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MedCenter News: September 1998

SEPTEMBER 1998

MedCenter News

BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER, BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS OF MEDICINE, PUBLIC HEALTH AND DENTAL MEDICINE

HAC telephone exchange to be 414

Upon the completion of the Labor Day weekend, employees making calls to the Harrison Avenue Campus will need to dial 414 instead of 534.

Beginning on Friday, Sept. 4, at approximately 6 p.m., the first three digits of the Harrison Avenue Campus telephone numbers will be changed to 414. The Public Health Commission phone numbers, however, will remain the same. The last four digits of the telephone numbers at BMC will remain the same.

To ensure a smooth transition and quality customer service, anyone calling a 534 number after Sept. 4 will receive a message explaining the shift to the 414 exchange. Some critical lines, including those to the emergency room and security, will automatically be forwarded.

For more information, contact the Telecommunications Department at 638-6890. A Help Desk, at 414-1111, will be available for assistance with any conversion problems beginning Tuesday, Sept. 8, through Friday, Sept. 11, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. ✧

Convocation planned for BUSM's sesquicentennial

To commemorate the start of the 1998-1999 academic year, BUSM will continue its year-long sesquicentennial celebration with style as national, local and school leaders converge on the campus.

On Friday, Sept. 18, a tent will be erected in the parking lot across Albany Street from the Talbot Building for the convocation. Dean Aram Chobanian, MD, provost of BU Medical Campus, will host the ceremony. Scheduled to attend the event are U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher, MD; American Association of Medical Colleges President Jordan Cohen, MD; Boston Mayor Thomas Menino; and distinguished alumni Mary Jane England '64; Ralph D. Feigin '62; and Rachel Boone Keith, '49.

"The convocation marks 150 years of excellence in medical education and research at BUSM," says Chobanian. "As this academic year begins, we are pleased to host an event that honors our past achievements and celebrates our future promise — our students."

The event will ring in the new academic year and honor accomplished individuals for their dedication to ensuring the highest quality health care for all.

Receiving honorary degrees at the ceremony are Cohen, England, Feigin, Keith and Satcher, while a special sesquicentennial medal will be presented to Menino for his constant support of BUSM and its programs. Satcher also will deliver the keynote speech.

The convocation begins at 2 p.m. BUMC faculty, staff and students are welcome to attend the event.

Since January, BUSM has held a variety of events to celebrate the milestone, including the first Alumni Career Day, The Women in Medicine Awards ceremony, the Rebecca Lee 5K Road Race and numerous scientific sessions. This fall

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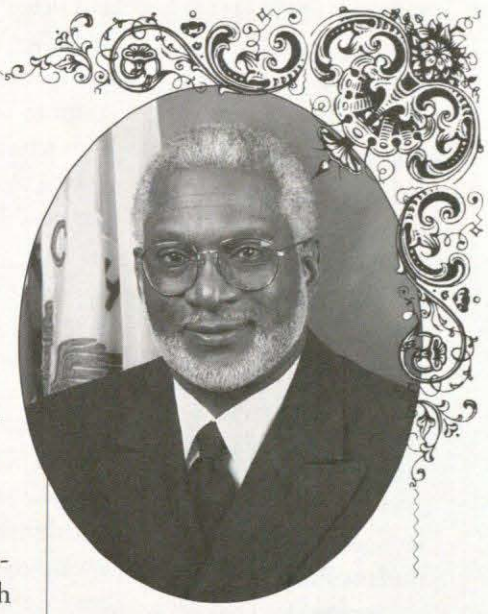


Receiving honorary degrees:

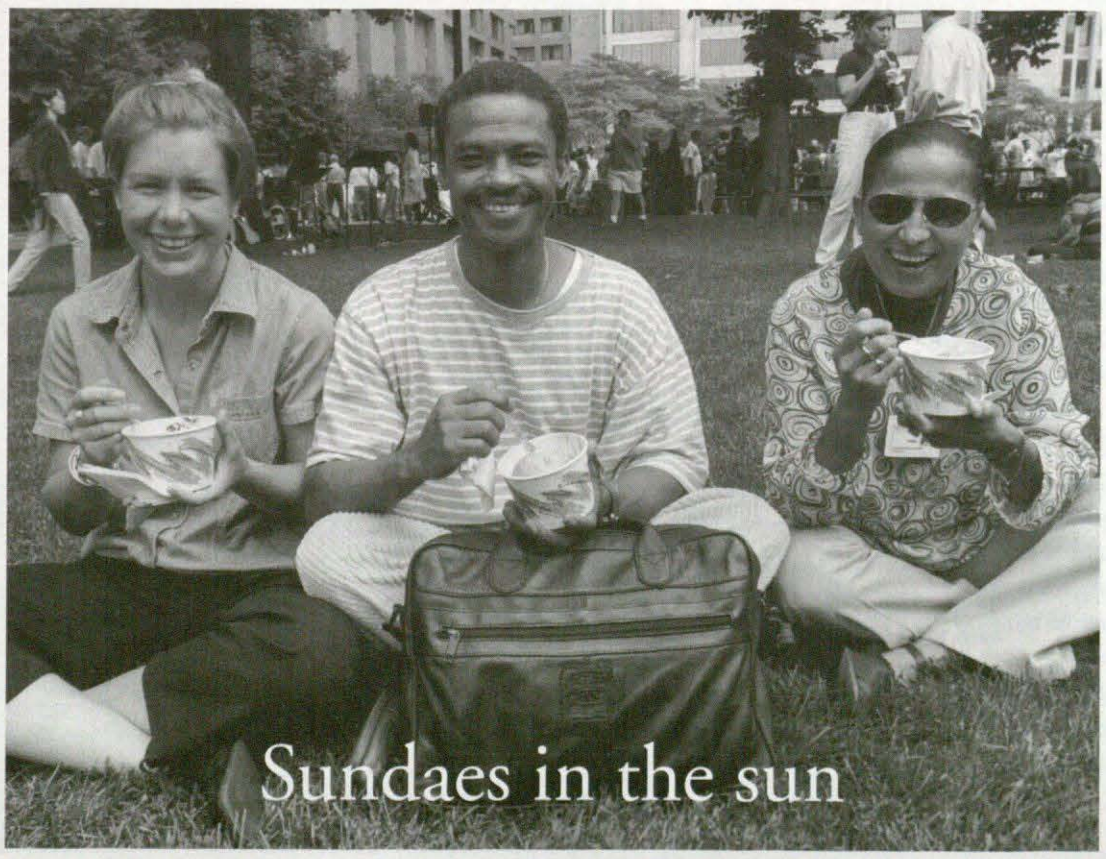
U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher, MD (pictured above)

American Association of Medical Colleges President Jordan Cohen, MD

Distinguished alumni:
Mary Jane England '64
Ralph D. Feigin '62
Rachel Boone Keith '49

Receiving a special sesquicentennial medal:

Mayor Thomas Menino



Sundaes in the sun

At the BUSM Ice Cream Social held last month, Amy Lang (left), Pulmonary Center, enjoys a cool treat while relaxing in the sun with colleagues Ezekiel Meran, Infectious Diseases Clinic, and Vilma Valentin, Pulmonary Center.

INSIDE

SPH centralizes student services

SPH has set its sights on making life easier for students by centralizing administrative support for all courses, programs and student organizations under the Office for Student Services.

In addition to coordinating student orientation programs, classroom scheduling, course evaluations and commencement, the office maintains an extensive student directory and distributes a student newsletter.

Taking an active role in promoting student life outside the classroom, Student Services administers the Student Advisory Committee and other student organizations. Through these organizations, students are able to combine community activism with peer interaction. Recent activities have included the Boston AIDS Walk, AIDS Dance-A-Thon and other activities, including a public health awareness campaign to educate local high school students during the recent National Public Health Week.

"By providing services that are instrumental for the success of the students, both academically and personally, we are helping to ensure that their experience here is a rewarding one," says Jim Glover, director of Student Services at SPH.

The office also acts as a liaison between students and staff, advocating for student needs and concerns. For example, after a recent request by students, Student Services was able to negotiate a change in the BUMC shuttle schedule to accommodate students who have evening classes.

Keeping up with the changes in technology, the office also plays a key role in the efficiency with which students receive information. Student mailboxes are no longer used — information is now relayed by Student Services through an extensive e-mail system and intranet site.

Workshops demonstrate BMC cares

The launching of *WE CARE: Building Exceptional Service Strategies* shouts the message loud and clear — BMC is committed to providing the highest quality customer service to patients, families, visitors and employees.

The new customer service initiative is a powerful workshop experience that provides employees with the opportunity to become stakeholders in the success of their individual departments and the BMC community. At the workshops, which are set to begin in late fall, managers and staff together will create customized service action plans tailored to their departmental needs. The workshops will focus on developing quick fixes to those customer service problems that departments can control and correct in a relatively short period of time. Within the workshops, every employee will use on-the-job experience to help develop these solutions.

"In today's competitive market, BMC needs to offer the highest quality service, as well as the highest quality care for which we are known," says Evelyn Hecht, director of Organizational Development and Training at BMC. "This innovative program helps ensure that every employee becomes an active partner in BMC's service enterprise."

Employees are encouraged to continue to take advantage of the growing curriculum of skill-based workshops being offered, which compliment and support the *WE CARE* initiative. These include *Sounds of Success,* a telephone training seminar, and *Leading and Motivating,* a workshop designed for those who manage others. A catalogue and calendar of upcoming workshops will be distributed to employees later this fall. ✧

Fund-raising concert is a "smashing" success

No more than a few months ago, many of the people involved with the Children's AIDS Program at BMC were not familiar with the rock group Smashing Pumpkins. Today, however, you can count them as some of the group's biggest fans.

That's because, as beneficiaries of a sold-out July 31 concert, the program finds itself quite a bit wealthier – taking in 100 percent of the ticket sales from the show at the Orpheum Theater.

More than $100,000 was raised for the Children's AIDS Program, the only medically specialized therapeutic day care center for children with HIV/AIDS in New England. In addition to helping children adhere to new drug therapies, the program provides special needs education, nutrition and family mental health services to children and families living with HIV.

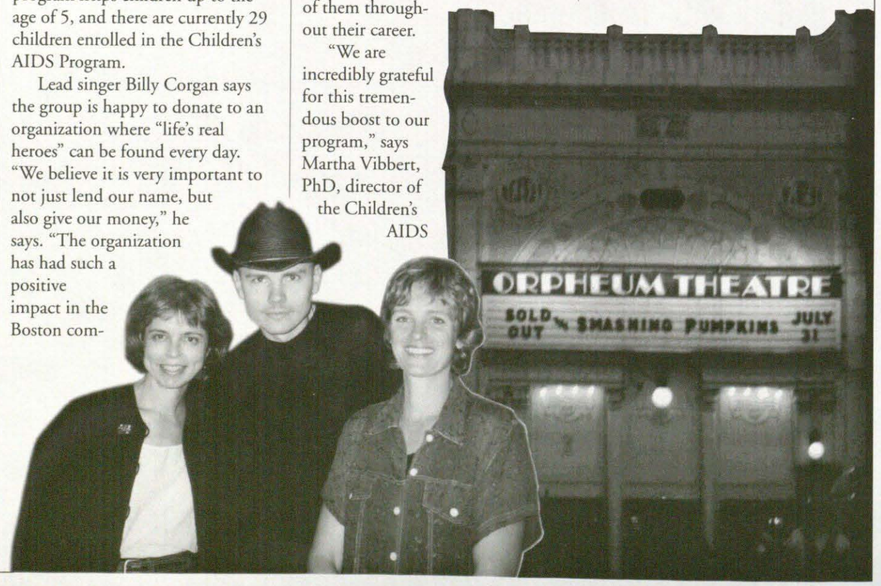
"We are ecstatic that the group found a worthy cause," says Sarah Commerford, fund raiser and public relations specialist for the program.

"With such a generous offering, we will be able to hire another teacher, which in turn will allow us to bring the nine children we have on our waiting list into the program." The program helps children up to the age of 5, and there are currently 29 children enrolled in the Children's AIDS Program.

Lead singer Billy Corgan says the group is happy to donate to an organization where "life's real heroes" can be found every day. "We believe it is very important to not just lend our name, but also give our money," he says. "The organization has had such a positive impact in the Boston community, we wanted to shine the spotlight on its work."

Tickets for the event were $40, and the show sold out in under 10 minutes. The group (Corgan, D'Arcy Wretzky and James Iha) recently wrapped up a nationwide, 13-city charity tour. The band, which has been playing together for a decade, used the summer tour to give back to the communities and audiences that have been supportive of them throughout their career.

"We are incredibly grateful for this tremendous boost to our program," says Martha Vibbert, PhD, director of the Children's AIDS Program. "Thanks to the generosity of Smashing Pumpkins, we are going to be able to help more children live normal, healthier lives." ✧



Children's AIDS Program Director Martha Vibbert, PhD, (left) and Sarah Commerford, fund raiser and public relations specialist for the program, were able to personally thank Smashing Pumpkins lead singer Billy Corgan for the group's generosity.

Back-to-school barbecue

SDM recently held a barbecue to welcome the school's new students. Students Shalini Tewary (left), and Manjula Ramana enjoy the first of many school experiences together.

SDM growing in leaps and bounds

While some dental schools throughout the country are downsizing, SDM is continuing to grow — to the tune of 60,000 square feet of additional space.

The school recently completed major facility renovations at 100 East Newton St., including a new roof; new heating, air conditioning and ventilation systems; state-of-the-art fire alarm and sprinkler systems; and new elevators.

Significant renovations on all floors included new lighting and ceilings. The sixth floor preclinical laboratory also received new laboratory bench lights and an instructional video system.

Along with facility renovations, the school has expanded its academic offerings. New departments and programs have fueled the need for the acquisition of more space. Currently, there are plans for the school to acquire 60,000 square feet of space at various locations throughout the medical center.

According to SDM Dean Spencer Frankl, DMD, this additional space, combined with the space the school is currently using — 930 Commonwealth Ave., 801 Albany St., CABR 1 on Albany Street, the Robinson Building and 560 Harrison Ave. — "is equivalent to adding nine floors to the eight existing floors" at 100 East Newton St.

"We are growing," says Frankl, "and being a part of a major medical center affords us a unique opportunity. We are able to utilize the strengths of the institution of which we are a part to expand the School of Dental Medicine. The vision and support of President Westling and Provost Chobanian have been critical components for this development." ✧

BMC to honor employees

In return for helping BMC become one of the premier medical centers in the nation, employees who are celebrating a milestone year of service at the medical center will be honored.

The Employee Service Recognition Programs will honor nearly 1,000 employees on Thursday, Oct. 8, and Friday, Oct. 9. Employees who have been with the institution five, 10, 15 or 20-plus years as of July 1, 1996, and July 1, 1997, will be recognized.

"We want to say thank you to our employees for the years they have contributed to this organization," says Elaine Ullian, president and CEO of BMC. "The effort and dedication of these employees have done much to enable Boston Medical Center to provide ongoing high-quality patient care services."

The Service Recognition Programs will be held from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. in the Heibert Lounge, 14th floor, BUSM Instructional Building, on both Thursday and Friday. An invitation will be sent to the homes of those employees who will be recognized, informing them on which afternoon they will be honored. Recognized employees at the program will be presented with a gift as sign of appreciation.

Ullian will provide the welcoming address and employees will be treated to light refreshments at the program. ✧

Researchers stress the benefit of mammograms for African-Americans

The question of why African-American women are diagnosed with breast cancer at a later stage than white women has long vexed oncologists and epidemiologists. Although there is a lower overall incidence of breast cancer in African-American women than in white women, they are more likely to die from the disease — the breast cancer survival rate for African-American women is 64 percent, compared to 85 percent for white women.

Although there is a lower overall incidence of breast cancer in African-American women than in white women, they are more likely to die from the disease...

In a paper published in the May 1 *Annals of Internal Medicine*, BUSM researchers may have found a simple and striking answer to this question: black women are less likely to get regular mammograms than white women. In fact, among black and white women who had regular mammograms, the researchers found no difference in the cancer stage at diagnosis between the two groups.

The study compared the rates of mammography between more than 4,000 black and white women aged 67 and older who had been diagnosed with breast cancer between 1987 and 1989. The researchers found that less frequent mammography screenings among African-American women accounted for 30 percent of the advanced breast cancers in the group.

When other factors influencing the results — such as additional medical problems, social status and educational level — were factored in, less frequent mammography still accounted for 12 percent of the advanced cancers.

"This is great news for African-American women. We have shown that mammography benefits this community as much as any other group of women," says co-author Karen Freund, MD, MPH, chief of the Section of Women's Health at BMC and associate professor of medicine at BUSM.

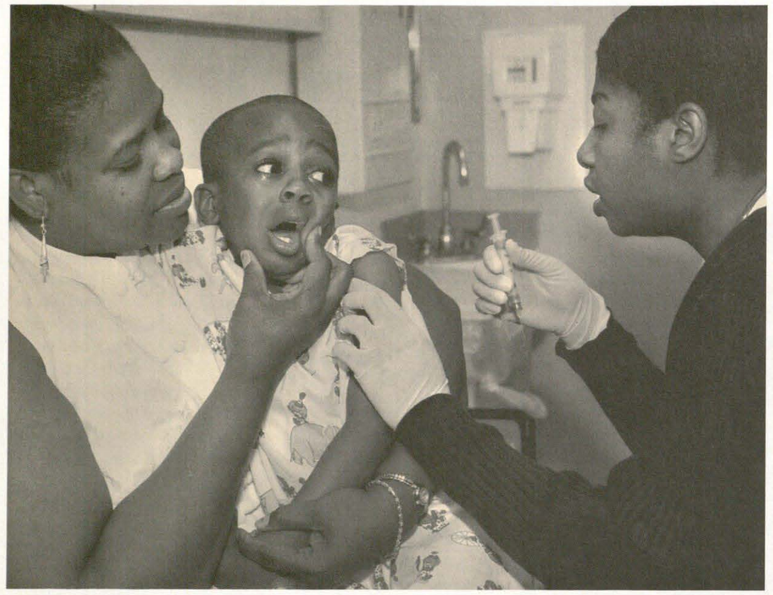
What accounts for the disparity? According to co-author Mark A. Moskowitz, MD, chief of the Section of General Internal Medicine at BMC and professor of medicine at BUSM, many factors play a role, such as access to regular primary care checkups, insurance coverage, and awareness of the importance of early detection of breast cancer.

The most important reason may be physicians. A different study found that the lack of a recommendation for regular mammography by a physician could account for as much as 75 percent of the black-white difference.

The study highlights the importance of annual breast cancer screenings for women of all races, but especially underscores the need for physicians and other health care professionals to encourage African-American women to have regular mammograms.

"Earlier and more frequent mammography screening is essential for black women and should result in earlier diagnoses of breast cancer and better clinical outcomes," says Moskowitz.

"Clearly, we need to do more to raise awareness in the African-American community about the need for annual breast cancer screenings. We hope to increase the rate of mammography among African-American women so that the differences disappear, and the survival rates should equalize." ✧



The Haitian Health Institute is proving to be a valuable resource for medical professionals throughout BMC who treat Haitian patients. Left, Micheline Cenafils (right), RN, Pediatrics, tries to soothe the nerves of 4-year-old Jerry Dieudonné prior to giving him an immunization shot, while his mom, Sophonie, tries unsuccessfully to divert his attention.

Haitian Health Institute serves as a prime resource center

As the only hospital-based program in the region to focus on Haitian health issues, the Haitian Health Institute (HHI) at BMC is taking the lead in providing culturally and linguistically sensitive health care to Boston's Haitian community.

The brain child of Michelle David, MD, MBA, MPH, assistant professor of medicine at BUSM; Jean Robert Larrieux, MD, MPH, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at BUSM; and Nicole Prudent, MD, MPH, assistant professor of pediatrics at BUSM, all native Haitians and co-directors of the institute, the program was formed in March 1996. Together with other BMC physicians, nurses and staff of Haitian descent, the program assessed the unmet health care needs of the Haitian population visiting BMC and Boston HealthNet community health centers. Identifying gaps in service, in mental health, nutrition, family planning, parental education, social services and other immigrant health issues, the HHI set its sights on developing an agenda to improve health care and ensure its accessibility for Haitians.

Today, working within BMC and with other community-based organizations, the HHI develops outreach and education programs, leads Haitian focus groups in discussions of medical and public health issues, conducts important research relevant to Haitian health issues and meets with local and federal agencies.

"To fully address the health care needs of the Haitian population, health service providers must join together to develop and implement strategies to reach this community in a clear and culturally sensitive manner," says David. "We hope the HHI will make it easier to reach that goal."

The impact of the institute's work is clearly evident. This summer, HHI received a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) to conduct outreach work in the Haitian community, including providing culturally sensitive information on breast and cervical cancer. Free mammograms, clinical breast exams and Pap smears will also be available to uninsured Haitian women over 40.

In addition, the HHI has received funding from the MDPH for two benchmark studies — one will look at breast cancer attitudes among women over 40 in Boston's Haitian neighborhoods, and the other will study attitudes about HIV counseling and testing among pregnant and postpartum Haitian women. The HHI has also developed a six-part parenting program for Haitian parents, with particular emphasis on such difficult issues as discipline, sexuality education and the management of chronic illness.

With the help of The Boston Foundation, the HHI has also received funding to continue its efforts to forge coalitions with Haitian community-based organizations, public health agencies and private foundations, to advocate for the public health needs of Haitians statewide and strengthen the leadership within the Haitian community.

As the HHI looks to the future, its efforts will focus on educating members of the medical community about the Haitian culture. "We would like to become a health care resource center not only for those seeking medical care, but also for those providing the services to the Haitian community," says Prudent.

The HHI is helping develop an upcoming BMC Cultural Diversity Forum and training courses in Haitian Creole, the language spoken by most Haitians, for BMC physicians and staff.

Keeping in step with technological advances, the institute has also developed a Web site at www.bmc.org/program/haiti. The Web site provides background information about the HHI and its programs, in addition to an extensive guide of Haitian resource agencies and health related events.

"BMC has long been a leader in caring for Boston's Haitian communities," says David. "We strive to build on this tradition of excellence and to help provide this community with outstanding health care services." ✧

New management takes over Chequers

Does the thought of a falafel and humus roll-up, a honey-lime Dijon chicken kabob or a spinach and cheese pie set your stomach growling? Well, you don't have to go very far to enjoy this tempting cuisine, thanks to a change in management at Chequers at BUSM and Chequers Express at SDM.

In an effort to expand and enhance the dining offerings at these locations, Manny Sarkis, owner of El-Misk, a local, family-run Middle Eastern restaurant, has assumed management of the cafeterias from BU Dining Services. Both dining facilities have added new menu items while continuing to offer the existing selections, including the salad bar and deli counter. Diners can now choose from daily specials like shepherd's pie and fettuccine primavera, and for dessert, sweets like baklava and homemade oatmeal cookies. A new, full breakfast menu is also now available.

BU Dining Services will continue to provide catering services at BU Medical Campus functions to supplement those offered by Chequers.

The scheduled fall hours for Chequers and Chequers Express are Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. - 6:30 p.m., but may be extended. ✧

A novel approach to women's sexual health

A new clinic at BU Medical Center is championing the sexual health and satisfaction of women. Opened in July, the Women's Sexual Health Clinic is the work of urologist Jennifer Berman, MD, and sex therapist Laura Berman, PhD, who happen to be sisters. The clinic, touted nationally in the September issue of *Ladies' Home Journal*, is one of the first in the country to bring together medical and psychological specialists to focus on women's sexual health.

In collaboration with the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Department of Urology at BU Medical Center, the Bermans have created a clinic that offers women a wide range of solutions for the complex problems that can impede sexual health. With so much public attention focused on men's sexual health and the drug Viagra, the clinic is a sorely needed resource for women whose problems may be overlooked, says Jennifer Berman, who is on the surgical staff of BU Medical Center and a clinical instructor at BUSM.

"There is very little understanding or interest in sexual satisfaction among the primarily male-dominated medical fields that treat women," she says. "As a woman and a surgeon, I'm in a position to help change that."

The Bermans are trying to take women and health care professionals beyond the cursory questions of "Can you have intercourse?" and "Does it hurt?"

"Whether it's a problem with lubrication, genital sensation, or inability or difficulty having orgasms," says Jennifer Berman, "the clinic will help women determine the true source or sources of the problem."

She points out that the sexual health of women, like men, may be affected by high blood pressure, diabetes, reactions to medications, the after-effects of a surgical procedure or other conditions.

Menopause and aging can also play a part, says Jennifer Berman, but aging does not mean the end of sexual satisfaction.

By offering both medical and psychological therapies, the clinic recognizes that mental and emotional health are also significant contributors to the sexual health of women. Practicing in this multidisciplinary setting is rewarding, says sex therapist Laura Berman, who is a clinical therapist in the Department of Social Work and Psychiatry at BMC. "So many times women are told 'It's all in your head,' so they come to a therapist with the idea there is something wrong with them," she says. "The clinic allows women to look at both the physical and psychological aspects of their sexual health and find treatments that truly meet their needs."

Jennifer Berman, MD, (left) and Laura Berman, PhD

The Women's Sexual Health Clinic offers a variety of medical treatments, from hormone therapy and topical creams or lubricants to drug therapies that increase blood flow to the genital area and improve muscle function, including Viagra. Because Viagra's potential effect on a fetus is unknown, only women who are menopausal, post-menopausal or have had a hysterectomy can participate in studies of the drug. Jennifer Berman encourages women who are interested in the clinic (or clinicians who want more information for patients) to call 638-8485 or 638-8959. ✧

HealthMatters

How to handle the school bully

What do I do if I think my son is being bullied at school?

Your question is not uncommon. Experts estimate that approximately 10 percent of all children attending school are frightened or afraid throughout much of the school day, and that as many as 7 percent of children are actively aggressive toward their peers.

While the majority of children do not experience bullying, this "silent majority" still feels an emotional impact that can be as profound as that felt by the victims. Motivating your son to focus on learning and interacting with peers can be a challenge in this environment.

As unpleasant as the experience may be for your son, you can turn the disruption into a learning situation, consequently building his self-esteem and encouraging confidence. "As a parent, you need to be patient if your child is being picked on by a bully. You can't simply tell a child to stand tall. You have to show a child what to do and let the child practice it. The more practice children get, the better they will fare in the heat of the moment," says Marilyn Augustyn, MD, assistant professor of pediatrics at BUSM and director of Developmental and Behavioral Training in the Department of Pediatrics at BMC.

When does mere teasing turn into bullying? Typically, bullies single out one child for harassment far beyond the standard banter in which children engage. They seek out "passive victims" who are weaker, smaller and more vulnerable, as well as "provocative victims," such as children with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder who tend to be restless and irritable. Regardless, when teasing turns into torment, and your son is regularly harassed or even beaten, then you need to intervene.

"As a parent, the most important thing you can do for your child is remain calm. Approach the teacher, the principal or the counseling staff and ask them for their assessment of the situation. Often, bullies pick on children in areas where an authority figure is not likely to witness it," says Augustyn.

Teach your child to look a bully in the eye and stand firm when challenged by using a calm voice and walking — but not running — away from the situation. Let him know that it's not inappropriate to ask for help from adults if he's being bullied. Your child should learn how to defend himself when in danger, but you shouldn't encourage him to fight back against bullies if it can be avoided, because bullies are not usually thwarted by a victim who fights back. In fact, says Augustyn, resistance frequently excites bullies to further attack.

You can also help your child indirectly by encouraging your son to develop interpersonal skills through activities such as team sports and music groups, which may help boost his self-confidence and ability to make friends.

Finally, it probably won't help if you confront the bully directly. "It may exacerbate the very situation you're trying to prevent," says Augustyn. "If you identify a bully, talk to the school authorities, not the parents. Make it clear that the bullying is unacceptable and must stop." By adopting these measures, your son will hopefully experience a bully-free childhood. ▮

If you have any questions concerning bullying, or wish to discuss any other health issue, contact the BMC Health Connection at 800-841-4325.

ON*Track*

Pager batteries now available on both campuses

Due to the recent relocation of the Operator Services Department to the fifth floor of the Preston Family Building, replacement batteries for hospital pagers may now be obtained in the Admitting Departments on both campuses. Batteries can also be obtained at the Operator Services Department. The Admitting Department on the Harrison Avenue Campus is located on the first floor of the Inpatient Facility. On the East Newton Street Campus, the Admitting Department can be found on the first floor of the Atrium Building. Any other questions concerning pagers should be directed to the Operator Services Department.

Urgent Care Center changes Saturday hours

To improve the level of service provided to customers, the Urgent Care Center recently changed its Saturday hours to 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. (formerly 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.). A recent study by department leaders showed that peak volume demand occurs during the earlier morning hours. The center is located on the first floor of the Ambulatory Care Center. For more information, call Mary Campbell, RN, nurse manager at 414-5623, or Kathy Knight, practice manager, at 414-4105.

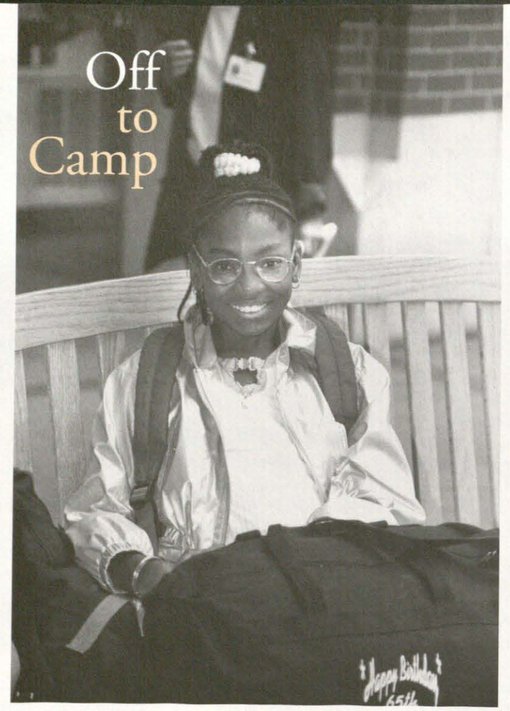
Keefer Auditorium renovations

The Keefer Auditorium on the East Newton Street Campus is currently undergoing extensive renovations. Once completed, the auditorium will have state-of-the-art audio, visual and lighting systems, as well as new seating and carpeting. In addition, teleconferencing capabilities will be added. The auditorium, named in honor of the late Chester Keefer, MD, chairman of the Department of Medicine from 1939-1960, is expected to reopen in mid-November.

City Year volunteers available

City Year teams will be available for service projects in mid-September. There are 10 volunteers on a service team. If your department has projects for a City Year team (or partial one), contact Volunteer Services at 414-5122 for an application.

Off to Camp



Sara Olotu, 14, a patient in the Pediatric Hematology Service at BMC, waits to hop in a limousine for her trip to the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp – a nonprofit residential summer camp founded by actor Paul Newman for children with life-threatening blood diseases.

Nine of BMC's patients from the Pediatric Hematology Service recently enjoyed 10 days of being fishermen, swimmers, canoe paddlers, photographers, actors, woodworkers, hot air balloonists and musicians at the Hole In The Wall Gang Camp in Connecticut. The nonprofit residential summer camp for children with cancer or life-threatening blood diseases was founded by Paul Newman in 1988. Set up like an old-fashioned western town, the camp is a haven for more than 900 children, ages 7 to 15, who participate each year free of charge.

"Helping a child overcome or face an illness involves more than just taking care of their medical needs," says Michael Osband, MD, director of the Pediatric Hematology Service at BMC and clinical professor of pediatrics at BUSM.

"By providing an opportunity outside of the hospital for our patients to interact with other children who have similar problems, they are given hope and encouragement," he says.

The BMC patients, most with sickle cell anemia, a chronic blood disorder, and chaperone Cassie Ryan, RN, clinical coordinator of the service, were treated to transportation to and from the camp in a stretch limousine, thanks to a generous donation from The Kids Fund at BMC. ✧

BUSM convocation

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the school is also planning a Cardiovascular Symposium in honor of the 25th anniversary of the Whitaker Cardiovascular Institute at BUSM and a Sesquicentennial Gala at the Boston Copley Marriott Hotel.

"This year has been full of excitement and nostalgia," says Chobanian. "It is because of the dedication and hard work of every member of the BUSM community — faculty, staff, and students, past and present — that we have succeeded for the past 150 years and will continue to succeed in the coming millennium." ✧

ITMA offers new services for fall

Dedicated to providing cost-effective, dependable and environmentally sound modes of transportation, the Interinstitutional Transportation Management Association (ITMA) continues to make it easier for employees, students, patients and visitors to travel to and around BU Medical Center (BUMC).

The ITMA, representing BUMC and the Public Health Commission, offers several transportation services, including computerized ride matching for those wishing to carpool and vanpool, public transit information (maps and schedules), campus shuttle services and personalized assistance with commuting.

This fall, new and enhanced services for commuters include:

- the opportunity for BUMC employees to participate in the MassPass Program, which gives unlimited access to the restricted Ted William's Tunnel. Participants are issued an electronic toll device that saves time and money;
- enhanced security by the new bike patrol throughout the medical campus;
- formation of a bike-users group, as well as bike registration with BU police officers this fall;
- new bicycle racks installed throughout the campus;
- up-to-date transportation materials, including information about the Central Artery Project, now available on the ITMA Web site;
- a new, more convenient Evening Transit Shuttle schedule.

The ITMA continues to coordinate the following shuttle service schedules:

All Day Medical Campus Shuttle
West Howell Street Parking Lot Shuttle
Evening Campus Shuttle
Evening Transit Shuttle
Boston VA Medical Center Shuttle
Commonwealth Medical Group Shuttle
BU Charles River Campus Shuttle

For more information, the ITMA offers an automated, 24-hour phone line with up-to-date information and complete shuttle schedules at 638-7430; kiosks located throughout the campus that contain MBTA bus and train schedules, shuttle schedules and maps; and a Web site that can be accessed on the BMC homepage located at www.bmc.org. ✧

CALENDAR

September

11 **Golf Tournament** - The Bud's Scramble for The Kids Fund Golf Tournament will be held Friday, Sept. 11, at the Ballymeade Country Club in Falmouth. The tournament is sponsored by Bud Scollins, retired director of Pharmacy for the former Boston City Hospital. The fee is $150, which includes golf cart, breakfast and a buffet luncheon. For more information, please contact Meryl Langbort, director of The Kids Fund, at 414-3651.

15 **Jewish Teaching Session** - A Jewish Rosh HaShanah-Yom Kippur teaching session will be held from noon to 1 p.m., in the chapel, Atrium Building, East Newton Street Campus. The session will be led by Rabbi Paul H. Levenson, hospital chaplain. All staff and hospital guests are invited for singing High Holy Day songs and prayers with explanations. Apples and honey will be served.

17 **Brain Symposium** - A Brain Symposium will be held in Bakst Auditorium from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Thursday, Sept. 17, and from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., on Friday, Sept. 18. The purpose of the workshop is to bring scientists of different disciplines together to work toward a greater understanding of the functions of the brain.

17 **Cultural Diversity Forum** - The diversity forum, the fifth in a series, will focus on comparing the similarities and differences of the various cultures served at BMC. The forum will take place from noon to 1 p.m., in Dowling Auditorium on the Harrison Avenue Campus (HAC). Gwendolyn Cochran Hadden, president, Cochran Hadden Associates, will lead the forum. Those attending are encouraged to bring a lunch, as desserts and refreshments will be available. For more information, call 414-5005.

23 **Prostate Screening** - As part of an ongoing commitment to the BU Medical Center community, BMC's Department of Urology is offering free prostate cancer screenings from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration will take place in the Atrium Pavilion Lobby on the East Newton Street Campus. The screening includes a free prostate exam and PSA blood test. For more information, call the BMC Health Connection at 638-6767.

29 **Healthy Kids Fair** - Approximately 1,500 children between the ages of 3 and 6 are expected to attend this annual event. The fair, now in its fourth year, will be held in the lobby of the Inpatient Facility, as well as in the adjoining courtyard and circular driveway on the Harrison Avenue Campus. From 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., children can participate in several hands-on activities that focus on safety, health, nutrition, fitness and reading. For more information, call 638-8922.

October

2 **Women's Health Expo** - at the Bayside Expo Center in Boston, from Oct. 2 - Oct. 4. The expo will feature health, nutrition, fitness, beauty and quality-of-life information, products and services for women. Representatives from BMC will host a Healthy Lifestyles booth and provide bone density testing, computerized health assessments, cooking demonstrations and information about BMC services for women. For more information, call 638-8035 or check out the Web site at www.womenshealthexpo.com.

3 **Piano Recital** - To celebrate BUSM's sesquicentennial and the 17th anniversary of the Center for Human Genetics, a piano recital will be performed by Bronika Kushkuley. The performance will be held at 8 p.m., in the School of Management Auditorium, 595 Commonwealth Ave. A reception follows the recital. Kushkuley, a 10-year-old Latvian prodigy, has won three international piano competitions, appeared in Carnegie Hall and performed on television and radio. Most recently, she was awarded the Janet Gates Peckham International Prize for Excellence in the Arts. For more information, call 638-7083.

Open Enrollment 1999 for BMC employees

Beginning Wednesday, Sept. 30, BMC employees have the opportunity to make changes to their benefits, including health and dental insurance, short- and long-term disability insurance, life insurance and flexible spending accounts.

To kick off Open Enrollment 1999 at BMC, benefit fairs will be held Sept. 30, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., on the Harrison Avenue Campus, and Thursday, Oct. 1, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., on the East Newton Street Campus. Locations for each fair will be posted. Representatives from each of the benefit plans, as well as staff from the BMC Benefits Office, will be on hand to answer questions.

Changes made to benefits will be effective Jan. 1, 1999. All BMC employees eligible to receive benefits will have open enrollment information packages sent to their home address on file. If you need to update your address, or have any questions regarding Open Enrollment 1999, please contact Human Resources at 638-8585. ✧

Supporting the fight against cancer

A reception was held recently to acknowledge members of Aid for Cancer Research (ACR) for their generous contributions to BUSM. During the past 20 years, the group has provided equipment worth more than $300,000 to the school. Standing in back of a liquid nitrogen storage container that ACR helped fund are, (left to right) ACR Chairperson and President-elect Carol Ann Epstein; Peter Mozden, MD, professor of surgery at BUSM; ACR member Marcia Smerling; outgoing ACR President June Weinberg; and Guillermo Taccioli, PhD, assistant professor of microbiology at BUSM.

People

Arlene Ash, PhD, research professor in the Department of Mathematics in Medicine at BUSM, has been named a Fellow of the American Statistical Association. The honor recognizes an individual's outstanding professional contribution and leadership in the field of statistical science.

Michael Elkort, '98, recently received the Outstanding Medical Service Award at the Annual Meeting and Awards Program of the Greater Boston Association for Citizens with Mental Retardation and Related Disabilities (GBARC). Elkort was recognized for the research he conducted as a medical student studying the experiences and perspectives of the parents of children with severe neurological disabilities.

John Healy, MD, assistant clinical instructor in pediatrics at BUSM and a fellow with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), has received the Pediatrics Review and Education Program Education Award. The award recognizes AAP fellows and candidate fellows who have earned a minimum of 150 AAP approved continuing medical education credits over the course of three consecutive years. Fewer than 10 percent of the members of the AAP receive this prestigious award.

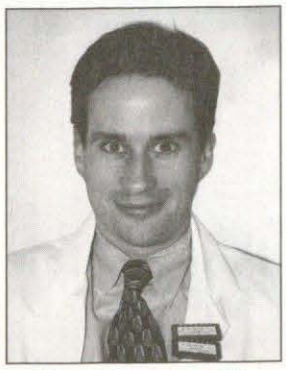
BUSM and **SPH** were well represented at the 12th World AIDS Conference in Geneva held Sunday, June 28, through Friday, July 3. **Kenneth Freedberg, MD**, associate professor of medicine and associate professor of public health (epidemiology and biostatistics) at BUSM and SPH; **Jeffrey Samet, MD**, director of Clinical Addiction Research and Education Care, and co-director of the HIV Diagnostic Evaluation Unit at BMC, and associate professor of medicine and social and behavioral sciences at BUSM; **Jacqueline Savetsky,** project manager in the Section of General Internal Medicine - Research Unit at BU Medical Center; and **George Seage III, MPH, DSc,** associate professor of Public Health (epidemiology and biostatistics) at BUSM and SPH, presented the results of their research on HIV at the international conference.

Rabbi Paul H. Levenson

New Appointments

Rabbi Paul H. Levenson has been named interim Jewish chaplain at BMC. Levenson has extensive experience as a hospital chaplain, as well as having served in a Boston area congregation and a university campus over the last 20 years. Trained in counseling and clinical therapy, his 40 years in the rabbinical field will ably enhance the work of the Pastoral Care Department at BMC.

Kevin Monahan, MD, has been named director, Electrophysiology Laboratory, Arrhythmia Service and Device Service at BMC, and assistant professor of medicine at BUSM. Monahan comes to BU Medical Center from Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, where he served as director of the Pacemaker and ICD Center. He also served as an instructor in medicine at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard Medical School. Between 1992 and 1995, he served as a fellow in electrophysiology and cardiology at Beth Israel Hospital.



Kevin Monahan, MD

A 1985 graduate of Georgetown University, Monahan received his medical degree from the University of Connecticut Medical School in 1989 and completed his internship and residency at Beth Israel Hospital from 1989 to 1992. Monahan has received board certification in cardiovascular disease and cardiovascular electrophysiology, holds a Massachusetts Medical License and is also licensed by the American Board of Internal Medicine. The author of numerous articles, Monahan has also won many awards including the Internal Medicine Award from the University of Connecticut and the Sandoz Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement.

Remco Spanjaard, PhD, has been appointed director of the Molecular Biology Laboratory and director of research for the Department of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery. Spanjaard received his PhD in 1989 in bacterial genetics from Leiden University, Leiden, The Netherlands. He received a post-doctoral fellowship from the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NOW). He comes to BMC from Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) where he served as an instructor in the Department of Surgery and developed an independently funded research program in melanoma and retinoids. At BWH, he also contributed to the development of new cancer treatments. At BMC, Spanjaard will continue his work with melanoma and devote his time to developing translational research in squamous cell cancer of the head and neck. He will also direct and supervise residents and medical school student research programs for the department.

Grants Awarded

BMC's Department of Pediatrics has joined forces with the Children's Sentinel Nutrition Assessment Program to monitor the impact of welfare reform on the growth and health status of young children in Massachusetts and five other states. Funded by a three-year, $2.4 million grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, pediatric specialists and advocates will monitor how changes in welfare policies impact a child's health.

The study will assess health associations with state welfare plans in Massachusetts, Arkansas, California, District of Columbia, Maryland and Minnesota. Summaries of the findings will be provided to policy makers so that policies with negative effects on children can be reconsidered and those with positive effects can be expanded. In addition, children at risk for growth or nutrition problems will be identified and linked to clinical, social or other services.

Practice expands affiliation with BMC

In a continuing effort to better serve patients in suburban communities, BMC has expanded its long-standing affiliation with the primary care practice of Stephen E. Sweet, MD.

Sweet's practice, located in the Coolidge Corner section of Brookline, will be relocating within the neighborhood later this month to a larger office at 209 Harvard St. The move coincides with expanded office hours which will assure new patient appointments within a few days of an initial call.

Sweet, who has worked closely with BMC for the past 20 years, is board certified in internal medicine and in cardiology. His office stresses prompt delivery of patient services and attention to medical details. The practice welcomes new patients, with or without specific cardiovascular disease or concerns.

"We are pleased to enhance a long-standing relationship with a wonderful physician such as Dr. Stephen Sweet. His newly designed BMC practice in Brookline offers improved access and convenience for our primary care patients," says Paul Drew, vice president for network development at BMC.

Sweet received his medical degree from Tufts University School of Medicine. He completed his internship and residency at the Boston VA Medical Center, and his cardiology fellowship at the former University Hospital, now BMC.

In October, Sweet will be joined in his practice by Philip E. Knapp, MD. Together they will be developing a BMC practice that stresses exceptionally high levels of patient services. Knapp comes to the practice from the BU Residency Program in Medicine at BMC.

Robert Witzburg, MD, vice chairman of the Department of Medicine, associate chief medical officer and chief of the Section of Community Medicine, was instrumental in recruiting Knapp to Sweet's practice. "This affiliation and partnership is a great opportunity to expand our capacity in Brookline and surrounding areas," says Witzburg.

Patients wishing to contact Sweet or Knapp for an appointment should call (617) 738-7785. ✧

Institutional abbreviations

BMC – Boston Medical Center
BU – Boston University
BU Medical Campus – BU Schools of Medicine, Public Health and Dental Medicine
BUMC – Boston University Medical Center (includes BU Medical Campus and Boston Medical Center)
BUSM – BU School of Medicine
SDM – Goldman School of Dental Medicine
SPH – BU School of Public Health

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