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BUSM News and Notes

1987-06

BUSM News & Notes: June 1987 no. 108

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Boston University
School of Medicine

June 1987
Issue #108

News & Notes

John I. Sandson, M.D., announces he will retire as BUSM dean; has headed School for 13 years

John I. Sandson, M.D., who is responsible for increasing minority student enrollment in the School of Medicine and for instituting a \$10-million system of revolving loan funds that provides low-cost loans to medical students, has announced that he will retire after 13 years as dean of Boston University School of Medicine.

In a letter to faculty and staff, Sandson wrote, "It is time for me to pursue other important but less-arduous endeavors." Sandson will serve until his successor is named. After a year's sabbatical, he will return to the School as dean emeritus and as a professor of medicine and will pursue his longstanding interests in financing medical education and assessing physician manpower needs.

"I feel most fortunate to have been dean of Boston University School of Medicine during these exciting years," Sandson wrote. "I am deeply grateful for President Silber's guidance and strong support, which have been of enormous value. With his help, and the help of the faculty, alumni and staff, my objectives as dean have been fulfilled."

A preeminent medical educator

Commenting on Sandson's retirement, President John R. Silber said, "John Sandson is one of the preeminent medical educators of our time. Under his leadership, an already strong School of Medicine has made constant, varied and rapid improvement. His work in health care, international medicine and minority medical education has gained him deserved renown. I will miss him not merely as an extraordinary colleague but as one of my closest friends." Silber is forming a search committee to recommend candidates for the next dean.

Sandson, 59, has been dean of the School since 1974. During his tenure, the School of Medicine has initiated a wide range of successful programs: a Modular Medical Integrated Curriculum (MMEDIC) program, which combines substantial work in the liberal arts with medical courses; an Early Medical Selection Program, through which BUSM works with nine traditionally black colleges to increase minority enrollment in the School; and a School of Public Health, where health professionals and others can earn a Master of Public Health degree without interrupting their careers.

Sandson also has organized a highly successful fundraising program for the School as part of the ongoing \$200-mil-



SKIT NITE--Humor and high jinks were featured the night of April 10 during the School of Medicine's annual "Skit Nite" and awards ceremony, co-sponsored by the Alumni Association and the Student Committee on Medical School Affairs. William McNary, Ph.D., associate dean for student affairs, and Roberta Apfel, M.D., president of the Alumni Association, presented the awards to students and faculty before the fun began. Shown singing a "surgical serenade" are, from left to right, first-year students Robert Chaney, Errol Williams, Susan Pursell, Olivia Chan, Joan DiMarzio, Jennifer Kasper, Eleanor Ruggiero and Pamela Cattel. The "patient" is Michael Bornstein. (Photo by James P. Dwyer)

lion Campaign for Boston University. Under his leadership, the School will exceed its original goal by more than 33 percent and raise more than \$60 million by the end of the Campaign.

Commencement speaker Sandson cites uniqueness of School's diversity

Fifty-nine women and 25 minority students were among the 147 seniors who received the Doctor of Medicine degree at the 115th BUSM graduation ceremonies at the Case Athletic Center on May 17.

According to Dean John I. Sandson, the principal speaker for the ceremonies, the class represents what makes Boston University School of Medicine unique in the country: "The central theme of its uniqueness and its excellence is its diversity." This diversity, he said, permeates every aspect of the School: the student body, faculty, curricula, research programs and clinical experiences. "As Boston University School of Medicine moves into the 21st century, it is well established as a unique, pluralistic institution, firmly

grounded in the fine tradition of sound medical education, influenced by a diversity of research and clinical programs that will serve our graduates well throughout their careers," said Sandson. "Our students," he said, "represent the fruits of our labor and by all counts, the Boston University School of Medicine Class of 1987 is an extraordinary harvest."

Students must remember ideals

Student speaker Barbara Seagle, quoting the early 20th-century physician/author Sir William Osler, reminded her classmates that the "master-word" in medicine is work. But, she added, "Work attains its full value only when applied toward unselfish ends." Students must remember the ideals that they shared upon entering medical school: to help others, to advance understanding in the science of medicine, to promote well-being and to relieve suffering. "To deny our ideals, to become cynical, is to deny the best of ourselves and to subtract from our work the element which gives it most meaning," she said. "We want work that provides a medium for the expression of our ideals: the 'Master-Word'--revisited."

Daniel Bernstein, M.D., associate dean for resources and director of the School of Medicine's Office of Industrial Liaison, also spoke, after which awards and degrees were conferred. Thirty-nine students won awards and prizes and 10 graduated with academic honors. Anne Fine graduated *summa cum laude*, Kimberly Crocker and Bruce Moeckel graduated *magna cum laude*, and seven students graduated *cum laude*. Students Julie Kaufman, Issac Kohane, Drew Weissman and Peter Williamson earned M.D. and Ph.D. degrees. Charles Elder, a Six-Year student, received B.A., M.D. and M.P.H. degrees. Joseph Levine, a Six-Year student confined to a wheelchair since 1981, received his degree to a standing ovation.

Robert Feldman, M.D., chairman of the Department of Neurology at the School and chief of neurology at the University Hospital, was presented with the Dr. Stanley L. Robbins Award for Excellence in Teaching. Students presented the Class Gift of Appreciation to Elaine Alpert, M.D., a clinical instructor in medicine; Dick Brown, M.D., an adjunct assistant clinical professor of OB/GYN; and Joel Caslowitz, M.D., an associate professor of medicine.

Ozonoff delivers SPH commencement address on 'Truth or Consequences'

Describing the field of public health as "a grand and humane endeavor," David Ozonoff, M.D., M.P.H., chief of the Environmental Health Section at the School of Public Health, addressed graduates, families, faculty and staff at SPH's Class Day ceremonies held in the School for the Arts Concert Hall on May 17. Ninety-nine students received the Master of Public Health degree and one student received a Doctor of Science in epidemiology.

Ozonoff spoke of a structural problem that occasionally crops up in public health: officials who are not as honest or straightforward as they should be because they want to avoid criticism or unnecessarily alarming the community. It's a problem that creates a "disincentive for truth-telling that can have serious consequences," he said. One of the dangers of following the path that doesn't lead to truth, according to Ozonoff, is the ease with which people convince themselves that they are doing the right thing by taking that route.

"Resisting this kind of structural distortion of professional judgment takes a special kind of person," he continued. "I'm confident that if you apply the same diligence to furthering the public health as you have to your studies and the same devotion to truth that's the hallmark of the true student, you will fulfill all of the faculty's aspirations for you."

Tears are not enough

Anthony Caruso represented the graduates as student speaker. Comparing the AIDS epidemic to the Ethiopian famine, Caruso said, "Tears are not enough to support those who suffer, and tears are not enough to affect the knowledge, understanding and action of a public which, until now, has seen this disease as so distant.

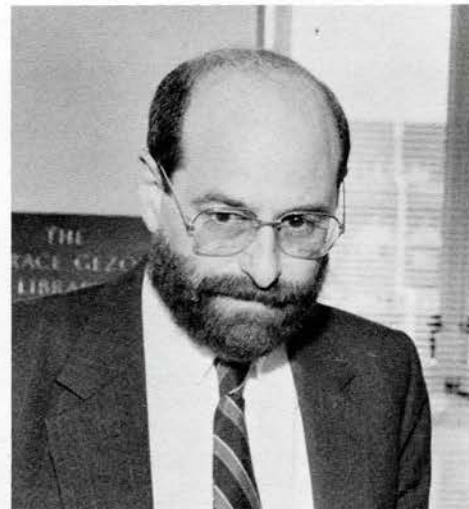
"We who are about to take on the mantle of champions of public health must face this public and its short attention span," Caruso continued. He urged his classmates to "battle the apathy and ennui of the public," and to fight to gain governmental support. Public health professionals, he said, must look beyond the statistics and never lose sight of the fact that they are dealing with human lives.

Three School of Medicine alumni named distinguished alumnus/alumna

Three School of Medicine alumni received Distinguished Alumnus/Alumna Awards at the 112th Annual Meeting and Banquet of the School of Medicine Alumni Association on May 9.

Chosen to receive the award were Malkah Tolpin Notman '52, a clinical professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Tufts University School of Medicine and a lecturer in psychiatry at Harvard Medical School; Steven P. Shearing '64, chief of ophthalmology at Valley Hospital in Las Vegas, an assistant clinical professor at the University of Nevada Medical School in Reno and a pioneer in the development of the intraocular lens; and Edna H. Sobel '43-B, a professor of pediatrics at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City and director of Pediatric Endocrinology at the Bronx Municipal Hospital Center in New York.

Harry Schwartz, Ph.D., a former member of the *New York Times* editorial board and writer in residence at the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University,



ALPERT HONORED--Joel J. Alpert, M.D., chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at the School of Medicine and director of pediatrics at Boston City Hospital, recently was honored for 15 years of leadership at BCH and at the School. Shown above, from left to right are, Barry Zuckerman, M.D., an associate professor of pediatrics, Alpert, Stephen Pelton, M.D., an associate professor of pediatrics, Owen Mathieu Jr., M.D., an associate professor of pediatrics, and Joellen Altschaeffl, M.D., a chief resident in pediatrics at BCH. Shown at right, Evan Charney, M.D., chief of pediatrics at Sinai Hospital of Baltimore and a professor of pediatrics at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, gave the Eli and Edith Friedman Memorial Lecture as part of the festivities. (Photos by Lucy Milne, Educational Media, BUSM)

was the guest speaker at the dinner, held at the 57 Restaurant. His topic was "The Future of American Medicine." A scientific program was held during the morning at the School. Bennett Simon, M.D., a clinical associate professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, was the 1987 Jacob Swartz Visiting Professor.

BUSM Multipurpose Arthritis Center awarded \$4.2 million from NIH

The Multipurpose Arthritis Center at the School of Medicine has received a five-year renewal grant of \$4,213,000 from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The Center, directed by Alan S. Cohen, M.D., the Conrad Wesselhoeft Professor of Medicine and chief of medicine at Boston City Hospital, conducts activities in biomedical research and in health care research. Support is provided for the following areas: research on the immunology and biochemistry of connective tissue and an Amyloid Research Core under the direction of Cohen and Martha Skinner, M.D., an associate professor of medicine at the School; epidemiology studies of David Felson, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine; a Research and Evaluation Core and health care research studies of Robert F. Meenan, M.D., M.P.H., associate director of the Center and an associate professor of medicine; The Arthritis Center is one of approximately 15 of the original NIH Centers, having been approved and funded since 1977. The current award runs through April 1, 1992.

Eight BUSM faculty members awarded Whitaker Health Sciences Fund grants

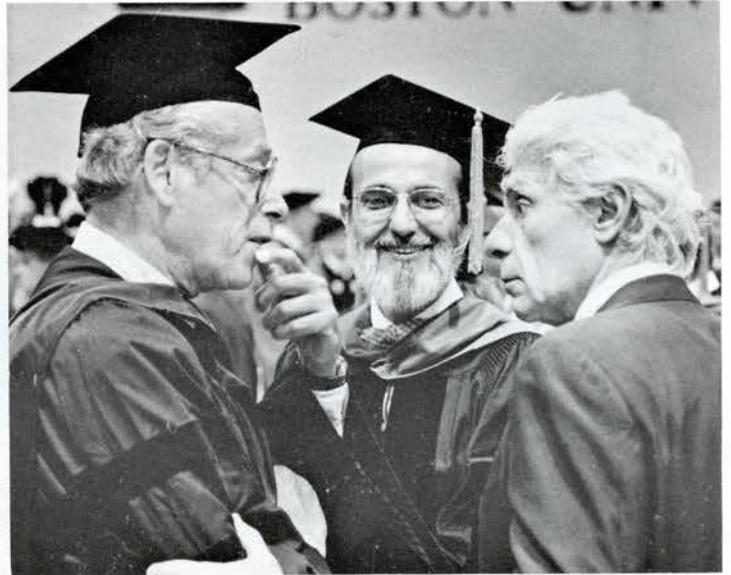
Eight School of Medicine faculty members were chosen to receive 1987-88 Whitaker Health Sciences Fund awards for collaborative research projects with faculty at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The Fund awarded BUSM a total of \$400,000 in research grants, effective July 1.

The recipients and their research topics are: Robin Benson, Ph.D., an assistant professor of anatomy, "Characterization of Putative Rapid Transport Vesicles from Brain Using Monoclonal Antibodies to Growth Cone Antigens"; Roy Levine, Ph.D., an assistant research professor of biochemistry, "Role of Z-DNA Binding Proteins in the Mammalian Cell Cycle"; Richard Miller, M.D., Ph.D., "T Cell Dysfunction in Aging Mice: Role of a Novel Lymphokine"; Monica Peacocke, M.D., a research instructor in dermatology, "Ubiquitin Conjugation and Proteolysis in Cultured Human Keratinocytes"; Oon Tian Tan, M.D., an assistant professor of dermatology, "Selective Tissue Targeting Using Pulsed Laser Irradiation"; Douglas D. Taylor, Ph.D., an assistant professor of microbiology, "Purification of Tumor-Derived Macrophage Ia Inhibitor and Its Mechanism of Action"; Douglas L. Tillotson, Ph.D., an assistant professor of physiology, "The Role of Intracellular Ca^{++} in Programmed Cell Death During the Development of the Nematode *Caenorhabditis elegans*"; Jonathan Wright, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine, "The Structural Basis of Human Myeloperoxidase Heterogeneity."

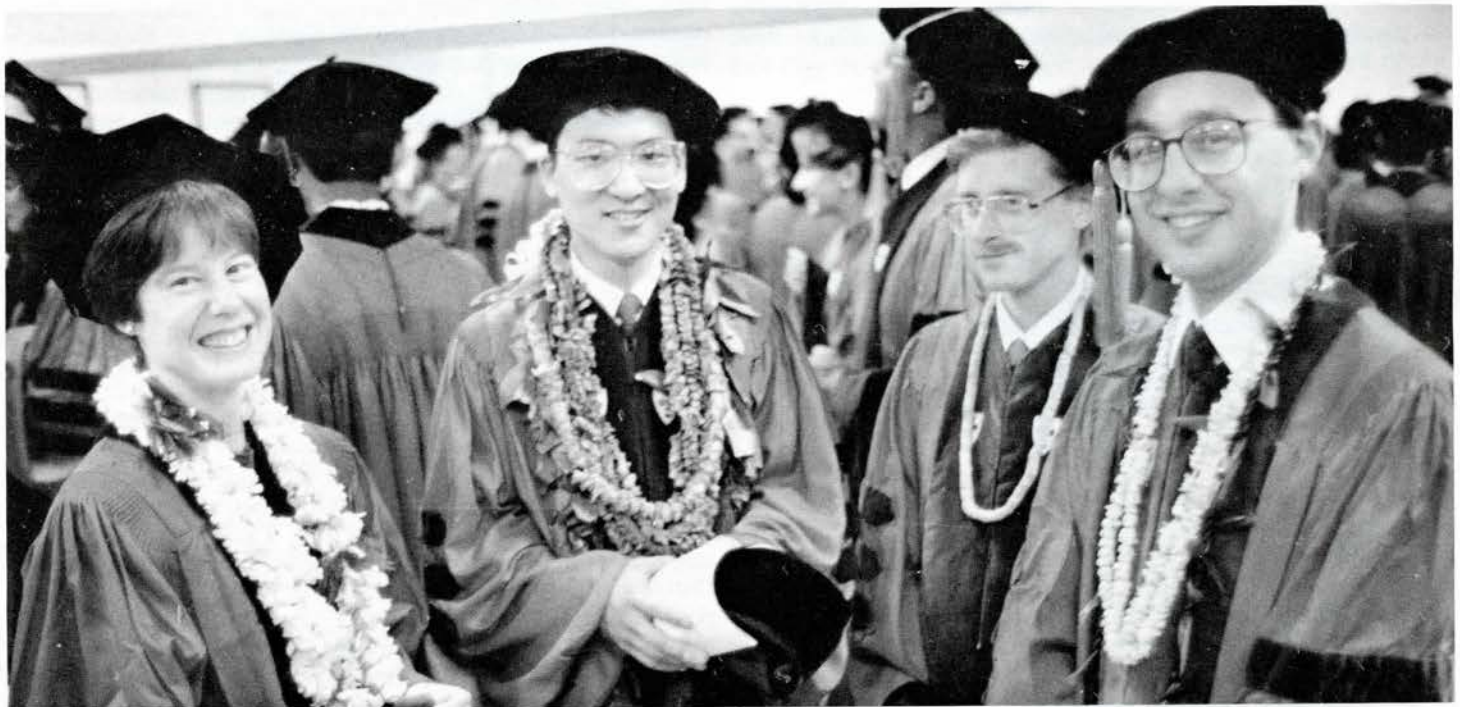
BUSM Commencement Ceremonies



ROBING--Seniors Laura Prager, left, and Lorraine Potocki were two of the 59 women who received the Doctor of Medicine degree on May 17.

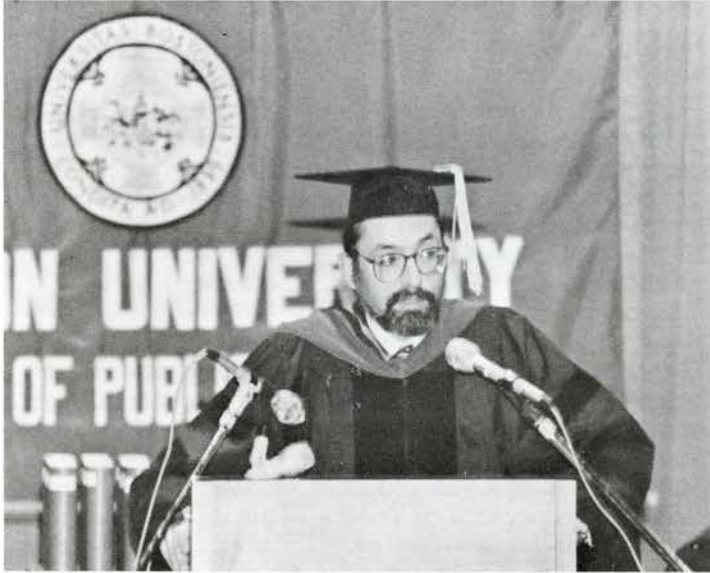


THOUGHTFUL DISCUSSION--Leonard Gottlieb, M.D., left, chairman of the Department of Pathology, Elihu Schimmel, M.D., center, a professor of medicine, and Marvin Bacaner, M.D., '53, a member of the BUSM Board of Visitors and a professor of physiology at the University of Minneapolis, are engaged in conversation before commencement. Bacaner's son, Tobias, received his M.D. degree at the ceremony.

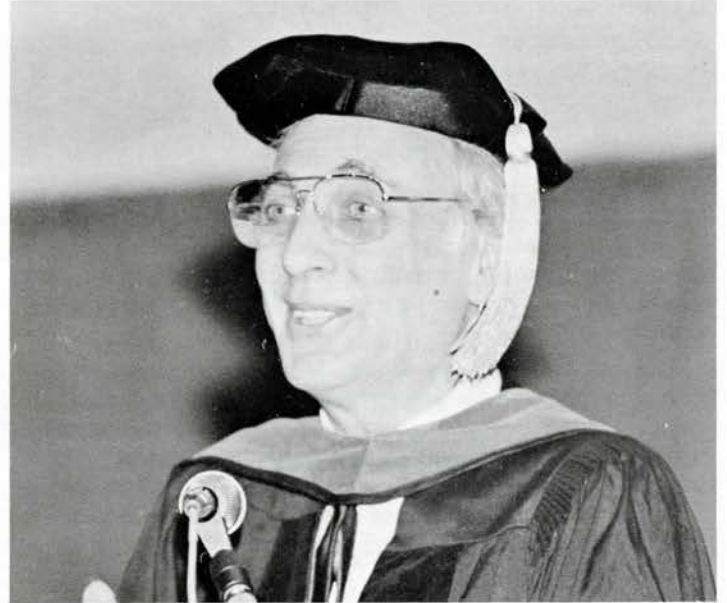


BEFORE THE CEREMONIES--Shown before the commencement ceremonies are, from left to right, Laurie Radovsky, David Koh, Gary Rodberg and Bruce Sands. (BUSM commencement photos by Bradford F. Herzog)

SPH Graduation Ceremonies



TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES--David Ozonoff, M.D., M.P.H., chief of the Environmental Health Section at the School of Public Health, delivers the commencement address at the SPH Class Day ceremonies in May.



ADDRESSING GRADUATES--Norman Scotch, Ph.D., director of the School of Public Health, says a few words at the SPH graduation ceremony.



CLASS PHOTO--The School of Public Health Class of 1987 get together one last time after the commencement ceremony for a group picture. (SPH commencement photos by Gustav Freedman)

Hobson speaks on problems posed by carotid artery blockages

Speaking about the dilemma doctors face over the treatment of carotid blockages, Robert Hobson II, M.D., the James B. Utley Professor of Surgery and chairman of the Division of Surgery at the School of Medicine, and surgeon-in-chief at the University Hospital, recently addressed about 60 medical professionals at the Ohio Heart Institute. Hobson, who heads a federal committee investigating the issue, said that the difficulty lies in deciding whether or not to surgically remove the blockage, a costly procedure, or simply sit back and monitor the problem, a risky option that could lead to a stroke.

Hobson, citing the nationwide VA hospital study, said that if the blockage is greater than 50 percent, measured linearly, then surgery is a wise step. But even the newest techniques cannot accurately determine the extent of blockage. The purpose of the five-year study, he said, is to determine whether the risk of a stroke in a patient with a partially blocked carotid artery is greater than the risk of postoperative complications. The results Hobson spoke of are preliminary; the study won't be completed for another three years.

School of Medicine researchers receive seed grants in cancer research

Four investigators at the School of Medicine were awarded research support through an American Cancer Society Institutional Grant Program, according to Herbert Wotiz, Ph.D., director of the Humphrey Cancer Research Center. The Program, headed by Hugues J.-P. Ryser, M.D., Ph.D., a professor of pathology, and administered by the Humphrey Center, is University wide and awards up to \$6,000 to initiate new projects in cancer research.

The awardees and their research topics are the following: Roy Levine, Ph.D., an assistant research professor of biochemistry, "The Role of PDGF Inducible Genes in Proto-Oncogene Expression and Cell Proliferation"; James Panek, Ph.D., an assistant professor of chemistry at the College of Liberal Arts, "Enantioskeletal Approach to Antitumor Agents"; Kieran Sheahan, M.D., a teaching fellow in pathology, "Biochemical and Immunohistochemical Analyses of Thiol Cathepsin B in Human Colorectal Carcinoma"; and Don Stromquist, M.D., fellow in rheumatology, "Immunotherapy of Ia+ and Ia- Tumor Cells with L374+ Inducer T Cell Clones."

According to Ryser, this Institutional Grant Program has an excellent chance of being renewed for the next two years and the next deadline for submission of applications is October 1, 1987. Information about eligibility can be obtained from the Humphrey Center (638-4175) or from Ryser (L-804, 638-4503).

School of Medicine hosts program on new technologies

Daniel S. Bernstein, M.D., associate dean for resources and director of the School's Office of Industrial Liaison, recently hosted a program on new technologies being developed at the School. A number of corporate executives attended the program.

The conference, held in the Hiebert Lounge, featured presentations by six faculty members: David Faxon, M.D., an associate professor of medicine, spoke about laser angioplasty; Jordan Fishman, Ph.D., an assistant research professor of biochemistry, presented "Calhibin, a New Regulator of Hormone Receptors in Liver and Muscle"; Carl Franzblau, Ph.D., chairman of the Department of Biochemistry, spoke on "The Use of Hydrogels in Immunodiagnosis"; John Groopman, Ph.D., an associate professor of public health and deputy chief of environmental health, presented "Chemoprotection of Aflatoxin B1 Induced Hepatic Tumorigenesis by Dietary Antioxidants"; Michael Osband, M.D., an associate professor of pediatrics and director of the Clinical Immunotherapy Program, spoke on "Autolymphocyte Therapy"; and Joseph Vitale, M.D., associate dean for international programs and professor of pathology, socio-medical sciences and community medicine (nutrition), presented "A New Agent for the Treatment of Moles and Seborrhic Keratoses" and "Nutrients as Adjuvants to Enhance Immune Function."

AIDS, birth defects among topics of epidemiology press briefing

Heart disease, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) and cancer were among the topics discussed when BUSM and SPH faculty members met with 23 members of the news media at a recent press briefing on epidemiology. Topics covered included heart-disease risk factors, stroke, birth defects and current research efforts on AIDS, diethylstilbestrol (DES) mothers and daughters, and head and neck cancer. The meeting culminated with a panel discussion on the impact of epidemiology on the way we live.

The half-day program was coordinated by the Office of Media Relations, which is directed by Kate Nixon. Speakers included Theodore Colton, Sc.D., a professor of socio-medical sciences and chief of the Section of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the School of Public Health (SPH); Donald Craven, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine and epidemiologist at Boston City Hospital; William Kannel, M.D., M.P.H., a professor of medicine and an adjunct professor of public health, chief of the Section of Preventive Medicine and Epidemiology at the University Hospital and a former director of the Framingham Heart Study; George Lamb, M.D., director of community health, City of Boston, and a professor of pediatrics and public health; Allen Mitchell, M.D., associate director of the Slone Epidemiology Unit and an associate professor of epidemiol-

ogy; Marianne Prout, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine; Lynn Rosenberg, Sc.D., assistant director of the Slone Unit and an associate professor of epidemiology; Norman A. Scotch, Ph.D., director of SPH; George R. Seage, M.P.H., AIDS epidemiologist for the city's Department of Health and Hospitals and Ph.D. candidate at SPH; Joseph Stokes III, M.D., principal investigator of the Framingham Heart Study and a professor of medicine; and Philip Wolf, M.D., principal investigator of the Framingham Stroke Study and a professor of neurology.

School of Medicine employees honored at Service Recognition Dinner

A number of BUSM employees were honored by Boston University at the annual Service Recognition Dinner held Thursday, May 7, in the George Sherman Union ballroom.

The following people are retiring from the School:

Ruth M. Batson, M.E.D., Richard D. Bush, M.D., John J. Byrne, M.D., John L. Casali, M.D., Constance C. Cornog, M.D., John A. Date, Charles P. Emerson, M.D., Theodore H. Ingalls, M.D., Herbert D. Klein, Philip Kramer, M.D., Alexander Matoltsy, M.D., Donald C. Nabseth, M.D., Charles Pinderhughes, M.D., Elaine Pinderhughes, M.S.S.W., Melvin Rosenthal, Ph.D., Karl Schmid, Ph.D., Gaudencio Torrejon, George W. Waring, M.D., Dorothy M. Williams and Herbert Wotiz, Ph.D.

Norman G. Levinsky, M.D., and Charles W. Vaughan, M.D., were recognized for 25 years of service. The following were honored for 10 years of service: Eileen Barbuto, Eva Belur, Ellen M. Berkowitz, Ph.D., Eddie L. Burrell, Caroline A. Crescenzi, Stanley Ducharme Jr., Ph.D., Pamela J. Edmonston, Janina R. Galler, M.D., Vicki J. Glenn, Ferenc I. Harosi, Ph.D., Christian Haudenschild, M.D., Virginia M. Holladay, Eddie J. Jackson, John Jainchill, M.D., Norine G. Johnson, Ph.D., Angela Kankam, Kenneth H. Kaplan, M.D., David W. Kaufman, M.Sc., Anita C. King, Daniel M. Kovnat, M.D., Irving M. Levine, M.D., Aubrey Lieberman, M.B.B.C.H., Susan A. Mahair, Barry J. Make, M.D., Richard Mandel, Ph.D., Mary T. McCarthy, Linda A. Mellen, Allan R. Meyers, M.D., Clyde A. Niles, M.B.Ch.B., Anna L. Paige, Srecko Pogacar, M.D., Marianne N. Prout, M.D., William F. Rich, Neil B. Ruderman, M.D., D.Phil., Thomas D. Sabin, M.D., Wei-Chiang Shen, Ph.D., Gerald Sweet, Ph.D., Charles Terrell, Charles P. Tift, M.D., Diana C. Walsh, Ph.D., Laura F. Wexler, M.D., Jean Wilkins, and Barry S. Zuckerman, M.D.

Fourth-year School of Medicine students tour Soviet Union

Five fourth-year School of Medicine students traveled to Moscow on May 25 to learn more about the Soviet medical community. Anne Fine, Michelle Hankins, Neal Hoffman, David Kriegel and Laurel Wills were among 15 American medical students making the three-week trip. "The crux of

the visit was cultural," said Hoffman, who explained that the students also attended the Seventh World Congress of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) held in Moscow this year. The trip was sponsored by Physicians for Social Awareness, the American affiliate of IPPNW. Hoffman requested that *News & Notes* readers submit questions about Soviet medicine for an essay the group plans to write. Readers are invited to send inquiries to *News & Notes* at the Office of Informational Service, DOB-600 (720 Harrison Ave., Boston, MA. 02118).

Upcoming CME courses

Tunable Dye Laser will be held June 27 and 28 in the Department of Dermatology at the School of Medicine. The course director is Oon Tian Tan, M.D., an assistant professor of dermatology. The workshop is designed to provide information and hands-on experience using the yellow light laser for the treatment of benign cutaneous vascular lesions

Endoscopic Laser Therapy, a course designed to introduce the practicing physician to the field of laser therapy, will be held July 9 through 11 at the Westin Hotel in Copley Place. Joseph Pietrafitta, M.D., an instructor in surgery, and Desmond Birkett, M.D., an associate professor of surgery, are course co-directors.

Briefly Noted

J. Scott Abercrombie Jr., M.D., a clinical professor of pathology and medicine at BUSM and president of the University Hospital, has been elected a member-at-large to the American Society of Clinical Pathologists (ASCP) Board of Directors. A member of the ASCP since 1962, Abercrombie will serve a three-year term as one of 15 members on the ASCP board....**Theodore Colton, Sc.D.**, a professor of public health at the School of Public Health, recently was a panelist at a National Institutes of Health conference on platelet transfusion therapy....**Robert J. Krane, M.D., F.A.C.S.**, chairman of the Department of Urology, wrote an overview of recent advances in urology for the January 1987 issue of the *Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons*....The December issue of *Clinics in Chest Medicine* featured two articles by **Barry J. Make, M.D.**, an associate professor of medicine at BUSM and director of UH's Respiratory Care Center (RCC). The articles were entitled "Pulmonary Rehabilitation: Myth or Reality?" and "Rehabilitation and Home Care for Ventilator-Assisted Individuals." The latter article was co-authored by **Mary E. Gilmartin, R.N., R.R.T.**, associate director of the RCC....**Joseph J. Pietrafitta, M.D.**, an instructor in surgery at BUSM, was recently certified by the American Board of Laser Surgery. Pietrafitta also was appointed to serve on the board for the purpose of conducting written and oral examinations of candidates applying for board certification....**Deborah Prothrow-Stith, M.D.**, an assistant professor

of medicine at BUSM, recently spoke at the Massachusetts Conference on Violence and Public Health, sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the Departments of Corrections, Social Services and Youth Services, Boston University School of Social Work, the state's Office of Victim Assistance/Norfolk County District Attorney's Office and the Office of Minority Health, U.S. Public Health

Service....**Howard R. Smith, M.D.**, an assistant professor of medicine, recently spoke in Bethesda, Md., on "Lymphocyte Cell Surface Immunophenotypes in Angioimmunoblastic Lymphadenopathy (AILD)" at the Combined Clinical Staff Conference on AILD, which was sponsored by the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, NIH.

News & Notes is a publication of the Office of Informational Services. If you have news of interest to the BUSM community, please contact editor Cynthia Koury, x8482 (638-8482) or write to her at the Office of Informational Services, DOB-600 (720 Harrison Ave., Boston, MA 02118). Marge Dwyer is managing editor.

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