

1990-04

# Connections: April 1990

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# CONNECTIONS™

The monthly newspaper of The University Hospital • April 1990



The University Hospital

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- Shoot some hoops for Huntington's disease



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The University Hospital  
88 East Newton Street  
Boston, Massachusetts

## Shining a light on UH nurses...



*NURSES TOGETHER IN CARING* is the theme of this year's National Nurses Day. Here at UH, nurses will be recognized for their contributions to the Hospital at events planned from May 6-16. See stories, page 7.

## New skin oncology center meets challenges of rising skin-cancer incidence

The University Hospital has established a multidisciplinary skin oncology center—the first of its kind in New England, in response to the rising incidence of skin cancer.

"The complexity of many of the cancers we are seeing now—and will continue to see in the future—requires the expertise of more than one specialist," says Howard Koh, M.D., a co-director of the center. By formalizing relationships with specific dermatologists, ophthalmologists, otolaryngologists, hematologists, oncologists, plastic surgeons, pathologists, radiation

therapists and psychologists, Koh and co-director Gary Rogers, M.D., hope to increase the speed and quality of the services available to their patients.

"In addition, by referring to and conferring with the same group of physicians, we hope to build upon our mutual expertise and experience in the treatment of these cancers. Given the current trend, we'll be needing that expertise to face the challenges in skin oncology in the future," says Rogers.

The most common and curable forms of skin cancer are basal-cell  
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## Holly Hunter gets helping hand from UH

The Hollywood film "Once Around," when it is released at the end of the year, will have special meaning to UH physical therapist Judy Coates, M.S., PT. Coates indirectly lent a hand in its making, serving as personal physical therapist to star Holly Hunter.

Coates worked with Hunter, who suffers from lower back pain, during filming of the flick in and around Boston. "Once Around," also starring Richard Dreyfuss, is about the trials and tribulations of a blue-collar Boston family.

The UH therapist then traveled with the cast and crew to  
*continued on page 2*

## UM PROGRAM:

### Assuring quality of service

The ongoing Hospital-wide Utilization Management Program is aimed at reducing Hospital expenses by \$1.9 million in fiscal year 1990, through the reduction of 10,000 patient days—a leading indicator of patient-care expense—and a 10-percent reduction in the utilization of ancillary resources. But with further cutbacks from the state and federal governments looming over health-care providers, is such an achievement possible?

Yes, says Jacqueline Dart, executive vice president for Operations, one of the program's initiators. Dart says she believes the program's goals—ensuring quality patient care and services through the use of resources that are "appropriate" and "necessary"—are very realistic ones. She notes that the UM Program has prompted staffers who are directly involved in patient care to apply a new approach. "It has started people

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## Holly Hunter

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Wolfborough, N.H., where she got an inside look at Hollywood-style operations. "The thing that was most surprising was how friendly everyone was—from the director to the actors to the crew. And," she notes, "it's incredible how the filming of a movie is only a small part of an entire process." While in New Hampshire, Coates huddled against the cold for the week-long filming of an ice-skating scene involving Hunter.

"I treated Holly three times a day, beginning at 6 a.m., and ending in the evening, after we watched the day's film. The days were very long, but [the support staff] was treated so well that they were certainly stress-free days," comments Coates.

Far from being star-struck, Coates describes her relationship with Hunter as friendly. "Holly is an incredibly nice, thoughtful person. In the midst of acting, she would be concerned with whether I was warm enough."

The Big Screen aside, Coates is

**'Holly is an incredibly nice, thoughtful person'**

Judy Coates, M.S., PT  
UH physical therapist

currently training with her husband, her dentist and two other UH physical therapists—Amanda Carroll and Hazel Dwyer—for this month's Boston Marathon.

In preparation for the 26-mile run, Coates dons jogging gear and sneakers four days a week during her lunch hour to run 4 1/2 miles around Boston Common.



**A TASTE OF HOLLYWOOD**—In photo at top of page, Coates, left, and Hunter pose for a picture during recent filming of "Once Around" in New Hampshire. In above photo, Coates prepares to embark on a lunch-time jog around Boston Common.

As if that isn't enough exercise, she instructs a local dance class at the end of her workday.

"The last thing Holly said to me was that when she's back in Boston, she'll come take a class."

## Correction:

Last month's article on the Credit Union contained incorrect hours for Tuesday and Thursday. The correct hours for the Credit Union are Monday and Wednesday, 1 to 4 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. ■

## New center

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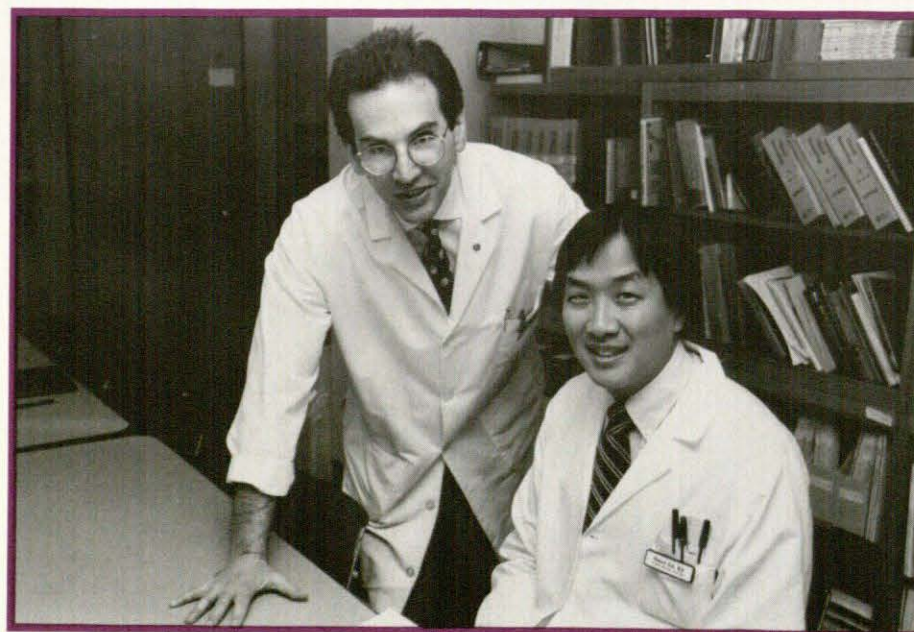
and squamous-cell carcinomas. However, if left untreated, even basal-cell carcinoma can invade internal organs of the body and can substantially affect the quality of life. Less common, more complex, and more fatal forms of skin cancer are malignant melanoma, which usually

## Center directors say prevention is the key to curbing skin cancer

begins on the surface of the skin but rapidly spreads, or metastasizes, to internal organs, and cutaneous T-cell lymphoma, which starts as a skin rash and can invade the blood to cause a form of leukemia.

An example of the types of complex cases being seen more frequently at the Center is a patient with a cancerous tumor of the eyelid. This type of tumor requires the expertise of a dermatologist to diagnose it, a dermatological surgeon to perform Mohs surgery (microscopic surgery for precise excision of a tumor), an oculoplastic surgeon to repair the function and cosmetic appearance of the eye, and an ophthalmologist to test for vision impairment.

Koh and Rogers, who believe prevention is the key to curbing the rate at which skin cancer is developing, have made educating patients, family members and the public about prevention strategies a major goal of the center. ■



**CENTER DIRECTORS** Rogers and Koh, seated, have made educating patients, family members and the public about prevention strategies a major goal of the center.

## Study shows skin-cancer screenings are effective

UH Skin Oncology Center Co-Director Howard Koh, M.D., is one of a group of BUMC researchers involved in a new study, which shows melanoma/skin-cancer screenings are as effective as other major cancer-screening efforts, such as mammography for breast cancer and pap smears for cervical cancer, according to a study published in a recent issue of the journal *Cancer*. The study—the first systematic statewide follow-up of people who had suspected cancer—also provides the first data that validate the visual exam as an appropriate cancer-screening tool.

Koh and his fellow researchers collected data from all 14 Massachusetts sites that participated in the first statewide screenings in 1986 and 1987, sponsored by the American Academy of Dermatology, following up on 459 people. Follow-up information was gathered on 63 percent of the 459 people with abnormal screens; the remaining 37 percent either did not seek follow-up care or did not respond to inquiries.

Of those who were followed, 142 were diagnosed with lesions, consisting of nine cases of melanomas, 91 cases of non-melanoma skin cancers, 39 dysplastic nevi and three congenital nevi. Of these, 100 (70 percent) were pathologically confirmed through biopsy.

"The screening exam is a simple inspection, which is brief, non-invasive, inexpensive and now shown to be reliable," Koh says. ■

## Vernon Truell: the man and his music

Chief Pathology Assistant Vernon S. Truell can get pretty low—his voice can, anyway. The founder and director of the BUMC Choir, Truell has been singing bass since age six. "When I was a boy in Savannah, Georgia, I found myself imitating instruments by singing bass. I'm not sure if I'm the lowest [bass] around, but I can get very low."

Truell arrived at UH with his voice in tow in 1969, organizing the BUMC Choir one year later. The idea was a way of bringing staffers together, he says. "I had formed a choral group of 12 people at the Deaconess Hospital in 1964. When I left there in 1969, the group had grown to about 35 people," he recalls.

Truell organized the group at BUMC as he had at the Deaconess because he witnessed a need for staffers to be involved in "something other than their

jobs." And, as he noted recently from his office, where a taped performance of the BUMC Choir played lightly in the background, "I thought that as many people as possible should be included [in the choir], whether they were black, white, Hispanic, or Asian. I also felt a choir would be good for the Hospital patients, as well."

The BUMC Choir had a modest launch in 1970, with a handful of employees singing Christmas carols in the University Hospital's Interfaith Chapel.

Today, the group continues to draw interest, with nearly 30 staffers throughout the Medical Center joining their voices. "I'd like to believe, and I truly feel, that by singing we are enhancing the image of the Hospital. In addition, we are nurturing the patients by letting them know we care."

With its impressive combination of altos, sopranos, baritones, bass and tenor, the choir can be



**THE BUMC CHOIR** under Truell's direction, in performance late last year in the Interfaith Chapel.

heard at religious and non-religious events throughout the year, including the annual Black Achievers Program and Martin Luther King Jr. celebration, and, most recently, from the balcony of the Atrium lobby, where the choir capped off Black History Month in February with inspiring renditions of a number of Gospel tunes. In addition to performances at events around the Medical Center, television broadcasts from the Interfaith Chapel enable patients to enjoy choir performances from their Hospital rooms.

## His roots in music

For Truell, it would seem that singing is in his blood. "My mother taught me how to sing

and every chance I got to sing, I did." As youngsters, Truell and his three sisters, one of them his twin, formed the Truell Quartet, which later became known as the Truell Trio when one of his sisters dropped out of the group. Amazingly, the trio stayed together for 25 years. "Music has always been a part of my life," he notes.

A deacon at the People's Baptist Church in Boston, Truell is also a member and part-time director of the men's, and men and women's choirs, occasionally, he leads the congregation in song. "Singing makes me feel good because I am doing something worthwhile for others," he comments.

Truell says the message he hopes the BUMC Choir conveys to others is one of "good will and peace. And that everyone can work together in harmony without pulling each other down." ■



**A LIFETIME OF MUSIC INVOLVEMENT**—Truell, above, directs the Deaconess Hospital Choir, which he formed, in the early 1960s. To the right, the Truell Trio in 1947 perform over the airwaves for a local radio station based in Savannah, Georgia. Pictured from left to right are James Bignon, Mildred Truell, Vernon Truell and Vera Truell.





## Additional voices sought to ROAR

There is an unusual sound in the Pediatrics Clinic at Boston City Hospital, and it is gaining the attention of both children and their parents. The sound is Reach Out And Read (ROAR), a volunteer reading program that not only offers entertaining stories to children, but also encourages the process of literacy.

To strengthen and enrich its voice, ROAR is now reaching out for volunteers, particularly members of the community who speak Spanish or Haitian Creole.

Exposure to books at an early age, even before a child can read, is important to future success in learning to read, according to Robert Needelman, M.D., co-director of ROAR and a fellow in the Division of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics at the School of Medicine. "By sharing books with children, ROAR volunteers express a love of reading that can help shape a child's attitudes and perceptions. They learn that books are meant to be enjoyed, not avoided," he suggests.

Apart from entertaining children with stories, volunteers also convey a positive message to parents.

In addition to promoting the volunteer program, ROAR encourages pediatricians to integrate books into their consultation.

For information about becoming a ROAR volunteer, contact Marilyn Rollins in the BCH Community Relations Office at 424-5122. ■

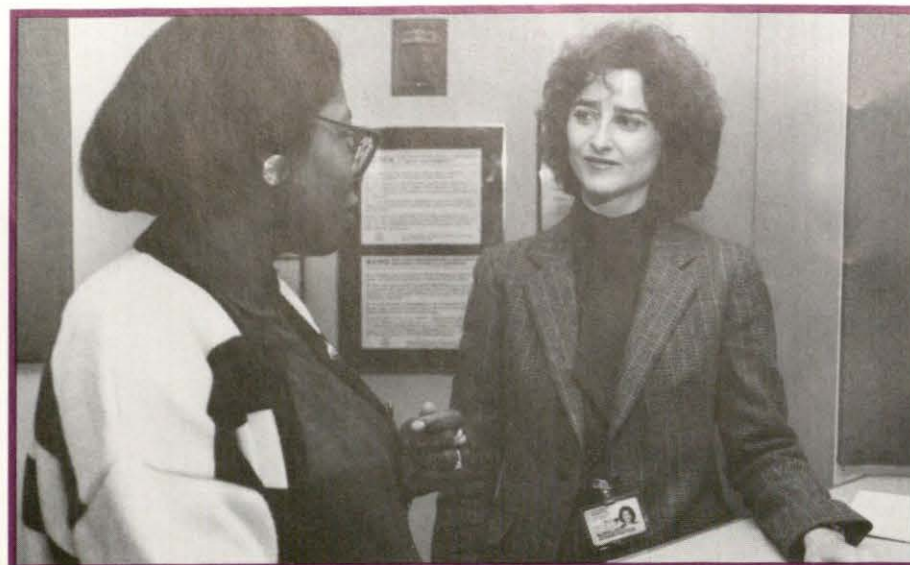
## The 'high-tech, high-touch' philosophy of UH's new vice president Linda Burns

In her role as the Hospital's new vice president for Operations, Linda A. Burns manages by what she calls "a hi-tech, high-touch" philosophy; that is, the integration of innovative clinical technology and a hands-on approach to patient care. Burns, who previously served as a senior manager at Ernst & Young in Chicago and as an administrator at the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics, has authored many articles and books on hospitals and physician practices, including two books, **Hospital-Physician Joint Ventures** and **Hospital Ambulatory Care: Making It Work**.

Some key profile points: **Education:** Burns received a master's degree in hospital administration from the University of Michigan; a master's in business administration with a concentration in finance from the University of Chicago, and her undergraduate degree from Purdue University.

**Top priority:** "I think there is an opportunity to improve the day-to-day functions of the Hospital. For example, an outpatient should be able to have a complicated workup performed without having to pack a lunch and spend the day here. I think it is very important to work closely with our physicians and other clinicians to understand what they need in order to care for patients."

**Her challenge:** "Making things work better on a day-to-day basis.



**OUT AND ABOUT**—Burns, right, who describes herself as "accessible," makes it a point to meet with her staff. Here, she discusses the day's admissions with Admitting Director Barbara Waters.

We lose productivity when things don't work right, or when we have to redo or check up on things. By understanding the patient-care process, we can simplify or eliminate steps, such as recollecting demographic information from patients when they have more than one clinical service [performed] on the same day."

**Proposed initiatives:** "I am looking at the patient admission/transfer/discharge process to make that entire process smoother for patients, physicians and other clinicians. In addition, I wish to review clinical program planning, particularly programs that cut across different departments. Another objective of mine, as well as for [vice president for Operations] Michael Higgins, is to develop an administrative policy and procedures manual so that

staff will know how to do certain things, such as making admission reservations."

**On problem-solving:** "We need to trace the root causes of problems and not just deal with the symptoms. We also need to use interdepartmental problem-solving groups, rather than blaming other departments for adverse situations that may arise during the patient-care process."

**Self-perception:** "Accessible—I'm either stopping in to see staffers or they're stopping in to see me. Sweating the details—I want to know each step of the patient-care process, and to spend time with physicians to understand their practice needs. And prepared—I believe in making sure that people have the tools they need to do the job; those tools include training, information and planning, to address implementation and improvements in clinical services."

**On teaching hospitals:** "Teaching hospitals are innovators in new technology, yet frequently they are not innovators in the delivery of those technologies. For example, teaching hospitals and faculty physicians demonstrate the efficacy of ambulatory surgery as a substitute for inpatient surgery, but [seldom are they known] for well-functioning, convenient, price-competitive, ambulatory surgery programs."

**On UH:** "I am very impressed by the calibre of the staff members, who are interested in fostering a service orientation to our patients and referring physicians. I am committed to working with the staff to improve the basic, day-to-day operations of the Hospital." ■

## Cafeteria raffle highlights Nutrition Month activities



**AND THE WINNERS ARE...**Food and Nutrition staffers Christine Singleton, R.D.E., left, and Pam Schroell, R.D., choose the winners of a two-week raffle, which took place during Nutrition Month in March. The winners of one free cafeteria meal each were: Bill King, Computer Center; Amanda Carroll and Julie Nagy, Physical Therapy; Marcelle Willock, Anesthesiology; Sr. Claire Hayes, Pastoral Care; Linda Glover and Dick Dennis, Surgery; Mary Sheehan, Post Anesthesia Care Unit, and Margaret Polito, Home Medical Service.

## Major gifts spark capital campaign

by Bonnie R. Clendenning

The University Hospital will announce a major capital campaign next year to attract new funds for endowment and capital expenditures, while taking steps to double the size of its current Annual Fund. A campaign priority will be to make use of the many opportunities to name areas in the new Atrium Pavilion as a way of recognizing major donors.

Several commitments already have been made to the "nucleus fund," by current or former staff, as well as trustees; gifts secured during this pre-campaign phase will help gauge the total campaign goal:

- Trustee John F. Cogan Jr., who recently completed 17 years of service as trustee chairman, recently announced a pledge of \$100,000.
- UH President J. Scott Abercrombie Jr., M.D., has

made a \$50,000 pledge.

Two practice plans also have made philanthropic contributions to the new campaign:

- The UH Cardiac and Thoracic Foundation, Inc., under the leadership of Richard J. Shemin, M.D., chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery, has made a donation of \$100,000.
- Boston Pain and Anesthesia Associates, Inc., under the leadership of Marcelle Willock, M.D., chief of Anesthesiology, has contributed almost \$99,000 for the purchase of equipment for that department.

Finally, as was reported in earlier issues of *Connections*, the Harriet Abramson Cancer Foundation, UH Trustee Herbert Abramson, president, made a \$100,000 commitment to renovate the Hospital's chemotherapy suite, located on the third floor of the Preston Building. The late Gertrude Beal, Massachusetts

Memorial Hospitals Nurses' Alumnae Association, contributed a \$200,000 unrestricted bequest, which is being used, in part, to support the Beal Library in the Department of Nursing.

These leadership gifts demonstrate the Hospital's confidence in preparing for the turn of the century. Significant additional financial resources will help position the University Hospital to access increasingly sophisticated medical equipment and techniques to attract the well-qualified and compassionate personnel that are UH's hallmark. The Development Office and the Trustee Development Committee, chaired by Frederick H. Stephens Jr., support Dr. Abercrombie, the Hospital's patients, employees, and the medical staff in this exciting initiative.

Bonnie R. Clendenning is vice president for Development. ■

## Stay fit for the 90s

Representatives from three local health clubs will on hand at UH on Wednesday and Thursday, April 25 and 26, for a health and fitness exhibition, which will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., on the H-2 bridge.

The representatives will answer any questions, as well as describe their facilities and programs. The three clubs are:

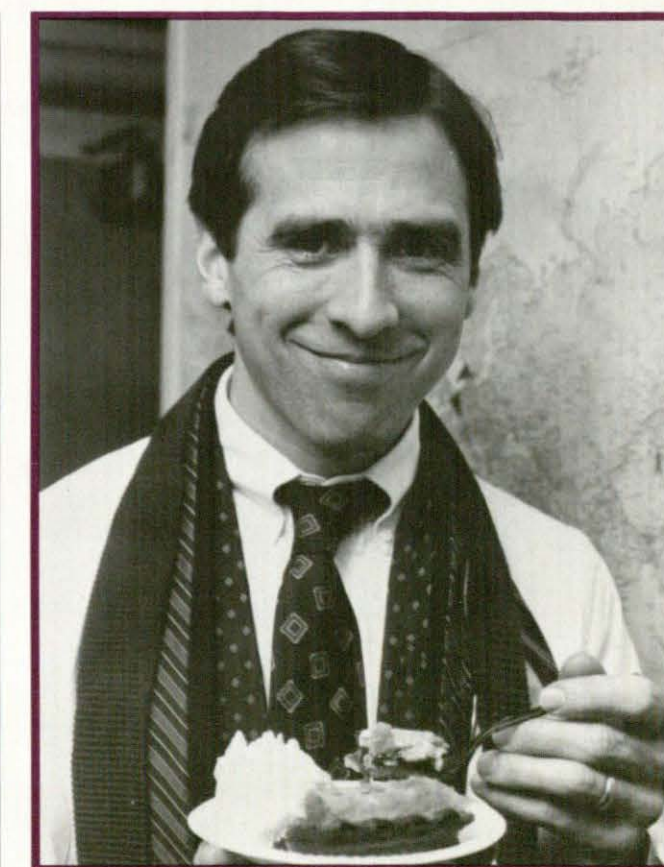
**Boston Athletic Club** is located at 653 Summer Street and has extensive facilities including racquet sports, pool, aerobics and more. Corporate membership is available; this provides individuals with a reduction in the initiation fee, based on the number of people.

**Boston University's Case Center** is located at 285 Babcock Street and offers a pool, weight room, outdoor/indoor track, tennis and more.

**Boston City Hospital/South Block** is located at 35 Northampton Street and offers a pool, two squash courts, basketball court and table tennis. ■

## COMPUTER CENTER:

## Staffers 'tie one on' at Eighth Annual Pete Gouger Tie Swap



**KNOTS AND STRIPES**—Participants of this year's Eighth Annual Pete Gouger Tie Swap, held on Monday, Feb. 26, got their choice from a record 74 ties. When it was over, 12 tacky remainders were put into the closet for next year's event. Pictured top left: Martin Laspada, programmer analyst, grimaces in anxiety over his tough decision, while co-worker Bill Bulger looks on. Above: Jeff Jenkinson, associate director of Financial Planning, enjoys the traditional post-swap dish of cherry pie a-la-mode. Left (pictured left to right): Participants pose for a pic: Tom Curlin, Albina Weisman, Jeff Jenkinson, Martin Monaco, Greg Davis, Bill Bulger, Carl Peterson, Ed King, Ken Zweig, Bill King, Martin Laspada, and Steve Lan; seated is Charles Rose.



## New Alzheimer's drug under study

Nimodipine, a drug that may slow the progression of Alzheimer's disease and which represents a new approach to treatment of the disease, is being tested in clinical trials at the University Hospital. The trials are part of a nationwide multicenter study of this drug.

"The study is large enough and designed well enough to answer the questions we have about nimodipine's ability to slow the disease. Positive results could be an important breakthrough," says Sanford Auerbach, M.D., of the Department of Neurology. Affecting an estimated four million Americans, Alzheimer's is a neurological disorder characterized by progressive deterioration of intellectual functioning that ultimately leads to total debilitation.

Traditionally, the goal of treatment has been to improve functioning by attacking the symptoms and has focused on replacing the neurotransmitter acetylcholine, which may be related to memory.

Nimodipine, on the other hand, is the first drug under study that potentially could slow the progression of the disease. ■



**PINT-SIZE FIT**—Evan Lamont, the son of Jeffrey Lamont, M.D., a Urology resident, sports a UH sweatshirt with a little help from his mother, Bronwyn—a member of the Ladies Auxiliary. The Auxiliary will hold a one-day sweatshirt sale at UH on Friday, April 27, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., on the H-2 bridge and at the entrance to the SkyLight Dining Pavilion.

## Assuring quality

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thinking in new terms; this type of thinking must become a part of the way we do business."

In the face of ongoing competition among health-care facilities, the Utilization Management Program is a call for ongoing action, change, commitment and teamwork on the behalf of UH staffers. "The same kind of intrahospital and interdisciplinary approach that has been applied in implementing the program is going to be the precise mechanism by which we continue it," suggests Hartej Sandhu, M.D., director of Psychiatric Inpatient Services and chairman of the Hospital's Utilization Management/Quality Assurance Committee.

"The challenge now lies in how to maintain this [new] outlook. We have to think of additional ways in which we can become even more efficient," he continues.

### Three areas of focus

The individual components of the Utilization Management Program are detailed and extensive; three of its largest areas of focus are length-of-stay management, ancillary utilization management and discharge planning. However, as the program continues to evolve, it will address such other key areas as intrahospital transfers, preoperative days, and the development of

a casemix/cost management system. Since its inception, the UM Program has been continually monitored at all phases based on feedback from Hospital staff and monthly management reports—a process which will continue.

Already, average length of stay has seen a dramatic drop—as of presstime, the year-to-date ALOS was 8.82 days, down from last year's 10.81 days and greatly outpacing the FY90 budget of 9.52 days.

A multidisciplinary discharge planning process, coordinated by the staff of the Social Service Department, has been aggressive in arranging the best and most appropriate care for patients who require posthospitalization care. According to Mary Chin, L.I.C.S.W., M.S.W., director of Social Services, plans for posthospitalization care are now being made while a patient is still in an acute stage of illness. Additionally, complex discharges are being identified through consults and admissions screening, she noted.

### Resources are more than capital

As Dart points out, resources are more than capital; they are labor, services, time, supplies and equipment. With this in mind, a group of Hospital staff—members of an Ancillary Task Force—have identified three specific areas of ancillary utilization management, which are currently being addressed:

- **Preadmission testing:** According to Paul Raslavicus, M.D., chief of Laboratory Medicine, a revision of the preadmission testing requirements has resulted in a reduced list of tests that are administered prior to the admission of an ambulatory patient. Raslavicus estimates a reduction of between one to two tests per preadmission evaluation.
- **Uncoupling tests:** By uncoupling tests (separating tests that historically have been ordered in pairs), the number of unnecessary tests ordered by physicians has been decreased significantly. However, as Raslavicus notes, "A physician can always order a second test if needed, so long as he or she submits that order in writing."
- **Standing orders:** Standing orders have been eliminated and physicians instead will be able to submit daily orders based on clinical needs, Raslavicus notes.

### Education is evolving

Education, including that of the house staff, is a major component

## Program's initiator praises staff for a job well done



Jacqueline Dart

Jacqueline Dart, executive vice president for Operations, took a moment recently to express her thanks to Hospital staffers for their ongoing initiative and involvement in the Utilization Management Program, a program that has targeted a savings of \$1.9 million in fiscal year 1990. "The staff has displayed an incredibly dynamic team effort. Their interest and commitment have surpassed my hopes and expectations," she says. "They are the reason why this program has been so successful."

Dart says the program has joined people from all levels within the institution, who have rallied together for a common cause. "The UM Program really has created a bonding across several boundaries of caregivers, including the house, attending and nursing staffs, ancillary managers and administration." And, she suggests that it is precisely this bonding that will allow the Hospital to achieve the goals of the program—ensuring quality patient care using only those resources that are appropriate and necessary. ■

of ancillary utilization management, and of the entire program.

According to chief resident John Wilson, M.D., the UM Program has been a useful learning tool for house staff. And, he notes, "All in all, it is in the house staff's best interest to lower length of stay and to decrease resource utilization because there will be a lot less time wasted on our behalf." ■

## UH nurses will come 'together in caring' to honor their own

A slew of activities from May 6 to 16 are planned as part of this year's nurse-recognition ceremonies, opening with the Nursing Department's annual participation in the Walk for Hunger, and capped off with a lecture by noted health-care humorist Vera Robinson, R.N., Ed.D.

The 10 days of events are being held at UH in celebration of National Nurses Day, "Together in Caring," on Monday, May 7, and will begin with Project Bread's Walk for Hunger on Sunday, May 6—which some UH nurses take part in annually by either walking or staffing a first-aid station along the route. (see accompanying article).

"We have a wonderful, committed and cohesive group of nurses here at the University Hospital—nurses who care about the patients, the institution and each other. These activities will pay tribute to our nurses for their dedication 365 days a year," said Nancy McAward, R.N., M.M.H.S., chairperson of the

Hospital's Nurse Recognition Committee.

On Wednesday, May 9, UH nurses, who, in addition to providing excellent patient care at the bedside, contribute to the professional image and professional growth of the department, will be honored at morning and afternoon ceremonies in the C/D Conference Room, according to McAward. Also, that day, each nursing unit will be recognized for its unique and special contribution to the institution, and the Fourth Annual Peggy Cenci Award will be given to a staff nurse.

Fifty to 70 medical and nursing publishers will be represented at a Thursday, May 10 book fair to be held from 6:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., on the H-2 bridge. All books will be sold on 30-day approval and can be purchased by cash, check or credit card, according to the fair's coordinator Diane Lancaster, R.N., M.S.N. Each publisher has promised to donate a book to the newly created Beal Library of the Department of Nursing.

### Healing power of humor

"Humor and the Health Professions," is the title of a talk culminating nurse-recognition ceremonies on Wednesday, May 16, from 3:30 to 5 p.m., in Keefer Auditorium. Vera Robinson will be the Second Annual Spring Distinguished Lecturer, sponsored by the Ross Nursing Resource Center at UH. The author of a book by the same title of her talk, she is vice president of an organization called Nurses for Laughter, and is known by many as the "Fairy Godmother of Humor," according to Celeste Thompson, Ross Center manager. A nursing

educator since 1951, Robinson is professor emeritus and recently retired chairperson of the Department of Nursing at California State University at Fullerton.

A historical exhibit of the Massachusetts Memorial Hospitals Nurses' Alumnae memorabilia, and a display containing information on various nursing professional organizations also will be part of nurse-recognition activities; the times and dates of each are being arranged.

For information on any of these events, please call McAward at 638-5700 (x5700). ■

## Nurses to hit the pavement in the fight against hunger

by Sue Plumb

For the fifth consecutive year, the UH Nursing Staff will get involved in Project Bread's 21st Annual Walk For Hunger on Sunday, May 6, by walking, getting nurses to sign their fellow workers' pledge sheets or by staffing a first-aid station along the route. The walk serves as the official kick-off to the Hospital's nurse-recognition activities and National Nurses Week, held each May.

Already, plans are under way within the Nursing Department for this year's event. Richard Ridge, R.N., C. Mary Landrum, R.N., I.V. therapy coordinator, and Gary Hill, manager of Nursing Employment, are the three main organizers. Ridge, who has participated in the walk for the past three years, is responsible for setting up this year's first-aid station. He says he hopes to erect a tent, sporting a UH banner, so the station will be easily recognizable to UH walkers and their families.

Ridge stresses the significance of the walk. "Lots of people would like to be involved, but feel they can't do it. Everyone should realize that they can support the walk in some way." He notes that it's okay to walk only part of the route, since buses are available to transport any weary walkers back to the beginning of the course.

Certain members of the Nursing Department feel strongly about supporting the walk and take great

pride in being involved. "Our nurses get involved in several ways," says clinical instructor Barbara Perron, R.N., chief organizer of the event last year. "We recruit volunteers within the department who either choose to walk or to help at the first-aid station. Everyone feels strongly that they are helping; people feel good because they are getting exercise, having fun and participating in a very worthwhile activity."

Nanette Elia, R.N., a first-time participant during last year's walk, describes her experience staffing the first-aid station: "It's really a great feeling. You get out there and you see people from all walks of life: kids, parents, mothers with babies on their backs." According to Elia, walkers usually experience the normal aches and pains, such as blisters, callouses and sore feet. This year she says she hopes to have more room to accommodate walkers who need first aid.

In addition to taking part in the event, the Nursing Department offers support to all other UH participants. Last year, Perron and her husband flipped hamburgers and hot dogs for hungry UH walkers. The two set up grills along the course and filled a cooler with ice-cold soda.

Sue Plumb is a program assistant in the Office of Publication Services. ■

## U H PEOPLE



Virginia Dumas



Susan Zorb



Paul A. Raslavicus

Diet technician **Virginia Dumas, R.D.**, of Food and Nutrition Services, has been selected by the Massachusetts Dietetic Association (MDA) as the 1990 Recognized Diet Technician of the Year. "Your personal growth, professional development and contributions to dietetics make you a role model for all diet technicians," writes Meg Striepe, R.D., MDA chairperson for awards and scholarships, in a letter to Dumas.

Medical Critical-Care Clinical Specialist **Susan Zorb, R.N.**, has been appointed to the Massachusetts Nurses Association Cabinet on Nursing Practice. As a board member, she will be responsible for reviewing issues

pertinent to the clinical practice of Massachusetts nurses. Zorb belongs to several professional organizations, including the American Nurses Association and the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses.

**Paul A. Raslavicus, M.D.**, chief of Laboratory Medicine, has been certified as a Diplomate of the American Board of Medical Management. Raslavicus will be honored at the 1990 National Conference of Physician Executives in San Antonio, Texas, on Thursday, May 17.

Send UH People items to Cynthia Paradis, DOB 915, or call 638-8482 (x8482). ■



The University Hospital  
April 1990

## CLASSIFIED

### • For rent:

In Wakefield: 7 room/3 bedrooms; pantry; washer/dryer hookup; 2-car garage; large yard and garden area; near schools and train to Boston. \$1,500/mo., includes heat and utilities. Call (508) 887-8465.

In Newton (Waban Village): Lovely, center-entrance Colonial available furnished, from July 1 to June 1, 1991; 3-minute walk from the Green Line. Three bedrooms; 2 1/2 baths; dining/living rooms; study; eat-in kitchen; basement w/ amenities; garage. \$1,800/mo., not including utilities. Call Lisa and Ted Hallstrom at (617) 965-6717 (7 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.).

### • Apartment to share:

Two professional, non-smoking females seek a third to share modern, 3-bedroom apartment near Coolidge Corner. Living room; eat-in kitchen; 1 1/2 baths; balcony; laundry in building; a/c; security; parking available. \$520/mo., includes heat/hot water. Call (617) 638-8495 (day).

### • For sale:

East Coast Health and Medical Center: Medical condos available in the most comprehensive fitness, health and rehabilitative complex in N.E.; located on Rt. 53 in Hanover; building contains fitness club and medical offices; complete buildout included. Call Michael Katz, (617) 826-4144 or Dennis Finnegan, (617) 426-4260.

1986 Ford Pick-up F-250; Auto trans.; V-8; 3/4 ton; bedliner; AM/FM cassette; step bumper; lighted running boards; stone shield; 79,000 miles. Asking \$5,500. Call Dan at (617) 638-8776 (x8776).

### • Discount offered:

Little Britches Better Children's Clothing, 469 West Broadway, is offering a 10-percent discount to UH employees (with identification). The shop has infant and girls' clothing, sizes 0-6x, and 7-14, as well as boys' clothing, up to size 8. First Communion suits and dresses are available. Call (617) 269-3272.

*Classified ads are run free for BUMC personnel; the cost for all others is \$25 per ad. For further information, call 638-8482 (x8482).* ■

## Shoot some hoops for Huntington's disease

The 11th Annual Hoopathon for Huntington's disease, featuring a two-hour celebrity basketball shootout, will be held on Thursday, April 26, from 6:30 a.m. to midnight, in the Solomon Carter Fuller Mental Health Center gymnasium.

As always, BUMC personnel are welcome to attend the event or to participate as basketball shooters, ball retrievers or scorers. Those interested in volunteering should contact the Massachusetts chapter of the Huntington's Disease Society of America (HDSA), which is based at the Medical Center, at 638-8333 (x8333).

To date, there is no cure for Huntington's disease, a degenerative genetic disease of the nervous system; however, researchers are currently working to identify the abnormal gene that causes it.

The money raised from the annual hoop-shoot subsidizes ongoing research and social service programs for Huntington's patients and their families throughout Massachusetts. According to May Long, HDSA state chapter executive director, participants during the 10th Annual Hoopathon raised a record-breaking \$35,000, which allowed



**LOOKING FOR PARTICIPANTS**—A dozen UH staffers signed up to participate in the 11th Annual Hoopathon for Huntington's disease at a registration table outside the SkyLight Dining Pavilion, on Friday, March 9. Pictured left to right are May Long, executive director of the Massachusetts chapter of the Huntington's Disease Society of America; Florence Pettengill, Neurogenetics, and Claudia Frank, a Huntington's patient who has been actively involved in the Hoopathon since its inception.

for the development and distribution of specially designed wheelchairs to Huntington's patients.

During the Hoopathon, basketball shooters try to sink as many baskets as they can from the foul line within 15 minutes. Sponsors, in turn, donate either an amount per basket or a flat rate per each participant.

A celebrity shootout, featuring WCVB-TV newscaster Jim Boyd, WNEV-TV meteorologist Harvey Leonard and radio personalities Jim Colony, WXKS-FM (KISS 108) and WBCN's "Tank on Sports," is slated that day for 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. ■

## TV channel brings chapel to the bedside

An inhouse "Chapel Channel" enables patients to participate in religious services without ever leaving their hospital beds. The Chapel Channel, Channel 6, is a service made available by the Educational Media Support Center of the School of Medicine.

According to Jerome Glickman, Ph.D., director of Educational Media, a chapel channel had been in existence for several years, although it wasn't until October—when the Interfaith Chapel relocated from the Preston Building to the Atrium Pavilion—that it was upgraded and formally named. In addition to broadcasting live and previously recorded masses and services, the Chapel Channel airs a stress-management program, daily, at 2 a.m., 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 8 p.m., as well as informative messages for patients.

Wrote Helen Gibson, administrative secretary of the Department of Pastoral Care and

Education, in a January 23 letter to Donald R. Giller, vice president for Marketing/Planning/Business Development:

"This note comes to thank you for the great technical work performed by Educational Media in setting up the television station in our Interfaith Chapel. We are indeed grateful for the patience, concern and advice given [to us] in getting the station under way. Educational Media has truly played a major role in affording our nonambulatory patients and staff on duty an opportunity to share in the chapel services."

The Department of Pastoral Care and Education this month will observe Easter and Passover with an agenda of services to be broadcast to patient rooms on the Chapel Channel. For a complete schedule, contact the Department at 638-7888 (x7888). ■

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The deadline for **Connections** is at noon on the second Monday of each month. Story and photo suggestions for **Connections** should be addressed to Cynthia Paradis in care of the Office of Publication Services, DOB 915, or call x8482. The Office of Publication Services is part of the Department of Marketing/Public Affairs, Boston University Medical Center, Donald R. Giller, director. Copyright © University Hospital, Inc. 1990 all rights reserved. Volume 3, Number 4.