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News & Notes

Boston University School of Medicine



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BUSM I students Linda Copelas, left, and Susan Pursell were among the 18 student callers and 33 alumni callers who participated in the BUSM Alumni Association Fall Phonathons to raise funds for programs at the School. The callers contacted alumni during the evenings of Oct. 28 and Nov. 3. Approximately \$170,000 was pledged by 676 alumni during the event.

DEAN SANDSON TO RECEIEVE ADL'S FIRST MAIMONIDES AWARD DEC. 14

Dean John I. Sandson, M.D., has been named the recipient of the first Maimonides Award given by the New England Region of the Anti-Defamation League. He will be presented the award at a dinner in his honor, scheduled to be held Dec. 14 in the University's George Sherman Union. Named after the 12th-century Jewish philosopher and physician, the Maimonides Award signifies "excellence in medicine and education and a deep sense of human values."

Dean Sandson has written and spoken extensively on such topics as medical school curricula, the delivery of health care and the cost to society of prohibitive medical school tuition. His leadership in such innovations as student revolving loan funds and alternative pathways to medical education has made these BUSM programs models for other medical schools across the country. He holds positions on the State Health Coordinating Council and the Health Planning Committee of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and has served on the Health Planning Council of Greater Boston. He also is a member of the National Institutes of Health Biomedical Research Support Subcommittee.

ANATOMY PROFESSOR RAVIOLA DIES; MEMORIAL SERVICE SCHEDULED

Giuseppina d'Elia Raviola, M.D., Ph.D., 51, an internationally-recognized expert on the anatomy of the eye and a member of the BUSM faculty for 14 years, died suddenly Oct. 30 at her home in Newton Highlands. A memorial service has been scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 4, at 12:30 p.m. in the University Hospital Chapel, Preston Family Building. The service is open to all members of the Medical Center community.

Raviola joined the faculty at BUSM in 1972 as an associate professor of anatomy and became a full professor in 1979. Her work on the morphology and physiology of the eye was aimed at understanding the pathology of glaucoma and earned her recognition from a number of national and international organizations. She was awarded the 1984 award of the New England Society of

Ophthalmologists for her outstanding contributions to the field.

Born in 1935 in Arona, Italy, Raviola received her medical degree with highest honors from the University of Pavia in 1959 and in 1968 earned the Italian equivalent of a Ph.D. from the same institution. She was a member of the American Association of Anatomists, the American Society for Cell Biology, the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, and the International Society for Eye Research.

FRAMINGHAM STUDY RESEARCHERS
RECEIVE CHARLES A. DANA AWARD

Two School of Medicine faculty members were among those honored Nov. 6 with the first Charles A. Dana Awards for Pioneering Achievement in Health and Higher Education given by the Charles A. Dana Foundation. Thomas R. Dawber, M.D., M.P.H., and William B. Kannel, M.D., M.P.H., were chosen to receive a Dana Award for Pioneering Achievement in Health for their role in the Boston University-Framingham Heart Study.

Dawber, the original architect of the Framingham Heart Study and a BUSM professor of medicine, and Kannel, director of the Study from 1966 to 1979 and currently a BUSM professor of medicine and chief of The University Hospital's Section of Preventive Medicine and Epidemiology, were presented with a single honorarium of \$50,000 and a gold medallion each at a luncheon ceremony held at the Plaza Hotel in New York. The researchers were cited for their role in "creating and sustaining the premier epidemiological study of this century, which continues to bring forth information on coronary heart diseases that is transforming the health practices of the American people and that stands as a compelling model of scientific rigor in the service of disease prevention."

Founded in 1950, the Charles A. Dana Foundation is a private philanthropic foundation with grant programs in the fields of health and higher education, with special emphasis in the areas of clinical epidemiology and the environmental health sciences.

C. ROBERT VALERI, M.D.
AWARDED JULES VONCKEN PRIZE

Retired Navy Capt. C. Robert Valeri, M.D., a professor of medicine and director of the Naval Blood Research Laboratory (NBRL) at BUSM, has been chosen to receive the 1986 Jules Voncken Prize of the International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy (ICMMP). Valeri was selected for the prestigious honor for his book entitled "The Hypovolemic Anemia of Trauma--The Missing Blood Syndrome," published in 1981. He will receive his award at a yet to be scheduled presentation ceremony, to be held in Belgium. Valeri and colleagues at the NBRL have conducted groundbreaking research on the preservation and rejuvenation of blood and blood products.

The Jules Voncken Prize is awarded every four years by the ICMMP for the study that most improves the organization and provision of aid to victims of armed conflicts. Valeri's work was praised for "greatly enhancing the stature of the medical service of the United States Department of Defense in the fraternity of military medical services worldwide," according to a letter from the U.S. Department of the Army informing Valeri of the award. The award is named in honor of the late General Jules Voncken of the Belgian Armed Forces who was a long-time secretary general of the ICMMP.

1987 BLACK ACHIEVERS:

Several BUSM recipients of the 1987 Black Achievers Award recently gathered for a photo in the School's lobby. Left to right are Weldon S. Lloyd, D.Sc., an associate research professor of nutrition, Mona Lolange Jabouin, R.N., a nurse in the Student-Employee Health Service at BUMC, and Vernon Truell, chief pathologist assistant at BUMC. Not able to attend the picture-taking were Joseph I. Ordia, M.S.S.B., an associate professor of neurosurgery, and Deborah Prothrow-Stith, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine.



COULTER ELECTED PRESIDENT OF MENTAL RETARDATION ACADEMY

David L. Coulter, M.D., an associate professor of pediatrics and director of pediatric neurology at BUSM and Boston City Hospital, was elected to a second one-year term as president of the American Academy of Mental Retardation (AAMR) at their recent annual meeting in Denver. The AAMR is a national multidisciplinary organization of professionals involved in research on mental retardation. As president, Coulter is organizing research symposia and promoting the application of research results to public policy use. In addition, Coulter presented findings from his research on anticonvulsant therapy for persons with mental retardation and epilepsy at the annual meeting of the Child Neurology Society.

HOSPICE CARE OF ALZHEIMER'S PATIENTS SUBJECT OF STUDY

A recent study conducted by researchers at BUSM and the Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC) at the E.N. Rogers Memorial Veterans Administration Medical Center in Bedford, Mass., indicates that a hospice approach to the treatment of advanced Alzheimer's patients improves their quality of life and does not increase mortality rates. "Sending a patient to an acute-care setting for intensive procedures has not, in the long run, extended life," commented Ladislav Volicer, M.D., a professor of psychiatry and pharmacology at BUSM and director of GRECC Inpatient Services. "A hospice approach focuses on the quality of life and the comfort of each individual patient."

The study reported on 40 patients treated at the Bedford VA Medical Center. With the involvement of family members, patients were assigned to one of five levels of care--each successive level decreasing in the amount of resuscitation effort provided, and each focusing on providing maximum comfort to the patient. Of the original 40 patients, 13 died during the year. The researchers found that the patients' duration of stay in the hospital did not significantly differ from the duration of stay of 23 Alzheimer's patients who died at the hospital before the initiation of a hospice program.

CULBERT NAMED ASSOCIATE DEAN
FOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Arthur J. Culbert Jr., Ph.D., assistant dean of student affairs, has been named associate dean for educational programs at BUSM, effective Oct. 14, according to Dean Sandson. In his new role, Culbert will advise students in career decisions, direct BUSM's Laboratory for Instructional Technology, and develop and coordinate the various medical education pathways available at BUSM.

SECOND LOWENSTEIN CONCERT
FEATURES TRIO, SOPRANO

The Second Leah Lowenstein Memorial Concert was held Nov. 9 at the School of Fine Arts Concert Hall. The program featured a broad selection of works performed by members of the BUSM community. A trio composed of flutist Leonard D. Berman, M.D., a professor of pathology; pianist Arnold E. Reif, D.Sc., a research professor of pathology; and their colleague violinist Gertrude Jonas, played selections from Corelli, Haydn, Bach, Pergolesi and Ibert. In addition, lyric soprano Sandy Bornstein, wife of Alan P. Sager, Ph.D., an associate professor of public health (health services), and her accompanist James Busby performed songs by Handel, Poulenc and Walton. The concerts were established to memorialize former BUSM Associate Dean Leah M. Lowenstein, M.D., D. Phil., who died in 1984.

DEU RENAMED IN MEMORY
OF CO-FOUNDER SLONE

The Drug Epidemiology Unit of BUSM has been named the Slone Epidemiology Unit in memory of its late co-founder and co-director Dennis Slone, M.B.B.Ch. To mark the occasion, a reception was held Oct. 24 at the Unit's offices, located in Brookline, Mass. Sloan, who died in 1982, was a national and international authority in the field of drug epidemiology. He and Samuel Shapiro, M.D., F.R.C.P.(E.), a research professor of socio-medical sciences and community medicine, and public health (epidemiology and biostatistics), established the Unit in 1975.

ORTHOPEDIC FELLOWS
VISIT BUMC; PAPERS PRESENTED

Special orthopedic grand rounds were held last month at the Medical Center in honor of the North American Traveling Fellows of the American Orthopaedic Association and Canadian Orthopaedic Association.

Papers were presented by members of the BUSM Department of Orthopedic and Fracture Surgery. Robert E. Leach, M.D., chairman of the Department, presented "Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction: How, Why?"; G. Richard Paul, M.D., sports medicine coordinator and an associate professor of orthopedic and fracture surgery, presented "Complex Fractures of the Proximal Humerus"; David S. Rondon, M.D., an instructor of orthopedic surgery, presented "Management of C2 Fractures"; Charles F. Sanzone, M.D., an instructor in orthopedics, presented "Treatment of Elbow Fractures"; Anthony A. Schepsis, M.D., a clinical instructor of orthopedic surgery, presented "Surgical Management of Achilles Tendinitis"; and Isadore G. Yablon, M.D., director of research and a professor of orthopedic and fracture surgery, presented "Ankle Fracture Malunions."

The 1986 AOA/COA Traveling Fellows included: John J. Callaghan, M.D., of

the University of Uniformed Health Sciences, Bethesda, Md.; Fred M. Hankin, M.D., of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor; Alexander A. Sapega, M.D., of the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center; Russell E. Windsor, M.D., of the Hospital of Special Surgery, New York, N.Y.; and James G. Jarvis, M.D., of the University of Ottawa Medical Center, Canada.

DE LUCA RECEIVES GRANT FOR
RESEARCH ON LOWER BACK PAIN

Carlo De Luca, Ph.D., a BUSM research professor of neurology and director of the NeuroMuscular Research Center at Boston

University, is the principal investigator in a new study entitled "Computer-Aided Evaluation and Treatment of Muscular Deficits in Low Back Pain." The NeuroMuscular Research Center has been awarded a three-year grant of \$1.4 million from the Veterans Administration to develop components of a back analysis system.

In what is believed to be the first method of objective evaluation of back pain, De Luca and his staff have developed a diagnostic technique that is able to distinguish normal from abnormal back functioning based upon the electrical output of back muscles during fatigue. The Muscle Fatigue Monitor is the first tool developed specifically to monitor back muscle groups during fatiguing contractions. With the monitor and a computer-based biomechanical model of the back, physicians will be able to tailor exercises to meet individual needs by determining the exact muscular deficiency and specifying appropriate exercises to either strengthen or relieve the affected muscles.

CME OFFERS COURSES IN
URO-ONCOLOGY, OBSTETRICS

The BUSM Department of Continuing Medical Education is offering "Uro-Oncology Update 1986," to be held Saturday, Dec. 6, at the

Hyatt Regency Hotel in Cambridge. The course is designed for both urologists and oncologists and will cover recent advances in the field. Course director is Richard K. Babayan, M.D., a BUSM associate professor of urology.

From Dec. 27 through 29, CME is offering "High Risk Obstetrics," to be held at Buena Vista Palace at Disney World, Lake Buena Vista, Fla. Topics to be covered include adolescent pregnancy, fetal alcohol syndrome, the pregnant drug addict and genetic testing. Course director is Leonard J. Cibley, M.D., a clinical professor of obstetrics and gynecology.

CLARIFICATION

In the October issue of News & Notes, an article appeared about a recent donation of

a scanning fluorimeter to the School by Aid for Cancer Research, a local organization that raises funds for biomedical research. In addition to being used by Richard A. Miller, M.D., Ph.D., an associate professor of pathology and an assistant research professor of biochemistry, the equipment also is being used by Thomas L. Rothstein, M.D., Ph.D., an associate professor of medicine and an assistant professor of microbiology, who is studying intracellular signals involved in B lymphocyte stimulation and analysing the mechanisms by which human malignant lymphocytes are inhibited by anti-immunoglobulin.

BRIEFLY NOTED

Donald R. Korst, M.D., a professor of medicine and public health, was a delegate to the 30th annual meeting of the American Society of Internal Medicine (ASIM), held in September in Seattle, Wash....BUSM Associate Dean Barry M. Manuel, M.D., moderated a panel on "Professional Liability Update" at the annual meeting of the American College of Surgeons, held in October in New Orleans....Albert Sherman, director of special services for the Medical Center, has been appointed to the subcommittee for code enforcement for the town of Brookline and he has been re-appointed to the town's advisory board for public health....Charles Terrell, assistant dean for student affairs and director of the Office of Student Financial Management, has been appointed to the board of directors of Resthaven nursing home in Roxbury, Mass....Lyn Weiner, M.P.H., program director of the BUSM Fetal Alcohol Education Program, presented "Recognizing Women at Risk for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome" at the Cape Cod Symposium on Addictive Disorders, held in Hyannis earlier this fall.

NEWS & NOTES is a publication of the Office of Informational Services. If you have news of interest to the BUSM community, call editor Caroline Lupfer, x8482 (638-8482), or write to her at the Office of Informational Services, DOB-600 (720 Harrison Ave., Boston, MA 02118). Marge Dwyer is managing editor. (Photo on page 1 is by Louis Martin. Photo on page 3 is by David Keough, EMSC.)

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