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BUSM News and Notes

1979-02-01

BUSM News & Notes: February 1, 1979

no. 18

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News & Notes



Boston University School of Medicine

Issue #18
February 1, 1979

BAKER, MICROBIOLOGY CHIEF FOR 26 YEARS, TO RETIRE Edgar E. Baker, Ph.D., a professor and chairman of the Department of Microbiology for 26 years, will retire June 31. Baker came to BUSM in 1949 as an associate professor of microbiology and has served as professor and chairman of the department since 1952.

His major research efforts have involved working with antigens of various gram negative bacteria, including the organism that causes plague and typhoid fever. Most recently, he has been collaborating with Michael Bennett, M.D., on research involving the cells responsible for early resistance in a model infection.

A search committee headed by Carl Franzblau, Ph.D., chairman of the Department of Biochemistry, is currently interviewing a number of highly qualified candidates from various parts of the country for the microbiology chairmanship.

CANCER RISK DROPS AFTER ESTROGEN USE STOPS, JICK GROUP FINDS A study by a group of BUSM researchers shows that the risk for developing uterine cancer from prolonged use of replacement estrogens drops sharply within six months after the medication is discontinued. The study also shows that women between the ages of 50 and 64 who are long-term users of replacement estrogens run a risk of endometrial cancer about 20 times higher than that of nonusers.

The report by the Boston Collaborative Drug Surveillance Program, under the direction of Hershel Jick, M.D., an associate professor of medicine, was published in the Feb. 1 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine. The research reveals that within six months of stopping estrogen therapy, the long-term user exhibits a risk similar to that of any other former user--one in 500-1,000.

The study also indicates that an estimated ten to 30 of every 1,000 women who have used estrogens for five or more years will develop uterine cancer each year. In women who have never taken estrogens, endometrial cancer will occur at a rate of about one in every 1,000-2,000 women each year; short-term or former users appear to have about twice the risk of nonusers. The study is the first of its kind to utilize the fully computerized records of a health maintenance organization. The BUSM researchers studied the records of the Group Health Cooperative of Puget Sound.

CAREER DAYS TO BRING 11 SPECIALISTS HERE Second-year students will have an opportunity to explore areas of possible specialization at two Career Days later this month. At two successive Saturday morning symposia, scheduled for Feb. 17 and 24, students will be able to engage in small-group discussions of goals and lifestyles with six practicing physicians representing 11 areas of specialization.

The participating physicians, most of whom are BUSM graduates, include specialists in family practice, psychiatry, radiology, pediatrics, surgery, ophthalmology, ortho-

pedics, primary care, emergency medicine, obstetrics, and anesthesiology. The career days, organized by Warren Ferguson, BUSM II, will be held in the Hiebert Lounge.

BCH HOUSE OFFICERS
APPROVE NEW CONTRACT

The House Officers Association at Boston City Hospital approved a new two-year contract Jan. 2, following eight months of negotiations with the City of Boston. The contract, which was ratified by a vote of 138 to 16, preserves the so-called "regularly and recurrently" clause, which guarantees that physicians will not perform the duties of other hospital workers. The contract also guarantees that the city will continue to staff and maintain current levels of support services in compliance with defined numerical guidelines.

In addition, the new contract provides for a 5-percent pay raise retroactive to July 1978, with an additional 5-percent raise to go into effect in July 1979. Other provisions include adequate on-call rooms; adequate, accessible, and patrolled parking facilities; improved safety in the operating rooms; beepers for house staff with continuing-care responsibilities; the establishment of a nonbinding, joint labor-management committee to advise the Department of Health and Hospitals on the procurement and maintenance of supplies and equipment; access to evaluation files; and support for affirmative action programs at BCH.

GROUP LAUNCHES FUND DRIVE
FOR INGELFINGER LECTURESHIP

A group of former colleagues of Franz J. Ingelfinger, M.D., a professor emeritus of medicine, have launched a fund-raising campaign to sustain the Franz J. Ingelfinger Visiting Lectureship, a twice-yearly medical lecture series at Boston City Hospital.

The principal fund-raisers, all of whom served on the house staff at BCH during the period from 1961 to 1967, when Ingelfinger was director of the fifth and sixth medical services (now the Department of Medicine), are Charles M. Bliss, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine; Burton Sack, M.D., a clinical instructor of medicine; Robert M. Levin, M.D., an associate professor of medicine; and Joel Solomon, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine. The campaign, which involves the solicitation of some 200 former house officers who served under Ingelfinger, is being coordinated by Myra Sallet, administrative assistant to Ingelfinger during his tenure at BCH.

The lectureship was established in 1967, when Ingelfinger resigned from BCH to become editor of the New England Journal of Medicine.

DAUPHIN, '15, LEAVES SIXTH
OF ESTATE TO BUSM

One-sixth of the total estate of Henry F. Dauphin, M.D., BUSM '15, has been left to the School of Medicine as an unrestricted gift, in accordance with Dauphin's will. Dauphin died last February at the age of 93. The BUSM alumnus maintained a general practice in Taunton, Mass., for many years. He was a native of Malone, N.Y., and attended Mount Herman College and Colgate College before entering BUSM.

ADMISSIONS APPLICATIONS
PASS LAST YEAR'S MARK

In spite of predictions that applications for admission to BUSM would be down this year, in line with a national trend of the last few years, the admissions office reports that, as of mid-January, it had already received more total applications and completed applications than it received altogether last year.

Associate Dean for Admissions Jacob Swartz, M.D., reports that, as of Jan. 16, the admissions office had received 7,489 applications for admission in September of 1979; of that number, 6,474 are completed applications. Last year, the office received a total of 7,257 applications, 6,247 of those completed applications.

Medical school applications have been declining nationally at a rate of 10 to 12 percent for the last two or three years. BUSM applications were down 8 percent last year from the previous year.

YABLON RECEIVES GRANT TO CONTINUE JOINT RESEARCH Isadore G. Yablon, M.D., an associate professor of orthopedic and fracture surgery and a senior member of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at University Hospital, has received a three-year, \$240,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health to continue his research into joint transplantation.

The grant will enable Yablon, who has done research in this field for the past 15 years, to continue his studies into the possibility of replacing damaged or diseased joints with human joints. Yablon has had a four-year success rate with dogs, but he said that the procedure is not ready for use in humans because of the rejection factor.

FRIEDMAN TO ASSESS U.S. PRIMARY-CARE PROGRAMS Robert M. Friedman, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine, is the principal investigator of a one-year, \$29,000 grant from the Kaiser Foundation to evaluate primary-care training programs in internal medicine at the country's 108 medical schools.

Friedman said that fact-oriented questionnaires will be mailed to all medical schools to determine how medical schools and medical centers have responded to social pressure to train more primary-care physicians. Investigators will also site-visit a sampling of schools.

Working with Friedman on the study are Richard Hardin, Ph.D., of the Applied Social Science Center of Boston University; Paul M. Gertman, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine and surgery (health care research); and John Eisenberg, M.D., of the University of Pennsylvania.

BRIEFLY NOTED Ruth Levine, Ph.D., a professor of pharmacology, is chairman of the Science Advisory Board's subcommittee on arsenic as a possible air pollutant. She recently presided over the subcommittee's second meeting in Washington. The Science Advisory Board is the advisory branch of the Environmental Protection Agency....Harry Lewis, M.D., director of intervention and co-principal investigator of the Boston University M.R./F.I.T. program, recently presented a paper entitled "Behavioral Strategies for Increasing Compliance" at the Third Northeast Regional Meeting in Boston of the Allied Health Professions Section of the Arthritis Foundation....George E. Gifford, Jr., M.D., spoke on "The History of Psychiatry in New England" when he conducted psychiatric grand rounds at the Massachusetts General Hospital Jan. 9. Gifford also wrote the lead article in the January issue of the Journal of Neurosurgery, entitled "Cushing at the Countway."....Ruth Jacobs, Ph.D., an associate professor of sociology at Boston University, is the author of a book entitled Life After Youth, to be published this spring. The book deals with the health habits and needs of older women in the United States. Jacobs studied the physical aspects of aging at BUSM last year under a National Science Foundation Fellowship....Robert G. Feldman, M.D., a professor of

neurology, has been named to the advisory medical panel of the Paget's Disease Foundation....William P. Steffee, M.D., Ph.D., an assistant professor of community medicine, recently spoke on hospital malnutrition on WGBH-TV's program "The Club."Sumner H. Hoffman, M.D., a professor of community medicine and director of the Home Medical Service, has been named a diplomate of the American Board of Family Practice.

NEWS & NOTES is a regular monthly publication of the Office of Informational Services. If you have news of possible interest to the School of Medicine community, call editor Lorraine Loviglio, x5606 (247-5606), or write to her at the Office of Informational Services, P-300 (720 Harrison Ave., Boston, MA 02118).

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Boston University
School of Medicine
Office of Informational Services
720 Harrison Ave., Suite 600
Boston, MA 02118

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