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MedCenter News

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MedCenter News

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

General Motors Mobility Center donates vehicle to BMC

General Motors recently donated a custom-made, wheelchair-accessible vehicle to the Spinal Cord Injury Center at BMC.

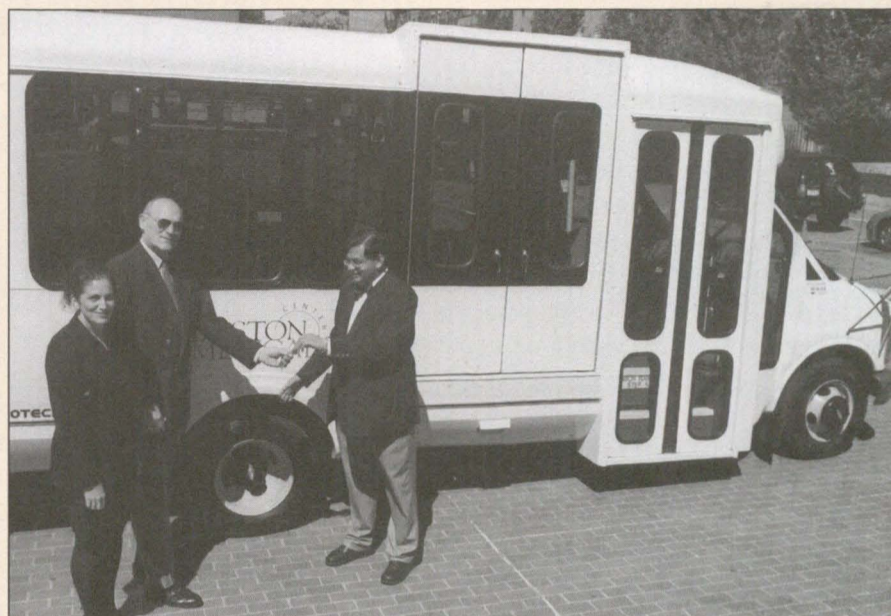
Built on a GM Chevrolet Cutaway chassis and equipped with a mechanical lift, the vehicle allows people in wheelchairs the ability to travel in the community. It can be used to transport patients undergoing rehabilitation at BMC to their homes for family visits, and has room for nine passengers and two wheelchairs, or five passengers and three wheelchairs, plus a driver.

"Boston Medical Center is grateful to General Motors for this generous gift," said Shanker Nesathurai, MD, chief of Rehabilitation Services at BMC and associate professor and chairman ad interim of Rehabilitation Medicine at BUSM. "This donation will allow our patients a greater ability to participate in community activities and cultural events."

El Dorado National, the largest volume producer of commercial buses in North America, produced the body of the vehicle. Ricon Corp., a leader in the design and manufacturing of vehicular wheelchair lifts, donated the wheelchair lift.

GM has been actively involved in the mobility transportation market since 1990, and in 1999 established the GM Mobility Center to consolidate its mobility activities into one group. The GM Mobility Center was created to ensure that General Motors meets the transportation needs of people with disabilities.

"Boston Medical Center is unique, in that it offers care to patients regardless of their financial situation or lack of health care coverage," said John F. Smith, Jr., General Motors chairman. "Boston Medical Center and its Department of Rehabilitation demonstrate humanitarianism that is an inspiration to all, and for that reason I am pleased that GM is able to support BMC."



Linda Spranger and Peter Schmid, both from General Motors (left), hand over the keys for a custom-made, wheelchair-accessible vehicle to Shanker Nesathurai, MD, chief of Rehabilitation Services at BMC.

Orientations welcome new students to medical campus

Even before they started hitting the books, new students at BUSM, SPH and SDM did a little sightseeing around Boston, socialized with fellow classmates over ice cream, and even participated in a scavenger hunt.

SDM students enjoyed a breakfast in Hiebert Lounge in early August, where they were welcomed by Spencer Frankl, DDS, MSD, dean of SDM, Neal Bellanti, DDS, MBA, associate dean for Academic Affairs at SDM, and Stephen DuLong, DMD, assistant dean for Clinical Services at SDM.

That afternoon, more than 150 SDM students participated in a White Coat Ceremony in Bakst Auditorium, where they pledged their service to patients and profession.

The end of August marked the beginning of BUSM's orientation for the 150 new first-year medical students. A welcome breakfast for the incoming students was followed by a greeting from Arthur Culbert, PhD, associate dean of Student Affairs at BUSM.

Students also had the chance to meet with second-year BUSM class members and MedCAREERS Peer

Advisors on student panels to discuss tips and strategies for success in medical school.

A walking tour of the medical campus, as well as the South End, geared students up for the following day's event: a scavenger hunt, presented by the second-year BUSM students. The hunt gave the first-year students a crash course in navigating Boston and getting around using the MBTA. Later that day, the traditional ice cream social, complete with a disc jockey, brought students and faculty together on the Talbot Green.

BUSM orientation culminated with a White Coat Ceremony on Thursday, Aug. 31. Kenneth Edelin, MD, associate dean of Student and Minority Affairs, and professor of obstetrics and gynecology at BUSM, offered a rousing address. Proud families and friends watched as the new

students received their white coats and took the Hippocratic Oath as student physicians (see page 2).

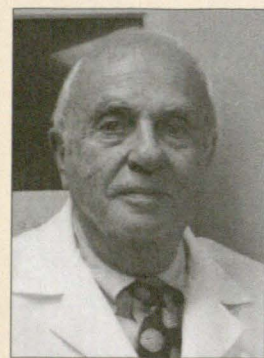
SPH Dean Robert Meenan, MD, MPH, MBA, welcomed more than 270 new MPH students at SPH's orientation in early September. Following the general session, students met with their fellow classmates and department faculty at concentrator meetings, which served as an introduction to each student's SPH concentration. Tours of campus, career resources workshops and a buffet dinner in Hiebert Lounge rounded out the day.

Orientation events lasted throughout September for new SPH students, and included a Red Sox game and a Duck Tour around Boston. A series of "Free Food Night" socials for SPH students will continue through the year. ♦

Braverman assumes Endocrinology post

An internationally recognized leader in the field of endocrinology, Lewis Braverman, MD, has assumed the position of section chief of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Nutrition in the Department of Medicine at BMC. He has also been named a professor of medicine at BUSM.

Braverman has an extensive background in endocrinology, having worked in the field since 1962. He has co-authored more than 450 publications related to basic and clinical thyroidology.



Lewis Braverman, MD

He has offered editorial expertise on a number of endocrinology textbooks, including as co-editor of the leading text on the thyroid, and has served as editor of the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism. He has also served on many journal editorial boards. Braverman has been, and continues to be, a member of National Institutes of Health study sections and site visiting teams. His major research interests include thyroid physiology and pathophysiology, in addition to general endocrinology.

"I am delighted to join the Section of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Nutrition at Boston Medical Center," Braverman said. "It is a nationally recognized research group in diabetes, obesity, and bone and vitamin D metabolism. We will now further enhance the clinical and research activities in diseases of the thyroid and diabetes care, and hope to make our delivery of health care in endocrinology, diabetes and nutrition the best in the Northeast."

Braverman received his undergraduate degree from Harvard College and his medical degree from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in 1955. After graduating from Johns Hopkins, Braverman completed his medical internship at Beth Israel Hospital in 1956, before spending two years serving as a captain in the U.S. Army.

Upon finishing his military service, Braverman completed his residency in medicine on the Harvard Service at the former Boston City Hospital (BCH), now BMC. He followed his residency with a research fellowship in endocrinology in the Thorndike Laboratory at BCH and Harvard Medical School. In 1962, Braverman was appointed chief of Endocrinology at St. Elizabeth's Hospital. He served as chief there until 1975, at which time he became director of the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism, as well as the Department of Nuclear Medicine, at UMASS Medical Center in Worcester, Mass. He served as chief until 1998, when he became a visiting professor at Harvard Medical School.

BUSM students launch careers

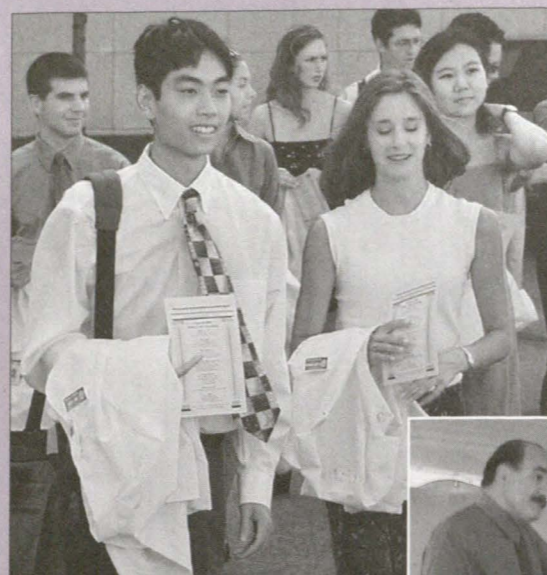
First-year BUSM students took an initial step in their medical careers as they donned white lab coats and recited the Hippocratic Oath during the sixth annual BUSM White Coat Ceremony held Aug. 31.

Dean Aram Chobanian, MD, provost of BU Medical Campus, welcomed the students and their families, and provided an overview of the vast medical campus, including its research capabilities, clinical services and teaching resources.

Keynote speaker Kenneth Edelin, MD, associate dean of Student and Minority Affairs, and professor of obstetrics and gynecology at BUSM, also addressed the 150 students, their family members and friends who packed a white tent on the East Concord Street Green.

Invoking the spirit of innovative and celebrated physicians throughout history, Edelin told the first-year students, "You are about to become a link in this great chain of healers, and the link you become must be even stronger than that which preceded you."

Edelin urged students to keep their future patients at the center of their focus. "You will learn from your patients and many of them will not look like you. Some of them will not share



Tiong Tjoeng and Hillary Tompkins, first-year BUSM students, enter the 6th annual White Coat Ceremony.



Kenneth Edelin, MD, associate dean of Student and Minority Affairs, and professor of obstetrics and gynecology at BUSM, delivers the keynote address.

her white lab coat to Suzanne Sarfaty, MD, assistant dean of Student Affairs and assistant professor of medicine at BUSM, who then assisted each in putting on the coat that symbolizes the medical profession.

Once all the students had donned their coats, they recited the 2,000-year-old Hippocratic Oath for the first time as a class.

your background, your beliefs or your language. But they will come to you in illness and expect that you will make them better.

"You must not judge them for what they are or where they come from," he continued, "but you must treat them for the illness they have."

The White Coat Ceremony began at BUSM in 1994 as a way to foster humanism in medicine. During the recent ceremony, each student walked on stage and handed his or

Bar foundations award grants

The Massachusetts Bar Foundation and the Boston Bar Foundation recently awarded BMC grants totaling \$32,500 in support of staff attorneys who will work with Boston Center for Refugee Health and Human Rights (BCRHHR) patients and pediatric patients faced with mental health issues.

BCRHHR, a multidisciplinary project at BMC that aims to deliver comprehensive care to refugees and survivors of torture and related trauma, received a \$22,500 grant from the Massachusetts Bar Foundation for aid in providing legal support and referral for asylum applicants and refugees not receiving such assistance from their resettlement agencies. The grant will help coordinate the process for citizenship, political asylum, and other legal matters ranging from immigration to disability and family law.

The staff attorney hired for this project will also represent patients in need of health insurance coverage (including assistance with appeals of insurance denials and/or benefit coverage), as well as patients struggling to access disability benefits, other public benefits, adequate housing, and appropriate educational programs for children.

Referrals will be made through BMC's partnerships with BU's School of Law, Greater Boston

Legal Services, Political Asylum Immigration Representation, the International Institute of Boston, and lawyers in private practice. The legal services represent only one component of BCRHHR; other services include psychosocial vocational support and educational initiatives.

In 1993, the Department of Pediatrics at BMC created its own team of lawyers to advocate on behalf of poor children with serious medical conditions and/or disabilities. The Family Advocacy Program at BMC (FAP) comprises three attorneys and several legal interns, who represent families challenged by issues such as safe and affordable housing, nutrition and income supports, and domestic violence issues.

The Boston Bar Foundation granted a \$10,000 award in support of a FAP staff attorney dedicated to helping BMC's pediatric patients faced with mental health issues. The grant will help support representation of mental health patients in health insurance cases, and on-call representation to children with mental health needs. The grant will also provide preventive interventions for at-risk pediatric patients who need help gaining access to special counseling/educational programs that may prevent mental health conditions from worsening. ♦

Simulation Learning Center: A virtual learning experience



SDM students now have the opportunity to study virtual "patients" in class, thanks to the new Simulation Learning Center located in the Evans Biomedical Research Center. After applying a rubber dam on his "patient's" mouth to isolate the teeth, second-year SDM student Jesse Engle goes to work removing a filling.

Aspiring dentists at SDM have an opportunity that most dental students don't have until later in their clinical training: they each get their own patient to study.

Well, a virtual patient, that is.

SDM's new Simulation Learning Center (SLC) is one of the most advanced simulation facilities in the country. It allows students to practice real-world patient care procedures, instead of the traditional preclinical technical procedures, making it a personalized learning experience.

Located on the second floor of the Evans Biomedical Research Center, the SLC has individualized student workstations with simulators — virtual "patients" — attached. These simulators represent live patients, and students are able to conduct procedures on them using proper ergonomics, appropriate lighting and all Universal infection control protocols.

Instant quiz results and instructor feedback are accessed through electronic keypads on the workstations. Two-way microphones allow for communication between the instructor and students. Lecturers are able to highlight information immediately for all students, or just selected students, from lecture notes or a digital X-ray.

Instructors have access to interactive Internet/intranet presentations that can be delivered separately or blended into a seamless, professional presentation.

Additionally, they are able to teach using many different platforms, including CD-ROMs, live video, and real-time digital X-ray images, giving SDM students a personalized, virtual patient care experience.

"It's amazing," said Zaher Ham-moud, a second-year SDM student. "It's as if you're in a clinic and working on a patient. It prepares you for the clinical rotations we do in the third year."

All staff, students and faculty were invited to a dedication ceremony on Sept. 11. BU President Jon Westling recognized the leadership and foresight of SDM Dean Spencer Frankl, DDS, MSD.

"This is an exciting time for the Goldman School of Dental Medicine. Our students are immersed in an academic and clinical atmosphere ripe with technology, thanks to the dedication and foresight of Dean Spencer Frankl — who, for the past 20 years, has led this school successfully into the forefront of dental education," he said.

Frankl also recognized the various individuals who helped make the SLC a reality, emphasizing their commitment and devotion to the project.

"This splendid teaching facility is the result of the work of many people," Frankl said. "We have the finest virtual care educational equipment currently available in any of the nation's 55 schools. The work of these people is all around us and speaks for itself." ♦

WE CARE

Steps taken point toward progress

In January 1998, many BMC departments began developing customized service action planning initiatives to improve patient and customer care. The goal was for BMC staff to become stakeholders in the success of their individual areas, as well as in BMC's mission. "WE CARE" was the acronym chosen from numerous employee suggestions.

Many lessons have been learned along the way. Some staff members reacted with concern: "Are you saying that we don't care?" The good news was that employees who began the process responded with enthusiasm, "I'm glad someone finally asked me..."

The process has revealed that quick fixes aren't always so quick or, at times, other tasks resulted in a crunch for time and energy. The units that have been most successful in sustaining implementation of plans have integrated the process into daily operations. Managers and staff use a variety of communication vehicles, such as postings in central locations and regular staff meetings, to recognize accomplishments, large or small.

Staff have also discovered that it is important to consistently support a learning (not blaming) environment that truly encourages honest exchanges of ideas and willingness to try to new approaches.

Many quick fixes were completed and included: improved patient education/discharge teaching materials; repair or replacement of broken equipment, johnnies and phones; color coding of equipment for ease of use and return; securing staff bathrooms; space re-organization to improve efficiency and privacy; and call light response strategies. The large quick fix display banners originally planned were eliminated due to budget issues.

Much still remains to be done, including the identification of "road blocks," "customers" and "quick fix" opportunities. Other goals moving forward include the beginning of staff participation in simple performance improvement efforts at the local level.

"Many BMC staff do not think about their service action planning efforts as a more formal performance improvement initiative; however, we have established a foundation for the organization that we intend to capitalize on," said Patricia Webb, vice president of Human Resources at BMC.

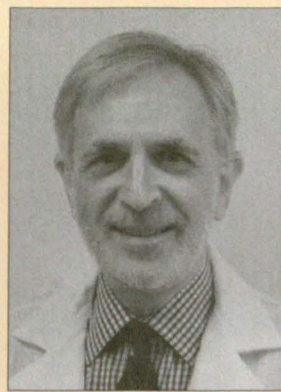
Numerous interdisciplinary resources have been identified within the BMC community to assist with designing and implementing two new initiatives. These new programs will continue to increase ownership by managers and staff on the importance of performance improvement, risk management and quality control/compliance management as it applies to the daily unit operations.

This fall, managers will deliver mini-workshops that focus on performance improvement and its relationship to a better work environment and continuous improvement of patient care.

"Supporting the BMC community in taking the next big step in learning more formalized improvement techniques will take everyone's commitment and best effort," said John Chessare, MD, MPH, senior vice president and chief medical officer at BMC. "This initiative will help ensure that Boston Medical Center continues to grow as a pre-eminent healthcare provider in Boston."

For more information about Quick Fix resources, call Steve Gioffari in Organizational Development & Training at 414-5483.

Steinberg joins Sick Cell Center



Martin Steinberg, MD

Martin Steinberg, MD, has joined BUSM as professor of medicine and pediatrics and as co-director of the Sick Cell Center, which is funded by the National Institutes of Health, BMC, the Department of Medicine and the Department of

Pediatrics. Steinberg was most recently associate chief of staff for Research and Development at Jackson VA Medical Center in Jackson, Miss., and professor of medicine at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine.

Steinberg earned his MD at Tufts University School of Medicine. He completed his medical internship at Bellevue Hospital in New York City and his medical residency at New England Medical Center (NEMC). He also served as a fellow in hematology and with the American Cancer Society at NEMC's Blood Research Laboratory and as a teaching and research fellow with Tufts University School of Medicine.

Steinberg's goals at BUMC are to enhance and coordinate all aspects of clinical care and research of sickle cell disease and related disorders; to continue to build the research base established under Dr. Lillian McMahon and to establish a day hospital program staffed by specialists trained in treating pain episodes specific to sickle cell patients.

"BUMC has made a strong institutional commitment to enhance the clinical and research aspects of sickle cell disease," said Steinberg. "I am enthusiastic about building upon these programs and helping to fulfill the mission of BUMC."

Steinberg's research interests have focused on all aspects of sickle cell disease. He has published, authored or co-authored more than 200 articles and research papers on the subject.

BMC cardiothoracic surgery mortality rates among best

The Cardiothoracic Surgery Department at BMC was once again acknowledged as one of the top programs in the country for cardiac surgery in the 2000 "Best Hospitals in America" issue of U.S. News & World Report, released July 17.

The program received its highest ranking — moving from 47th in 1999 to 20th this year — based on three equally weighted criteria: reputation, mortality and other information. The department is proud of its higher overall ranking and particular-

ly of its mortality data, according to Richard Shemin, MD, vice chairman of the Division of Surgery and chairman of Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at BMC, and professor and chairman of Cardiothoracic Surgery at BUSM. BMC ranked second among the top 20 U.S. hospitals, and first in Massachusetts in mortality.

Mortality rates are calculated and adjusted for severity and complexity of the cases presented. According to the national database compiled by the Society of Thoracic Surgeons,

BMC ranked in the top 1 percent nationally. BMC has consistently gained national recognition for excellent results in this area.

"Mortality data is the most important information for patients to grasp," said Shemin. "When choosing a hospital or physician for a complex procedure, the first thing to be comfortable with is the success rate. Our numbers are even more impressive when factoring the number of high-risk patients and conditions we specialize in treating."

Shemin attributes these recent

stations. Once the software was put in place, everything — from scheduling to billing to equipment maintenance — for both campuses was coordinated.

Beyond the challenges she faced at BMC, Orrico tackled another, this one on the other side of the world. Orrico has twice traveled to India, once to contribute to the design of the Digestive Diseases Institute in the Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences & Research (AIMS

Hospital) located in Kerala, India, and again to educate nurses at AIMS on current nursing practices in endoscopy.

The AIMS hospital is the only affordable hospital serving the 30 million people living in Kerala, a state on the southern tip of India. The 800-bed hospital was built in 1999.

Orrico spent six weeks at the AIMS hospital in January 1999, coordinating donations, organizing the endoscopy facilities, educating nurses, as well as establishing infection control, equipment cleaning protocols and scheduling procedures. She returned to AIMS earlier this year to coordinate and present a nursing workshop titled, "Advances in Diagnostic & Therapeutic Procedures in Gastroenterology-A Nursing Perspective."

"My experiences in India are invaluable," said Orrico. "To witness the poverty and suffering that exists in Kerala and then to return to the abundance here in the States is heart-breaking. When you see that level of suffering, it's natural to want to share."

Although she is busy with her responsibilities at BMC, Orrico's work in India is by no means complete, however. "There is still a lot that needs to be done at AIMS," she said. "I am always thinking of them and what they need." ♦

BMC nurse creates change both at medical center and abroad

Between making vast changes to the endoscopy services offered at BMC and organizing the Digestive Diseases Institute at a medical center in India, Carol Ann Orrico, RN, nurse manager of Endoscopy Services at BMC, has demonstrated her expertise and passion for the field of nursing.

When Orrico came to BMC in March 1999, she was immediately presented with the challenge of implementing the cMore software program in the endoscopy suites located on the East Newton Street and Harrison Avenue campuses. Previously, both campuses used different programs to track patients and access data.

"Data management was fragmented, billing processes were inefficient and we ran the risk of not being reimbursed for procedures performed if we weren't able to track down reports," said Orrico.

With a collaborative team consisting of representatives from the Departments of Nursing, Information Technology Services, Corporate Planning, Facilities, and cMore, as well as David Lichtenstein, MD, medical director of endoscopy at BMC and assistant professor of medicine at BUSM, Orrico facilitated the implementation of software on both campuses, making patient records accessible to physicians and staff throughout the medical center. "We now operate as a single department and we have access to patient information regardless of where the procedure was performed," she said.

Besides playing a key role in the implementation of cMore, Orrico coordinated the training of physicians, nurses and staff on the new program. She also reconfigured the department's layout to make room for the new system's work-



Carol Ann Orrico, RN

"When you see that level of suffering, it's natural to want to share."

Carol Ann Orrico, RN

Diabetes self-management program receives recognition

The American Diabetes Association (ADA) has recognized the Outpatient Diabetes Self-Management Education Program in the Section of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Nutrition at BMC as an accredited program for patient education. Education recognition is granted for three years.

According to Susana Ebner, MD, a physician in Section of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Nutrition at BMC, and an assistant professor of medicine at BUSM, the recognition highlights the efforts BMC has made in the area of diabetic patient education.

"Self-management education is an essential component of diabetes treatment," she said. "This accreditation is a testament to the hard work the department does to provide the latest and most thorough information about diabetes to its patients."

The BMC program, which also offers an Inpatient Service, teaches patients self-care skills to help them better manage their own diabetes treatment regimen. It covers a range of topics, including stress and psychosocial adjustment; family involvement; nutrition; exercise and activity; medications, monitoring and use of results; foot, skin and dental care, and risk factor reduction, among others.

"With the support of health care providers at Boston Medical Center and increased knowledge and awareness of diabetes, patients can assume a significant part of the responsibility of managing their diabetes," said Michele Leaf, NP, program coordinator. "This program is particularly valuable because it empowers patients and can reduce unnecessary hospital admissions and some of the acute and chronic complications often associated with diabetes."

The program offers education in English, Spanish, Haitian Creole and French. Michele Martin, NP, CDE, is responsible for one-to-one inpatient education.

The ADA Education Recognition Program is a voluntary process based in the National Standards for Diabetes Self-Management Education. Originally developed under the auspices of the National Diabetes Advisory Board, the standards established parameters against which components of diabetes education programs can be evaluated.

ADA-recognized programs demonstrate quality through a rigorous and detailed peer-review process. Each program provides a complete educational experience based on the needs of the patients and the recommendations of the patient's primary care provider.

For more information concerning the diabetes education program or inpatient education, call 638-8530.

Seussical Program 'RORs'!



Above right, Kevin Chamberlain, who played Horton the Elephant in "Seussical the Musical," shares a book with a young reader at the kick-off of the 4th Annual Starbucks Coffee All Books for Children Book Drive. Stars from the show visited the pediatric playground at BMC to support the drive, which will collect books to donate to local literacy programs, Reach Out and Read and ReadBoston. Above left, a few children enjoy the day's activities.

Community officers program expands



Helping to educate on crime prevention are the Community Officers Providing Public Safety (COPPS): (left to right), John Horne, David O'Brien, Joseph Maldonis, David Depaolo, John Lacroix, Michael Galluzzo, Ed Williams, Scott Paparo. Not pictured: Mark Mullaney, Tom Weaver, Steve Bacon

BUMC's Security Department is expanding its Community Officers Program. The redesigned program, Community Officers Providing Public Safety (COPPS), helps educate the medical community, including patients, students, faculty, staff and visitors, on crime prevention and safety issues.

"We wanted to provide an opportunity to share information on the services we offer," said Connie Packard, associate director of General Services for BUMC. "Our medical community is ever-changing and so are the faces. The COPPS program allows BUMC security officers to get to know individuals within the medical center."

Eleven COPPS were assigned to the 33 buildings on campus. This way, each department and student organization is assigned a community officer who will be available to present safety information when needed at orientations and staff meetings, and serve as a contact for any security concerns.

COPPS will expand existing relationships with the BU Police Department, and other local, state

and federal law enforcement agencies. COPPS will also act as advocates for employees, the medical community and students.

The expanded program's goals include involving the medical community in fostering better communication and sharing information. The officers will participate in special safety education events that help provide a safe and secure environment on campus. Education events include Workplace Violence Week, Street Survival seminars, and Crime Prevention Month. Programs for different holidays and seasons detailing safety tips will also be offered.

In addition, Packard hopes that the officers' increased presence will lead to increased interaction with employees and encourage them to report any activities they feel are contrary to the objectives of the security department, the medical center or the community. "Employees are our eyes and ears, and our best resource," she said. "Having them on our team helps us focus on prevention rather than just react to incidents that may occur."

Geriatrics Section receives \$5 million in grants

The National Cancer Institute recently awarded a four-year, \$2.6 million grant to Rebecca Silliman, MD, PhD, interim chief of the Geriatrics Section in the Department of Medicine, and professor of medicine at BUSM, to study more than 750 women 65 years of age or older who have newly diagnosed, early-stage breast cancer.

This multi-site study involves women at intermediate or high risk of breast cancer recurrence. It is designed to compare the effectiveness of adjuvant tamoxifen therapy in reducing breast cancer recurrence and breast cancer mortality rates among older women who are cared for in community practice settings.

Findings from the study will allow Silliman and colleagues to identify women most likely to discontinue tamoxifen therapy, as well as those most likely to experience a significant decline in health-related quality of life during the first five years following a breast cancer diagnosis.

"One-half of breast cancers are diagnosed in women over

the age of 65," Silliman said. "These women are also more likely to die of their breast cancer than are younger women. Determining which treatment strategies work best in community practice settings will help clinicians provide the best possible care for older women with breast cancer."

In July, the federal Bureau of Health Professions and the Health Resources Services Administration awarded the Geriatrics Section a five-year, \$2.9 million grant to fund an interdisciplinary geriatric medicine, dentistry and psychiatry fellowship training program. BMC was one of only five programs nationwide to receive the award.

Sharon Levine, MD, director of Education, Geriatrics Section in the Department of Medicine, co-director of the Center of Excellence in Geriatrics at BUMC, associate professor of medicine at BUSM, and director of the Geriatric Medicine Fellowship program at BUMC, is the principal investigator on the grant.

The fellowship is aimed at generalist physicians, dentists and psychiatrists who wish to become academic faculty in geriatric medicine, geriatric dentistry or geriatric psychiatry. The program will train them to meet the primary care needs of the elderly, engage in research aimed at this diverse population, and become teachers of future care providers.

The grant provides support for existing fellowships in geriatric medicine and dentistry at BUSM, while funding development of a new fellowship in geriatric psychiatry. Trainees will receive master's of science degrees in epidemiology from SPH.

"The interdisciplinary nature of our fellowship — with its community-based emphasis on frail, ethnically and linguistically diverse elderly — already meets the legislative and programmatic intent of the grant," Levine said. "Fifty-seven percent of our previously trained medicine and dental fellows are practicing in underserved areas. This renewed funding builds upon our strengths by further broadening our community-based emphasis, by developing our fellows' leadership and teaching skills, by increasing interdisciplinary research, and by expanding our program to cover the training of those who provide mental health services to the elderly." ♦

Memory clinic offers help to patients, families

Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia present daily challenges and hardships to both the elderly patient and his or her family. The Geriatric Memory Assessment Clinic — run jointly by the Departments of Neurology and Geriatrics — seeks to lighten some of this burden through careful diagnosis, treatment, education and family support.

Any physician can refer seniors who experience symptoms of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia to the Memory Assessment Clinic. At the clinic, a neurologist and a geriatrician may see the patient and collaborate in their evaluation of the patient's loss of memory. Often seniors are also seen by a neuro-psychologist, who provides more detailed memory testing, addresses competency issues — such as whether it is safe for the patient to continue driving — and helps the patient's family cope with their family member's memory loss.

Once a diagnosis is determined, the team of medical professionals meets with the patient and his or her family to discuss treatment, social support services and other resources.

"We always include family members in any discussion," said Robert Green, MD, MPH, associate professor of neurology at BUSM, and director of the clinical core of BUMC's National Institute of Aging-funded Alzheimer's Disease Center. "Alzheimer's is a family disease, in that it affects everyone close to the patient. The more we can educate family members about Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia, the better off the patient and their family will be."

Many patients seen in the clinic

participate in the Alzheimer's Disease Center, where research focuses on risk factors and treatments for the disease. There are four separate National Institutes of Health-funded research programs currently under way. The Health Outreach Program for the Elderly (HOPE) is a longitudinal study that evaluates people with and without memory loss throughout their lives. Risk Evaluation and Education for Alzheimer's Disease (REVEAL) offers adult children of Alzheimer's disease patients information about their own genetic risk factors and chances of developing the disease. Multi-Institutional Research in Alzheimer's Genetic Epidemiology (MIRAGE) studies the association between genetic and non-genetic risk factors for Alzheimer's. The Alzheimer's Disease Anti-inflammatory Prevention Program (ADAPT) assesses if non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications will prevent the progression of Alzheimer's in first-degree relatives, 70 years of age and older, of Alzheimer's disease victims.

"Several new treatments are available right now that can offer modest symptomatic improvements and help preserve function, and more dramatic new treatments are on the horizon," Green said. "We are fortunate to have the tremendous opportunity here at BUMC to not only treat patients suffering from Alzheimer's but to offer them the chance to participate in and benefit from cutting-edge research into the causes and treatments of this disease."

The Geriatric Memory Assessment Clinic is located in ACC-2 in the Harrison Pavilion. For more information, call 414-4639, or toll free, (888) 458-BUAD.

PARKING UPDATE

When the Albany Street Parking Garage opens later this month, the medical center will have capacity on campus for all parkers on all shifts. As publicized in the June 2000 issue of MedCenter News, the lease for the West Howell Street Lot expires in February 2001. The medical center continues to seek viable alternatives, but does not have another offsite option at this time.

A letter has been sent to West Howell Street permit holders, requesting that they communicate their parking assignment preferences to the Office of Parking and Transportation Services. West Howell Street permit holders who have not received a letter or who need additional information should contact the Office of Parking and Transportation at 638-4915.

Medical center celebrates donors

BMC recently recognized major supporters for their commitment to the hospital at the second annual donor recognition evening.

On Sept. 11, nearly 400 guests gathered for the event, which was held at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Over the course of the evening, they enjoyed a short lecture and a private viewing of the "Van Gogh: Face to Face" exhibit. They also had the opportunity to dine under the stars on the Fraser Garden Terrace.

Malcolm Rodgers, director of the museum, welcomed the guests and noted the critical role BMC fulfills in the city of Boston.

"We are delighted to have the opportunity to thank those individuals whose generous and ongoing support to the medical center and its mission is critical," said Norman Stein, vice president of Development at BMC.

TIAA-CREF underwrote the event, which thanks donors who gave BMC \$1,000 or more during the last 12 months.

Fun and Games

The Department of Environmental Services at BMC spent the week of Sept. 11 celebrating National Healthcare Environmental Services Week. Jam-packed with activities, the week involved raffles, Casual Day, attendance awards, games, a bake off, and "Life Saver" bingo. A final bash marked the conclusion of festivities on Friday, Sept. 15.



First row (from left): Roy Deo, Maria Cesar, Luz Delossantos and Maria Xavier, second-shift housekeepers. Back row (from left): Bill Gauthier, operations manager of Environmental Services; Luiz Cesar, second-shift housekeeper; and Sean Shapert, director of Environmental Services. The housekeepers were recognized for perfect attendance over the past year.

ONTrack

Immunization Day scheduled for December

Because of a delay in the availability of the influenza vaccine, BUMC must postpone its traditional October Immunization Day until December. Adequate flu and pneumonia vaccines should be available for all who want to receive shots at that time, but priority must go to community residents and vulnerable populations. More information regarding this program will be available in the coming months.

Fund-raising walk considered

BMC is considering initiating a walk to raise funds to support the medical center's mission of providing exceptional care without exception. A successful walk involves many hun-

dreds of participants, both as walkers and volunteers.

To determine if this event could be a success, BMC needs employees' input. Please take a moment to complete an online survey that will be available on BMC's Intranet page in the coming weeks. Surveys may also be printed and a completed copy returned to the Development Office.

Door will remain open

The door to the Harrison Pavilion will now be open from 6 a.m. to midnight. This change accommodates the growing number of medical center patients, students, visitors and employees who are utilizing the new walkway connecting the campuses.

October

10 Street survival course — The BUMC Security Department is sponsoring several two-day workshops titled, "Street Survival: Personal Safety Awareness and Response." The workshops will focus on effective verbal and physical responses, with emphasis on risk management and avoidance techniques. The workshop comprises two four-hour segments and will include sessions on Oct. 10 and 11 and Oct. 23 and 25. Sessions will be held from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. For more information, call 414-4442. To register, call 414-5487.

16 Phonathon — The BUSM Alumni Fund Phonathon will be held from 5:30 to 9 p.m. in the Hiebert Lounge. The phonathon will also be held on Oct. 19. For more information, send an e-mail to tfitz@bu.edu or call 638-5150.

17 Public health forum — SPH is sponsoring an evening with George Annas, JD, MPH, Utley Professor and Chair, Health Law Department at SPH. He will address the topic, "Public Health in the Supreme Court (The Past 25 Years): Abortion Rights, the Right to Die, and Tobacco Regulation." The event is open to all and will be held from 5 to 6 p.m. in BUSM's room L-112.

18 De-escalation training — The BUMC Security Department is sponsoring a workshop titled, "Managing Challenging Situations." The workshop will focus on maintaining professionalism and courtesy while recognizing the signs of escalation and how to effectively deal with them. Use of verbal skills, physical gestures, and appearances and knowledge of resources that may assist in the process will be emphasized. The workshop comprises one four-hour segment that will be offered from 1 to 5 p.m. For more information, call 414-4442. To register, call 414-5487.

24 Public health forum — As part of a series of public health forums sponsored by SPH, Kathy Gallagher, Dsc, MPH, an epidemiologist with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, will discuss "Status of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic in Adolescents." The event is open to all and will be held from 5 to 6 p.m. in BUSM's room L-112.

27 William Bicknell Lectureship — The second annual William J. Bicknell Lectureship in Public Health will be held from 9 to 11:45 a.m. in the Keefer Auditorium. Kurt Schmoke, the former mayor of the city of Baltimore, will address the topic, "Drug Control Policy — A New Strategy for a New Century."

31 Public health forum — SPH is sponsoring an evening with Patricia Roche, JD, assistant professor of health law at SPH. She will address the topic, "Commercializing DNA and Genetic Information - Caveat Actor." The event is open to all and will be held from 5 to 6 p.m. in BUSM's room L-112.

People

Aram Chobanian, MD, BUSM dean and provost of the BU Medical Campus, will receive a Distinguished Medical Service Award from the American Physicians Fellowship for Medicine in Israel later this month.

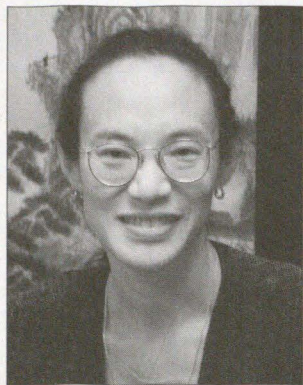
Michele David, MD, MPH, MBA, co-director of the Haitian Health Institute and a physician in the Department of Medicine at BMC, and an assistant professor of medicine at BUSM, has been chosen to receive the 2000 Harvard Pilgrim Health Care/Harvard Pilgrim Physicians Association Outstanding Physician Award. The recognition is granted to physicians who manifest extraordinary, sustained performance in quality, cost-effective care, support to the team or group, and patient satisfaction. The award will be given at a ceremony later this month.

New appointments

Caroline Apovian, MD, FACN, has been named director, Nutrition and Weight Management Center and co-director of Nutrition Support at BMC. She also serves as director of Clinical Research at the Obesity Research Center of BUMC. Apovian came to BUMC from the Program for Weight Management, Division of Metabolic Support Service at Brigham and Women's Hospital/Harvard Medical School, where she served as medical director of the program. She received her MD from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Apovian completed her residency in internal medicine at New England

Deaconess Hospital, where she was also a fellow in Nutrition Support.

Barbara Drowne, RN, has been appointed nurse manager for the Harrison Pavilion Perioperative Services. Since May, she has been the nurse educator for Perioperative Services, and has been serving as interim nurse manager since July. Drowne came to BMC from Massachusetts General Hospital, where she held both education and leadership positions. She has a master's degree in nursing management/administration, is nationally certified in operating room nursing and is ACLS certified. She is also a member of AORN and Sigma Theta Tau.



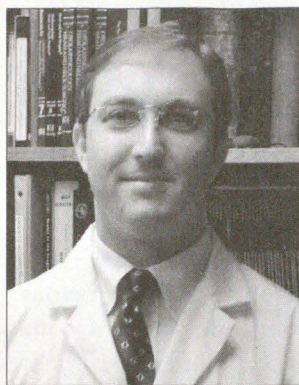
Stephanie Lee, MD

Stephanie Lee, MD, PhD, FACE, has joined the Section of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Nutrition at BMC. She will be working with all aspects of patient care in the diagnosis and treatment of thyroid disease, with a special emphasis on thyroid cancer. Her clinical practice will focus on the diagnosis of thyroid cancer by fine needle aspiration biopsy of thyroid nodules and treatment of thyroid cancer, including formal dosimetry studies and maximal dose radioactive iodine therapy for life-threatening cases of thyroid cancer. Lee received her PhD from the University of California at San Diego and her MD from the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine. She completed a clinical fellowship in endocrinology and a research fellowship in molecular medicine at New England Medical Center.



Caroline Apovian, MD

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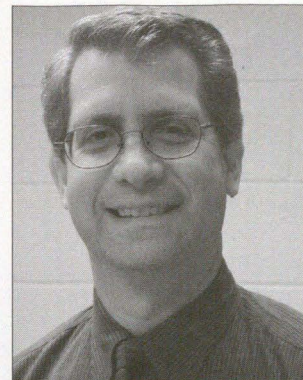
Jeffrey Spiegel, MD

Jeffrey Spiegel, MD, has joined the Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck surgery at BMC. He will also assume the duties of assistant professor of otolaryngology - head and neck surgery at BUSM. Prior to joining BUMC, Spiegel performed a fellowship in facial and reconstructive surgery and microvascular surgery at Harvard Medical School and the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. His areas of special interest include head and neck cancer surgery, microvascular surgery, facial plastic and reconstructive surgery, facial cosmetic surgery, laryngotracheal reconstruction and treatment of facial nerve disorders. Spiegel received his undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and his medical degree from the University of Michigan

Mercedes McDonald has been named a treasury financial analyst in the Department of Finance at BMC. She has been at BMC since 1993; prior to assuming her current position, McDonald was a customer service representative in the Accounts Payable Department. In her new role, McDonald will be responsible for monitoring the cash balances in all of BMC's operating accounts.

Medical School. Spiegel performed his internship in general surgery and his residency in otolaryngology - head and neck surgery at University of California, San Francisco Hospitals.

Elliot Sternthal, MD, has been named clinical director of Diabetes Services at BMC. In this role, he will be responsible for facilitating an integrated approach to care for patients with diabetes on an inpatient and outpatient level. He comes to BMC from the Joslin Clinic, where he was a senior physician. Sternthal received his MD from McGill University and completed an endocrinology and metabolism fellowship at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center. His areas of interest include progression of impaired glucose intolerance to type 2 diabetes, postprandial hyperglycemia and insulin resistance in type 2 diabetes.



Elliot Sternthal, MD

of interest include progression of impaired glucose intolerance to type 2 diabetes, postprandial hyperglycemia and insulin resistance in type 2 diabetes.

Cheryl Ventola, RN, has been named nurse manager for 7 West and 8 West in the Newton Pavilion. She has many years of managerial experience in health care settings, including inpatient, home

care, and health plan management. Most recently, Ventola was an adult specialty care manager for AmeriChoice Health Plan, managing the BMC HealthNet Plan. She has a master's degree in nursing from BU.

September WE CARE Individual Employee Awards

Recognized for their outstanding dedication and commitment to the mission of BMC, four employees were recently honored with WE CARE Individual Employee Awards. The awards honor employees who, in the course of their jobs, exceed required standards and responsibilities and help further the mission of BMC to provide exceptional care without exception. Criteria used to judge nominees include the significance of their contribution to BMC and the

amount of independent thought, insight and creativity involved in their actions.

The September awards were presented to: **Christian Kiriakos**, decedent affairs coordinator, Pathology Lab; **Ruth Lievano**, speech pathologist, Rehabilitation Therapies; **Evelyn Davis**, patient access representative, Geriatrics Department; and **Rick Duncan**, radiology film librarian, Radiology File Room.

Getting to know you

SPH students participate in a "Free Food Night" social, one of the many ongoing orientation events this fall. Held at Checquers, this particular night had a Mexican food theme. Health Law students Rosario Isasi (left) and Emily Bajcsi grab a quick dinner before heading off to class.



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Corporate Communications
Boston University Medical Center
715 Albany Street (B-7)
Boston, MA 02118
617/638-8491 (phone)
617/638-8044 (fax)
Editor: Ellen Berlin
Director

E-mail:
Corporate.Communications@bmc.org
Contributing writers:
Robert Brogna
Julianne LaMay
Rebecca Sullivan
Maureen Moran

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