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MedCenter News

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

Chapter closes on academic year

The breezy, sun-filled day was as symbolic of the bright futures that lay ahead for the BUSM graduates, as it was ideal for the school's 123rd commencement ceremony, held Sunday, May 18.

The graduates were urged by the keynote speakers to strive for excellence in their fields and continue to learn throughout their careers. They received encouragement, praise and advice, with one message standing above all others: As doctors, your top priority is always your patient.

"As physicians, you are a privileged group of individuals, but you also are assuming special obligations," Dean Aram Chobanian, MD, told the 156 BUSM graduates receiving their MD degrees. "Your noble functions will be to serve others and prolong their lives, and to alleviate their pain and suffering. You will assume some priestly functions. Others will confide in you and will look to you for help, for compassion, for understanding.

"Always remember that the care of your patients should be foremost in your minds."

Commencement speaker Christopher Reeve echoed the dean. "Remember the

essence of the career you have chosen is about two human beings: one who is suffering and one who has the skill to relieve that suffering," said the actor/director, who was paralyzed in an equestrian accident in 1995 (see story, page 4). "What you do with that skill, the decisions you make, the leadership roles you assume, can relieve that suffering and even change the future."

In addition to the students receiving MD degrees, 36 graduates received their PhD degrees, nine of whom completed the joint MD/PhD program. The ceremony was held at the Westin Hotel.

School of Public Health

SPH commencement speaker State Rep. John McDonough (D-Boston) asked for the graduates' passion and commitment to "making society more literate and cognizant of the unique and vital contributions that the public health perspective has to offer." One hundred forty-five graduates received their diplomas at the May ceremony. A total of 270 students earned their degrees from SPH throughout the year.

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Graduate Lei Zhang basks in the glory of her academic accomplishments at BUSM's commencement ceremony.



Commencement speaker Christopher Reeve receives an honorary degree from BUSM Dean Aram Chobanian, MD, (left) and Arthur Culbert, PhD, associate dean of Student Affairs. Reeve's sister-in-law, Deborah Morosini, was among the BUSM graduates. See related story on page 4.

Marketing campaign gets under way

From television to the MBTA, BMC is telling "all of Boston" about the hospital's exceptional care without exception.

As depicted in a brochure mailed to employees' homes, a quartet of 30-second television spots began airing the last two weeks of May, marking the culmination of a four-month planning process and the beginning of a year-long marketing campaign touting BMC and Boston HealthNet services. This intensive communications effort will enhance the image and name recognition of the medical center and establish its unique position in Boston's highly competitive health care market.

Featuring medical center caregivers and patients, the television ads can be seen on WBZ, WCVB, WHDH, WFXT, WLVI and WSBK during the early morning, evening and late news, and during prime-time programming. In June, look for the BMC message of exceptional care without exception to appear on posters on MBTA buses and trains. In July, 60-second radio commercials will air on general programming, as well as on stations featuring Hispanic and Haitian programming. ♦

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Celebrating BMC's first year

Discounted employee and volunteer tickets are still available for the First Annual BMC Gala — a celebration of the hospital's first year of fulfilling the mission of providing compassionate, high-quality care to all.

The stellar event, in affiliation with the Fund for Excellence and The Kids Fund, will be held on Friday, June 13, at the Westin Hotel, Copley Place. Cocktails begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner and dancing to the lively sounds of "Culture Jam."

"This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the exceptional work each and every one of you do day in and day out," says Elaine Ullian, president and chief executive officer of BMC. "It is your dedication, talent and creative energy that have made it possible for BMC to deliver the best health care to all the members of our community. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and efforts in making this a successful and productive first year."

Funds raised from the event support numerous hospital programs, including The Kids Fund and the Investigator Awards Program, which provides start-up grants to researchers focusing on illnesses that affect BMC's patient population. Honorary co-chairs are Teresa Heinz, chairman of the Heinz Family Philanthropies, and Angela Menino. Gala co-chairs are Marshall Carter, chairman and chief executive officer of State Street Bank and Trust Company, and Wayne Budd, senior vice president of NYNEX.

Discount tickets for employees and hospital volunteers are \$50, and \$125 for physicians and senior managers. Tickets may be purchased by calling 534-3504. ♦

Congratulations to the following raffle winners of two tickets each to the First Annual BMC Gala.

Harrison Avenue Campus

Judith Bello, LICSW, Social Work
Chris Buckus, Respiratory Care
Margaret Downey, Tuberculosis Clinic
Jamie Griffith, Environmental Services
Theresa Williams, Respiratory Care

East Newton Street Campus

Joan Collins, RN, Radiology
Linda Connolly, Surgery
Patrick Glynn, Security
Janice Key, Human Resources
Dennis Whyte, Human Resources



Panelists George Annas, JD, MPH, Edward R. Uley, professor of health law, SPH; and Linda Emmanuel, MD, vice president of the Ethics Standards Division of the American Medical Association, debate the key issues of doctor-assisted suicide in anticipation of the upcoming Supreme Court decision.

Friends and colleagues gather for Alumni Weekend

More than 800 BUSM graduates and their families attended the 1997 BUSM Alumni Weekend, held in May. One of the highlights of the annual event was an enlightening scientific program on the timely and controversial topic of physician-assisted suicide.

Other memorable events during the weekend included a recognition luncheon in honor of the 50th reunion class, tours of the medical center and the 122nd Annual Meeting and Banquet, during which the three Distinguished Alumnus Awards and the Humanitarian Award were presented. Thomas Insel, MD, a 1974 graduate, professor of psychiatry at Emory

University School of Medicine and director of the Yerkes Regional Primate Research Center; Barry M. Manuel, MD, a 1958 graduate, professor of surgery and associate dean at BUSM; and Stuart Siegel, MD, a 1967 graduate, and professor and vice chairman of pediatrics at the University of Southern California School of Medicine, and associate chairman of Pediatrics at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles, received the Distinguished Alumnus Awards. Shana Swiss, MD, a 1988 graduate, director and founder of Women's Rights International, received the Humanitarian Award.

Child Witness to Violence program is model for commonwealth

Serving as a model for the commonwealth, The Child Witness to Violence Project (CWVP) at BMC is sharing its expertise with other communities.

Thanks in part to a federal grant secured by the attorney general's office, Attorney General Scott Harshbarger and BMC are working together to create replica programs of the nationally renowned CWVP in communities throughout the state. The \$167,707 grant, through the Violence Against Women Act, will help fund the training and technical assistance for the CWVP programs being initiated throughout the state. The state project will target children who have witnessed domestic violence.

The CWVP, an award-winning counseling, advocacy and outreach program run by the Division of Development and Behavioral Pediatrics at BMC, identifies and helps young children who have been exposed to violence. The program provides appropriate counseling to both the children and their families through a multi-disciplinary staff of social workers, psychologists and early-childhood educators. The program staff also works hand-in-hand with the Boston Police Department, training police officers to recognize behavioral symptoms children exposed to violence are likely to exhibit, and to properly refer the children and their families to counseling services.

Research shows children who are exposed to violent acts often experience failure in school, socialization difficulties, post-traumatic stress symptoms and an increased risk for engaging in violence later in life. By intervening early, McAlister Groves says they hope to stop the cycle of violence by teaching children that violence is not an acceptable way to solve a problem.

The CWVP staff uses play therapy techniques, such as toys, art and dramatic play, to help children communicate what they have seen, and to help them cope with what they are feeling. "Many of these children feel they are to blame for what they have witnessed," says McAlister Groves. "That makes it extremely important for us to work with both the child and mother or father so we can counsel the parents on how their child has been affected, and how they can make changes in their lives to decrease domestic violence."

The CWVP, which began in 1992, has been lauded on both the state and national levels. In 1996, the program was named as one of 25 finalists, out of 1,600 programs nationwide, for the Innovations in American Government Award program by the Ford Foundation and the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. For information, call McAlister Groves at 534-4244. ♦

CWVP to host five-day seminar

The Child Witness to Violence Project (CWVP) is offering a five-day seminar for child-care professionals. Through a combination of lectures, tutorials, observations and readings, participants will learn the latest approaches and strategies for helping children who have witnessed violence. The seminar is designed for teachers, early childhood specialists, school counselors, shelter personnel and others who work with children (pre-kindergarten through third grade) in group settings.

The \$350 seminar is scheduled for Monday, July 14, through Friday, July 18, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., at BMC. There are 15 openings for the course, so space is limited. For more information, contact Maxine Weinreb, EdD, training director, CWVP, at 534-3662.

"It is a wonderful feeling to know the state looks so highly upon our program," says Betsy McAlister Groves, MSW, LICSW, CWVP director and assistant clinical professor of pediatrics at BUSM. "Working directly with the police department is unique for a hospital program. This is an amazing acknowledgment of the value of collaborating with front-line police officers."

Doctors move toward uncovering a cure for baldness

Every day, millions of men look in the mirror, pondering a deceptively simple question. They may scratch their heads and wonder: what makes men go bald? Now researchers at BUSM, led by Michael Holick, MD, PhD, professor of medicine, dermatology and physiology at BUSM, and chair of Endocrinology, Nutrition and Diabetes at BMC, may have uncovered part of the answer to that question. Featured in the June issue of the *Journal of Investigative Dermatology*, the team's work may lead to the development of drugs to treat baldness, hair loss due to cancer therapy and unwanted hair growth.

"...for a man who is beginning to lose his hair, we might be able to delay the balding process for a few years, or even permanently."

The first important clue came from skin cells.

"Skin cells make a substance called PTHrP (parathyroid hormone related peptide), but in the mid-1980s nobody knew its function," says Holick. "We studied PTHrP and discovered that, in sufficient amounts, it halted the growth of special cells in the skin's top layer called

keratinocytes — cells which are also found in hair follicles. We realized that if PTHrP regulated skin growth, then it could regulate hair growth as well."

In order to prove this, they needed a chemical which could "stop" PTHrP. "PTHrP in effect orders thousands of keratinocytes which make up the hair follicle to turn off. It does this by fitting into receptors which allow the keratinocytes to 'hear' the order. If we could find something which would fit into that receptor, then it would block out the PTHrP. The cell would never hear the order, and it would keep growing," he explains. A compound called PTH (7-34) fit the bill.

Using PTH (7-34) with mice, the researchers showed that the growth cycle of the hair follicle could be altered. When mice with hair follicles in resting phase were administered PTH (7-34), their hair was forced to grow. When mice whose hair follicles were in the middle of the growth cycle were given PTH (7-34), hair continued to grow well past the time when the hair follicle would normally return to its resting phase.

From his results with mice, Holick posits that PTH (7-34) eventually may be used to stimulate hair growth in humans, helping men who are beginning to bald. He also suggests that it may be a valuable tool for

skin graft and burn patients, whose skin growth needs to be encouraged. PTHrP-like substances, by contrast, could be used to shut down hair growth when it is undesirable.

"Once hair follicles are dead, as they are in bald men, you can't get them to grow again. But for a man who is beginning to lose his hair, we might be able to delay the balding process for a few years, or even permanently."

The research team plans to begin conducting Phase I clinical trials within three to six months, pending FDA approval for use of the substance in treating psoriasis and hair loss due to cancer chemotherapy. ♦

Nurses honored for their dedication

As one of the many accolades nurses received in recognition of National Nurses' Week, Monday, May 5, through Friday, May 9, two BMC nurses were honored for their contributions to the nursing profession and for dedication and service to the hospital.

The 1997 Peggy Cenci Award was presented to Donna Manning, RN, of the East Newton Street Campus Cancer Care Center. Manning, who has worked at the medical center for 12 years, was chosen from among seven nurses who were nominated, including Marri Bellistri, RN; Meg Grande, RN; Anne Leary, RN; Jane Mazzarella, RN; Kathy McDonough, RN; and Sue Sweeney, RN.

In recognition of her work with patients who suffer from traumatic head injuries, Deborah Harrison, RN, a certified rehabilitation nurse on the Harrison Avenue Campus, was awarded the Anne Hargreaves Award. Harrison, who began her career at Boston Specialty & Rehabilitation Hospital 19 years ago, transferred to the Harrison Avenue Campus Center for Rehabilitation last October. Nominees for the award included Ruth Ann Barber, RN; Pauline MacEachern, RN; Maureen McMahon, RN; Terry Messina, RN; and Deborah Smith, RN.

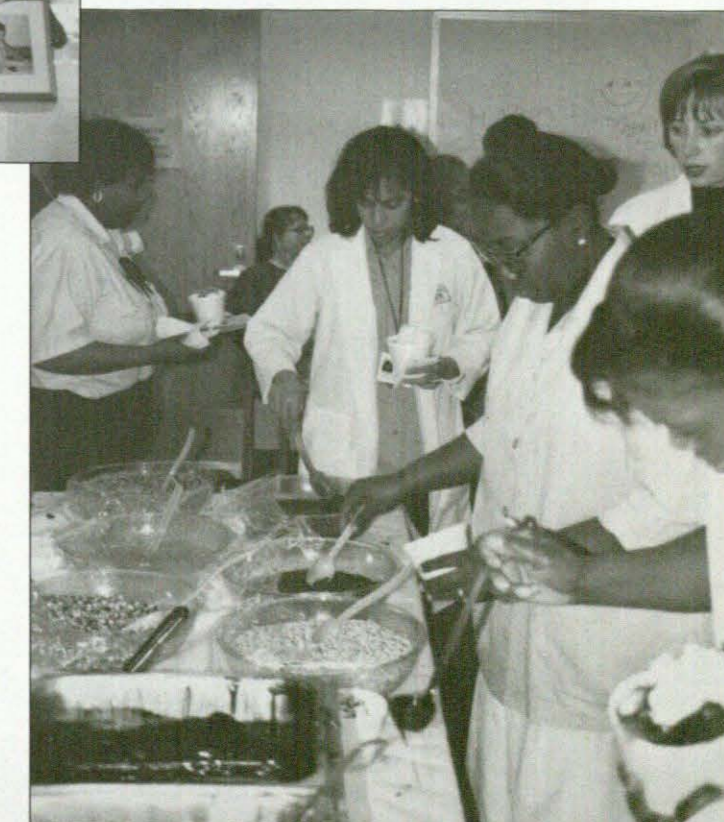
"Congratulations to Donna and Deborah, and to all of our hard-working nurses," says Maura Mitchell, RN, vice president of nursing. "Our exceptionally skilled nurses are a vital component of the BMC team. Their outstanding commitment and dedication to the hospital and its patients are invaluable."

Other events honoring nurses during the week included an ice cream social, raffles and special campus tours. ♦



Pictured left, at the Annual Nursing Recognition Awards last month, are (left to right) Deborah Harrison, RN, the 1997 Anne Hargreaves Award winner; Vice President of Nursing Maura Mitchell, RN; and Donna Manning, RN, the 1997 Peggy Cenci Award winner.

Below, BMC nurses and staff have their choice of a variety of toppings at the ice cream social held in the New Inpatient Facility on the Harrison Avenue Campus during National Nurses' Week (May 5-9). The social capped off a week of events for BMC nurses, including educational programs, special campus tours and raffles.



Reeve urges grads to conquer 'inner space'

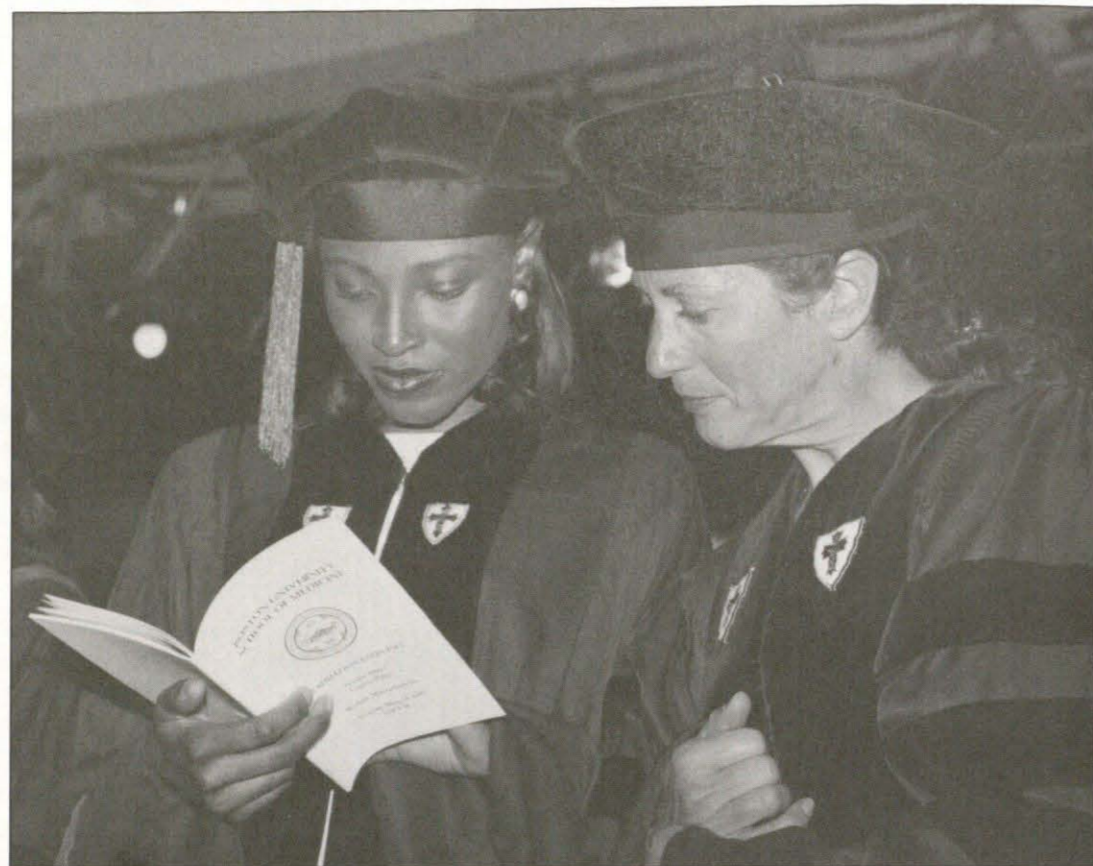
Comparing the task ahead to the conquest of outer space, commencement speaker Christopher Reeve challenged graduating BUSM students to conquer the mysteries of "inner space."

The actor/director described "inner space" as the "frontier of the brain, the central nervous system and all the afflictions of the body that destroy so many lives and rob our country of so much potential." He asked the students to follow the example of President John F. Kennedy, who spearheaded space exploration in the 1960s. "It took the expertise and energy of almost 400,000 people, but within a decade Neil Armstrong walked on the moon."

A quadriplegic since a horse riding accident two years ago, Reeve told the

graduating students that afflictions such as Alzheimer's, multiple sclerosis, stroke and traumatic head injury will affect each of them on either a professional or personal level. "By making the eradication of these afflictions one of our nation's priorities, you, as President Kennedy and the nation did in the 60s, can achieve what may seem impossible: you can conquer inner space."

Reeve urged the graduates to support the National Fund for Health Research Act, which will increase the National Institutes of Health's annual budget by as much as \$6 billion. "The race to conquer inner space will come to a complete standstill unless there is adequate funding," said Reeve, who received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Boston University. ♦



Chapter closes on year

continued from page 1

McDonough urged the graduates to work to continuously raise awareness of public health issues. "Wherever any of us may be at any point in time, for every one of us, every single day, there are opportunities presented to us to advance the mission and the mandate of public health."

At the ceremony, which was held at the Sheraton Boston Hotel and Towers, Daniel Merrigan, EdD, MPH, associate dean of health professors at SPH, received the Scotch Award for Excellence in Teaching.

School of Dental Medicine

At SDM, commencement speaker John McManama, DDS, professor of restorative sciences at SDM since 1976, congratulated the 201 graduates of the class of 1997.

McManama, who received the 1997

Spencer N. Frankl Award for Excellence in Teaching, drew from his years of experience teaching at the school to challenge the graduates to succeed in their professions.

"I have always felt that it is my responsibility as a teacher to make sure that my students learn from the things that I have done right in my life and from the mistakes that I've made," he said.

As a roll call to action, he offered 10 guiding principles, including "The Patients First Rule."

"The business part of [dentistry] is very important, and you have an obligation to run it honestly and efficiently," said McManama. "But it must never become more important than the patient care part of the practice. Your primary responsibility is the welfare of your patients." The ceremony was held at the Morse Auditorium on the Charles River Campus. ♦



Culturefest celebrates diversity

BUSM students (left to right) Ann Capela, Vinita Dhir, Jesse Sethi, Jacqueline Eubany and Oluyomi Oluganya sample foods from all over the world at Culturefest, held last month in the Hiebert Lounge at BUSM. The event, which celebrated the diverse cultures of BUSM students, featured international cuisine and students wearing the traditional dress of their native countries.

Less invasive heart operations expedite patients' recovery times

When BMC patient Paul Dorais was admitted for heart surgery in April, he assumed it would be months before he could once again play golf and tend his garden. But due to an innovative operation performed by Richard Shemin, MD, vice chair of Surgery and chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery at BMC, he was improving his handicap and planting vegetables within a month.

Traditionally, Shemin and his team would have begun the operation by performing a "sternotomy," a procedure in which the surgeon splits open the breastbone to operate on the heart. Instead, using a novel technique, Shemin made a four-inch incision to the right of Dorais' breastbone, attached him to a heart-lung machine, which circulated and oxygenated his blood, and stopped his heart. In the four hours that followed, Shemin performed a coronary artery bypass and an aortic valve replacement, marking the first time at BMC that a minimally invasive approach had been used for such a combined valve replacement and coronary artery bypass.

Three days later, Dorais returned to his home in Auburn, N.H., surprised at how little pain he felt. "My recovery has been very rapid, and I'm feeling fine now. I figured that it would be months before I felt better. There was a little discomfort at first, but it was nothing like I thought it would be," he says. Having recently been given a clean bill of health

by Shemin, the retired telephone engineer and father of six will return to BMC for a checkup next year.

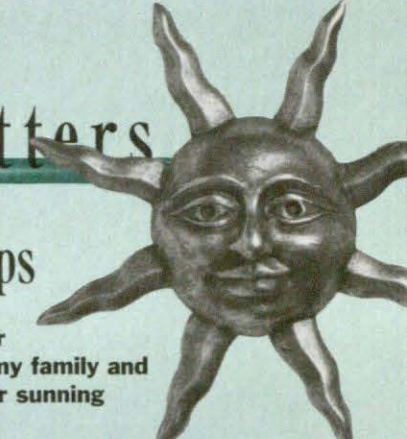
Shemin and his team began pioneering the minimally invasive method nearly a year ago, and have since performed a wide variety of operations, including single and double bypasses while the heart is still beating. The benefits of these operations are clear to him. "By avoiding sternotomies, we decrease the risk of postoperative complications, and patients experience less pain.

These advantages translate into shorter hospital stays. In some cases, we send patients home in two days, and they return to work in one week," he says. According to Shemin, the hospital's costs are dramatically reduced since patients return home sooner.

Patients with special conditions undergoing heart surgery will still require traditional operations, but Shemin believes that the minimally invasive approach is dramatically changing surgical practice. "Because patients experience less postoperative pain, have shorter hospital stays and undergo more rapid recuperation, less invasive surgical approaches will become the norm instead of the exception in cardiac surgical practice," he says.

For Dorais, however, the most important benefit of the new technique is much more tangible. He'll be outside finishing his summer garden in the June sun, without a concern about lingering chest pains. ♦

Health Matters



Summertime safety tips

I want to have a safe and fun summer this year at the beach and pool with my family and friends. What are some safety tips for sunning and swimming for people of all ages?

After a long winter and many hours spent indoors or bundled up in layers of clothing, many of us are itching to get out in the sun and visit the beach or neighborhood pool. To keep your summer safe, here are some safety tips for both sunning and swimming.

Sun Safety

Suntans look great to some people, but prolonged exposure to the sun can cause serious damage to our skin and health. Exposure to the sun can lead to sunburn, wrinkling of the skin, heat stroke and skin cancer. Nearly 80 percent of skin cancers are caused by overexposure to the sun, according to the American Cancer Society.

To minimize the risk of sun-related health problems, Howard Koh, MD, MPH, a skin oncologist at BMC and professor of dermatology, medicine and public health at BUSM, recommends minimizing exposure to the sun from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., when the sun's rays are strongest. In addition, he recommends using a sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) greater than 15 and wearing clothing made of synthetic and tightly woven fabrics that offer the best protection against harmful sun rays. Other sun safety tips include:

- drinking lots of water to help increase sweating and to cool the skin;
- protecting yourself even on cloudy days, when the sun's rays still get through;
- avoiding sunlamps and tanning parlors, which produce the same effects as the sun's rays; and
- reapplying sun screen frequently.

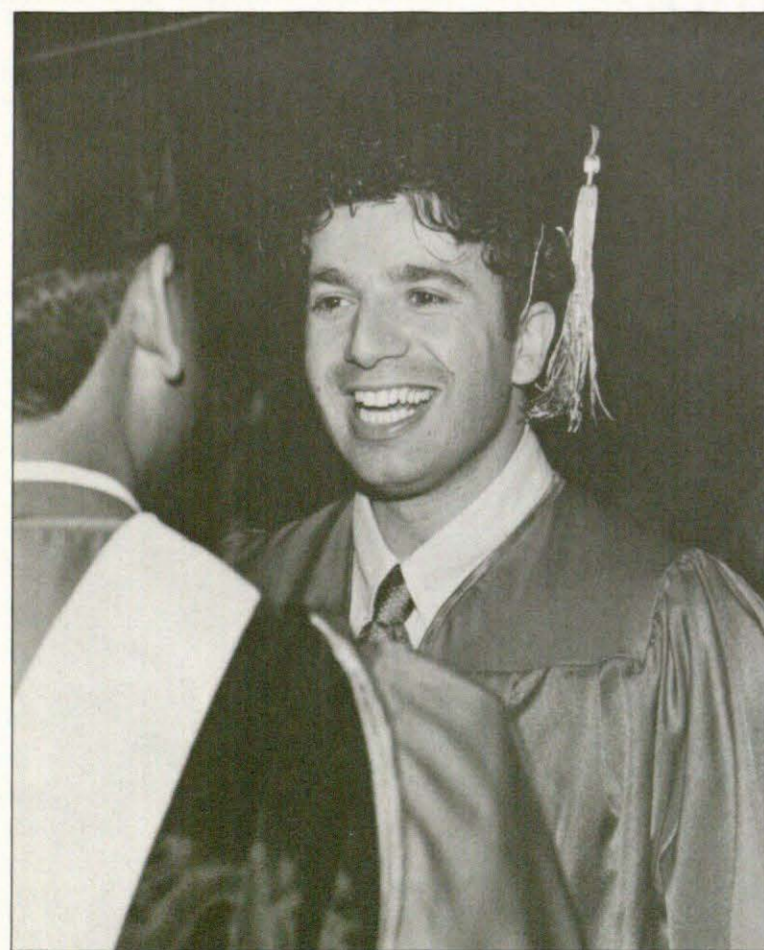
Swimming Safety

Drownings claim nearly 4,800 lives each year and are the fourth leading cause of accidental death in the United States, according to the National Safety Council. Peter Moyer, MD, chief of Emergency Medicine at BMC and chairman of Emergency Medicine at BUSM, says the majority of water-related accidents are preventable and can be avoided by following these simple precautions:

- seek swimming instruction from a qualified instructor;
- never swim alone;
- constantly supervise children;
- fence in pools;
- stay out of the water during thunderstorms or other extreme weather conditions;
- learn and practice basic lifesaving techniques, including first aid and CPR;
- always check the water depth before diving;
- do not attempt to swim long distances in cold water;
- do not rely on inner tubes or other inflatable objects for protection; and
- wear life vests at all times when boating.

Moyer says many swimming and boating accidents are alcohol- or substance-related. "Mixing swimming and boating with alcohol or drugs is a dangerous combination," he says. Following these sun and swim tips and using common sense around water should help to ensure a fun — and safe — time at the beach or pool this summer.

If you have questions about any summer safety tips or wish to discuss other health issues, contact the BMC Health Connection at 617/638-6767.



Photos clockwise beginning top right:

BUSM graduates Delicia Francis (left) and Linda Foote look over the commencement ceremony's program.

SDM graduates (left to right) Raffi Bagdassarian, Medbat Bader, Jaspreet Bharaj, Anu Rajasekaran and Ziba Azimshirazi take time out for a picture prior to commencement.

SPH graduate George Azar is all smiles after receiving his graduate degree.

- **Barry Zuckerman, MD**, medical director and chief of Pediatrics at BMC, and professor and chairman of Pediatrics at BUSM, was interviewed by *The Boston Globe* about a recently published report, "Kids Count," which ranks living conditions for children in each of the 50 states.
- The *Washington Post* published an editorial by **Michael Siegel, MPH**, assistant professor of social and behavioral sciences at SPH, "What Sort of Tobacco Settlement?"
- **The BUSM commencement ceremonies** and guest speaker, actor and director Christopher Reeve, were featured on CNN, "Up to the Minute" on CBS, MSNBC, NBC's "Nightside," all Boston area television news programs and numerous evening news programs across the United States. *USA Today*, the *Boston Herald* and *The Boston Globe* also featured articles.
- **BMC rehabilitation therapy staff and former BMC patient Charlie Hince** were featured on ABC's "48 Hours." **Mel Glenn, MD**, chief of Rehabilitation Medicine at BMC and professor and chairman of Rehabilitation Medicine at BUSM, also discussed the topic on WBZ-TV Channel 4 News.
- **David Farb, MD**, professor and chairman of Pharmacology at BUSM, discussed caffeine's addictive nature on WCVB-TV's "Chronicle."
- **Thomas Rohrer, MD**, director of Dermatologic Surgery at BMC and assistant professor of dermatology and surgery at BUSM, discussed a study which linked the number and size of moles to the risk for skin cancer on WBZ-TV Channel 4 News and WBZ-AM 1030.
- NBC's "Today Show" and WCVB-TV Channel 5 News interviewed **R. Curtis Ellison, MD**, chief of Preventative Medicine and Epidemiology at BMC, and professor of medicine and public health at BUSM, about the benefits of moderate wine consumption.

Grant aims to help physicians spot alcohol problems

Richard Saitz, MD, MPH, assistant professor of medicine at BUSM, was recently awarded a study grant by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation entitled "Improving Rates of Physician Intervention for Alcohol Problems." The four-year, \$240,000 study will test methods for improving rates of physician recognition of patients with alcohol problems.

"We hope to demonstrate that, if physicians are aware that their patients are at risk and are prepared to recommend referral options, there will be an overall increase in physician counseling and a decrease in drinking by the

patients," says Saitz, associate director of the Latino Clinic and associate director of the Clinical Addictive Research and Education Unit at BMC. He plans to assess patients' drinking at the time of the physician visit and follow-up with them six months later.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, based in Princeton, N.J., is one of the largest private health care foundations in the United States, with primary goals of ensuring that all Americans have access to basic health care and reducing the harm caused by substance abuse. ♦

Study to investigate how to teach children about sun protection

Howard Koh, MD, MPH, director of the Cancer Prevention and Control Center at BMC, has recently been awarded a study grant by the National Cancer Institute. The three-year, \$324,000 study is entitled "Preventing Skin Cancer: Educating Children at Day Camps." Koh's team will work with two pilot camps this summer, expanding the study to

approximately 1,000 children at 10 summer camps in Massachusetts during the summer of 1998.

The study will investigate how most effectively to teach kids about sun protection and the harm of UV exposure. After the research is concluded, the team intends to publish a manual on sun protection, which will be available to camps nationwide. ♦

Blood drive/bone marrow-typing program draws large turnout

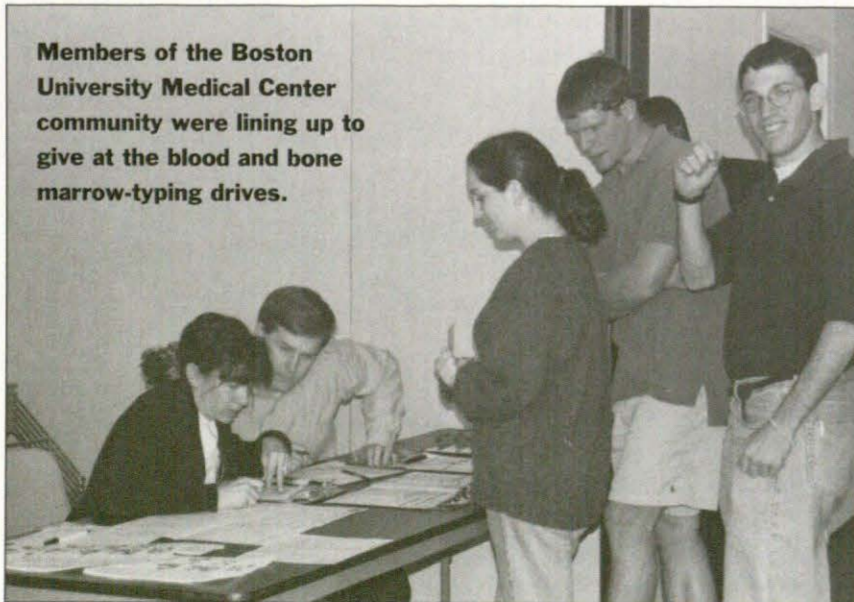
The Boston University Medical Center community came out in droves to the blood and bone marrow-typing drives held last month in Hiebert Lounge.

The drive, organized by first-year BUSM students Clint Pollack and Rachel Counts, was the first at the school to pair traditional blood donation with bone marrow typing. Eighty-one people donated blood, while 85 had their bone marrow typed and listed on the National Marrow Donor Program's national register. The drive, sponsored by the American Red Cross and the New England Marrow Donor Program, was funded by the Massachusetts Medical Society, the American Medical Association, the Student Committee on Medical School Affairs, and the U.S. Navy.

"We were really excited with the turnout, as was the Red Cross and the National Marrow Donor Program," says Pollack. "This is the first time

this type of drive has been held here, and I don't think any of us were really expecting the incredible reception. Hiebert was pretty packed all day long. It warmed my heart to see how many people came out."

Members of the Boston University Medical Center community were lining up to give at the blood and bone marrow-typing drives.



The two enterprising students decided to host the drive last October when the Massachusetts Medical Society, of which Pollack and Counts are members, stressed the need for such events. Pollack, whose girlfriend's nephew has leukemia, and Counts took the idea of replenishing depleted blood supplies one step further and decided to hold the bone marrow-typing drive simultaneously.

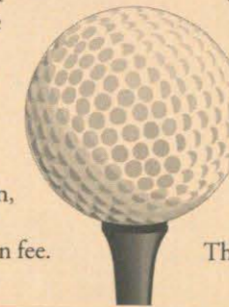
Due to the success of the program, Pollack believes this year's drive could be the start of a trend. "With a new class of 150 students

coming in each year, it seems we should be able to do this at least once a year — if not twice." ♦

June

12 Volunteer Appreciation Night — The 7th Annual BMC Volunteer Appreciation Night will be held in the Hiebert Lounge at BUSM from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The evening will include a light dinner and musical entertainment (including karaoke). Lester Strong, co-anchor of WHDH-TV Channel 7 News, will be the principal speaker. For more information, call 534-5122.

16 Golf Tournament — A golf tournament to benefit the SPH Student Loan Fund will be held at the Ipswich Country Club, starting at 7:30 a.m. Registration is \$135 per person and should be submitted to Barbara St. Onge at SPH, 80 East Concord St., Boston, Mass., 02118. For more information, call 638-4640. Golf cart rental and lunch are included in the registration fee.



16 Breast Cancer Discussion — A program, entitled "Negotiating the Maze of Decision Making About Breast Cancer - A Woman's Health Summit," will be held at the SPH in the Keefer Auditorium from 9 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Susan Blumenthal, MD, MPA, deputy assistant secretary for health, assistant surgeon general, US DHHS, will be the keynote speaker. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m., and the fee is \$15. For more information, contact Gail Douglas, RN, MPH, at 638-5242.

Sign up now for **Bud's Scramble for The Kids Fund Golf Tournament**, to be held Friday, Sept. 19, at the Ballymeade Country Club in Falmouth. The tournament is sponsored by Bud Scollins, retired director of Pharmacy for the former Boston City Hospital, a predecessor to BMC. The fee is \$135, which includes golf cart, continental breakfast and a buffet luncheon. For more information, contact Meryl Langbort, director of The Kids Fund, at 534-3651.

Alpert elected VP of national organization

Joel J. Alpert, MD, professor of pediatrics and professor of public health at BUSM, has been elected vice president of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the renowned organization of pediatricians that has been a voice for America's children for more than 60 years.

Alpert will assume the vice presidency at the October 1997 Annual Meeting in New Orleans and will serve as AAP president from 1998

through 1999.

"My vision and that of the AAP is for all children to have health coverage and access to needed health services that pediatric generalists and specialists provide," Alpert says. "When it comes to health coverage, children shouldn't face financial barriers to receive needed medical service. As members of the AAP, we must work to achieve coverage by turning what all too often is legislative rhetoric into

legislative accomplishments."

A pediatrician at BMC, the accomplished Alpert was also formerly chief of the Division of Pediatrics at Boston City Hospital (BCH), the predecessor to BMC, and chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at BUSM for 21 years.

A long-time child advocate, Alpert pioneered a pediatric residency at BCH that linked community pediatricians and health centers with hospitals. He also developed legislation that created the Massachusetts Poison Information System. Alpert has worked with numerous government panels, editorial boards and foundations, as well as co-authoring *Education of Physicians for Primary Care*, which contains the primary care definition adopted by the Bureau of Health Professions for training in general pediatrics. In addition, Alpert has frequently given congressional testimony for the AAP concerning pediatric practice and education.

A graduate of Yale University, Alpert received his medical degree from Harvard Medical School.

The American Academy of Pediatrics is an organization of 53,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety and well-being of infants, children, adolescents and young adults. ♦

Levine elected to Hall of Fame

In honor of her significant achievements and contributions to society, Ruth R. Levine, PhD, professor of pharmacology at Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM), has been elected to the 1997 Hall of Fame of the Alumni Association of Hunter College in New York. As one of 24 newly elected members, Levine has earned the Alumni Association's highest honor and joins an illustrious company, which includes two Nobel laureates, Congresswoman Bella Abzug and architecture critic Ada Louise Huxtable.

"I am honored to be among such inspiring and noteworthy Hunter graduates," says Levine, who received her bachelor's degree in chemistry from the college in 1938. "My education at Hunter provided the foundation for my future endeavors in graduate school and in the professional academic world."

After her graduation from Hunter, the aspiring professor earned her masters degree in organic chemistry from Columbia University and her PhD in pharmacology from Tufts University. The Chestnut Hill resident began her tenure at BUSM in 1958 as an assistant professor of pharmacology, rising rapidly to professor of pharmacology, university professor, chairman of Graduate Biomedical Science Studies of the Graduate School and associate dean of the BUSM, leaving the latter two positions in 1989. During her nearly 40 years of service to the school, she forged a remarkable program of graduate studies that produced a cadre of superb researchers, and she still remains professor emerita at both BUSM and Boston University. Her research has focused on pharmacokinetics, including how the body absorbs drugs and the ways in which the body handles drugs in general.

The author or co-author of more than 76 books, book chapters, articles and abstracts, including the widely used textbook *Pharmacology: Drug Actions and Reactions*, Levine has been appointed to numerous national and international committees in the life sciences, including the International Joint Commission of the State Department and the Science Advisory Board of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, where she was instrumental in creating federal standards to reduce air pollution created by emissions of lead from automobiles, and by arsenic and cadmium from smokestacks. ♦

People

Elizabeth Buonpane, PharmD, clinic manager of the Pharmacy Department and Pharmacy Residency Program director at BMC, and clinical assistant professor of medicine at BUSM, has received the Massachusetts Society of Health-System Pharmacists (MSHP) Hospital Pharmacist of the Year Award. The award, the most prestigious conferred by the MSHP, recognizes one pharmacist throughout the state who has made significant contributions to the practice of pharmacy in an organized health care setting.

The MSHP, which represents more than 600 pharmacists, was founded in 1945 to foster the professional growth of hospital pharmacy in Massachusetts.

Alice Jacobs, MD, director of the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory and Interventional Cardiology at BMC, and associate professor of medicine at BUSM, received the Wendy Kline Memorial Award from the American Heart Association. The award honors leadership service in the areas of education and community programs.

Reshima Kewalramani, an MD/PhD candidate at BUSM and member of the Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS), has been



Alice Jacobs, MD

named a 1997 Massachusetts Medical Society Scholar. The MMS scholars program annually awards a \$10,000 scholarship to one outstanding student from each Massachusetts medical school who combines academic excellence with a commitment to community service. The winner of the prestigious 1996 American College of Physicians Student Representative Award, Kewalramani is extensively involved in the mentoring and tutoring of high school and college students.

Pat Lieber, LICSW, of the Social Services Department on the Harrison Avenue Campus, published an article entitled "Helping Antepartum Women on Long-term Bedrest: Practical Solutions to an Impractical Problem" in the spring 1997 issue of *NAPSW Forum*, the magazine of the National Association of Perinatal Social Workers.

Alan Sugar, MD, an attending physician in the Section of Infectious Diseases at BMC and an associate professor of medicine at BUSM, in collaboration with Caron Lyman, PhD, of the National Institutes of Health, co-authored *A Practical Guide to Medically Important Fungi and the Diseases They Cause*. The guide is published by Lippincott-Raven Publishers.

New appointment

Thomas Einhorn, MD, has been named chairman, professor and vice chairman for academic affairs of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at BUSM. He has also been appointed chief of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at BMC.

Einhorn received his BA degree from Rutgers University and his MD from Cornell University

Medical College. He served as a resident at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and at St. Vincent's and St. Luke's Hospitals in New York City. He completed his training as a fellow in orthopaedic research at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York. Following his fellowship, Einhorn joined the faculty at State University of New York in Brooklyn and later moved to Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, where he served as professor of orthopaedics and director of Orthopaedic Research until recruited by Boston University Medical Center in 1997.

An outstanding academician and surgeon, he has received several honors for his work, including the prestigious Career Development Award from the Orthopaedic Research and Education Foundation and the Shannon Award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). He is past president of the Orthopaedic Research Society, past chairman of the Committee on Evaluation of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. Currently, he is chairman of the NIH Study Section on Orthopaedics and Musculoskeletal Diseases.

Author or co-author of more than 85 publications, Einhorn is a highly regarded scientist whose research on the healing of bone fractures has been funded by grants from the NIH and several industrial groups. He presently is deputy editor of *The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery* and serves on the editorial boards of *The Journal of Bone and Mineral Research* and *Bone*.



Thomas Einhorn, MD

LOCAL HERO

With the advent of June, BMC Catholic Chaplain Roger Bourgea closed the door to his office for the last time, leaving behind more than six years of memories, many good friends and big shoes for his successor to fill.

Since October 1990, Bourgea had been a constant presence at the hospital, visiting patients, celebrating Mass and comforting families. He has left his mark, not only on co-workers and patients, but also on the institution itself. As the only Catholic chaplain at the hospital when he arrived, Bourgea initiated a pastoral volunteer program where Catholic volunteers visit, comfort and talk with patients, as well as bring Holy Communion to the Catholic patients. "I'm very proud of this program because we have brought in a lot of good people," says Bourgea. "There is something about having a variety of people visiting the patients and administering to their spiritual needs — I believe it helps in a patient's healing process."

"It's very hard to leave," says Bourgea who was reassigned to a parish in Brooklyn, N.Y. "I love hospital ministry. I've made a lot of good friends here at the medical center — not only the doctors and nurses, but also the maintenance workers, painters, secretaries and telephone operators. I'm going to miss all these people."

Bourgea says the one-on-one conversations with the patients are probably what he will miss most. "Working with anyone in need is the most gratifying work you can do — there is just so much satisfaction involved in helping them."

Father Roger Bourgea lends an ear to patient Katherine DiPasqua.



New Emergency Contact Numbers effective May 22, 1997

HAC	Harrison Avenue Campus	
ENC	East Newton Street Campus	
	HAC	ENC
Code Blue	4-7777	8-7777
Stat Page	4-6000	8-6000
Code Red/Chemical Spill	4-6666	8-6666
Security Emergency	4-4444	8-4444

Questions concerning these numbers should be directed to Telecommunications at 8-6890.

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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