant contributions to the risk management profession through demonstrated leadership and service.

WE CARE Awards

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

Individual WE CARE Employee Recognition Awards for August 2006 were presented to **Joseph Ahern**, payer specialist, Utilization Management; **Therese Davis**, practice assistant, Endocrinology, Diabetes & Nutrition Unit; **Lori Foley**, senior physical therapist, Rehabilitation Medicine; and **Thai Vu**, physician's assistant, Neurosurgery at BMC.

The WE CARE Volunteer Recognition Award for August was presented to the **Rev. Carrie Fletcher**, a volunteer with the Department of Pastoral Care at BMC. Fletcher, who is a Pentecostal minister and lives in Roxbury, has ministered to BMC patients, offering them comfort and counseling, twice a week since 2002.

MedCenter News

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