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Boston University Medical Center News



Members:
University Hospital
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Contact: Jackie Herring
Susan Saperstein

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Brookline resident Norman A. Scotch, Ph.D., chairman of the Department of Socio-Medical Sciences and Community Medicine at Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM) and director of BUSM's new School of Public Health, will soon complete a four-year study entitled "Life Problems and Alcohol Use in an Urban Population."

Scotch and co-investigator Ralph W. Hingson, Sc.D., an assistant professor of socio-medical sciences and community medicine and of pediatrics, conducted a study of drinking problems as they relate to life satisfactions in metropolitan Boston.

Five thousand three hundred people were interviewed in the original sample group. One thousand of those people participated in a series of three follow-up surveys, which compared the life satisfactions and problems of light drinkers to those of heavy drinkers. The surveys also examined the effects on family life when either a husband or wife had an alcohol problem.

The research is funded by a \$549,235 grant from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, a sub-agency of the U.S. Public Health Service.

Scotch has conducted extensive epidemiological studies of such diseases as alcoholism, hypertension and heart disease. He has been a member of the National Advisory Council on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism since 1976.

A graduate of Boston University, where he received both his B.A. and M.A. degrees, Scotch received a Ph.D degree in anthropology from Northwestern University, and an M.S. degree in hygiene (epidemiology) from the Harvard School of Public Health.

He and his wife, Freida, live on Evans road with their three children.

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.

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