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News & Notes

Boston University School of Medicine



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BUSM FACULTY APPROVES CURRICULUM CHANGE

A proposed curriculum change designed to "decompress" the first year of school for BUSM students was approved at a meeting of the School's faculty July 15. The proposal was passed April 30 by the BUSM Executive Committee and was unanimously approved at the May 6 faculty meeting, but required a second vote before being enacted. The most recent vote had been postponed from the June 10 faculty meeting.

The new curriculum, which will be implemented sequentially beginning with the fall 1981 entering class, calls for shortening the current 40-week first academic year to a maximum of 36 curricular weeks. This will be accomplished by moving microbiology to BUSM II; shortening the socio-medical sciences curriculum by approximately 20 hours; and adding the first two modules of the physical diagnosis course currently offered in the first semester of BUSM II.

In addition to microbiology, the 16-week fall semester of BUSM II would include courses in pharmacology and pathology.

Other changes include adding a four-week required "advanced curriculum" in BUSM IV that would incorporate rehabilitation medicine, socio-medical sciences, oncology and nutrition.

The curriculum change, designed by the BUSM curriculum committee, was proposed in response to recommendations by students and faculty to the accrediting body of the American Medical Association and the Association of American Medical Colleges that the first academic year at BUSM be shortened.

ROBERT KRANE NAMED CHAIRMAN OF UROLOGY

Robert J. Krane, M.D., was named chairman of the School's Department of Urology by the University's Board of Trustees at its July 14 meeting. He also was named chief of urology at University Hospital by the Hospital's Board of Trustees. Krane had been acting chairman and chief of the Department since Sept. 1, 1980, when Carl Olsson, M.D., resigned those posts.

Krane joined the BUSM faculty in 1974 and in 1977 was appointed an associate professor of urology. He is director of urology at Boston City Hospital and is co-director of the New England Male Reproductive Center, based at UH.

A native of New York City, Krane received his undergraduate degree from Columbia College and earned his M.D. degree from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in 1967. He completed his internship at BCH and was a resident in surgery at UH from 1970 to 1971.

He is a member of several professional organizations, including the Society of Government Service Urologists, the American Urological Association and the American Society of Artificial Internal Organs.

He is the author of several journal articles and essays related to urology, three of which were awarded prizes from the American Urological Association.

RUTH LEVINE APPOINTED
ASSOC. DEAN FOR BIOMEDICAL STUDIES

The appointment of Ruth R. Levine, Ph.D., as associate dean for graduate biomedical sciences at the School was approved by the University's Board of Trustees at its July 14 meeting. She will retain her positions as chairman of the Division of Medical and Dental Sciences at the University's Graduate School and as a professor of pharmacology at BUSM.

Levine joined the School's faculty in 1958 as an assistant professor of pharmacology. She previously had been on the faculty of Tufts University School of Medicine.

She received her undergraduate degree magna cum laude from Hunter College, where she also graduated Phi Beta Kappa. She received her M.A. degree from Columbia University, and her Ph.D. degree from Tufts University.

Levine is the author of two editions of the textbook Pharmacology: Drug Actions and Reactions. She also is the author or co-author of five book chapters, 35 scientific articles, and 31 abstracts.

MICHAEL POZEN DIES AT AGE 36;
WAS LEADER IN PARAMEDIC PROGRAM

Michael W. Pozen, M.D., an associate professor of medicine at BUSM who played a key role in establishing Boston's paramedic program, died June 4 at the age of 36 following a cardiac arrest.

At a memorial service June 15 at Boston City Hospital where Pozen was a clinical cardiologist and director of the Cardiology Clinic, the speakers described Pozen as a person filled with vitality and dedication to the medical profession.

"He was a very special person--he was full of life. He left his mark on his hospital, his school, his patients," Dean Sandson said at the service. "His enthusiasm knew no bounds.

"He was a national leader in emergency medical service and helped to make Boston's emergency service one of the best in the country. We now feel a great void. He leaves behind many who loved him, who miss him and who will always remember him."

Other speakers at the service, held in the Cheever Amphitheatre, included Alan S. Cohen, M.D., the Conrad Wesselhoeft Professor of Medicine at BUSM and chief of medicine at BCH; Paul M. Gertman, M.D., an associate professor of medicine and an assistant professor of surgery (health-care administration); William Hood Jr., M.D., a professor of medicine; John Levine, a paramedic who worked with Pozen, and Rabbi Albert Axelrod, who knew Pozen for 16 years.

The service was attended by more than a hundred friends, family members and colleagues, including his widow, Janet T. Pozen, Ph.D., an assistant professor of sociomedical sciences and community medicine at BUSM.

Pozen, the editor of Emergency Health Services Quarterly, was nationally known for research in cardiology and emergency medicine.

Born in New York City, Pozen held a bachelor's degree from Brandeis University, an M.D. degree from New Jersey College of Medicine, and an Sc.D. degree from Johns

Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health. He had been a member of the BUSM faculty and BCH staff since 1975 after serving an internship at Baltimore City Hospital.

In addition to his wife, he leaves two sons.

MICHAEL BENNETT RESIGNS
TO JOIN SOUTHWESTERN FACULTY

Michael Bennett, M.D., a professor of pathology and microbiology, resigned his BUSM positions effective July 1 to join the faculty of Southwestern Medical School, University of Texas Health Science Center, Dallas.

Bennett, a founding member of the Hubert H. Humphrey Cancer Research Center, joined the BUSM faculty in 1972. Following the death of Cancer Center Director Sidney R. Cooperband, M.D., in February 1979, Bennett served as acting director of the Center until Paul H. Black, M.D., was named to that post in June 1979.

The author or co-author of more than 50 scientific journal articles, Bennett in 1973 received the Frances Stone Burns Award for the Best Cancer Research Project in Massachusetts. He also is the recipient of several Research Career Development Awards from the National Cancer Institute.

CLINICAL COMPETENCE SEMINAR
HIGHLIGHTS ALUMNI WEEKEND

"As soon as someone develops a method of reducing the cost of health care without reducing the quality--that method will become mandatory," said George Annas, J.D., M.P.H., an associate professor of law and medicine, at a seminar held May 9 as part of Alumni Weekend activities.

Annas was one of five experts who discussed "Clinical Competence" at the seminar, which was offered by the BUSM Alumni Association. More than 100 alumni, faculty and others attended the seminar, held in Keefer Auditorium.

Other panelists were BUMC Director Richard H. Egdahl, M.D.; Donald Korst, M.D., a professor of medicine; Barry M. Manuel, M.D., associate dean for continuing medical education; and Russell Robbins, executive director of the Eastern Massachusetts Professional Standards Review Organization. Outgoing Alumni Association president Lester F. Williams Jr., M.D., chairman of the School's Division of Surgery, was moderator. Dean Sandson also took part in the program.

Several hundred alumni, faculty, graduating students and guests attended the 106th Annual Meeting and Banquet of the Association, held May 9 at the Colonnade Hotel in Boston. Dean Sandson addressed the group on "Medical Education--Past and Future."

Five Distinguished Alumnus Awards were presented at the banquet. A posthumous award was presented to Elliott Jones Halberstam, widow of Michael J. Halberstam '57, for his role as a leading cardiologist and medical journalist. Other recipients were David H. Baker '51, Robert M. Donaldson Jr. '52, Peter J. Mozden '53, an associate professor of surgery and an assistant clinical professor of gynecology at BUSM, and Lois O'Grady '62.

EMERGENCY PEDIATRICS FOCUS
OF SEPTEMBER CME COURSE

Thirteen BUSM faculty members from the Departments of Pediatrics, Pediatric Surgery, and Orthopedics will participate in a continuing medical education course on emergency pediatrics Sept. 11 to 12 at the Howard Johnson 57 Park Plaza Hotel in Boston. Discussion topics will include acute management of fever, rape and sexual abuse, recognition and risk evaluation of adolescent suicide, and poison ingestions. For more information or to register for this multidisciplinary course, contact the BUSM Department of Continuing Medical Education at x5602 (247-5602).

**TEN STUDENTS GRADUATE
FROM BOSTON AHEC PROGRAM**

Ten local high school seniors who plan to pursue health-related careers graduated from the Boston Area Health Education Center program May 26 at Boston City Hospital. Dean Sandson and Boston AHEC Program Director Donald Taylor, M.S.W., an associate professor of psychiatry (social work), spoke at the ceremony, which was the first graduation for students who participated in the year-long program.

The Boston AHEC is a three-year-old project designed to bring health-education programs and health-care providers to medically underserved areas of Boston. Student recruitment began last May. As program volunteers, high school juniors and seniors attend after-school courses in math, science, reading and study skills, according to Mark Chalek, M.S. (psychology), director of minority recruitment for the Boston AHEC. Lectures by medical students and health professionals, as well as field trips to hospitals and other health-care sites, are featured in the program, which aims to enrich students' understanding of health professions and provide academic and career motivation, Chalek said.

Medical Center students, faculty, and staff interested in lecturing about the health professions to AHEC program participants may call Chalek at 424-5256.

NEWS & NOTES is a regular monthly publication of the Office of Informational Services. If you have news of interest to the School of Medicine community; call editor Susan Saperstein, x5606 (247-5606), or write to her at the Office of Informational Services, P-600 (720 Harrison Avenue, Boston, MA 02118). Marge Dwyer is managing editor.

News & Notes

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