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BUSM News and Notes

1981-12

BUSM News & Notes: December 1981

no. 49

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News & Notes



Boston University School of Medicine

Issue #49
December 1981

**FRAMINGHAM EYE STUDY RECEIVES
1981 PAPER/PROJECT AWARD
FROM PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION**

The Boston University-Framingham Eye Study, the first substantial body of epidemiological data on eye disease ever assembled, last month was awarded the 1981 Paper/Project Award for Outstanding Contributions in the Areas of Vision Care, Education, and Research Methodology by the Vision Care Section of the American Public Health Association.

Under the direction of Howard Leibowitz, M.D., chairman of the School of Medicine's Department of Ophthalmology, the eight-year-old eye study has amassed extensive data on the characteristics, severity and prevalence of the four diseases that are the major causes of blindness in the United States: cataracts, macular degeneration, glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy.

The data were collected from a population that has been under study by Boston University since 1949 through the world-renowned Boston University-Framingham Heart Study, the longest-running, continuous epidemiological investigation in the world.

"The approximately 4,000 heart study participants alive in 1973 were 52 to 85 years old--the ages of rapidly increasing prevalence of the four ocular diseases that are of major interest," Leibowitz said. "Extensive data on several hundred personal and physiological characteristics of potential significance for coronary heart disease were available on the members of the study group. These data, together with the findings of ophthalmic examinations, provide a rich source of information on possible origins or causes of eye disease," he continued.

The eye study found, for example, that macular degeneration is significantly more prevalent among women than men. In its investigations of risk factors, the study failed to find clear correlation between the eye diseases and any other variables that were not also strongly correlated with age.

Under a grant approved by the National Eye Institute and expected to be funded soon, the study's researchers will re-examine the eyes of the original Framingham study population to determine both the incidence and the progression of disease.

According to John Loewenstein, M.D., an assistant professor of ophthalmology at the School of Medicine who is principal investigator of the

study's new phase, "No incidence data currently exist for these diseases, and there is very little information about their natural history"--i.e., how fast they progress, which patients will need surgery or rehabilitation, which patients will become blind, and so forth.

Armed with new information about incidence and progression, the eye study will take another, more knowledgeable look at risk factors; it also will examine some newly-suggested risk factors, such as sun exposure, which some have hypothesized may be related to cataract development.

BUMC STUDY PROVING EXERCISE
BENEFICIAL TO PRIMATES
DESCRIBED IN DEC. 17 NEJM

In a study published in the Dec. 17 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine, BUMC investigators offer what is believed to be the first scientific proof that exercise, in cynomolgus monkeys, helps prevent atherosclerosis.

Dieter M. Kramsch, M.D., an associate professor of medicine, directed the four-year research project, which was the first of its type to utilize primates. The study aimed to gain more insight into the effects of physical training on the cardiovascular system, both with and without dietary-induced atherosclerosis.

Two groups of eight young adult male cynomolgus monkeys (*Macaca fascicularis*) were exercise-conditioned on a treadmill for 18 months while on a control diet. For 24 months thereafter, one group was given an atherogenic diet, which produces degenerative changes in arterial walls, while both groups continued vigorous exercise for 24 additional months. Two more groups of non-exercising, or sedentary, monkeys were given the control diet for 12 months, with one group receiving the atherogenic diet for 24 additional months while the other group continued the control diet.

Postmortem studies of the monkeys showed larger left ventricles and wider coronary arteries in the groups of monkeys that exercised. Both groups that received atherogenic diets developed atherosclerotic changes in all major arteries, but fewer changes were evident in the group that exercised. The study concluded that, in primates, exercise appears to be highly beneficial not only for the normal cardiovascular system, but also for the prevention of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease.

William B. Hood Jr., M.D., a professor of medicine; Bruce M. Abramowitz, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine; and Anita J. Aspen, Ph.D., a research associate in the Department of Medicine, also worked on the study with Kramsch. Marc A. Abell, M.D., a biomedical engineer, was a research associate during the project.

HOWARD GARDNER NAMED
FOUNDATION PRIZE FELLOW

Howard E. Gardner, Ph.D., an associate professor of neurology (neuropsychology), was one of 19 people to be named a Prize Fellow by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation of Chicago, the Foundation announced Nov. 18.

Gardner will receive \$37,600 annually for five years to "pursue any field of endeavor," according to Foundation President John E. Corbally, Ph.D.

The foundation is unique in that it funds individuals rather than projects. "The awards are intended to enhance the ability of the recipients to pursue their work in accordance with their own direction and inclination," Corbally said. "The purpose of the program is to free the recipients of economic pressures and the accompanying demands to publish or create as a result of receiving an award," he continued.

A developmental psychologist and neurobiologist, Gardner conducts research with brain-damaged patients at the BUSM Aphasia Research Center, located at the Boston Veterans Administration Medical Center. He joined the BUSM faculty in 1975.

GENE STOLLERMAN JOINS
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE FACULTY

Gene H. Stollerman, M.D., former professor and chairman of the Department of Medicine at the University of Tennessee Center for the Health Sciences in Memphis, recently was appointed a professor of medicine at the School of Medicine by the University's Board of Trustees.

During his 17-year tenure at UTCHS, Stollerman, a leading medical educator, was responsible for many advances in teaching clinical medicine. "I am very pleased with this appointment," Dean Sandson said. "The School is fortunate to get someone of Dr. Stollerman's stature, and I am very excited about his commitment to medical student and resident education, especially in the area of primary care." In addition to his posts at UTCHS, Stollerman was physician-in-chief at the City of Memphis Hospital and was a consultant or attending physician at six additional Memphis hospitals.

Prior to his UTCHS appointment, Stollerman was a faculty member for nine years at Northwestern University in Chicago. He also was director of the Samuel J. Sackett Laboratory for Research in Rheumatic and Infectious Diseases at Northwestern University Medical School.

Stollerman has collaborated on research to develop a vaccine against the strain of streptococci that causes rheumatic fever and recently presented a lecture on "Infections in the Severely Immunosuppressed Patient." Earlier this month he was honored at special ceremonies at the Stollerman Clinical Medical Library at UTCHS.

EDWARD WELCH DIES AT 70;
WAS FACULTY MEMBER 41 YEARS

Edward J. Welch, M.D., an assistant clinical professor of medicine, died in October following a long illness. He was 70.

A member of the BUSM faculty since 1940, Welch was active in numerous professional organizations. He was a past president of the eastern section of the American Thoracic Society and in 1973 received the organization's distinguished service award. This year he received the society's William Ross Medal. He also was a past president and treasurer of the American Lung Association of Massachusetts and in 1980 was elected to the American Lung Association Hall of Fame.

A native of Boston, Welch received his M.D. degree from Harvard Medical School. In addition to his wife, he leaves two sons and three grandchildren.

FACULTY, VISITING PROFESSOR
TAKE PART IN SYMPOSIUM

Several BUSM faculty members and Robert K. Oldham, M.D., the BUSM Culpeper Visiting Professor in Immunology, participated in the third annual Sidney R. Cooperband Symposium, held Nov. 20 in Keefer Auditorium.

Oldham, who discussed "The Biological Response Modifiers Program," is director of that program at the Frederick Cancer Research Center in Frederick, Md. He is the first Culpeper Visiting Professor at BUSM since the professorship was established at the School in January. The five-year award carries with it a \$2,500 stipend, and the professorship will be rotated among the Departments of Medicine, Surgery, Pediatrics, Radiology and Immunology.

Paul H. Black, M.D., director of the Hubert Humphrey Cancer Research Center, which sponsored the symposium, moderated the discussion session that followed the presentations. Featured topics included "Cholesterol and the Cancer Puzzle," presented by Selwyn Broitman, Ph.D., a professor of microbiology and nutritional science; "Vitamin A Analogs in Cancer Chemoprevention," Edward Schroeder, Ph.D., an assistant professor of microbiology; "Suppressor Lymphocytes in the Biology of Cancer," Michael Osband, M.D., an assistant professor of pediatrics and director of pediatric hematology-oncology at BUSM; and "Immunization Against Carcinogens," Frederick Moolten, M.D., an associate professor of microbiology.

Other participants included John Weisburger, Ph.D., M.D., vice president for research at the American Health Foundation, Valhalla, N.Y. He discussed "Carcinogenesis in Man: Causes and Modulators." Representatives from the Sidney Farber Cancer Institute and Tufts University School of Medicine also took part in the symposium.

ROBERT LEACH IS HEAD PHYSICIAN
FOR 1984 SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES

Robert E. Leach, M.D., chairman of the Department of Orthopedic and Fracture Surgery, has been appointed head physician for the U.S. delegation to the 1984 Summer Olympic Games, which will be held in Los Angeles.

Leach, who also is chief of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at University Hospital, was appointed to the U.S. Olympic Committee Sports Medicine Council in 1980 after conducting a sports medicine conference for that group.

Prior to his appointment to the Council, Leach had been acting physician for the U.S. Ski Team from 1975 to 1976. He also will be involved in selecting physicians for the 1983 PanAmerican Games, the World University Games and the Summer Sports festivals.

PRESCOTT AND EBERSPACHER NAMED
TO NEW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION POSTS

Marguerite Prescott, director of Alumni Affairs of the BUSM Alumni Association, has been appointed director of development for the BUSM Alumni Association, and Linda Eberspacher, formerly assistant to the director, has been named associate director of alumni affairs for the BUSM Alumni Association. The appointments were approved by the Association at a recent meeting of its executive committee.

BUSM CAFETERIA CLOSED
FROM DEC. 17 TO JAN. 11

The BUSM cafeteria will be closed from Dec. 17 to Jan. 11 for renovations. The vending machines, located in the cafeteria, also will be closed from Dec. 24 to Jan. 11. During this time, School of Medicine students and staff are asked to use University Hospital's F-1 cafeteria.

CME COURSES FOCUS ON TRAUMA,
ORTHOPEDICS, PULMONARY DISEASE

Several BUSM faculty members will take part in three upcoming Continuing Medical Education courses. Neil Yeston, M.D., an assistant professor of surgery, is course director of Advanced Trauma Life Support, a continuing medical education course designed to improve the primary physician's ability to assess patterns of severe trauma and institute measures to prevent further injury.

The course, which offers both provider- and instructor-level lectures and labs, will be held Jan. 14 to 15, April 28 to 30, Sept. 23 to 24, and in January and April 1983. Registration is limited.

David Segal, M.D., an associate professor of orthopedic surgery, is course director of "Fracture Treatment and Functional Bracing," to be held Dec. 28 to 30 at the Orlando Hyatt Hotel in Orlando, Fla. Four additional School of Medicine faculty members and three guest faculty also will participate in the course. For further information or to register for the advanced trauma life support or the fracture treatment and functional bracing course, contact the Department of Continuing Medical Education at x5602 (247-5602).

"Pulmonary Disease 1982: Current Concepts for the Clinician" will be offered Jan. 25 to 29 at the Village at Smugglers' Notch in Jeffersonville, Vt. Arthur G. Robins, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine, is course director, and 11 additional BUSM faculty members will take part in the course. For further information, or to register, contact Barbara Alpert at 424-5421.

HOLIDAY PARTY DISCONTINUED
DUE TO SAFETY HAZARD

The traditional BUMC holiday party, which has grown in popularity over the past several years, has been discontinued due to the safety hazard presented by the large number of people who attend the event.

The party has been held in the School of Medicine's Hiebert Lounge. But, according to Medical Center Director Richard H. Egdahl, M.D., "it is likely that the number of people present at the event at any given time exceeds the rated structural and fire-safety capacity of the facility." As an alternative to the Medical Center fete, Egdahl suggests that smaller parties be organized by departments or sections as a means of celebrating the holiday season.

BRIEFLY NOTED

Dean Sandson was a featured speaker at the third annual "Helping Hand" awards program of the Massachusetts Committee to Combat Huntington's Disease, held Oct. 25 in Hiebert Lounge....F. Marott Sinex, Ph.D., a professor of biochemistry, chaired the Croc Foundation Conference, recently held in San Ynez, Calif., where he

presented the keynote lecture entitled "Alzheimer's Disease, Down's Syndrome and Aging"....Philippe Bricout, M.D., a professor of radiology (radiation medicine), is the co-author of an article entitled "Computerized Tomography Scanning and the Planning of High-Dose Radiotherapy for Pleural Mesothelioma: A Report of Five Patients," which appeared in a recent issue of the International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology and Physics....J. Worth Estes, M.D., an associate professor of pharmacology and socio-medical sciences and community medicine, is the author of an article entitled "The Practice of Medicine in 18th-Century Massachusetts: A Bicentennial Perspective," which appeared in the Oct. 29 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine....Jerrold M. Shapiro, Ph.D., an assistant research professor of ophthalmology and biomedical engineering, presented a paper entitled "Contour Photography of the Optic Disc: A New Method for Detecting Glaucomatous Damage" at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, held Nov. 1 to 6 in Atlanta. Mohandas M. Kini, Ph.D., M.D., an assistant professor of ophthalmology, is co-author of the paper....James Broome, M.D., a teaching associate in orthopedic surgery, recently returned from a three-week stay in China, where he toured medical schools, acupuncture centers and commune medical areas with surgeons from North America.

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 Rabin, x5606 (247-5606), or write to her at the Office of Informational Services, P-600 (720 Harrison Ave., Boston, MA 02118). Marge Dwyer is managing editor.

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