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News & Notes

Boston University School of Medicine



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BUSM AWARDED \$1.5-MILLION GRANT FOR FRAMINGHAM STROKE STUDY The School of Medicine has been awarded a five-year \$1.5-million research grant from the National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke to study the precursors and prognosis of stroke in the Boston University-Framingham Heart Study population.

Philip A. Wolf, M.D., a professor of neurology and an associate research professor of medicine, is principal investigator of the study, which provides a unique opportunity to identify those individuals at risk for stroke, the third leading cause of death and the principal cause of permanent disability in this country. The study will define those independent variables that contribute to stroke incidence and will develop a profile of the natural progression of recovery over time from disability following stroke. The grant also aims to facilitate the medical profession's ability to prevent stroke or help lessen its impact.

William Kannel, M.D., a professor of medicine and chairman of the Section of Preventive Medicine and Epidemiology, is co-investigator for the study. Other members of the research team are: Margaret Kelly-Hayes, R.N., M.S., an assistant clinical professor of neurology (neurological nursing); Bernard E. Kreger, M.D., an assistant clinical professor of medicine; Thomas L. Kemper, M.D., a professor of neurology (neuropathology) and anatomy; Frederick N. Brand, M.D., M.P.H., a research associate in medicine; Theodore Colton, Sc.D., chief of the research section at the School of Public Health and a professor of biostatistics and epidemiology, and Paula J. Murray, B.S., a data manager in the Department of Neurology who is pursuing the M.P.H. degree at the SPH..

Wolf began studying stroke in the Framingham cohort in 1968. Since then, Wolf, Kannel and Patricia M. McNamara, administrator for the Framingham Heart Study, have published numerous articles on both the clinical and epidemiological aspects of stroke.

The landmark Boston University-Framingham Heart Study, initiated in 1949, examined the life habits and health of nearly 6,000 men and women in Framingham, Mass. The study demonstrated that atherosclerosis need not be viewed as an inevitable result of the aging process, but rather as a disease that can be prevented or delayed if specific risk factors can be identified and controlled.

STUDY SHOWS GENERAL MEDICINE ON THE INCREASE IN THE U.S.

The study of general medicine in American medical schools, once thought to be fading out in favor of more specialized medical training, has actually increased dramatically in the past 10 years, according to a survey conducted by researchers at BUSM and the University of Pennsylvania Medical School.

The results of the survey were published in the February issue of The Annals of Internal Medicine. Robert H. Friedman, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine at BUSM and chief of University Hospital's Medical Information Systems Unit, was principal author of the report. He notes that in the late 1960s an effort began to increase the number of trained general physicians for adults. Prior to that time, only five medical schools had special general medicine units. By 1980, 95 schools, representing 77 percent of the nation's medical schools, had established such units.

EGDAHL, LEVINSKY, BERNSTEIN
ELECTED AAAS FELLOWS

Medical Center Director Richard H. Egdahl, M.D., is among three members of the BUMC community who were elected Fellows of the

American Association for the Advancement of Science at the organization's January meeting. Others who achieved this honor included Norman G. Levinsky, M.D., chairman of the Division of Medicine and physician-in-chief at UH, and Daniel S. Bernstein, M.D., associate dean for resources and hospital affiliations.

An AAAS Fellow is defined as "a member whose efforts on behalf of the advancement of science or its applications are scientifically or socially distinguished." The AAAS Council cited each Fellow "...for outstanding contributions to health policy in America."

Jean Berko Gleason, Ph.D., a professor of psychology at the Charles River campus, and Marx Wartofsky, Ph.D., a professor of philosophy, also were elected Fellows at the meeting.

WEI-CHIANG SHEN DESIGNATED
ACS CANCER RESEARCH SCHOLAR

Wei-Chiang Shen, Ph.D., an associate research professor of pathology and pharmacology, recently was designated a Cancer Research

Scholar by the Massachusetts Division of the American Cancer Society, effective this July.

This competitive three-year award is presented annually to three or four promising young scientists conducting cancer research at a Massachusetts institution. Shen's research has included the study of membrane transport and intracellular traffic of foreign macromolecules in cultured tumor cells. He also has been a pioneer in the development of macromolecular drug conjugates capable of overcoming resistance to anti-cancer drugs and releasing unaltered drugs at specific sites within cells. Results from these studies were published in recent issues of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science and Biophysical Biochemical Research Communications.

NUCLEAR ISSUES ARE FOCUS
OF BUSM PROGRAM SERIES

The Department of Socio-Medical Sciences and Community Medicine and the Student Committee on Medical School Affairs (SCOMSA) will present

"The War Game," a 1964 BBC documentary that simulates the effects of a thermonuclear war on Great Britain, on Monday, April 5, at 11:30 a.m. in Bakst Auditorium.

This is the third presentation in a series of six focusing on the medical consequences of nuclear war. "The Last Epidemic: Medical Consequences of

"Nuclear Weapons and Nuclear War" will be presented on Monday, April 12, at 11:30 a.m. in Bakst Auditorium. This program will include highlights from a symposium recently organized by Physicians for Social Responsibility. H. Jack Geiger, M.D., the Arthur C. Logan Professor of Community Medicine at City College of the City University of New York, took part in that symposium. Geiger was the principal speaker at BUSM commencement ceremonies last May.

For further information on the series, which is open to all members of the BUSM community, contact one of the following members of the BUSM Nuclear Issues Study Group: Barbara Krause and Joseph Savitt, both BUSM IV; and John Scher, BUSM II.

JACQUES GENEST IS SUBJECT
OF NEXT 'LEADERS' PROGRAM

A videotaped interview with Jacques Genest, M.D., a professor of medicine at the University of Montreal, will be featured at the next Benjamin Waterhouse Medical History Society's "Leaders in American Medicine" program, to be held Wednesday, April 21, at 4:30 p.m. at the Countway Library at Harvard Medical School.

Genest, who is scientific director of the Clinical Research Institute of Montreal, has conducted pioneering research in the relationship between hypertension and endocrine function. Program discussants will be Genest, Michel Chretien, M.D., director of the Research Institute's laboratory of protein and pituitary hormones, and Gordon H. Williams, M.D., a professor of medicine and director of the Endocrine Hypertension Unit at Harvard Medical School. This is the final "Leaders" program for the school year.

JOSEPH COCHIN RECEIVES
NIDA TRAINING SYSTEM AWARD

Joseph Cochin, M.D., Ph.D., a professor of pharmacology and psychiatry, was presented a National Training System award by the National Institute on Drug Abuse last month in Washington, D.C. Cochin was cited for his "never-failing readiness to provide assistance and to promote the training of professionals in the drug abuse field."

COLUMBUS AND TREMONT STREETS
TO UNDERGO CONSTRUCTION

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Public Works is planning the reconstruction of Tremont street and Columbus avenue in an effort to provide safer and more efficient use of the right-of-way by automobiles. At the same time, the reconstruction will assure safer and easier movement for pedestrians and will help restore the historic appearance of the South End, according to the DPW.

The project's first phase includes surface, safety and traffic improvements along Columbus avenue, from the Concord Square intersection inbound to the Clarendon street intersection. The work will extend along Tremont street, from the Crosstown street to the Dartmouth street intersections. A portion of Kendall street will be relocated and Frederick Douglass Square and a segment of Appleton street will be converted into streets for local access.

The first phase of the construction will take approximately 18 months and is expected to begin in April. During that time, bus service will continue and traffic will be restricted to a single lane in each direction.

HERB HINES CONDUCTS FREE
SELF-DEFENSE CLASSES

Herb Hines, a GSGD Buildings and Grounds staff member, is conducting free self-defense classes Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. in the School of Medicine's Hiebert Lounge. The 10-week course, which began March 3, is open to all members of the Medical Center community.

BRIEFLY NOTED

William Castelli, M.D., medical director of the Boston University-Framingham Heart Study, was scheduled to speak at University Hospital this month, National Nutrition Month. His lecture, entitled "Atherosclerosis--Reversible or Not?" was set for March 22, noon to 1 p.m., in Keefer Auditorium....William B. Kannel, M.D., a professor of medicine, is the author of "Meaning of the Downward Trend in Cardiovascular Mortality," an article that received national media attention when it appeared in the Feb. 12 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association....Freddy Homburger, M.D., a professor of research pathology and president of the Bio-Research Institute, Inc., of Cambridge, Mass., recently was included in Who's Who in Technology Today....David A. Bailen, M.D., an assistant clinical professor of medicine, was recently elected president of the Jewish Memorial Hospital medical staff.

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

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