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1985-06

# BUSM News & Notes: June 1985 no. 88

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*Boston University*

# News & Notes

Boston University School of Medicine



June 1985  
Issue #88

## PHYSICIANS AS TEACHERS SUBJECT OF McCAHAN ADDRESS

In addition to providing patient care and advancing medical knowledge, physicians often are obliged to assume the role of teacher--even as they themselves continue to learn, Associate Dean John McCahan, M.D., told the graduating class at the 113th School of Medicine commencement ceremonies, held May 19 in the Case Center Gymnasium on the Charles River Campus.

"Your community and your patients will see you as an educator," said McCahan. "In carrying out that role, you are in a unique position to perceive society in all its complexity, to serve your patients with sensitivity, to apply knowledge and technology with wisdom and to pull together the promises of our intellectual heritage."

While McCahan exhorted the 148 graduating students to take up the role of teacher, student speaker William Raszka Jr. '85 reminded classmates that as physicians they should always be open to what can be learned about the world and human nature from their patients. Illustrating his points with personal stories of encounters with patients during his years at BUSM, Raszka said, "No other profession offers the opportunity to meet such a variety of people. The trust and faith people place in us can be staggering...[but] faith, trust and responsibility are what make the practice of medicine so fantastic."

Forty-three graduates received prizes and awards at the 1985 Class Day exercises. Robert Fishman, Mary Lalakea and Satish Mulukutla graduated summa cum laude, the largest number of such honors ever awarded in one class at BUSM. David Kelley and Elise Pyun graduated magna cum laude, and 10 other class members graduated cum laude. The 100 men and 48 women graduates represented 18 states, with 54 from Massachusetts. Thirty-eight graduates were enrolled in the Six-Year Program and another 14 were MMEDIC students. Four graduates received the combined M.D.-Ph.D. degree. Also at the ceremonies, Richard F. Hoyt, Ph.D., an associate professor of anatomy, received the Stanley L. Robbins Award for Excellence in Teaching.

## ANNAS URGES SPH GRADS TO FACE 'DRAGONS' OF THE 80s

Unlike the 15th century mapmakers who created mythical dragons to represent the limits of their knowledge of the world, today's public health professionals are confronted with "real dragons, ranging from nuclear weapons to air and water pollution, from racism to crime, from poverty to malnutrition," according to George Annas, J.D., M.P.H., the Edward Utley Professor of Public Health (health law) at the School of Public Health.

Annas warned the 94 School of Public Health graduates and their guests at the commencement exercises May 19 that "as public health professionals, we must confront these dragons directly, with knowledge, courage and planning," and cautioned the graduates that they will also need the "intellectual honesty and toughness to plan and regulate technological advances in a manner consistent with fundamental human values."

Also at the ceremonies, held at the School of Fine Arts Concert Hall, student speaker Clifton Aube Sabati of Namibia spoke about the inequality of public-health measures under the apartheid system of racial segregation in South Africa. "If you believe in public health, you have to believe in social justice," said Sabati. "Where the intent of the government is to subjugate the people, public-health measures will not make any difference in the lives of a country's citizens."

The 1985 graduating class is the largest yet to graduate from the School of Public Health since it was designated a School within the School of Medicine in 1979.

ALUMNI WEEKEND FEATURES  
AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS

The presentation of Distinguished Alumnus Awards and scientific papers were among the highlights of the 110th School of Medicine

Alumni Weekend, held May 10 and 11 in Boston. Bernard Lown, M.D., founder and first president of Physicians for Social Responsibility, was the guest speaker at the BUSM Alumni Association's Annual Meeting and Banquet, held Saturday night at the 57 Restaurant.

In his speech on "The Moral Imperative Confronting Physicians," Lown, who also is president of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, spoke about the role physicians can play in informing the public about the realities of nuclear war. "In the brief time of our existence [the IPPNW], we have helped penetrate the fog of denial and persuaded millions of people to confront, for the first time, the unthinkable reality of nuclear war," he said.

Also during the evening, Andrew B. Crummy '55, a professor of radiology at the University of Wisconsin; Job E. Fuchs '44, director of the Lane Health Center at Northeastern University; Carl A. Olsson '63, former chairman of the Department of Urology at BUSM and now the John K. Lattimer Professor and chairman of the Department of Urology at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons; and Philip E. Sartwell '32, a professor emeritus of epidemiology at Johns Hopkins University, were each presented Distinguished Alumnus awards. Alice T. Marston, Ph.D., an associate professor emerita of microbiology, who was unable to attend the event, was given a special award in recognition of her many contributions to BUSM. Marston taught at the School from 1928 to 1967.

A morning scientific program included a talk by Jacob Swartz Visiting Professor Robert Michels, M.D., the Berklie McKee Henry professor and chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at Cornell University Medical College, on "Psychoanalysis and the University." Scientific papers were presented by members of the Class of 1960. A luncheon was held in the Hiebert Lounge where special mementos were presented to members of the Classes of '30 and '35, after which, student-led tours of the School were conducted and class pictures were taken.

DIMENSION TRAINING BEGINS  
AS SWITCHOVER DATE NEARS

Training on the use of Dimension 2000, the Medical Center's new telecommunication system, began June 3 for selected School of Medicine personnel. Departmental mailcode coordinators, who have been designated to receive the training, will be training other BUSM faculty and staff at their work stations the week of June 10. Employees will be informed of their new telephone numbers at this time, according to Edwin Stedman, director of Security and Telecommunications at BUMC. The switchover to Dimension is scheduled for Friday, June 28.

According to Stedman, the new system is needed because the current telephone system has reached the limits of its capacity and capabilities. With Dimension, you will be able to: forward any incoming call to another Medical Center phone, not just those calls coming from outside the Center; put a call on hold while consulting with another party at another extension and then rejoin the original caller; and have your phone automatically call you back when the extension you have been trying to reach becomes free.

All BUMC numbers will be changing soon, a matter that should be kept in mind if you are planning to order any new stationery, business cards, brochures or other material bearing your office phone numbers(s). Postcards will be made available so that you can notify patients and others with whom you are in regular telephone communication of the change.

1985-1986 WHITAKER FUND AWARDS  
ANNOUNCED FOR JOINT RESEARCH

The Whitaker Health Sciences Fund of Cambridge, Mass., has awarded a total of \$270,000 for six collaborative biomedical research projects to be conducted jointly by faculty at the School of Medicine and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The grants are for \$36,000 each excluding overhead, which will be covered in a separate payment to the School.

School of Medicine recipients of the Whitaker awards for the 1985-1986 fiscal year are: Rita A. Blanchard, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine and assistant research professor of biochemistry, "The Use of Anti-Idiotypic Antibodies to Investigate the Membrane Binding Properties of Protein C"; George T. Griffing, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine, "Suicide Cytochrome P-540 19-Hydroxylase Inhibitors in Hypertension"; Elinor M. Levy, Ph.D., an associate professor of microbiology, "A Study of the Relation of Immuno-Suppression to Leukemogenesis in the AKR Mouse"; Paul F. Pilch, Ph.D., an associate professor of biochemistry, "Xenobiotic Regulation of the Insulin Receptor"; Judith D. Saide, Ph.D., an associate professor of physiology, "A Genetic Approach to the Molecular Assembly of the Z-Band in the Flight Muscle of Drosophila"; and Vickery Trinkaus-Randall, Ph.D., an assistant research professor of ophthalmology, "Corneal Epithelial Cell Adhesion and Migration."

BUSM FACULTY RECEIVE  
RESEARCH SUPPORT GRANTS

Thirteen School of Medicine faculty members received research support during 1984-85 from a federal Biomedical Research Support Grant to BUSM, according to Edward Pelikan, M.D., professor and chairman of the Department of Pharmacology and chairman of the BUSM Faculty Grants Committee. BRSF funds, which are distributed annually by the National Institutes of Health, are based on an institution's level of federal funding for the previous year.

The awardees and summaries of their research topics are: Judith Campisi, Ph.D., an assistant professor of biochemistry, the Pro-oncogene C-myc; John Dittmer, Ph.D., an associate professor of anatomy, anti-tumor factor from bone marrow; Kenneth Edelin, M.D., chairman and professor of the Department of Obstetrics/Gynecology, in vitro fertilization in mice; Janina Galler, M.D., a professor of psychiatry, somatomedin in previously malnourished children; Richard Goldstein, Ph.D., a professor of public health (environmental health), molecular epidemiology of uropathogenic E. coli; Harold Lazar, M.D., an assistant professor of surgery, myocardial damage during ischemic arrest; Judith Marquis, Ph.D., an associate professor of pharmacology, neurotoxicity of dietary aluminum; Robert Moreland, Ph.D., an assistant research professor of medicine, latch state formation in smooth muscle; Mary Jo Murnane, Ph.D., an assistant professor of pathology, thiol cathepsin in leukemia K562; Javier Navarro, Ph.D., an assistant research professor of physiology, voltage dependent calcium channels; Bertram Payne, Ph.D., an assistant professor of anatomy, interhemispheric connections of extrastriate cortex; Stephen Pelton, M.D., an associate professor of pediatrics, experimental otitis media; and, Glen Zamansky, Ph.D., an assistant professor of microbiology, DNA damage in lupus erythematosus.

Information about BRSR research support and eligibility can be obtained from Pelikan, at L-603, x6113 (247-6113).

BUSM PERSONNEL HONORED  
AT RECOGNITION DINNER

Forty-eight School of Medicine faculty and staff members were honored in April at the annual Boston University Service Recognition Dinner, held at the Charles River Campus. In recognition of retirement were S. Marjorie Hemming, Mary F. Kennedy and Eveleen N. Rexford. In recognition of 25 years of service were Alan S. Cohen, M.D., and James Mann.

Dean Sandson was among those celebrating 10 years at BUSM. Others recognized for a decade of service were: Gaspar W. Anastasi, M.D.; Theresa E. Anderson; Marian R. Bellwood; Henry L. Brown; Jeffrey A. Burke; Aram V. Chobanian, M.D.; Thomas G. Christensen, Ph.D.; Virginia Coleman; Karen E. Cooper; Melvin C. Cornwall, M.D.; Allen F. Crabtree; Arthur J. Culbert, Ph.D.; Marilyn R. Debasitis; Frances J. Devlin; Kenneth C. Edelin, M.D.; Leanne F. Gitell; James F. Head, Ph.D.; Velma O. Hoover, M.S.W.; Herbert W. Jones; Lorraine M. Josof; Eva R. Kashket, Ph.D.; Robert J. Krane, M.D.; Herbert I. Lewis; Frank W. LoGerfo, M.D.; Ophelia James Mall, M.B.B.S.; Owen Mathieu Jr., M.D.; Shirley Morris, Ph.D.; Richard M. Niles, Ph.D.; William J. Packard; Marcos U. Ramos, M.D.; Robert M. Reece, M.D.; Remedios Rosales, M.D.; Phyllis Schiarizzi; Marjorie A. Scott; Jerrold M. Shapiro, Ph.D.; Peter F. Shaw, Ph.D.; Jane L. Shipman; Benjamin S. Siegel, M.D.; James R. Sorenson, Ph.D.; Babette-Ann Stanton, Ph.D.; Charles A. Vaccaro; Judith L. Vaitukaitis, M.D.

BUMC PARTICIPATES IN MAJOR  
BREAST CANCER STUDY

The results of a five-year international study of 1,843 women with breast cancer, combined with data from a companion 10-year study, have revealed that removal of the cancerous tissue only (lumpectomy), followed by radiation treatment, is just as effective as a total mastectomy in treating tumors no larger than four centimeters. In addition, the researchers reported in a recent New England Journal of Medicine article, further radiation therapy significantly decreased the growth of new tumors in the same breast in cases of both local and regional disease.

University Hospital was one of 89 health institutions in the United States, Canada and Australia participating in the National Surgical Adjuvant Breast Project, a study begun in 1976 through support of the National Cancer Institute and the American Cancer Society. Merrill Feldman, M.D., a professor of radiology and director of Radiation Therapy at UH, was principal project investigator for UH.

The results from both studies showed that survival rates for all patients was the same, indicating that women with breast cancer "have various options for treatment without feeling that one is better than the other for survival," according to Feldman.

INDUSTRY REPS ATTEND SYMPOSIUM  
ON CARDIOVASCULAR MEDICINE

Approximately 30 representatives from pharmaceutical and biomedical-products companies attended a symposium in May on cardiovascular medicine, sponsored by the Office of Industrial Liaison at BUSM. Several faculty members from the Department of Medicine presented talks on therapies for the management of heart disease. The conference was organized as part of BUSM's Technology Transfer Program.

Speakers at the conference and their topics included Aram Chobanian, M.D., a professor of medicine and director of the Cardiovascular Institute at BUSM, who spoke on "Anti-Hypertensive Therapy in the Next Decade," and Thomas Ryan, M.D., a professor of medicine and chief of the Department of Cardiology at UH, who addressed "The Future of Thrombolytic Therapy for Coronary Heart Disease." In addition, Carl Apstein, M.D., chief of the Department of Cardiology at BCH and an associate professor of medicine, presented "Experimental Model of Human Heart Disease: Implications for Pharmacological Intervention."

BUSM HOSTS PARENTS'  
RECEPTION IN APRIL

Parents of BUSM students had a chance to talk with deans, faculty advisors and BUSM staff at an April 28 reception in the School's Hiebert Lounge. Approximately 120 people attended the event. Special guests Paul and Jean Rothbaum, co-chairpersons of the Parents Committee, and Alan and Sybil Edelstein, founders of the Parents Committee, made the opening and closing remarks respectively. In addition, Dean Sandson spoke on his 10 years at the School and a video presentation on BUSM was shown.

ACR DONATES EQUIPMENT  
TO CANCER CENTER

Aid for Cancer Research, a charitable organization based in the Greater Boston area, recently donated two new pieces of laboratory equipment to the School of Medicine. The cell harvester and scintillation counter will be used at the Humphrey Cancer Research Center in research on cell growth and development.

ACR has raised funds to support cancer research at BUSM and elsewhere for the past 37 years. Thanking the group for their generosity at a dedication ceremony held May 16 at the Cancer Center, Thomas Rothstein, Ph.D., an assistant professor of medicine, said that the availability of sophisticated equipment such as the cell harvester and scintillation counter has made a "tremendous difference in our ability to do [cancer] research."

DIVISION OF SURGERY FACULTY  
FEATURED IN JULY CME COURSE

Several members of the Division of Surgery will be featured at a three-day course on "Endoscopic Laser Therapy," to be sponsored by the Department of Continuing Medical Education July 18 through 20 at the Boston Marriott Hotel in Copley Place. Optional workshops on different clinical applications will be conducted at the Boston Veterans Administration Medical Center.

The course is designed to familiarize the practicing physician with the safe and effective clinical use of laser therapy, particularly in the gastrointestinal and respiratory tracts. Course directors are Joseph J. Pietrafitta, M.D., an instructor in surgery, and Robert Burakoff, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine and director of the UH Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Unit.

The Department of Continuing Medical Education at BUSM has designated this course for a maximum of 20 credits in Category 1 toward the Physician's Recognition Award of the American Medical Association.

NEWS & NOTES is a regular publication of the Office of Informational Services. If you have news of interest to the BUSM community, call editor Caroline Lupfer, x5606 (247-5606), or write to her at the Office of Informational Services, DOB-600 (720 Harrison Ave., Boston, MA 02118). Marge Dwyer is managing editor.

## News & Notes

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