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Boston University School of Medicine

Office of Media Relations

720 Harrison Avenue, Suite 909
Boston, Massachusetts
02118-2393
617 638-8491

March 14, 1991

Dear Member of the Media:

Researchers from Boston University School of Medicine's (BUSM) Mallory Institute of Pathology will present abstracts on a variety of topics at the 80th annual meeting of the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology. The meeting will be held March 17-22, in Chicago, Illinois.

Here are brief descriptions of some of the presentations:

- "Carcinogens Produced in Foods During Cooking"--Paul Newberne, B.V.M., M.Sc., Ph.D., a professor of pathology at BUSM, will discuss the incidence of mutagens (chemicals that cause genes to mutate) and carcinogens formed during the normal cooking process of protein-rich foods such as beef, pork, ham, bacon, chicken, lamb, eggs and, to a lesser extent, some seafoods. These chemicals are more often produced when foods are fried, grilled, broiled and in some cases roasted. Newberne will stress that although these chemicals may cause alarm, the nutritional benefits of eating these foods outweigh the benefits derived from abstaining because of the carcinogens. He will emphasize that a diet balanced in nutrients and consumed in appropriate amounts gives the individual much more resistance to infectious disease, cardiac and vascular problems and less risk for most forms of cancer. He will also describe the foods found in a balanced diet, such as green and yellow vegetables, garlic, onions, and fruits and berries, that have numerous anticarcinogens that neutralize the effects of carcinogens.

- "Cytologic Diagnosis of Ductal Versus Lobular Carcinoma of the Breast"--Pedro Crespo, M.D., a pathology resident at the Mallory Institute of Pathology, and Antonio de las Morenas, M.D., the director of the cytology lab at the Mallory Institute of Pathology, will discuss a study in which they used needle aspiration biopsy--a minimally aggressive diagnostic technique not normally used to distinguish different types of tumors--to analyze the cells of 28 women with breast cancer and compared their initial diagnosis with tumor sections after surgery. By looking at the nuclei of cancerous cells, they found that that they could distinguish one type of cancer from another by the intensity and pattern of the nuclear staining. These findings are significant because they may mean that needle aspiration biopsy can be used to determine the type of tumor without requiring surgery and, thus, help physicians in prescribing preoperative therapy.

- "Cathepsins B & L in Colorectal Cancer: Correlation with Multiple Pathologic Parameters"--Kieran Sheahan, M.D., an assistant professor of pathology and laboratory medicine at BUSM and a staff pathologist at the University Hospital and the Mallory Institute of Pathology, will present the findings of a study of tumor samples of 42 patients with colon cancer to determine how proteolytic enzymes--enzymes produced by tumor cells that

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degrade other molecules and often break down local tissue surrounding the tumor--might contribute to tumor behavior, such as its progression and ability to spread and metastasize. This research--conducted with morphologic, biochemical and molecular/genetic techniques--may ultimately help physicians predict the progression of colon cancer in individual patients.

If you are interested in any of the above abstracts or would like to interview any of the presenters, please give me or Betty Russell a call at (617) 638-8491.

Sincerely,



Lisa Kushnir
Media Relations Assistant
Boston University Medical Center