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School of Medicine

News & Notes

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Keynote speaker Wilder tells BUSM graduates to be 'great detectives'

Physicians must be "great detectives" and not let their egos get in the way of their diagnoses, Gene Wilder, the actor, director and writer told members of the School of Medicine Class of 1992 at their graduation ceremony, May 17 at the Case Center.

Wilder's late wife, the actress Gilda Radner, developed symptoms of ovarian cancer in January 1986, but was misdiagnosed with the Epstein-Barr virus and told to "go home, relax, forget about it." Ten months later, she was diagnosed with stage 4 ovarian cancer. She died May 20, 1989.

"I think if Gilda had had a great detective when she first went, they may have found the answer if they had asked the right questions," said Wilder, who has since done educational public-service announcements about ovarian cancer.

Four students received both M.D. and Ph.D. degrees, and three received both M.D. and M.P.H. degrees. Ten students graduated *cum laude*, three graduated *magna cum laude*, and one student, Lewis K. Marchant, graduated *summa cum laude*.

The Class of 1992 represented 23 states, the District of Columbia, and two foreign countries.

The School of Public Health awarded 179 master's degrees at commencement exercises held May 17 at the School for the Arts. The keynote speaker was Robert J. Master, M.D., an associate professor of public health and chairman of health services at the School.

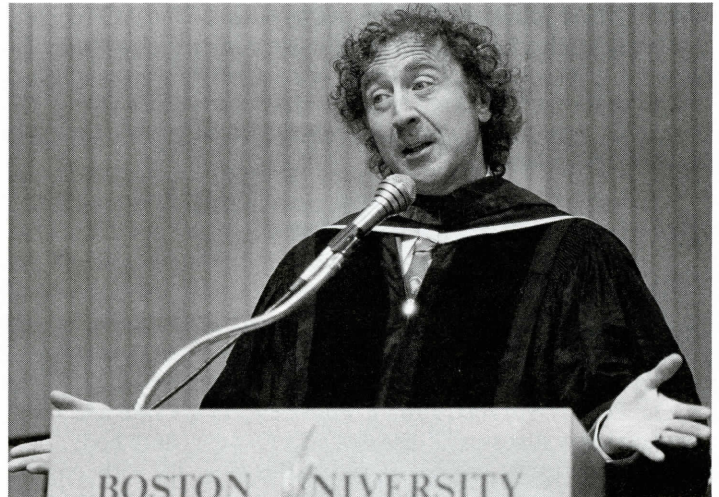
BUSM researchers find new phenotype of cystic fibrosis

Researchers at the School of Medicine have determined that men who are healthy except for having congenital bilateral absence of the vas deferens (CBAVD)—the sperm-conveying duct—have cystic fibrosis (CF). The study was published in the April 1 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

The discovery extends the recognition of the range of clinical features of CF, an inherited disorder primarily affecting the lungs and gastrointestinal tract. It also indicates that men diagnosed with CBAVD should have their partners undergo CF mutation analysis to determine if they carry the CF gene. One in 20 people are carriers and, if both partners have the gene, they face a one-in-four risk of having a child with CF, which gives the child a life expectancy of about 28 years.

"This history-making study shows that a condition thought to be independent and distinguishable as a recessively inherited condition, in fact, is not. It is simply one end of the mildest spectrum of cystic fibrosis," said Aubrey Milunsky, M.D., D.Sc., director of the Center for Human Genetics at BUSM and the principal investigator of the study.

The findings of the study were based on research involving 25 men with CBAVD. The subjects were identified during infertil-



Gene Wilder, the actor, director and writer, shares with BUSM graduates the experiences he and his late wife, Gilda Radner, endured during her bout with ovarian cancer. (photo by David Herwaldt)

ity evaluations, at which time they were found to have no sperm. They then were referred to Robert Oates, M.D., an assistant professor of urology and an infertility specialist at the New England Male Reproductive Center at the University Hospital. After CBAVD was diagnosed, analyses of their CF genes were done at the Center for Human Genetics.

The findings indicate that 16 of the 25 men with CBAVD who participated in the study have at least one detectable CF mutation—16 times the expected frequency. All but two have no family history of CF.

Wolf receives heart association's first clinical stroke award

Philip A. Wolf, M.D., a professor of neurology and public health and the principal investigator of the Framingham Study, recently was honored with the American Heart Association's first Annual Humana Award for Excellence in Clinical Stroke. The award was presented earlier this year at the 17th International Joint Conference on Stroke and Cerebral Circulation. According to Mark Dyken, M.D., chairperson of the selection committee, Wolf was selected "for his remarkable contributions to stroke and to cardiovascular medicine."

Wolf was responsible for developing the Framingham Stroke Risk Profile, a new method for calculating a person's risk for suffering a stroke. The risk profile assigns a numerical value to information on age, sex, cigarette smoking, cardiac abnormalities and other measures of health based on its relative importance as a risk factor for stroke. According to Wolf, the sum total of these numbers helps predict a person's chance of having a stroke within a given period of time.

Levinsky receives high honor from American College of Physicians

Norman G. Levinsky, M.D., chairperson of the Department of Medicine and physician-in-chief of the Evans Memorial Department of Clinical Research and Preventive Medicine at the University Hospital, was a co-winner of the 1992 Distinguished Teacher Award of the American College of Physicians. The ACP confers the award each year on a physician who "demonstrates the qualities of a great teacher as judged by the acclaim and accomplishments of former students....and who has demonstrated the ennobling qualities of a great teacher and has achieved leadership in medical education."

Estes writes new dictionary on protopharmacology

J. Worth Estes, M.D., a professor of pharmacology and an associate professor of sociomedical sciences, recently wrote and had published a book titled *Dictionary of Protopharmacology: Therapeutic Practices, 1700 to 1850*. Physicians in the 18th and 19th centuries saw illnesses as diseases affecting the entire body, rather than specific organs. Based on this view, the early physician treated a patient's symptoms, using medical treatments and drug therapies that gradually have been discarded as physicians gain a greater understanding of the way in which the body works. The early physicians' decision to prescribe these ineffective drug treatments inspired Estes to write the book.

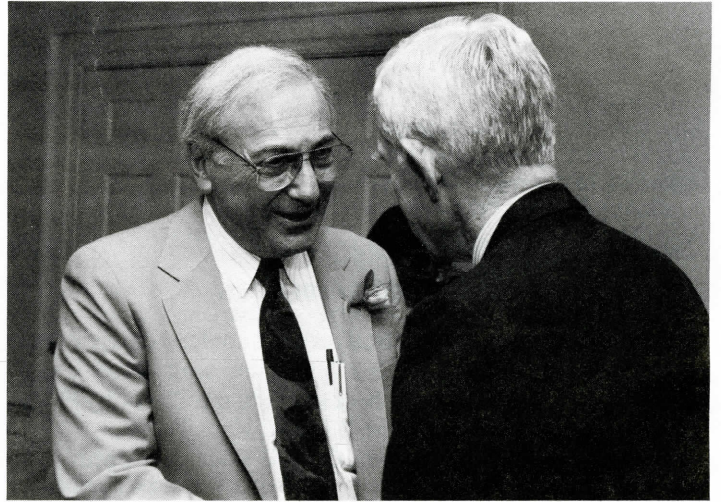
Organized in a dictionary format, the book contains nearly 3,000 entries that identify drugs used in the past in modern botanical and chemical terms. Major nondrug therapies, such as bleeding, diet modification and electric shock, also are defined. In addition, Estes identifies the ways in which doctors thought their drugs acted on the human body to restore their patients to health. The book can function as a textbook on ancient pharmacology, as it illuminates the methodology practiced by the early physician when prescribing drugs.

"The book is designed to be a reference aid for people doing research in the history of medicine and for those interested in reading about the history of medicine," said Estes.

Dictionary of Protopharmacology: Therapeutic Practices, 1700 to 1850 is published by Science History Publications, Canton, Mass.

Annas, Grodin edit first book on Nuremberg Code in 40 years

The first book to be written about the Nuremberg Code in 40 years recently was published, and was edited by two School of Medicine faculty members, George J. Annas, J.D., and Michael A. Grodin, M.D., director and associate director of BUSM's Law, Medicine and Ethics Program, respectively. *The Nazi Doctors and the Nuremberg Code: Human Rights in Human Experimentation* examines the Nuremberg Code's influence on contemporary U.S. and international law. It also underscores the need for further protection of human rights in human experimentation internationally. The book sheds light on keenly debated issues of both science and jurisprudence, including the ethics of human experimentation; the doctrine of informed consent; the



A reception recently was held to honor Norman A. Scotch, Ph.D., director of the School of Public Health, who will be retiring. Pictured, Scotch, left, greets Richard H. Egdahl, M.D., Ph.D., Boston University academic vice president for health affairs, director of Boston University Medical Center and the Health Policy Institute. (photo by Lucy Milne)

Code's impact on today's international human rights agenda, and even the role the Code played in Desert Storm.

The sources and ramifications of the Nuremberg Code are thoroughly discussed by a distinguished roster of contemporary professionals from the fields of history, philosophy, medicine and law. Contributors also include the chief prosecutor of the Nuremberg Military Tribunal and a survivor of the Mengele twin experiments.

"This book is the most comprehensive study of these matters to reach the public," wrote Telford Taylor, chief prosecutor at the Nuremberg Doctors' Trial. "It is historical, but the history merges into the dangers and temptations that beset physicians who seek new knowledge by using human beings experimentally. The reader will find the story of the Nazi medical atrocities both gripping and thought provoking."

Research on the book began five years ago, after Annas and Grodin discovered that virtually nothing had been written on the Nuremberg Code, even though it has served as the basis for almost all codes of research ethics developed in the last five decades. A substantial amount of original material pertaining to the Code's development was included in the book to make the information more accessible to scholars in the future.

AAMC president cites BUSM's EMSSP as model program

The School of Medicine's Early Medical School Selection Program (EMSSP) is a "good example of cooperation between a medical school and undergraduate colleges," said Robert G. Petersdorf, M.D., president of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), during the association's 102nd annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

In his keynote address, titled "Not a Choice, an Obligation," Petersdorf maintained that medical schools must be committed to recruiting minority students. "The chances for an underrepresented student to be admitted to medical school have actually be-

come more remote as their proportion of the total U.S. population continues to rise," he said.

To remedy the situation, the AAMC has created "Project 3000 by 2000," which will use both short-term and long-term strategies to recruit minority college students to medical school.

Petersdorf praised the coordinated curriculum and innovative admission agreements that BUSM's EMSSP program has developed with undergraduate colleges. "[The EMSSP] 'decompresses' the preclinical years, increases the level of awareness and interest in medicine among students at participating undergraduate colleges, allows students gradually to become acclimated to the rigors of medical school, and eliminates a certain amount of redundancy in the baccalaureate and medical school curricula," said Petersdorf.

Keefer featured in book on penicillin distribution

Chester S. Keefer, M.D., director of the University Hospital's Evans Memorial Department of Clinical Research and Preventive Medicine from 1940 to 1960, is the central figure in a new book on the discovery of penicillin and its distribution to the public. In *The Greatest Good to the Greatest Number*, author David P. Adams discusses the impact of penicillin on public opinion and the methods adopted by the Roosevelt Administration to make the limited supply of penicillin available to the public.

During World War II, penicillin was not produced commercially, and the limited amounts of this new drug that were available had to be rationed among U.S. troops and civilians. Keefer, who had been appointed chairperson of the National Research Council's Committee on Chemotherapeutics and Other Agents, was charged with the distribution of the new drug to civilians. For eight months, Keefer, who came to be known as the "penicillin czar," spent days and nights making decisions about whose requests for penicillin should be fulfilled. In a recent book review in *Science*, Albert Cowdrey of the U.S. Army Center of Military History called Keefer the "hero" of *The Greatest Good to the Greatest Number*. "Adams argues that alternative methods of distribution would have been less equitable and that bureaucratic impersonality and the appearance of scientific objectivity must have allowed physicians to refuse to make attempts to obtain the drug in inappropriate cases without feelings of personal guilt," wrote Cowdrey in the review.

The Greatest Good to the Greatest Number: Penicillin Rationing on the American Home Front, 1940-1945 is published by Lang, New York, and is series 9, volume 95 of the American University Studies.

Zuckerman to serve on newly created Carnegie Corporation task force

Barry Zuckerman, M.D., a professor of pediatrics and public health and director of the Division of Development and Behavioral Pediatrics at Boston City Hospital, recently was selected to serve on the Task Force on Meeting the Needs of Young Children, a new task force created by the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

The task force of 27 members will build upon recent reports that focus on child development and will look intensively at the period between preconception and three years of age. The members will consider what experiences, information, skills, and professional services are highly beneficial for all young children and

their families, with special attention being given to those who are poor and underserved.

In conducting its research, the task force will draw on current knowledge about the fundamental building blocks of early life and effective interventions for preventing developmental problems, as well as the mechanisms by which a broadly integrative approach can be implemented at the local, state, and national levels.

Bernard appointed to new positions at the School of Medicine, BCH and UH

David B. Bernard, M.D., a professor of medicine, recently was appointed associate dean for clinical affairs at BUSM, director of affiliations at BCH, and vice president for regional clinical affairs at Boston University Medical Center/the University Hospital. In his new roles, Bernard is responsible for promoting teaching, research and service relationships with referring physicians, affiliated hospitals and other health-care providers.

"Most assuredly, we need to regard referring physicians and affiliated institutions as our 'customers;' we need to listen," noted UH President J. Scott Abercrombie Jr., M.D. "This appointment is a major step in that direction."

Bernard has been a member of the renal medicine section of the Evans Memorial Department of Clinical Research and Preventive Medicine since 1975. According to Abercrombie, Bernard is respected for his adeptness at promoting referral relations and for recognizing the importance of vital regional linkages.

Edelin honored by Museum of Afro American History

Kenneth C. Edelin, M.D., associate dean of students and minority affairs, recently was recognized by the Museum of Afro American History for his contribution to improving the living conditions of his fellow Boston African-American citizens. Edelin was honored during the museum's first National History Maker Award ceremony on April 24 at the Boston Park Plaza. Edelin and others recognized as "Men of Vision" will be featured in a photographic exhibition at the museum's historic African Meeting House, 46 Joy Street, at a later date.

Freed named member of Mass. Medical Care Consortium

Murray M. Freed, M.D., chairperson of the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, recently was appointed to serve on the Medical Care Consortium, which is composed of six Massachusetts physicians. The consortium, which falls under the Department of Industrial Accidents, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, was created to promulgate regulations in keeping with new laws involving quality assurance, outcome, selection of independent medical examiners and other affairs having to do with persons injured at their work sites.

Also in keeping with the new laws, a Health Care Services Board was created to monitor the system. Serving on the board are Francis X.J. Bohdiewicz, M.D., an assistant professor of rehabilitation medicine and a member of the University Hospital's Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, and Catherine Lane, sen-

ior physical therapist in the Section of Physical Therapy at the University Hospital.

Colton elected to be AAAS fellow

Theodore Colton, Sc.D., a professor of public health and socio-medical sciences, recently was elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). A fellow of the AAAS is defined as "a member whose efforts on behalf of the advancement of science or its applications are scientifically or socially distinguished." Colton was nominated "for contributions to biostatistics in medical science, for service to the profession, and for editorship of *Statistics in Medicine*."

Students receive honors

Two School of Medicine students received honors recently.

Third-year student Toussaing Nmi Smith has been named the 1991-92 Irving Graef Memorial Scholar, an honor bestowed annually by the National Medical Fellowships (NMF) board to provide financial assistance to deserving minority medical students.

Roosevelt Bryant III recently was awarded a Martin Luther King Jr. Fellowship for the 1992-93 academic year. The Martin Luther King Jr. Fellowships are intended to assist outstanding African American students in their graduate studies. The fellowships cover tuition costs and provide a stipend for living expenses.

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