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Boston University School of Medicine News



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stoneham resident Mark B. Moss, Ph.D., an assistant research professor of anatomy at Boston University School of Medicine, recently was awarded \$65,153 for the first year of a three year grant totalling nearly \$200,000 from the National Institutes of Health.

Moss is studying the relationship between the neurochemical, neuro-pathological and neuropsychological factors involved in Alzheimer's Disease, a neurologic disease which affects the structure and chemistry of the brain. Alzheimer's Disease is believed to affect over three million people in this country and is currently the fourth leading cause of death.

According to Moss, the disease strikes cells which produce acetylcholine, a "neurotransmitter" which allows neurons in the brain to communicate with each other. As the disease progresses, and more cells are destroyed, brain function is impaired to the point where even such simple tasks as dressing and feeding oneself, become difficult for the the patient to perform.

With this research, Moss and co-investigator Douglas L. Rosene, Ph.D., an assistant professor of anatomy at BUSM, hope to determine if the disease is indeed caused by a lack of acetylcholine in the brain. If so, attempts will then be made to restore the necessary neurochemicals for an eventual treatment for patients with Alzheimer's Disease.

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Moss received a B.S. degree in 1969 from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He received his Ph.D. in psychology in 1979 from Northeastern University.

A member of the BUSM faculty since 1982, Moss has held positions at Northeastern University and at Harvard Medical School.

Moss is a member of several professional organizations, including the American Psychological Association and the International Neuropsychological Society. He is the author or co-author of numerous articles published in scientific journals.

A Stoneham resident for five years, Moss currently resides on Plaza Avenue.

Boston University School of Medicine is the site of several major interdisciplinary research centers, including the Hubert H. Humphrey Cancer Research Center and the Cardiovascular Institute of Boston University. The School is an innovator in medical education, offering several alternative curricula leading to the M.D. degree.