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Boston University

News & Notes



Boston University School of Medicine

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DEAN AIRS MEDICAL SCHOOL CONCERNS IN NEJM ARTICLE, SENATE TESTIMONY

Most independent medical schools are facing a crisis that could make medical education affordable only for the wealthy, according to an article by Dean Sandson in the May 26 New England Journal of Medicine. Also in May, Dean Sandson testified before a Senate appropriations subcommittee in Washington, D.C., on medical school financial issues.

The NEJM article, entitled "A crisis in medical education: The high cost of student financial assistance," received much media attention, including a recent Boston Globe interview with Sandson. In the NEJM article, Dean Sandson warned that the rising cost of medical school tuitions and the increasing difficulty students have in obtaining funds to meet their educational expenses have created the present crisis. "If financial assistance for students in medical school is not improved, the composition of the student body in the independent schools may change until most of the students come from affluent families," he said.

The Dean also pointed out that "large indebtedness of young physicians will make it more difficult to solve many important problems in our health-care system, including high costs and both geographic and specialty maldistribution of physicians."

A long-term solution to student need for large amounts of low-interest loans, Sandson suggested, would be the establishment by medical schools of revolving-loan funds, such as those already in use at BUSM.

In his May testimony before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and related agencies, Sandson urged the committee to continue to support student loan funds, to vote to increase National Institutes of Health funding in fiscal year 1984 by \$414 million above the President's requested budget and to appropriate \$16.3 million for the training of primary-care physicians in internal medicine and pediatrics.

TREADMILL MARATHON NETS \$2,500 FOR CHARITY, GUINNESS RECORD

Third-year BUSM student Scott Lutch, along with Scott Pucino, a Boston University assistant wrestling coach, ran a 26-mile, 385-yard marathon June 1 without leaving the Boston Cardio-Nutilus Center. In doing so they raised about \$2,500 for the University Hospital-based Massachusetts Committee to Combat Huntington's Disease (CCHD) and also secured a spot in the "Guinness Book of World Records."

The two ran the marathon on treadmill machines at the Boston health club to raise money for the CCHD. "We wanted to do something crazy to get donations and publicity for the Committee," said Lutch after completing the run. The plan worked, for along with the \$2,000 in pledges, the event produced a report on the WCVB-TV (Ch. 5) Evening News and an Associated Press photograph, which appeared in several newspapers including the Boston Globe. In addition, the "Guinness Book" has accepted the treadmill marathon as a new category, so the two officially will be named in the book as world record-holders in the event.

May Long, CCHD coordinator, said the money donated at the event would go toward the free family outreach educational programs the Committee coordinates throughout New England. (School of Medicine faculty members are among those involved in these programs). She said Lutch, who also participated in a recent BUSM Hoopathon held to benefit CCHD, would be honored at the national organization's annual meeting in August. She added that long-time CCHD supporter Dean Sandson also would be honored at the event. "This type of thing doesn't happen very often. When we do get such special people as Scott and the Dean to help us, we like to express sincere appreciation," she said.

FREDDO RECEIVES \$275,000
IN GRANTS FOR EYE RESEARCH

Thomas F. Freddo, O.D., Ph.D., an assistant professor of ophthalmology and pathology and an associate in ophthalmology at UH, recently was awarded two grants from the National Eye Institute (NIH) totaling more than \$275,000. The first is for a three-year study of the mechanisms that underlie recurrence of anterior uveitis, a poorly understood intraocular inflammatory disease. The second is for a one-year pilot project to develop a method for the ultrastructural localization of membrane sulfhydryl groups in the trabecular meshwork of the eye. Localization of these sulfhydryl groups may provide keys to understanding causes of certain forms of glaucoma.

STERLING DRUG PROFESSOR
DISCUSSES SCHIZOPHRENIA

Seymore S. Kety, M.D., the School's third Sterling Drug Visiting Professor, delivered his keynote address on "Biological Aspects of Schizophrenia" May 24. Kety is a professor of neuroscience in psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and is director of the Psychiatric Research Laboratories at the Mailman Research Center at McLean Hospital, Belmont, Mass. He has received many awards and honors for his research on mental illness and studies of the human cerebral circulation and metabolism.

The annual visiting professorship was established in 1979 to promote interchange of knowledge between colleges and universities in the field of pharmacology. BUSM was the first medical school in the country to receive a \$50,000 endowment from Sterling Drug, Inc., of New York City.

WHITLEY CHOSEN FOR JAYCEES
OUTSTANDING LEADER AWARD

Patricia N. Whitley, M.D., assistant dean for minority affairs at BUSM, was named one recipient of the Ten Outstanding Young Leaders Award for 1983 by the Boston Jaycees. In bestowing the award last month, the Jaycees commended Whitley for her leadership and community spirit, noting her efforts to make medical school education more widely available to minority and disadvantaged candidates, and her work to improve the quality of mental health care available to area children as a Solomon Carter Fuller Mental Health Center board member.

In receiving the honor, first awarded in 1952, Whitley joins the ranks of more than 300 other past recipients. These include John Noble Jr., M.D., a BUSM professor of medicine and chief of the Section of General Internal Medicine at BCH, and William M. Gibson, J.D., M.S.W., superintendent/area director of SCFMHC; plus other notables such as Mayor Kevin H. White and Governor Michael S. Dukakis.

DEU DIRECTOR SHAPIRO DELIVERS
SLONE MEMORIAL LECTURE

A memorial lecture has been established in honor of the late Dennis Slone, M.B.B.Ch., who served as co-director of the Drug Epidemiology Unit of the School of Public Health until his death in May 1982. The Slone Memorial Lecture was presented May 25 at the School by Samuel Shapiro, M.B., F.R.C.P.(E), director of the DEU. His topic was "The Decision to Publish Ethical Dilemmas." Slone, who also was a research professor at the School, was an international authority in the field of drug epidemiology. Along with Shapiro, he founded the DEU in 1975. He died at the age of 52.

CONNIE MACDONALD HONORED FOR
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Constance (Connie) H. MacDonald, an assistant to the dean who began her career at the School when Harry Truman was president and has worked with the past 10 BUSM deans, was one of three recipients of this year's Boston University Faculty Council's Distinguished Service Awards. The Awards are given annually by teaching faculty to non-teaching staff members in recognition of service to the University.

In presenting the awards, University Faculty Council Chairman Edward W. Pelikan, M.D., a professor and chairman of the Department of Pharmacology at BUSM, said, "It's not the admirals who run the ship, it's the chief petty officers." Prior to coming to BUSM, MacDonald held positions at the New Hampshire State Board of Health and the federal Office of Scientific Research and Development. In 1946 she was appointed assistant to the dean at BUSM.

R. SCOTT JONES SERVES AS
CULPEPER VISITING PROFESSOR

R. Scott Jones, M.D., the Stephen H. Watts Professor of Surgery and chairman of the Department of Surgery at the University of Virginia Medical Center in Charlottesville, Va., served last month as the 1982 Charles E. Culpeper Visiting Professor in Surgery at BUSM. He spoke on "Diagnosis and Treatment of Bile Duct Cancer" and "Diagnosis and Treatment of Zollinger-Ellison Syndrome." During his three-day stay at BUSM, Jones also toured departments at UH and BCH.

In 1981, the School was selected as one of a handful of medical schools to receive a five-year visiting professorship award from the Charles E. Culpeper Foundation. The award is rotated annually among five disciplines: medicine, surgery, pediatrics, radiology (or radiotherapy) and immunology (or genetics).

MANUEL TO DIRECT
COMPUTER COURSE

Barry S. Manuel, M.D., an associate clinical professor of surgery, will direct a July 25-27 course titled "Computers for the Practicing Physician: An Introduction." Sponsored by the Department of Continuing Medical Education, the course is designed to provide the physician with a basic understanding of computer applications. It will be held at Dunfeys Hyannis Resort, Cape Cod.

REISER DELIVERS SECOND
SWARTZ MEMORIAL LECTURE

The second annual Jacob Swartz Memorial Lecture held May 25 at University Hospital featured Morton F. Reiser, M.D., the Charles

B.G. Murphy Professor of Psychiatry and chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at Yale University School of Medicine.

Reiser spoke on "The Couch and the Crucible: Psychoanalytic Process and Neurobiology" at the event, which also featured the unveiling of a picture of Swartz to be hung in the conference room of the chairperson of the Division of Psychiatry at BUSM. Swartz, a BUSM graduate and distinguished psychiatrist, was the School's associate dean for admissions until his sudden death in March 1981. He was a member of the BUSM staff for 21 years. Mrs. Elinor Swartz was among the special guests who attended the event, sponsored by the Division of Psychiatry and the BUSM Alumni Association. It was featured as part of the Division of Psychiatry's Academic Lecture Series and Clinical Grand Rounds.

SPH HOLDS FIRST ANNUAL
SPRING BREAKFAST MEETING

Evelyn Murphy, secretary of the Executive Office of Economic Affairs, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, was the keynote speaker at the

School of Public Health's first spring breakfast meeting held recently at The Castle at Boston University's main campus. Murphy spoke on the growing dilemma of hazardous waste production and disposal in Massachusetts. Many faculty and alumni, including Mary Ellen Keough '80, SPH Alumni Association president and research operations manager at the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, and Norman A. Scotch, Ph.D., SPH director, attended this first annual meeting.

MEDICAL FOUNDATION SYMPOSIUM
FEATURES LEVINSKY TALK

Norman G. Levinsky, M.D., the Wade Professor and chairman of the Division of Medicine and a professor of physiology, was among 250

medical and health researchers honored May 12 by the Medical Foundation, Inc. of Boston. Levinsky, who also is chief of medicine at UH, and six other former Foundation Fellows addressed the group on the current state of medical research and health care. Levinsky discussed "Internal Medicine: The 'One-Hoss Shay' in the 21st Century." The symposium, which honored past and present recipients of the Foundation's research fellowships, including several other BUSM faculty members, commemorated the Medical Foundation's 25th anniversary.

CANCER CENTER PRESENTS
COOPERBAND SYMPOSIUM

The fourth annual Sidney R. Cooperband Symposium, entitled "Advances in Cancer Biology," was held May 12 at Keefer Auditorium

and featured several BUSM faculty members. Presented by the Hubert H. Humphrey Cancer Research Center, the symposium included presentations on "The Role of Cellular Materials in Determining Normal and Malignant Cell Phenotype" by Stephen R. Farmer, Ph.D., an assistant professor of biochemistry; Iih-Nan Chou, Ph.D., and Ganesa Yogeewaran, Ph.D., assistant professors of microbiology; and Richard M. Niles, Ph.D., an associate professor of microbiology.

Other faculty members who spoke were: Paul H. Black, M.D., a professor and chairman of the Department of Microbiology; Thomas L. Rothstein, M.D., Ph.D., an assistant professor of medicine; John D. Groopman, Ph.D., an assistant professor of toxicology and environmental health; and Hugues J.-P. Ryser, M.D., Ph.D., a professor of pathology and pharmacology.

BOOKS BY BUSM FACULTY
PUBLISHED RECENTLY

Several books edited and written by BUSM faculty members recently have been published. The second edition of "Medical Emergencies: Diagnostic and Management Procedures from the Boston City Hospital," published by Little Brown and Company, is now in print. Edited by Alan S. Cohen, M.D., the Conrad Wesselhoeft Professor of Medicine, director of the University's Multipurpose Arthritis Center and chief of medicine at BCH, and John Combes, M.D., and Howard Koh, M.D., former Boston City Hospital chief residents, the book is an extension of the Emergency Lecture Series for House Officers given at BCH every year.

Alvin Essig, M.D., professor of physiology and research professor of medicine, and S. Roy Caplan, Ph.D., of the Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel, have written "Bioenergetics and Linear Nonequilibrium Thermodynamics: The Steady State." It was published in March by Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass.

Sanford Codosh, M.D., an associate professor of medicine, has co-authored a chapter with Tullio C. Medici, Ph.D., of University Hospital, Zurich, Switzerland, in the book "Bronchial Hyperreactivity." The chapter is titled "Bronchial Inflammation and Hyperreactivity: A Study on Sputum Cell Excretion in Stable Chronic Bronchitics with and without Allergic Rhinitis." Published in 1982, the book is edited by J. Morley, Academic Press, London.

FACULTY PRESENT SYMPOSIUM
AT ANNUAL AAAS MEETING

At this year's American Association of the Advancement of Science Annual Meeting in Detroit, a symposium entitled "Nutrition in Health and Disease States" was coordinated by Joseph J. Vitale, Sc.D., M.D., associate dean for international health and director of the BUSM nutrition education program. Presenting papers at the event were members of the Nutrition Pathology Unit: Jose Ignacio Santos, M.D., and Steven H. Zeisel, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professors of pediatrics and pathology; Selwyn A. Broitman, Ph.D., a professor of pathology and microbiology; and Vitale.

READERS GIVE HIGH MARKS
TO NEWS & NOTES

The results of the recent News & Notes evaluation were highly favorable. The Office of Informational Services, which publishes News & Notes, thanks everyone who returned evaluation forms.

Of those who responded, 45 percent were BUSM staff members, 30 percent were BUSM faculty members and 17 percent were students or parents. Sixty-eight percent said they read all of the issues of News & Notes, while 31 percent said they read most or some of the issues. Eighty-nine percent said the items in the newsletter are of interest to them.

Of the respondents, 85 percent said that news of research results is one of the most useful or interesting topics in News & Notes. Also, 82 percent said faculty activities are of interest and 50 percent said that news of research grants and BUSM appointments is most useful or interesting. Eighty-nine percent said they found the format of the newsletter easy to read.

BRIEFLY NOTED

Murray M. Freed, M.D., a professor and chairman of the Department of Rehabilitation Medi-

cine and director of the New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center at UH, was named to the editorial advisory board of Rx Home Care....Lester F. Williams Jr., M.D., F.A.C.S., chairman of the Division of Surgery and James Utley Professor of Surgery, spoke at the 11th Annual Spring Meeting of the American College of Surgeons held recently in Washington, D.C. He discussed the pathogenesis and diagnosis of gallstones in a course titled "Surgical Disorders of the Biliary Tract"....Sanford I. Cohen, M.D., a professor and chairman of the Division of Psychiatry, was named to the Council of Pan American Medical Association's Section on Psychiatry. PAMA was founded in 1925 to promote the exchange of medical knowledge and research among physicians in Western countriesRichard J. Iseke, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine and former associate director of Emergency Medical Services at BCH, was appointed director of emergency services at Nashoba Community Hospital in Ayer, Mass.....Richard E. Knab, M.D., a clinical instructor in surgery, recently was appointed a surgical consultant at New England Sinai Hospital in Brockton, Mass.....Claudia Gamel-Bentzel, R.N., M.S., a clinical instructor in neurology (neurosurgical nursing), was elected president of the American Association of Neurosurgical Nurses at their annual meeting in Washington, D.C. Bentzel is coordinator of UH's Epilepsy Program....Alfred Hollander, M.D., a clinical professor of dermatology, emeritus, wrote "The Tribulations of Jewish Dermatologists Under the Nazi Regime" which appeared in a recent issue of The American Journal of Dermatology.

NEWS & NOTES is a monthly publication of the Office of Informational Services. If you have news of interest to the BUSM community, call editor Paul Vaskas, x5606 (247-5606), or write to him 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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