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Boston University



**Boston
University
Medical
Campus**

October 1992 Vol. 4 No. 8

United Way giving campaign gets under way

Mobilization of Universitywide participation in the 1992 United Way Campaign gets under way this month, with Boston University fund-raising coordinators gearing up for action. This year's goal is to raise \$150,000. Participants exceeded this goal in 1991, raising over \$167,000.

The official start of the University's campaign is the "Kick-off Breakfast" for all volunteer coordinators, which will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 8, at 8:30 a.m., in the East Balcony of the George Sherman Union on the Charles River Campus. The new president of the Massachusetts Bay United Way, Marian L. Heard, will be the keynote speaker. Information and materials regarding the 1992 campaign will be distributed at the breakfast.

The Medical Campus' coordinators will participate in their own campaign commencement with a breakfast meeting on Thursday, Oct. 15, in the Hiebert Lounge. The Rev. Robert Watts Thornburg, dean of the chapel of Boston University and Boston University's United Way coordinator, will host the meeting. Speakers from local United Way agencies will be featured and questions regarding the campaign will be addressed by a United Way representative.

Campaign

continued on page 2

**Interested in quitting
smoking?**

See page 4.

Campus UPDATE

BUSM faculty address domestic-violence issue

October is "Domestic Violence Awareness Month," a time being used by the Massachusetts Medical Society to heighten awareness in the medical and lay communities about the severity and frequency of domestic abuse. At the School of Medicine, members of the faculty are working to bring the issue more deeply into the classroom and clinical work settings.

Required instruction on domestic violence is being considered for inclusion in the curriculum, and an elective seminar course already has been implemented. "Boston University is one of only a few schools in the Northeast to offer this kind of instruction," said Elaine Alpert, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine, assistant dean of student affairs and the chairperson of the Massachusetts Medical Society's Ad Hoc Committee on Domestic Violence. "Most medical schools offer absolutely nothing



Karen Freund, M.D., and Elaine Alpert, M.D., both assistant professors of medicine, are leading the effort to integrate domestic-violence studies into the School's curriculum.

at all on domestic violence."

Alpert and Karen Freund, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine, the director of the Evans Medical Group's Women's Health Group and a member of the Society's ad hoc committee, are amongst the authors of a paper on domestic violence being pub-

lished by the ad hoc committee this fall. Both women have been working with several other BUSM faculty members to expand the School's curriculum on domestic violence, and said they

Domestic violence
continued on page 4

Meenan to become new head of School of Public Health

Robert F. Meenan, M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A., director of the Section of Arthritis at the School of Medicine, Boston University Medical Center/The University Hospital and Boston City Hospital, will step down from these posts on Nov. 1 to become the new director of Boston University School of Public Health, and the chairperson of the Department of Socio-Medical Sciences at the School. He will succeed Norman A. Scotch, Ph.D., who announced his retirement this past spring.

Meenan, a national leader in rheumatology and health-care re-

search, has dedicated much of his career to studying and improving the quality of life for arthritis patients. He recently completed a one-year term as president of the American College of Rheumatology, and is a member of the National Institutes of Health's National Arthritis Advisory Board. He was elected to membership in the American Society for Clinical Investigation in 1990.

Meenan received his M.D., degree *cum laude* from the School of Medicine in 1972, his M.P.H., from the University of California at Berkeley in 1977 and his

M.B.A. from the School of Management in 1989. □



Robert F. Meenan, M.D., M.P.H.

Taking precautions can help to deter the threat of crime

The beginning of a new academic year, with a new student population and the decreasing daylight hours, is a good time for a reminder of some basic security pointers. Medical Campus Office of Security Director Dick Natoli urges people to take some minor precautions that could play a major role in their safety.

• In the office:

Be aware of unidentified people in your work area and immediately notify the Medical Campus Office of Security of their presence if they behave suspiciously.

Keep an eye on possessions. Thefts of pocketbooks, leather coats and dental equipment, such as handpieces, is not uncommon in the ever-public Medical Center. Keep offices locked when they are not in use, and inscribe valu-

able equipment with an engraving tool supplied by the Medical Campus Office of Security.

Lock your door when you leave your office, or when working alone in the evening.

• When walking on Campus or leaving the grounds in the dark, take the following precautions:

Walk with someone whenever possible.

Use the Medical Center escort service, which can be requested by calling 638-4568 (x4568).

Avoid isolated areas and stay near streetlights when walking.

Park in well-lit areas; parking lots often are safer than streets.

Avoid shortcuts, such as alleyways or parks.

Be aware of people around

you; hold purses securely.

Don't carry heavy bags, in order to avoid the possibility of being immobilized.

Carry wallets in front pockets and don't flaunt expensive jewelry.

During the evening, students and employees should take the escort shuttle bus to parking Lots A and C and the Broadway Station of the MBTA. This service, provided by the Medical Center, is available at the BUMC/TUH Atrium Pavilion on East Newton St. from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. on weekdays and at all hours during the weekends and holidays.

In addition, on a trial basis, a weekday evening shuttle service is being run from the Atrium Pavilion to the Green and Orange "T" lines, from 7 p.m. to mid-

night, every half hour. (The departure schedule for this shuttle may be altered slightly, so please take note of any advisories regarding a change in the schedule.)

• When driving home:

Check to see if anyone is in your car before you get into it.

Lock car doors when driving.

Don't stop your car to pick up strangers.

Stay alert and report any criminal or suspicious activity to the Medical Campus Office of Security at its emergency number: 638-5000 (x5000). For standard communication with the office, call 638-4568 (x4568). The security office is located on the basement level of 609 Albany St.

Contributions to United Way directly touch people's lives

Campaign

continued from page 1



United Way
of Massachusetts Bay

"We know that the School of Medicine will once again lead the University in showing its support of United Way," said School of Medicine Dean Aram V. Chobanian. "The needs are great and we hope to have full participation."

Each year, thousands of people are helped through United Way contributions. Last year, more than 300,000 people were assisted by family counseling, AIDS education and cancer research. Another 125,000 people received emergency food, clothing and housing, while 61,000 victims of physical abuse and neglect were provided with counseling and emergency shelter. (See related story, page 1)

In addition to providing assistance in these areas, the United Way of Massachusetts Bay has in-

cluded three new initiatives, concerning HIV/AIDS, child care and housing needs. The three main agencies provided with funding from the HIV/AIDS initiative are AIDS Action, Latino Health Network and Multicultural AIDS Coalition. There are 20 other agencies that also receive funding under this initiative. The child-care initiative is intended to develop and improve facilities and provide quality and affordable day-care service. Under the housing initiative, 3,200 housing units have been completed.

Participants may contribute to the United Way in three ways. They may donate to the "community care" pool, which is the general fund of money to which the 204 agencies apply for support. They may specify that a donation be given to a particular type of community care, such as programs dealing with the elderly, with children and youth or with substance abuse. They also may donate money to "specific care," in which the donor requests that a donation go to one of the specific organizations under the United Way umbrella.

This annual employee-giving campaign, conducted by United

Way of Massachusetts Bay, provides funding for 204 agencies in Eastern Massachusetts. Last year's stockpile of funds was made through contributions from 200,000 donors at 2,500 companies and by another 3,000 individuals solicited through the mail.

Any questions regarding the United Way Campaign should be directed to *departmental* volunteer coordinators or Diana Lehman, in the dean's office of the School of Medicine, at 638-5300 (x5300). □

University network broadens capability

The recent completion of cable wiring in most Medical Campus buildings has given many offices here the capability to connect to Boston University's computer network on the Charles River Campus, thus vastly expanding the Medical Campus' capabilities. To actually access this network, minor additions must be made to individual offices' computer systems first, which will entail a budgetary cost. The connection enables faculty and staff to better access University Information Systems (UIS), the University's administrative computer. Administrative systems also can be accessed by use of a PC and a modem.

On-line access to financial information can be obtained through a system called GALAXY, which enables users to view information about accounts payable, payroll and grants, as well as to enter weekly time sheets on-line. For example, a user can view payroll detail by employee or account number, view detailed information on issued purchase orders, determine the status of processed invoices and view charges to grants well in advance of receiving printed information.

In November, UIS will present a demonstration of the GALAXY system at the Medical Campus. Information about the time and location of the seminar will be distributed. For further information about connecting to the Campus network, contact the Medical Campus Office of Information Technology, at 638-8854 (x8854). For information about access to UIS, contact the Medical Campus Office of Financial Affairs, at 638-4588 (x4588).



Joseph T. Ferrucci Jr., M.D.

Ferrucci named chairperson of radiology

Joseph T. Ferrucci Jr., M.D., has succeeded Jerome Shapiro, M.D., as the chairperson of the Department of Radiology at the School of Medicine, radiologist-in-chief of the Department of Radiology at the Boston University Medical Center/The University Hospital and director of radiology at Boston City Hospital.

A distinguished academician, Ferrucci came to Boston University Medical Center from Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, with which he was associated for 22 years, most recently as a professor of radiology. He graduated *cum laude* from Tufts University School of Medicine in 1963. He completed his residency training at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and Massachusetts General Hospital.

Ferrucci is the author of hundreds of articles and has been a visiting professor at medical schools throughout the world. He also has been president of the American Society of Gastrointestinal Radiologists and of the International Society of Biliary Radiology. He recently received the Walter B. Cannon Medal of the Society of Gastrointestinal Radiologists. □

Medical Campus welcomes two key administrators: Newell & Snowdon

The Medical Campus recently welcomed two new administrators to its senior administrative staff in the Offices of Development and Personnel. Dorothy S. Newell has assumed the responsibilities of assistant vice president and director of development. She has replaced former director Herbert C. Tobin. In the Medical Campus Office of Personnel, George T. Snowdon has assumed the role of assistant director of personnel.

Newell comes to the Medical Campus from Harvard Medical School, where she served as director of development from 1990. She worked for five years prior to that in a variety of other development positions there. Looking to-

ward her new challenge, she said, "I am delighted to be here at such a creative and dynamic period in the Medical Campus' history."

Snowdon comes from Ionics Inc. of Watertown, where he served as assistant director of personnel in the corporate headquarters. He said he looks forward to getting involved in employee-relations activities and taking the opportunity "to get out on Campus and meet people in all the different departments." He also noted his excitement about the "dynamic opportunity" to be involved in the development of BioSquare, and the positive effects it will have on employees of the Medical Campus. □



Dorothy S. Newell



George T. Snowdon

Center for Human Genetics notes 10th anniversary with symposium

The School of Medicine's Center for Human Genetics expected to celebrate its 10th anniversary on Wednesday, Sept. 30, by hosting a symposium on genetic research and its clinical applications. The daylong event was expected to include internationally recognized physicians and scientists from such institutions as the Johns Hopkins University and Harvard Medical School.

The occasion was intended to

serve as a forum for presenting the most recent advances in genetic research that apply directly to clinical practice, and for demonstrating the evolution of basic science observations to genetic diagnosis and gene therapy. Lead by the director of the Center for Human Genetics, Aubrey Milunsky, M.D., D.Sc., seven other BUSM faculty were scheduled to give updates on clinically relevant aspects of their work. □

Parking update

- Some construction work will be done in Lot A West during the coming month, including paving and the erection of 15 telephone poles for lighting. Employees will be notified in advance when this work is scheduled.
- Parking space remains available for employees in the Star Brush Lot and the Harrison Court parking lot. □

BUMC volunteers gear up to show "Boston Can Share"

BUMC's "Boston Can Share" committee of volunteers met last week to gear up for an all-out effort to make this fall's drive for canned foods the best ever. They're going into the effort with enthusiasm, fueled by the generous response demonstrated by employees last year.

"Last year gave us an entirely new lease on this effort," said Jim Chalmers, an employee-relations representative in the Medical Campus Office of Personnel, and the leader of the drive. "We jumped from 600 cans collected in 1990 to 1,600 cans in 1991. This fall we're hoping to surpass even that number."

The citywide campaign, sponsored by the City of Boston, will run from Oct. 26 through Nov. 13. The intent of the food drive is to fill the shelves of more than 250 emergency food pantries and soup kitchens throughout eastern Massachusetts just prior to the holiday season. All of the donated food is distributed through the nonprofit Boston Food Bank.

The cans and boxes of donated food should be nonperishable.

Can drop-off locations:

- Lobby of the Instructional Building
- Lobby of the Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry
- The Atrium-Evans Bridge in BUMC/The University Hospital

Confocal scope available for use at Medical Center

The School of Medicine now has one of two confocal laser scanning microscopes in Boston. The microscope is available for use by all faculty, staff and students of Boston University, BUMC or other area academic institutions who have a demonstrated need for its use and are willing to pay a fee. Users must be trained in the equipment's use or be willing to be trained at the School.

Charges for use of the microscope will be \$160 for each four-hour session billed individually, or

10 sessions for \$1,200; 22 sessions for \$2,400; or 34 sessions for \$3,600, paid in advance.

For more information, contact:

Kathy Svoboda, Ph.D., Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, at 638-4123 (x4123); Vickery Trinkhaus-Randall, Ph.D., Departments of Ophthalmology and Biochemistry, at 638-5099 (x5099); or Douglas A. Cotanche, Ph.D., Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, at 638-4530 (x4530).

BUSM to enlighten students about domestic violence

Domestic violence

continued from page 1

have won the support and enthusiasm of their colleagues.

"We're currently developing a curriculum that will be integrated into courses at least during the first three years of medical school and that will provide an option for an independent study during the fourth year," said Alpert. "We're not talking about offering a stand-alone course called 'Domestic Violence.' The information and instruction on this subject are going to be woven deeply into the curriculum."

As women, Alpert and Freund share an inherent empathy for the primary victims of domestic violence—other women. As primary-care physicians, the two share the belief that all doctors have not only the opportunity but the responsibility to help ensure that women are safe at home.

To carry out this obligation, says Alpert, physicians must know what a patient's legal and medical options are, and then be willing to discuss them with her or him. "Physicians have never been taught that domestic violence is in part a medical problem, and that

they not only have a right but an obligation to recognize and act upon it" said Alpert. "It's not the doctor's job to take care of the entire problem alone, but it is the doctor's job to identify and determine the risk to his or her patient."

A study published this past summer in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* showed that, unlike Alpert and Freund, many physicians are reluctant to intervene in cases of domestic violence, even when there is clear-cut evidence of abuse. "This is not a problem like a sore throat, where the doctor can provide a prescription and cure the problem," said Freund. "Domestic violence is really a social problem and while physicians cannot 'cure' it, they can provide support, information and referrals to help their patients deal with the problem."

This month, the Massachusetts Medical Society plans to send the Commonwealth's 14,500 physicians educational materials on how best to deal with the problem. Focusing its attention on prospective physicians, as well, the society plans to send the materials to 5,500 Massachusetts medical students.

Smoking-ending program coincides with "Great American Smokeout"

Orientation for the next session of the Medical Campus' smoking-cessation program will be held on Thursday, Nov. 19, coinciding with the annual "Great American Smokeout" event, held nationwide.

On the day of the Great American Smokeout, smokers throughout the United States will attempt not to smoke for at least that one day. The Medical Campus Office of Personnel, meanwhile, will initiate its seven-session Freedom from Smoking program, designed by the American Lung Association. The office already has sponsored two sessions during the last year.

The program is lead by ex-smoker Sandy Platt, an employee-relations representative in the Office of Personnel. One meeting is held each week. A mailing with further information about the program will be sent to employees in early November. A fee of \$20, to be paid at the orientation meeting, will cover the cost of materials supplied by the American Lung Association. If you are interested in participating in the program, contact Sandy Platt at 638-4610 (x4610).

Free flu vaccine offered

With flu season fast approaching, the Employee Health Service of Boston University Medical Center will offer free flu vaccinations to employees beginning later this month. The vaccine will be administered on Wednesday, Oct. 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., on the H-2 bridge, as part of a health-promotion series offered by employee health. After that day, the vaccine will be available through employee health in the Occupational Health Clinic on Old Evans 2 (D-2), while supplies last.

EMTs always ready to respond to medical emergencies on Campus

Four Medical Campus Office of Security employees are certified Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), and can be summoned by calling x5000 (638-5000). The EMTs are trained to administer first-response medical care to individuals in an emergency. When the security office is contacted about a medical occurrence, the

EMTs are dispatched to the scene of the emergency while office personnel call 911, the city's emergency number, to request a medical transport vehicle.

The certified EMTs are Sgt. Connie Packard, Sgt. Brian Raymond, Off. Andrew Corbett and Off. Albert McKenzie.

October Specials

October 5-16: Under the Apple Tree

Enjoy a variety of apple treats to welcome this fresh, new season.

October 19-30: Soup Sorcery

Warms you up when the weather cools down.

School of Medicine, Basement Level

Open Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Friday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Points and cash accepted.

