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1998-12

# MedCenter News: December/January 1998-1999

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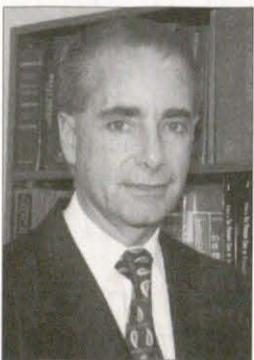
# MedCenter News

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

## New chief medical officer has high expectations

**John Chessare, MD, MPH, speaks out about his new role at BU Medical Center, as well as his vision for the future of the institution**

In August, BU Medical Center named John Chessare, MD, MPH, chief medical officer and senior vice president at BMC, and associate dean for clinical affairs at BUSM. Bringing more than 20 years of experience at academic medical centers to BU Medical Center, Chessare was hired for this newly created role to facilitate change in clinical care, enhance the voice of physicians and ensure physician participation in major decisions affecting the medical center. As associate dean for clinical affairs, his primary role is to help coordinate the school's academic programs at BMC and the hospital's affiliates.



John Chessare

*MedCenter News* recently sat down with him to talk about his new position.



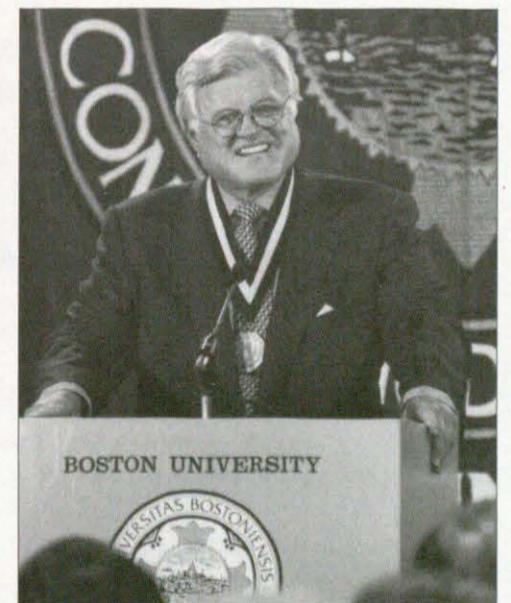
## BUSM honors Sen. Kennedy

Concluding a year-long celebration of BUSM's 150th anniversary, the school honored Massachusetts Sen. Edward Kennedy last month for his long-time commitment to biomedical research and medical education, as well as his overall support of BU Medical Center.

At a ceremony held in the Hiebert Lounge, Kennedy was presented with a special Sesquicentennial Gold Medallion from BUSM Dean Aram Chobanian, MD, provost of BU Medical Campus, and BU President Jon Westling. "This is the most fitting way I could imagine to close our year-long sesquicentennial celebration — by awarding this medal to Massachusetts' senior senator, with whom this campus has had such a long-standing close relationship," Chobanian said.

Kennedy also received praise from Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, BU Chancellor John Silber, BMC President and CEO Elaine Ullian, and Westling.

Lauding the school's commitment to public health, community-based medicine and advancing medical research, Kennedy said he will continue to support BUSM to



Top: In honor of his support for BUSM and the BU Medical Center community, Sen. Edward Kennedy receives the Sesquicentennial Gold Medallion from BUSM Dean Aram Chobanian, MD, (right) and BU President Jon Westling (left). Afterward, Kennedy is all smiles as he thanks the school for the honor.

the best of his abilities. "One in \$10 from the National Institutes of Health comes to Massachusetts — and much of this funding supports research at Boston University," he

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### What attracted you to BMC?

I really thought it would be great to join the organization at this stage of its development and try to help shape it. It really is impressive how far the organization has come [since the merger]. People who were here during that time, sometimes lose sight of how far they've come. I have to keep telling them, 'Look at all that has been accomplished since the organizations merged.'

### How have your experiences prepared you for the role of chief medical officer?

Every interaction that I have had as a clinical care provider in an academic health center has been a learning experience which has helped prepare me for the job of trying to create change in this environment. I also learned a lot from the nursing leaders at Albany Medical Center. They were my partners and they taught me how to set priorities and build consensus. Other than bench research, I think I have done everything you can do in an academic medical center.

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## Researchers closer to solving Alzheimer's puzzle

Alzheimer's disease is a mysteriously complex disorder that cruelly robs its victims of their memories and motor function, and can be a heartbreaking burden for their family members. BUSM researchers, however, are getting closer to solving the genetic puzzle that is Alzheimer's.

In a study published in a recent issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, researchers confirmed the existence of a gene that is associated with susceptibility to Alzheimer's. The investigation involved taking DNA samples from 53 families — each family had at least two members who suffered from Alzheimer's. Lindsay Farrer, PhD, professor of medicine and chief of the Genetics Program at BUSM, was co-principal investigator on the study. "We were able to show that certain genetic markers were associated with Alzheimer's disease within a family," says Farrer, who worked on the study with lead investigator Peter St. George-Hyslop, MD, director of the Centre for Research in Neurodegenerative Diseases at the University of Toronto.

Other data from the study suggest that although there are probably many factors influencing the cause of Alzheimer's, genes do play a prominent role in many cases. The study also provided clues to the existence of at least one other gene which may be associated with the development of late-onset Alzheimer's.

The identification of genes for specific disease is a daunting task: every cell in the human body has 46 chromosomes, and each of those chromosomes has between 75,000 and 100,000 unique genes responsible for carrying hereditary information. "Defining the gene associated with a family's susceptibility to Alzheimer's will eventually provide researchers with new insight into how the disease occurs," says St. George-Hyslop.

"The next step will be to study additional families in order to identify the exact region where the gene resides. Once we have narrowed the region to a small DNA segment, we can then focus our attention on the genes contained in this segment," says Farrer.

Unlike genetic diseases such as cystic fibrosis and Huntington's disease, in which the presence of the gene for these disorders consistently results in having the disease, Alzheimer's disease is complex and involves multiple factors. "It's too early to say whether or not the gene can be used to reliably predict a person's susceptibility to the disease," adds Farrer.

The research was supported by grants through the Medical Research Council of Canada, the Canadian Genetic Diseases Network, the Alzheimer Association of Ontario, the Howard Hughes Medical Research Foundation, the EJLB Foundation, Telethon, and the National Institutes of Health. ♦

**"It's too early to say whether or not the gene can be used to reliably predict a person's susceptibility to the disease,"**

Lindsay Farrer, PhD

## School receives \$3.4 million grant

The Whitaker Cardiovascular Institute at BUSM has received a \$3.4 million grant from The Whitaker Foundation for a new, state-of-the-art Cardiovascular Imaging Center. The new imaging center will be located in BU's BioSquare II, a 180,000-square-foot biomedical research facility, currently under construction across from BUSM on Albany Street.

"We are grateful to the Whitaker Foundation for its generous grant and continued support of our work," says Joseph Loscalzo, MD, PhD, director of the Whitaker Cardiovascular Institute, and chairman of the Department of Medicine at BUSM. "This grant provides us with the opportunity to continue our research on developing new methods for treating cardiovascular diseases."

"The Whitaker Foundation has been and

continues to be a vital link in our cardiovascular disease research efforts," says BUSM Dean Aram Chobanian, MD, provost of BU Medical Campus. "I thank the foundation and the Whitaker family for more than 30 years of support to our school and to the Whitaker Cardiovascular Institute."

The Cardiovascular Institute was established at BUSM in 1973 to foster advances in research, treatment and education in cardiovascular diseases. As a result of the generosity of The Whitaker Foundation, the institute was renamed the Whitaker Cardiovascular Institute in 1989 in recognition of the support and commitment that U.A. Whitaker and the foundation have had for cardiovascular research at BU. In the past two decades, the institute has been singled out by the National Institutes of Health's Heart, Lung and Blood Institute as a Specialized Center of Research

in Hypertension, and as a Specialized Center of Research in Ischemic Heart Disease in African-Americans.

The institute is known for a number of "firsts" in treating cardiovascular disease, including: the first use of the prototypical angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor captopril in the treatment of hypertension; the use of angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors in the treatment of heart failure; and pioneering work that established the use of the left ventricular assist device in cardiac surgery.

The Whitaker Foundation is dedicated to improving human health through the support of biomedical engineering. The private, non-profit foundation was established in 1975 upon the death of U.A. Whitaker, founder and chief executive officer of AMP Inc., the world's largest manufacturer of electrical connectors and connecting devices. ♦

## A Big Score



Bruins Captain Ray Bourque, Osrar Sylvania and The Anthony Spinazzola Foundation recently showed their support for BMC by presenting a \$65,000 check to Deborah Frank, MD, director of BMC's Grow Clinic for Children. The money was raised through the Anthony Spinazzola Foundation Celebrity Golf Classic, of which Bourque is honorary chairman and Osrar Sylvania is the signature sponsor. Pictured are (front row, left to right) Bourque, Frank, Dorothy Spinazzola, Henry Peters and Christopher Spinazzola. In back, (left to right) are Stephen Freyer, Ken Schedin, Joseph Anastos, Jon DiGesu and Doug Shaw.

## ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE



At the second annual BMC Nursing Merit Awards, held recently in Hiebert Lounge, 33 nurses were recognized by their colleagues for outstanding achievements. Pictured left are honorees (back row, left to right) Donna Manning, RN; Sally Picket, RN; Patty Wong, RN; Theresa Howley, RN; Mary Bernadette Costa, RN; Susan Doherty, RN; and Monica Smith, RN. In the front row (left to right) are Pat Lyons, RN; Chris Lynch, RN; Dottie Capolla, RN; Christie Smith-Stille, RN; and Joanne Hildebrand, RN. Also honored at the event were Kathy Ahern, RN; Nancy Barnes, RN; Judy Callahan, RN; Jacqueline Carle, RN; Deborah Crook, RN; Annmarie Downey, RN; Elizabeth Duffy, RN; Salan Ea, RN; Joann Foley, RN; Mary Golden, RN; Janet Gorman, RN; Patricia Mahar Harrison, RN; Joseph Harter, RN; Ellen Herrington, RN; Mary Mazur, RN; Susan Masters, RN; Catherine Phalen, RN; Lisa Rebello, RN; Carmen Siaz, RN; Jeanne Thomas, RN; and Mary Woods, RN.

## Lyme disease toxin identified

In winter, thoughts of warm-weather activities are common — the idea of barefoot strolls through grassy fields is a nice antidote to snowstorms. However, most people don't consider a specific, potentially debilitating hazard when considering those activities: Lyme disease. But, thanks to recent efforts by BU Medical Center (BUMC) researchers, Lyme disease may one day be preventable.

Samuel Donta, MD, professor of medicine at BUSM and director of the BUMC Lyme Disease Center, and his research team recently identified a substance produced by the Lyme disease bacteria (*B. burgdorferi*), which appears to kill cells in the nervous system. "If we can learn precisely how the toxin works, we may be able to revolutionize the diagnosis and treatment of this debilitating disease," says Donta, who presented his team's findings at the 36th Annual Meeting of the Infectious Disease Society of America in November.

Lyme disease, which was first described in 1975 in Old Lyme, Conn., is caused when

bacteria are transmitted to humans from deer tick bites. The first indication that someone has been infected with the disease comes in the form of a "bull's-eye" shaped, reddish rash at the site of the bite. In some cases, however, the rash may not be bull's-eye shaped, or may not appear at all. Symptoms include headache, fever, muscle and joint pain, and more rarely, meningitis. The symptoms often go in cycles lasting about a week, and if untreated, may last for years. Diagnosis is usually done through a blood test, and treatment with antibiotics is frequently helpful.

"Lyme disease patients suffer from many symptoms, and if this toxin is at the root of those, it may be possible to make a vaccine or antitoxin, as is the case with botulism and tetanus," says Donta. The research team does not completely understand how the toxin acts, but theorize that it may work similarly to botulism, tetanus and cholera toxin.

Using this newly identified toxin, it may be also possible to develop a better test for the disease. "Antibodies to the toxin may appear in the blood, urine, or spinal fluid," notes Donta. Studies are underway to identify the specific target of the toxin and its precise role in Lyme disease. ♦

## CityLab travels down the coast

Bringing science and biotechnology to educators and students outside of Boston, the BUSM CityLab Mobile Laboratory recently returned from a week-long trip to the mid-Atlantic states.

This was the first trip outside of New England for the 40-foot, self-contained laboratory, which began operations this past spring. Four staff members traveled more than 1,000 miles on the bus, stopping in various places to give presentations, workshops and tours. The trip included stops at the North Carolina Teacher's Conference in Chapel Hill; a high school in Paint Brush, MD; and a visit to the National Institutes of Health in Washington D.C. — a primary financial supporter of the mobile laboratory.

"In addition to convenience, a mobile laboratory with the capability of remaining on-site for a few days offers the opportunity for a learning cycle to continue by allowing the instructor to provide more in-depth instruction to students," says Carl Franzblau, PhD, associate dean of Biomedical Sciences at BUSM and founder of CityLab. "By displaying the lab to other educators we hope to inspire similar programs in other communities."

The mobile laboratory is a spin-off of the highly successful CityLab, a model biotechnology laboratory located at BUSM designed to encourage young men and women to pursue

careers in biosciences.

Due to CityLab's overwhelming popularity among students and teachers, as well as the need to provide students with further, more in-depth laboratory instruction, the mobile laboratory was created. The mobile laboratory provides students with hands-on experience in various disciplines such as biochemistry, cellular and molecular biology, immunology and microbiology.

"The accessibility and versatility of a mobile laboratory allows us to visit more schools and reach more students while maintaining the quality of our program," says Don DeRosa, CityLab Education Coordinator. ♦



John Chessare, MD, MPH, introduces himself to a BU Medical Center staff member.



## High expectations

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### How would you describe your role at BMC?

I was hired to be a physician leader — to help move the physician group toward commonly shared goals to achieve measured outcomes faster. As associate dean for clinical affairs, I am responsible for the quality of all of our post-graduate programs. I see myself as a change agent because our survival requires this.

### Have you made any immediate changes since coming to BMC?

I have continued down the road laid out for me by others. BMC leadership created the Medical Management Council. With the council, we are trying to drive standardization where it is appropriate. We're also trying to create a minimum set of expectations and monitor our performance against those expectations. We've created standards for inpatient consultation, standards for consultation to the Emergency Department and we've generated dialogue about what is appropriate and what isn't. We've also discussed the role of the trainee and the role of the attending physician. Prior to the formation of the council, there was no consensus on what those roles were.

We are also creating Clinical Service Improvement Teams to bring a new management paradigm to how we operate the clinical enterprise.

### What are some aspects of the hospital that impress you?

Absolutely, without a doubt, it's the commitment to caring for the underserved. The commitment is really phenomenal. The bar is really high here. I was at a HealthNet Rounders meeting this morning and the caregivers were racking their brains on how to get an alcoholic patient to accept the care that everybody was offering him. Most other organizations would offer the care and that would be that. I think the commitment to care is very powerful here. The other impressive thing is the depth and breadth of this wonderful university.

### As associate dean for clinical affairs at BUSM, can you provide a brief overview on the benefits of coordinating academic programs at BMC?

We need to create minimum expectations for the evaluation of residents. The Department of Medicine has a solid methodology for

evaluating its residents and it is quite good at systematic feedback. We need to be able to replicate what that department has done across all departments. Right now, I'm working with a subcommittee of the Graduate Medical Education Committee to create a template for the evaluation of residents to use as a minimum standard across all residency programs. Next, we should take advantage of economies of scale by delivering a core curriculum in things like procedure skills and research design, so each program does not have to set up its own programs.

### How would you like to see the school's academic programs improved?

I believe there are five key concepts for managing clinical care and they are appropriate here.

- Focus on the patient or other customer (student)
- Provide everyone with "deep" process knowledge of the system
- Drive decisions by data and not the loudest voice at the table
- Empower those who know the process to make change — no organization should suggest that people 'check their brains at the door'
- Teamwork

By incorporating these concepts into the way our academic programs are run, we will fortify an already strong system.

### Looking back on your career, what is the most important lesson you have learned?

Relying on the performance of individuals will only get you so far. You can take outstanding people and put them in the middle of dysfunctional processes and they'll do the job, but eventually they'll burn out. Winning organizations are constantly improving their core processes. Change is the status quo.

### What is your vision for BU Medical Center for the next millennium?

We all know about the rich history here of serving people, many of whom wouldn't otherwise be served. My vision is that we become so good that people from all over the region would go to the other Boston hospitals only if they couldn't get into Boston Medical Center. I think we can get there, but it will require setting ambitious goals, becoming a learning organization and not being afraid to take measured risks. ♦

## Patient satisfaction efforts lauded at BMC

Recognizing BMC's commitment to improving patient satisfaction, a leading health care organization recently honored the hospital for its efforts.

BMC was one of three hospitals in the nation to receive a 1998 Performance Improvement Award from Premier Inc. The award recognizes the collaborative effort between employees from both campuses to improve the operating room patient intake process. By implementing changes in areas such as registration, operating room scheduling and pre-procedure screening, the multidisciplinary staff designed a process for getting a surgical candidate to the operating room quickly and efficiently. The streamlined process should result in significant cost savings due to fewer process errors and resulting delays, and improved patient and employee satisfaction.

A nationwide joint venture of independent, nonprofit health systems, Premier Inc. consults with its members to help them develop effective patient care techniques and improve patient services. As a Premier member, BMC gains the advantages of being affiliated with a large-scale organization, such as group purchasing discounts for supplies and services.

"This award represents the collective efforts of many individuals at BMC who share a common vision and commitment to improving patient satisfaction and providing exceptional patient care," says Richard Moed, executive vice president and COO of BMC. ♦

## Brushing up...

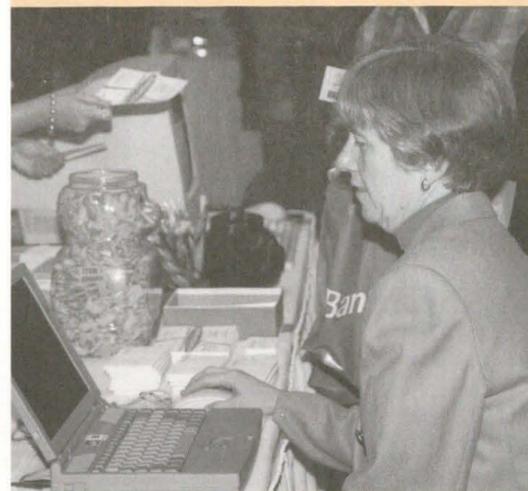


### on dental programs

Paula Friedman, DDS, MSD, associate dean for Administration at SDM, was one of 21 dental educators nationwide who recently participated in the 9th Annual American Association of Dental Schools/John O. Butler Faculty Legislative Workshop in Washington, D.C.

At the workshop, attendees were briefed on the appropriations process, the federal budget process, federal health professions programs, and other topics related to dental education programs. On the final day of the workshop, participants traveled to Capitol Hill to meet with their senators and representatives to discuss issues critical to dental education.

Above, Friedman poses with Congressman Joseph Moakley. During the trip, Friedman also met with Sen. John Kerry; members of Sen. Edward Kennedy's legislative staff; Congressmen Edward Markey and Richard Neal; and Georgia Congressman Charlie Norwood, the only member of Congress who is a dentist.



## Administrative Services Fair '98

Kirsten Levy, administrative officer at BUSM, tests some of the latest offerings from the Office of Information Technology at the second annual BU Administrative Services Fair, held recently in the Hiebert Lounge. BU Medical Campus faculty, staff and students had the opportunity to learn more about various services and campus departments such as Mail Services, Research Administration and Telecommunications.

## Taking a pain-free approach to pediatrics

Doctors, nurses, needles and stitches ... for many children, these words conjure up thoughts of pain and apprehension, but thanks to a new program at BMC, young patients no longer have to be intimidated by a trip to the hospital.

By making pain management a priority in patient care, the Pain Free Pediatrics Program is using cutting-edge methods and materials to minimize the discomfort that children sometimes experience during a hospital visit. The program has developed specific guidelines for BMC pediatric health care providers to follow, such as communicating clearly with patients and children about treatment procedures and using relaxation techniques to help calm and soothe anxious children. The new medical technology and treat-

ments being used at the hospital include products like Numby Stuff®, a device which electronically shoots lidocaine through the skin and renders it numb within 10 to 15 minutes, and Dermabond™, a glue-like substance that adheres wounds and eliminates the use of stitches. Other methods for pain management include formalized distraction therapy — for example, using bubbles to distract a 4-year-old as blood is being drawn.

"Pain free pediatrics is not just

medicine or a specific technology, but a philosophy of how one delivers care to the children we treat," says Michael Osband, MD, director of both the Pain Free Pediatrics Program and the Pediatric Hematology Service at BMC, and clinical professor of pediatrics at BUSM. "With pediatric staff working toward the common goal of ensuring that a patient has as little pain and discomfort as possible, we increase the level of care and compassion we provide."



Thanks to the innovative Pain Free Pediatrics Program, Gracielinda Lopes, 10, doesn't flinch as she receives a shot from Cassie Ryan, RN. The program is helping children feel less discomfort when they are being treated at BMC.

## BUMC archives bring the past to life

Out of all the collections currently housed at the BU Medical Center Alumni Medical Library, perhaps the most fascinating can be found in a small room on the 13th floor of the BUSM Instructional Building.

Known as the archives, the room holds a rare collection of historical texts, photographs, graduation records, school catalogs and yearbooks, department newsletters, annual reports, and other materials representative of BU Medical Center's activities and achievements. The archives also hold some 19th century medical and surgical instruments, antique microscopes, and a doctor's bag that once belonged to an 1877 graduate of BUSM.

In existence since the school opened in 1848, the library's collection has grown through donations from alumni, staff and friends of

the medical center. The archives have since been well documented and are stored and cataloged in an organized system of files and cabinets thanks to the tireless work of Emily Beattie, head of Technical Services and Archives at the library.

The collection serves as more than just nostalgia — students and staff utilize it for research projects, families searching for information about ancestors often visit, and occasionally an author or television producer will drop by for background data. This past year, the archives were used extensively for BUSM's Sesquicentennial Celebration — in displays and presentations, and in writing *Generations*, the recently published history of BUSM.

"The archives are a very important part of the library and the medical center," says David Ginn, PhD, director of the library. "We are pre-

serving bits of history for present and future generations."

Always looking to fill in gaps between yearbooks, school catalogs and other chronological materials, Beattie pursues every archival bequest. "People donate all sorts of interesting memorabilia from their family collections," says Beattie, who has worked in the library for 30 years. "The library is the logical repository for these pieces of BU Medical Center's history and we welcome the role of safe-keeper and preservationist."

Most of the archival materials are indexed through the BU online catalog or an in-house catalog that can be accessed by Beattie on behalf of patrons. Future plans include scanning archival images for preservation and enhanced access via CD-ROM and the Internet. For more information, call 638-4236. ♦

The program also provides education and training in pain management to patients, families, hospital staff and the medical community. In the coming months, Osband and his team will conduct Continuing Medical Education courses for physicians and nurses, and training programs for parents and patients.

The program is a department-wide initiative that has involved the enthusiastic support of the entire Department of Pediatrics and the Children's Service, including physicians, nurses and support staff. In addition to Osband, the program is co-directed by Connie Hauck, MD, medical director of the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at BMC; Beth Kastner, MPH, research coordinator in the Pediatric Emergency Medical Department at BMC; Sigmund Kharasch, MD, director of Pediatric Emergency Medicine at BMC and assistant professor of pediatrics at BUSM; Linda Malone, RN, pediatric nurse manager at BMC; and Cassie Ryan, RN, program coordinator for the Pediatric Hematology Service at BMC. ♦

## Patients benefiting from Parkinson's program

For more than one million Americans living with Parkinson's disease, treatment means more than just taking pills. It involves comprehensive medication management like that offered by the Parkinson's Disease Day Program at BU Medical Center.

As a model program for hospitals worldwide, the decade-old Parkinson's Day Program leads the way in helping patients alleviate the symptoms of Parkinson's disease, which can include a decrease in spontaneous movements, difficulty walking and speaking, postural instability, and tremors.

In the program, each patient is evaluated by a neurologist specializing in Parkinson's disease, and closely monitored throughout a day by a nurse specialist who documents how the patient functions in response to their drug regimens. The six-hour outpatient session is designed to accommodate the specific needs of patients depending on their age, particular history and stage of Parkinson's disease. The information is then reviewed by the program's physicians who make necessary changes to the medication regimens, and other helpful recommendations. There are two sessions held each week.

First diagnosed in the early 19th century, Parkinson's disease is a progressive disorder of the central nervous system. However, it wasn't until the 1960s that pathological and biochemical changes in the brains of patients were identified, opening the way to the first effective medication for the disease. The key to successful treatment is prescribing the right balance of medications, and observation. Because a patient's condition can change daily and sometimes hourly, a short clinic visit does not allow sufficient time for

an assessment of a patient's reaction to medication.

"Our goal is to help patients alleviate the most amount of symptoms, for the longest period of time, with the fewest side effects," says Marie-Helene Saint-Hillaire, MD, director of the program and assistant professor of neurology at BUSM. "The most

effective way to achieve this is to observe the patient for an extended period of time."

The second component of the Parkinson's Disease Day Program is patient education. While

patients are being monitored, they are also offered an extensive overview of the disease and its terminology, nutritional and exercise advice, relaxation techniques, and referrals to other medical and social services. As the prime resource center in Massachusetts for Parkinson's disease, the program also invites patients' families and caregivers to participate. "We want all of our patients to understand what's happening to their bodies, so they can learn how to cope with the different changes, both physically and mentally," says Saint-Hillaire.

Although there is no cure for Parkinson's disease, current research at BU Medical Center and around the world is beginning to offer tangible possibilities that give hope to those suffering from the illness. "We believe that through innovative research in gene therapy, new surgical techniques and drugs, as well as programs like the Parkinson's Day Program, we can add Parkinson's disease to the list of curable diseases," says Robert Feldman, MD, professor and chairman of Neurology at BUSM, and director of the American Parkinson's Disease Center for Advanced Research in Parkinson's Disease at Boston University. ♦

As a model program for hospitals worldwide ... the Parkinson's Day Program leads the way in helping patients alleviate the symptoms of the disease.

## A show of appreciation



At a recent plaque unveiling ceremony, SPH Dean Robert Meenan (left), MD, MPH, and Mary Jane England, MD, chairman of the Board of Visitors at SPH, stand in front of plaques listing the names of friends and donors who helped make the renovations to the Talbot Building possible. The Talbot Building underwent extensive renovations from spring 1996 to fall 1997, when it officially became the new home of SPH. The plaques are on display in various locations throughout the building.

## SDM anticipates positive survey results

Though the official results of the recent site visit to SDM by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CDA) are not expected back until February, the school has received unofficial word that the review will be "overwhelmingly positive." CDA consultants conducted a site visit this fall as part of a mandatory accreditation review, which occurs every seven years. Both the predoctoral and

postdoctoral programs received high marks from the CDA and are expected to receive full accreditation this winter. SDM Dean Spencer Frankl, DDS, MSD, says he expects that the commission will also commend the school in several areas including its initiatives in competency-based education, its increased focus on patient care and satisfaction, its outcomes assessment program, its

curriculum plans, its Apex Program, and its "School Without Walls" philosophy. "These outstanding results could not have been possible without the help of every member of the SDM community," says Frankl. "In preparing for this review, the teamwork and dedication displayed by everyone involved has been unwavering. All faculty, staff and students are to be commended for their hard work." ♦



**FAST LANE program is operational**  
FAST LANE is the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority's innovative new program that provides motorists with the option of electronic toll collection. Applications for FAST LANE are available at the Office of Transportation/Commuter Services at 638-7473, or by calling 1-877-MASSPIKE.

**Student volunteers available**  
From January to May 1999, 17 students in the Boston Area Health Education Center STRIVE program

will be available to volunteer on Thursdays from 3-5 p.m. They will work at BMC and the Public Health Commission. If your department or program can use their help, contact Sharon Baker at the Volunteer Services office at 414-5122.

**Intersession information**  
BU will be closed for the winter intersession period from 1 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24, through midnight, Sunday, Jan. 3, 1999. Some essential BU Medical Campus offices will be open including Security, Parking, Facilities Management and Corporate Communications.

## C A L E N D A R

### December

**20 Festival of Lights** - The final night of Chanukah's eight day Festival of Lights will be observed at 4 p.m. The lighting will be accompanied by Chanukah songs led by Rabbi Paul Levenson. The service will be televised on the hospital channel, TV 6.

**24 Ecumenical Service** - An ecumenical service with music will be held at noon in the interfaith chapel, Inpatient Facility Lobby, on the Harrison Avenue Campus. For more information, call Chaplain Carmela D'Elia at 414-5336.

**Catholic Mass** - A mass will be celebrated at 4 p.m. in the interfaith chapel in the Atrium Building, second floor, on the East Newton Street Campus. Rev. Raymond Benoit will preside. The service will also be televised on the hospital channel, TV 6.

**25 Ecumenical Service** - An ecumenical service will be conducted by Rev. William Alberts at 9 a.m. in the interfaith chapel in the Atrium Building, second floor, on the East Newton Street Campus. The service will also be televised on the hospital channel, TV 6.

**Catholic Mass** - A mass will be celebrated at noon in the interfaith chapel in the Atrium Building, second floor, on the East Newton Street Campus. Rev. Raymond Benoit will preside. The service will also be televised on the hospital channel, TV 6.

**Holiday Lunch** - A free traditional holiday lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for all BU Medical Center employees in the cafeterias on the East Newton Street and Harrison Avenue campuses. Patients will also receive two lunch passes for the complimentary meal. BU Medical Center employees must show proper ID.



### January

**1 Catholic Mass** - A mass will be celebrated at noon in the interfaith chapel in the Atrium Building, second floor, on the East Newton Street Campus. Rev. Raymond Benoit will preside. The service will also be televised on the hospital channel, TV 6.

**Children's AIDS Program** - Through Jan. 1, help support the Children's AIDS Program at BMC by purchasing Christmas ornaments at one of 21 local restaurants including Anthony's Pier 4, Davio's and Vinny Testa's. More than 15 Boston area interior designers donated their time to help decorate the restaurants. For a complete listing of the participating restaurants or more information, call 414-2050.



## Kennedy

*continued from page 1*

said. "Our goal over the coming years in Congress is to double the budget of the NIH. The potential benefits are vast and I am optimistic that we will succeed. At Boston University, that support is an especially wise investment in the future — for patients, for doctors, dentists, nurses and other providers, for researchers, and for taxpayers — and I intend to do all I can to see that it is strengthened."

During the presentation, Chobanian highlighted some of Kennedy's legislative accomplishments, which have been of great importance to biomedical research and medical education,

including: being the original sponsor of the Comprehensive Health Manpower Act of 1971, which assisted medical schools in designing new programs responding to the demands of the changing health care environment; being the original author of the national health service corps, through which financially disadvantaged students attend medical school in exchange for providing care for the underserved in rural and urban areas after they have completed their training; and his commitment to health care and educational programs for minorities and women.

Silber praised Kennedy's record in Congress saying, "Senator Kennedy has been, for more than 30

years, in a position to influence the passage of health care legislation for all. Additionally, he has been effective in preventing the passage of legislation that would have been harmful to medical students, public health and medical research."

The ceremony marked the end of a year of events celebrating the sesquicentennial milestone, including the first Alumni Career Day, the Women in Medicine Awards ceremony, the Rebecca Lee 5K Road Race, the Convocation, a gala, a piano recital, a Cardiovascular Symposium in honor of the 25th anniversary of the Cardiovascular Institute at BUSM, and numerous scientific sessions. ♦

## NICU improves services for new moms

With the help of recent grants and the addition of a new position, the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at BMC is improving its services for new mothers.

Anne Merewood recently joined BMC as the hospital's first lactation specialist. At the medical center her time will be divided between the NICU, the Postpartum Unit and Pediatrics, assisting and supporting the growing number of breastfeeding mothers.

"It's a challenging position because this is not a population that traditionally breastfeeds," says Merewood. "These mothers want to do what's best for their baby, but they don't have much breastfeeding support."

The position is funded by The Kids Fund of BMC — an organization that provides assistance for children's most basic needs.

The Kids Fund organization

also recently funded the creation of the hospital's second breastfeeding room, located in the NICU. The room comes equipped with home-style glider chairs, electric breast pumps and music to make a new mother's hospital experience more comfortable.

In addition to the donations from The Kids Fund, the NICU has received a grant from the Massachusetts Health Research Institute to launch Project M.I.L.K (Mothers and Infants, Lactation and Kangaroo care). This substantial grant will be used to create a video for NICU mothers on the benefits of breastmilk and kangaroo care — a special kind of skin-to-skin holding that brings health benefits for premature and sick newborn babies.

Employees at BMC in need of a private place to breastfeed or pump, can contact Merewood by paging her at 638-5795 (8006). ♦

# People

**Patricia Barry, MD, MPH**, chief of the Geriatrics Section at BMC and professor of medicine at BUSM, recently received the Community Partnership Award from the Visiting Nurses Association of Boston.



*Robert Feldman, MD*

Barry, who is director of the BU Gerontology Center, director of the Center of Excellence in Geriatrics at BU and associate professor of public health at SPH, was recognized for her leadership and practice, and her understanding of the importance of home health care.

**Robert Feldman, MD**, professor and chairman of Neurology at BUSM, and director of the American Parkinson's Disease Center for Advanced Research in Parkinson's Disease at BU, recently published a textbook entitled

*Occupational and Environmental Neurotoxicology*. The book, published by Lippincott-Raven Publishers, explains the chemical hazards, the differential diagnosis, and the various clinical approaches to assessing central and peripheral nervous system effects caused by exposure to commonly encountered neurotoxic chemicals in the workplace and the environment. The book also contains the most up-to-date information on neurotoxic compounds. Feldman was one of the neurology experts mentioned in the best-selling book, *A Civil Action*, by Jonathan Harr.

**Terence Keane, PhD**, professor and vice chairman of Psychiatry at BUSM and chief of Psychology at the Boston Veterans Affairs Medical Center, was chosen as the 1998 recipient of the Edward Weisband Distinguished Alumni Award for Public Service or Contributions to Public Affairs from the Alumni Association at Binghamton University.

The award recognizes a Binghamton University graduate whose life, career and contributions exemplify the highest standards of public service and deepest dedication to public affairs.

**Bobbi Philipp, MD**, medical director of the Pediatric Primary Care Practice at BMC and assistant professor of pediatrics at BUSM, has been elected to the board of directors of the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine for a three-year term. Philipp was inducted last month in Kansas City at the academy's annual meeting. The Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine is a worldwide organization of physicians dedicated to the promotion, protection and support of breastfeeding and human lactation.

**Gordon Snider, MD**, Maurice B. Strauss Professor of Medicine, vice chairman of the Department of Medicine at BUSM and chief of Medicine at the Boston Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center, is the 1998 recipient of the David M. Worthen Award — the VA's highest award for academic achievement.

Snider has been at the VA for 32 years as a clinician, researcher, administrator and author, and has also participated on numerous national policy committees in his specialty of pulmonary medicine. The former head of the Pulmonary Section at BUSM, Snider has published over 250 articles and six books.

The award was presented on Oct. 31, at the American Association of Medical Colleges annual conference in New Orleans.

## New Appointments

**Jerry Fensterman**, has been named director of Medical Specialties Development at BMC. Fensterman brings nearly 20 years of development experience to

BMC, most recently serving as executive director of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation — Bay State Chapter. In that role, he helped rebuild the chapter into one of the most productive and fastest growing chapters in the international charity. At BMC, Fensterman will be responsible for major gifts and annual fund development in support of the departments of Medicine and Surgery.

Fensterman's prior work includes serving as director of Development for City Year Boston and director of Development for the Boston Management Consortium.

**Laura Humphrey** has been named director of Marketing for BMC. She comes to the hospital with a distinguished career in health care marketing and public relations, most recently holding the position of director of Public Affairs and Marketing at the New England Baptist Hospital since 1995. She has also worked at Children's Hospital in Boston, UCSD Medical Center in San Diego and St. Luke's Hospital in New Bedford.



*Laura Humphrey*

**Julianne McMahon, RN**, has been named nurse manager for the Pediatric, Adolescent and Sub-Specialty Ambulatory Care Center at BMC. In her new role, she will assume responsibility for the development and management of human, fiscal and material resources for the center. McMahon comes to BMC from Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Boston where she was nurse manager of Child, Adolescent and Adult Head Injury Units. Bringing more than 20 years experience in pediatric nursing to BMC, she has also held positions at Winchester Hospital, Massachusetts General Hospital and Hunt Memorial Hospital.

## Grant News

The Boston University Alzheimer's Disease Center (BUADC) is soliciting proposals for pilot and feasibility studies for biomedical, epidemiological, behavioral, legal or ethical health systems or other research in Alzheimer's disease. Approximately \$20,000 is available in direct costs for one-year, nonrenewable studies.

The funding is intended to support new investigators and is not intended for large studies by established investigators. Feasibility testing of innovative drug and management approaches are also encouraged, as are proposals which can benefit from the core work of the BUADC. Experienced researchers from outside fields are also welcome to apply for funding.

Four copies of the proposal on PHS 398 are due Feb. 15, 1999. There is a 10-page maximum for the aims, background, preliminary results and experimental methods sections. The selected grants will be funded from July 1, 1999 through June 20, 2000. For more information, call Richard Fine, MD, associate director of the BUADC, at 638-4190.



*Jerry Fensterman*



*Julianne McMahon, RN*

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## Interactive CD shows history of anesthesiology

The development of medical technology is not usually something that patients or physicians spend time thinking about — they are more likely thankful that the technology exists to provide helpful treatment. However, two BMC physicians, Rafael Ortega MD, and Harold Arkoff, MD, have devoted considerable time to the history surrounding the development of the anesthesiology machine.

Arkoff, assistant professor of anesthesiology at BUSM and an anesthesiologist at BMC, and Ortega, vice chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology at BMC and associate professor of anesthesiology at BUSM, are responsible for producing an award-winning CD-ROM which carefully details the history and use of this piece of equipment. The CD-ROM allows users to ask questions to more than a dozen illustrious physicians and researchers. Those questions are then answered "live" by using the hundreds of hours of carefully edited videotape collected for the project.

"I wanted today's practitioners to know that every step of the way, there was a devotion to care and safety in the development of today's anesthesiology machine," says Ortega. "We sometimes take for granted that lives were lost in the course of creating the level of safety we experience today."

The CD will eventually become a permanent part of the Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology located at the American Society of Anesthesiologist's headquarters in Chicago. Ortega and Arkoff are also looking for sponsorship to distribute the CD to the U.S. anesthesiology ♦

## 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