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News & Notes



Boston University School of Medicine

Issue #32
May 30, 1980

55 WOMEN AMONG GRADUATES AT BUSM'S 106th COMMENCEMENT

"We are seeing a rebirth of feminism in medicine," Arnold Relman, M.D., editor of the New England Journal of Medicine, said at the 106th commencement exercises of the School of Medicine May 18 at the Case Center.

Relman, a former BUSM professor of medicine, told the School's 133 graduates that the increasing number of women entering medicine is a "national phenomenon that is having a profound effect upon American medicine.

"I predict medicine will become more service- and people-oriented, more humanistic and less entrepreneurial in the future," he told the graduates, 55 of whom were women. This represented the highest number of female graduates from the School at one time since it became part of Boston University in 1873.

Six of the 17 graduates who received academic honors at the exercises were Six-Year students, including Neil Dreizen and Mark Weissler, who graduated summa cum laude. The three students who graduated magna cum laude were Winston Alt, Barbara Wolf and John Tumolo. Twelve students graduated cum laude and 25 student prizes and awards were presented. Mary Ann Oberdorf was the student speaker.

Stanley L. Robbins, M.D., retiring chairman of the Department of Pathology and associate dean for resources, was honored by receiving a newly created teaching award established in his name. The award will be presented annually at commencement to "an outstanding educator of the School." Recipients of the award will be recognized for their "excellence in teaching and devotion to the students as best exemplified by the tradition established by the teaching of Stanley L. Robbins."

SPH HOLDS FIRST GRADUATION SINCE BEING DESIGNATED A SCHOOL

Fifty-three students received the Master of Public Health degree at the School of Public Health's (SPH) graduation exercises, held simultaneously with the School of Medicine's ceremony, at the School of Fine Arts conference hall. Cecil G. Sheps, M.D., a distinguished professor of social medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was the principal speaker. He addressed the graduates, faculty and guests on "Education in Public Health for the '80s." Nancy Pisani Heck was graduated magna cum laude, and seven students were graduated cum laude. Deborah L. Cross Boucher was the student speaker.

This was the first commencement exercise for the SPH since it was designated a school within the School of Medicine last June.

HEHRE DIES AT AGE 56; WAS LEADER IN ANESTHESIOLOGY

Frederick W. Hehre Jr., head of the Department of Anesthesiology at the Medical Center since 1975, died suddenly April 11 at University Hospital after suffering a heart attack. A leader in the field of obstetrical anesthesiology, Hehre was chairman of the School's Department of Anesthesiology and was responsible for overseeing the clinical and

training activities in anesthesiology at both UH and Boston City Hospital.

Hehre was the author of more than 55 articles on obstetrical anesthesiology and other research interests. Before his appointment to the Medical Center, he was associate director of anesthesiology at Yale-New Haven Hospital and was an associate professor of anesthesiology at Yale University School of Medicine.

BETJEMANN RESIGNS FROM UH
TO HEAD INDIANA HOSPITAL

John H. Betjemann, president of University Hospital, is resigning his post as of June 1 to become president of Methodist Hospital in northwestern Indiana. News of

Betjemann's resignation was announced by John F. Cogan Jr., chairman of the board of UH, and Richard H. Egdahl, M.D., director of the Medical Center and vice chairman of the Hospital.

J. Scott Abercrombie Jr., M.D., is acting Hospital administrator until a search committee, headed by Egdahl, names a new administrator.

Betjemann became administrator of UH in 1973, and assumed the additional post of president of UH in 1979. His efforts over the past two years were concentrated in the development of external relationships, and during his tenure, he played an important role in the health-planning process. He served as chairman of the Central Metro Council of the Greater Boston Health Systems Agency and as chairman of the Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals. Betjemann was also vice president of the Massachusetts Public Health Association and a member of the board of trustees of the Massachusetts Hospital Association.

BURNHAM WALKER '34 DIES;
CHAired DEPT. FOR 22 YEARS

Burnham S. Walker, Ph.D., M.D., '34, chairman of the Department of Biochemistry from 1934 to 1956, died April 3 at age 78. The respected physician and researcher re-

ceived the School's Outstanding Alumnus Award in 1954, and during his tenure at BUSM, he was the author of 65 medical and scientific publications. He was also a member of the Evans Memorial Department of Clinical Research and Preventive Medicine at University Hospital. A member of numerous professional organizations, Walker spent the past 24 years as a general practitioner and school physician in Ashby, Mass., and as an associate pathologist at Burbank Hospital in Fitchburg, Mass.

AMOS SCHEDULED TO SPEAK
AT COOPERBAND SYMPOSIUM

Harold Amos, Ph.D., president-elect of the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Cancer Society and a member of the National Cancer Advisory Board, will be the keynote

speaker at the second annual Sidney R. Cooperband Cancer Research Symposium. The symposium, sponsored by the Hubert H. Humphrey Cancer Research Center, will also feature presentations of basic and clinical cancer research papers and posters. It will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 21, at the School. Amos will discuss the "Future of Cancer Research: Scientific Priorities and Public Policy."

Persons interested in cancer research are invited to attend. For more information, or to indicate your interest in attending, call the Center at x6075 (247-6075) as soon as possible.

WATERFALL DEDICATION, AWARDS
HIGHLIGHT ALUMNI WEEKEND

Nearly 300 BUSM alumni, faculty members, graduating students, and guests attended the annual meeting and banquet of the BUSM Alumni Association, held May 10 at the 57

Restaurant. Michael Halberstam '57, editor-in-chief of Modern Medicine, was the guest speaker.

At the banquet, Martin B. Levene '50 was presented with a Distinguished Alumnus Award

by Elizabeth Dooling '65, in recognition of his professional accomplishments in the area of therapeutic radiology. Peter Pochi '55, a professor of dermatology, presented the Association's first Student Service Award to Kenneth B. Simons, a member of the Class of 1980.

Other highlights of Alumni Weekend included the dedication of a waterfall, donated by Nathan L. Fineberg '30 on the occasion of his 50th reunion year. The waterfall is located in front of the School. Tours of the School were conducted by student guides, and Dean Sandson presented an informal talk to more than 50 guests on current issues facing the School. Norman Scotch, Ph.D., director of the School of Public Health, also spoke to the group about the socio-medical sciences and community medicine program. Paul H. Black, M.D., director of the Hubert H. Humphrey Cancer Research Center, discussed the cancer-related activities at the Medical Center.

SUSAN WEIL RECEIVES
NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP AWARD

Susan C. Weil, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine and a staff member of the Hematology Section at Boston City Hospital, was recently named one of 11 recipients of the first annual John A. and George L. Hartford Fellowship Awards. The fellowship, awarded to young investigators in the early stages of their research careers, carries with it a \$30,000 yearly stipend for a three-year period.

One hundred and twenty-six physicians were nominated by 57 medical and research institutions for this year's awards. The purpose of the fellowship program, according to the John A. Hartford Foundation of New York City, is to stimulate interest among promising and highly qualified young physicians in pursuing careers in biomedical research.

SPIROMETRY TESTING PROGRAM
TO BE HELD AT BUSM IN JUNE

A professional education program for physicians, nurses and technicians, entitled "Spirometry Testing in Industry," will be held at the School June 18 to 20. BUSM, along with the School of Nursing, the American Lung Associations of Massachusetts, and the School of Nursing, the American Lung Associations of Massachusetts, and the Massachusetts Association of Occupational Health Nurses, are co-sponsors of the program. Lectures, demonstrations and practicums on such topics as the technical methods of spirometry testing, patient preparation, and medical surveillance for occupational respiratory disease will be offered. To register or obtain more information, contact Robert Levin, M.D., at 424-5421.

BASS TO STUDY CHILDREN'S
ACCIDENTAL INJURIES

Joel Bass, M.D., an assistant clinical professor of pediatrics at the School and an associate in pediatrics at Framingham Union Hospital, will be chief investigator in a three-year \$86,000 federal grant recently awarded to the hospital's Department of Pediatrics. The project aims to reduce the number of accidental injuries suffered by children. The funding is part of a \$625,000 grant awarded to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

According to Kishor A. Mehta, M.D., an associate clinical professor of pediatrics at the School and pediatrician-in-chief at Framingham Union Hospital, a BUSM affiliate, the project will include counseling parents of young children and a survey to identify children at high risk of injuring themselves.

STUDY SHOWS CORRELATION
BETWEEN CATARACTS, ILLNESSES

Recently published results of the Framingham Eye Study reveal a positive correlation between the development of cataracts and such problems as hypertension and elevated blood sugar levels. Howard M. Leibowitz, M.D., chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology,

mology, was chief investigator of the study, conducted from 1973 to 1975. The project, sponsored by the National Institutes of Health, involved 2,631 members of the original Boston University-Framingham Heart Study cohort who were between the ages of 52 and 85.

Other findings of the eye study, published in the Feb. 22 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association, showed that macular degeneration, a common cause of legal blindness in the elderly, was associated with high blood pressure, enlarged hearts and lung disease.

Thomas R. Dawber, M.D., M.P.H., the retired founding director of the Framingham Heart Study and a professor of medicine at the School, and Mohandas M. Kini, M.D., an assistant professor of ophthalmology, were investigators for the project. John I. Lowenstein, M.D., an instructor in ophthalmology, assisted in analyzing data on retinal abnormalities.

FOUNDATION SEEKS MANUSCRIPTS
FOR NEW HEALTH JOURNAL

The Medical Foundation, Inc., is seeking manuscripts for a new journal for health professionals, entitled The Massachusetts Journal of Community Health, which

will be published for the first time this fall. The Journal will be published on a quarterly basis and will have a circulation of approximately 5,000.

The editorial board invites submission of manuscripts on aspects of community health that have special relevance to the Massachusetts area. To be considered for publication in the fall, 1980, issue, manuscripts must be received by July 1 and should be limited to 15 pages. Topics of interest to the Journal include: utilization of health services, behavioral aspects of health and illness, evaluation of health services, education in the health professions, public policy and health planning. Before submitting manuscripts, or for more information, contact editor Henry Wechsler, Ph.D., at The Medical Foundation, Inc., 29 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA 02116, or call 262-1530.

BUSM faculty members serving on the editorial board of the Journal are Norman Scotch, Ph.D., director of the School of Public Health and chairman of the Department of Socio-Medical Sciences and Community Medicine; George A. Lamb, M.D., a professor of pediatrics; and Sol Levine, Ph.D., a professor of socio-medical sciences and community medicine.

PSYCHIATRIC DAY HOSPITAL
BEGINS OPERATING AT UH

The Division of Psychiatry began conducting a Psychiatric Day Hospital program at University Hospital on April 1. The Day Hospital provides treatment for patients who

are either in transition from an inpatient program or who need more help than outpatient psychotherapy can provide. The aim of the Day Hospital is to allow patients to live within their home environments while receiving intensive psychiatric care. Marcia Scott, M.D., a clinical associate in child psychiatry, is medical director of the Day Hospital. For more information about the program, call x6741 (247-6741).

CT HEAD SCANNER
IN USE AT UH

A new computerized tomography (CT) head scanner is now in use in University Hospital's Department of Radiology, located on Robinson-1. The head scanner was part of a

joint UH-Boston City Hospital proposal submitted last year to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The second part of the plan called for the purchase of a full-body CT scanner to be housed at BCH. For more information on the CT scanners, call the Department of Radiology at x5511 (247-5511).

UH LAUNCHES 125TH YEAR
ON CHARTER DAY, 1980

University Hospital celebrated the official beginning of its 125th anniversary year on "Charter Day," May 19. The ceremony included brief remarks by BUMC Director

Richard H. Egdahl, M.D., UH President John Betjemann, and Marguerite Rosen, a new Hospital trustee. UH Chaplain Leicester Potter delivered the invocation. Four employees with the

longest service to the Hospital participated in the ceremonial planting of a Great American beech tree, the Hospital's symbol, which was dedicated in front of the Talbot. Music was provided by the Ted Kirk Brass Ensemble, and nurse's uniforms from the late 1800s to World War II were modeled by UH nurses. Punch and anniversary cake were served.

CORRECTION

The April issue of News & Notes incorrectly reported the faculty title of Alma Dell Smith, Ph.D. She is an assistant professor of psychiatry.

BRIEFLY NOTED

William F. McNary Jr., Ph.D., associate dean for student affairs, has been named an honorary life member of Phi Delta Epsilon, a national medical fraternity, in recognition of his service to the School, to medical education and to the fraternity. McNary, who was nominated by the Boston University chapter, received the honor at an awards banquet held April 26 in Washington, D.C....On April 24, Peter Pochi, M.D., a professor of dermatology, delivered the Henry Silver, M.D., Memorial Lecture at the annual meeting of the Dermatologic Society of Greater New York. The lecture, presented at the New York Academy of Science in New York City, was entitled "Androgen Metabolism and its Relationship to Clinical Dermatology"....Michael W. Hurst, Ed.D., an assistant professor of psychiatry (psychology), spoke on "Stress and Illness" to members of the Massachusetts Psychological Association at Wellesley College on May 10. He was also a recent guest on WBZ-TV, Channel 4's "Sharon King Show," beginning a week-long series on stress with his discussion on stress responses....Jacob Swartz, M.D., a professor of psychiatry and associate dean for admissions, presented a paper entitled "Psychotherapy of Depression" at a meeting of the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society recently held in Boston....John E. Madias, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine and director of the heart station at Boston City Hospital, was a guest speaker at the Massachusetts General Hospital's Anesthesia Department on May 16. He discussed "Pathogenesis of Spontaneous Angina," a form of chest pain that often occurs while a person is at rest....James C. Skinner, M.D., a professor of psychiatry and director of the Division of Psychiatry at Boston City Hospital (BCH), was elected president of the Medical and Dental Staff of BCH on April 8....Ladislav Volicer, M.D., Ph.D., a professor of pharmacology and an assistant professor of medicine, was recently elected chairman of the Massachusetts Drug Formulary Commission. The commission prepared the first Massachusetts List of Interchangeable Drugs and is now updating it....James R. Sorenson, Ph.D., an associate professor of socio-medical sciences and community medicine, presented the College Day Address at Drexel University in Philadelphia on April 15. It was entitled "Applying Genetic Knowledge and Technology: Problems and Issues"....Jerome H. Shapiro, M.D., chairman of the Department of Radiology, has been appointed to the Advisory Committee of Radio-pharmaceutical Drugs of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The committee oversees activities in radio-pharmaceuticals and makes recommendations to the FDA....Sanford Chodosh, M.D., an associate professor of medicine and director of the Sputum Lab at Boston City Hospital, presented a paper at an international symposium on "Pulse Dosing: Theoretical and Clinical Aspects," held May 8 and 9 in Puerto Rico....Robert G. Feldman, M.D., chairman of the Department of Neurology, Robert J. Krane, M.D., an associate professor of urology, Mike B. Siroky, M.D., an assistant professor of urology, and Clyde A. Niles, M.D., an instructor in medicine, are among seven co-authors of an article that appeared in a recent issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association. The article, entitled "Neurological Dysfunction of the Bladder in Workers Exposed to Dimethylaminopropionitrile," reported on a study of automobile plant workers exposed to a chemical catalyst used in the synthesis of polyurethane foam....An exhibit entitled "The Identification and Prevention of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome," prepared by Kenneth C. Edelin, M.D., chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Henry L. Rosett, M.D., an associate professor of psychiatry and of obstetrics and gynecology, and Lyn Weiner, M.P.E., received a Prize Award for Scientific and Educational Exhibits at the annual meeting of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, held in New Orleans May 3 to 8. All exhibit materials were prepared by Educational Media, BUSM.

..Isaac Asimov, Ph.D., a professor of biochemistry, was awarded the honorary Doctor of Letters and Science degree by Boston University President John R. Silber, Ph.D., at the all-University commencement exercises May 18 at Nickerson Field....James Barrett, M.D., an associate professor of psychiatry, presented a paper at the annual meeting of the American Psychiatric Association in San Francisco on May 8. The topic of the paper was "Research Diagnostic Criteria Diagnoses: HSCL Scale Scores in Symptomatic Volunteers." On April 18, Barrett was a guest speaker at Harvard University's Department of Psychology and Social Relations Colloquium. He discussed "A Two-Year Follow-up of Neurotic Disorders: The Nature of the Helping Experience."....Adam Sulkowski, M.D., an instructor in psychiatry, is the author of an article that appeared in the Winter 1980 issue of Perspectives in Biology and Medicine. Entitled "Marihuana 'High': A Model of Senile Dementia," the article describes similarities between the effects associated with smoking marihuana and the clinical symptoms of senility....Leslie Ann Vensel, who will be a member of the BUSM Class of '84, edited Aesculapian Boston, a recently published guidebook to medical history sites in the Greater Boston area.

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