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News & Notes



Boston University School of Medicine

Issue #30
March 21, 1980

AMIS RESULTS SHOW ASPIRIN DOES NOT PREVENT CORONARY DEATH FOLLOWING MI

Results of the Aspirin Myocardial Infarction Study (AMIS), in which the Medical Center and Boston City Hospital were among 30 participating clinical centers in the country, found that daily intake of aspirin does not prevent coronary death in men and women who have experienced at least one myocardial infarction (MI).

Funded by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, and launched in 1975, AMIS was the "largest completed and published investigation of aspirin in the post-MI population," according to the Journal of the American Medical Association, which published results of the study in its Feb. 15 issue. More than 4,500 persons between the ages of 30 and 69 participated. One group received one gram of aspirin per day while the other group was given a placebo.

Coronary incidence (coronary heart disease mortality or definite nonfatal MI) was 14.1 percent in the aspirin group and 14.8 percent in the placebo group. Total mortality in the aspirin group was 10.8 percent, while the figure for the placebo group was 9.7 percent. However, definite nonfatal MI was 8.1 percent in the placebo group and 6.3 percent in the aspirin group, suggesting that aspirin is perhaps helpful in reducing the frequency of nonfatal MI. An increased incidence of such side effects as peptic ulcer and gastritis occurred in the group taking a routine dose of aspirin.

The study also showed a decrease in the occurrence of stroke in individuals in the aspirin group, but the difference was not statistically significant, said Pantel S. Vokonas, M.D., an associate professor of medicine and principal investigator for the BUMC-BCH unit.

Farouk A. Pirzada, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine, was project physician, and Mary Anne Leonard, M.A., was project coordinator. The BUMC-BCH unit was the only participating medical facility in Massachusetts.

SANDSON FUND ESTABLISHED FOR STUDENT ASSISTANCE

The Executive Committee of the School's Alumni Association recently voted unanimously to establish the John and Hannah Sandson Student Assistance Fund to provide low-interest loans to BUSM students, according to Peter Pochi '55, president of the Association. The fund, which is being established to express the Association's appreciation for "the generous amount of time and effort Dean Sandson has spent in advancing alumni programs," is a continuation of the Association's policy of providing essential support to the School and its students and complements this year's Annual Fund theme of "...keeping our doors open to all..." Contributions to the Sandson Fund can be made through the BUSM Alumni Association, 80 East Concord Street, Boston, MA 02118.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DEAN FAULKNER

A special memorial service for James M. Faulkner, M.D., dean of the School from 1947 to 1955, was held Wednesday, Feb. 20, in University Hospital's chapel. Faulkner, who died on Jan. 19 at the age of 81, was also director of the Medical Center from 1960 to 1962.

At the service, Dean Sandson described the many contributions the former dean made to medical education at the School and throughout the country. "He left us with a tradition and spirit of which we can be proud," Sandson said. Faulkner was also medical director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and held faculty positions at Johns Hopkins Medical School, Tufts University School of Medicine and Harvard Medical School. Other speakers at the service were Jerome Preston Jr., who spoke on behalf of his father, Jerome Preston Sr., a UH trustee, and Robert Kelly '54, whose class has established an annual lectureship in memory of Faulkner.

ROBINSON STORY RECEIVES
WIDE NATIONAL ACCLAIM

The television documentary "Joan Robinson: One Woman's Story" received strong positive response both nationally and locally following its broadcast in January. Televised by Public Broadcasting Service stations throughout the country on Jan. 21, and by Boston's WGBH-TV, Channel 2, on Jan. 26, the film traces University Hospital patient Joan Robinson's 30-month struggle against cancer.

More than 4,000 requests for brochures on the documentary have poured into BUMC's Office of Informational Services and UH's Office of Development from Massachusetts alone. New York City's Museum of Broadcasting has asked Red Cloud Productions, producers of the documentary, to supply a tape of the film for the museum's archives of significant American broadcasts. For information regarding a possible rerun date, call Channel 2 at 492-2777.

AMNESTY WEEK SET
AT ALUMNI LIBRARY

Irene Christopher, chief librarian, has announced that during an amnesty period from March 17 to 23, overdue books and journals may be returned to the BUSM Alumni Library

with no questions asked. Medical Center faculty, staff and students are asked to check their desks, labs, lockers and cars for any forgotten library materials.

INFO SERVICES REORGANIZED;
MCNAMARA NAMED DIRECTOR

Owen J. McNamara, associate director of the Medical Center's Office of Informational Services (OIS) for six years, has been named director of OIS. His appointment was announced

by Donald R. Giller, director for marketing and public affairs. McNamara will report to Giller.

McNamara has appointed Marge Hurlbut Dwyer, the School's editor for academic affairs, as manager for publications for the Medical Center, and Susan Gertman, the Hospital's editor for clinical affairs, as the Medical Center's manager for publicity. Dwyer and Gertman will retain their responsibilities for their respective institutions. Faculty and staff members with questions regarding publications, such as brochures, should contact Dwyer, and those with questions regarding publicity, such as press releases, should contact Gertman. Both may be reached at x5606 (247-5606).

INGELFINGER TOPIC OF
PROFILE IN JAMA

Franz J. Ingelfinger, M.D., professor emeritus of medicine at BUSM and Distinguished Physician at the Rogers Memorial Veterans Administration Medical Center at Bedford, was featured in the Feb. 1 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association. The article, which offers insight into Ingelfinger's personal and professional life, is part of a series on American physicians who have made significant contributions to medicine.

PULMONARY FUNCTION COURSE
SET FOR 30th PRESENTATION

The 30th annual postgraduate course on pulmonary function, sponsored by the American Thoracic Society in cooperation with the American Lung Association of Massachusetts, will

be held March 24 to 28 at the Jimmy Fund Auditorium at the Sidney Farber Cancer Insti-

tute. Edward Gaensler, M.D., a professor of surgery and physiology, is program director for this continuing medical education course, which will feature eight other BUSM faculty members who will discuss such subjects as pulmonary circulation, respiratory failure and occupational lung diseases. For registration information, contact Edward J. Welch, M.D., at 1101 Beacon Street, Brookline, MA 02146.

FISCHER TO DISCUSS
SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION

Steven Fischer, Psy.D., an assistant professor of psychiatry (psychology) and a sex therapist in the Biobehavioral Sciences Clinical Unit, will present a lecture on sexual dysfunction on Wednesday, April 2, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in L-112. This lecture, which is open to faculty, staff and students, is the third in a series sponsored by the Human Sexuality Teaching Program of the Department of Socio-Medical Sciences and Community Medicine. For more information, contact Marian Glasgow, M.S.W., a research associate in that department, at x6009 (247-6009).

MCCAHAN, JARRIS ATTEND
NHSC-AMSA CONFERENCE

Associate Dean John McCahan, M.D., and Ray Jarris, BUSM II, attended a combined conference of the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) and the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) Feb. 1 to 3 in New Orleans. The meeting focused on the importance of orienting NHSC scholarship recipients to the Corps' scholarship program. Eighty-one BUSM students are enrolled in the program, which provides up to four years of medical school tuition and living expenses in exchange for an equal number of years of service to the Corps. As Corps members, physicians provide primary health-care services to underserved rural and urban areas.

McCahan is the NHSC faculty advocate at BUSM, and Jarris is the student advocate.

SHUTTLEBUS ROUTE EXPANDS
TO INCLUDE DOVER STATION

The University Hospital shuttlebus now stops at the Dover station on the Orange Line, giving BUMC employees easy access to all four lines of the MBTA's subway system.

Shuttlebus runs begin each weekday at Broadway at 6:30 a.m. From Broadway, the bus stops at the Dover station and then proceeds to the Medical Center. Final pickup at Broadway is at 9:15 a.m. In the afternoon, the bus operates from 4 to 6:45 p.m. The route originates at UH, stops at Broadway, continues to Dover and then returns to the Hospital. The additional service is expected to increase the travel time by only a few minutes.

Tickets for the shuttlebus cost 25 cents and are available at the UH Gift Shop on E-1 or at the Cashier's Office on B-4.

CORRECTION

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), which provided BUSM with an institutional profile for the year 1977-78 (see News & Notes, Jan. 21, 1980, #28), incorrectly reported the School as ranking fifth among 114 medical schools studied in the area of student financial aid. BUSM actually ranks 39th, which is in the top half of the national profile.

BRIEFLY NOTED

On Feb. 12, Dean Sandson heard testimony presented to the State Health Coordinating Council in Worcester, Mass., regarding a new state health plan. Sandson has been a member of that council for two years....Gerald Stechler, Ph.D., a professor of psychiatry and director of child psychiatry at University Hospital, and Janina Galler, M.D., an assistant professor of psychiatry, discussed "The Family in the '80s" in a special WBZ-TV, Channel 4, program about the new decade broadcast on Thursday, Jan. 31. Stechler is also the

author of a Feb. 7 New England Journal of Medicine letter to the editor entitled "Facing the Problem of the Sexually Abused Child." Stechler's letter addresses the psychological problems of children who have been sexually abused and makes recommendations regarding their treatment....Herbert H. Wotiz, Ph.D., a professor of biochemistry and a research professor of urology, was recently named a northeast regional lecturer for Sigma Xi, a scientific honorary society. Wotiz is scheduled to present his first lecture on April 1 at the University of Guelph in Canada on "The Role of Impeding Estrogens in Reproduction and Cancer"....F. Marott Sinex, Ph.D., a professor of biochemistry, was a guest on Jim Callahan's "Senior Circuit" show on WNAC-TV, Channel 7, on Sunday, Feb. 24, at 8 a.m. Sinex discussed future plans for the Massachusetts Society Against Dementia, a new organization which he coordinates. The show was also broadcast on Wednesday, Feb. 27....Ruth R. Levine, Ph.D., chairperson of the Division of Medical and Dental Sciences of the Graduate School, was designated a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science on Jan. 7 in "recognition of her contributions to education and research in pharmacology," according to William D. Carey, executive officer of the Association.

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 Hurlbut Dwyer is managing editor.

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