

Boston University

OpenBU

<http://open.bu.edu>

BU Publications

BUSM News and Notes

1978-10-03

BUSM News & Notes: October 3, 1978 no. 14

<https://hdl.handle.net/2144/21832>

Boston University

News & Notes



Boston University School of Medicine

Issue #14

October 3, 1978

HARRISON NAMED ASSISTANT DEAN, DIRECTOR OF MINORITY AFFAIRS: Mona Harrison, M.D., associate director of the Adolescent Center at Boston City Hospital, has been appointed an assistant dean and director of the Office of Minority Affairs. She replaces Stanford A. Roman, Jr., M.D., who left BUSM in June to become medical director of Washington, D.C., General Hospital.

Harrison's appointment to the joint administrative post, as well as her appointment as an assistant professor of pediatrics, was approved by the University trustees in July.

The new assistant dean came to BUSM as an instructor in July, 1977, at which time she was instrumental in establishing the Adolescent Center, a comprehensive ambulatory-care program for teenagers. Her background includes residency training in both family practice and pediatrics, at the University of Maryland, Children's Hospital Medical Center in Boston, and BCH. She was also coordinator for two years of a summer program for minority students in medicine at the University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Phyllis J. Stevens continues as coordinator of minority affairs.

HALF OF CLASS LEANS TOWARD PRIMARY CARE: In a show of hands requested by Dean John I. Sandson, M.D., during an orientation talk on primary care and medical education, more than half the new medical students indicated they were interested in primary care as a possible specialty field.

Primary care and health care in the inner-city community were the twin focuses of the two-day orientation program for entering medical and dental students Sept. 5 and 6. In portions of the program organized by members of the BUSM second-year class, students heard panel discussions on "The Health Status of the Community" and on the "Community-based Approach to Primary Care." They were also given tours of the community surrounding the medical and dental schools, as well as of the schools themselves.

Dean Sandson and other members of the administration addressed the 135 incoming medical students and 40 incoming predoctoral dental students in the traditional welcoming assembly Tuesday morning. The new students met and mingled with members of the faculty and administration at both the Alumni Association's annual orientation reception and dinner in Hiebert Lounge Wednesday night, and a student-faculty coffee hour. The student orientation committee responsible for planning much of the two-day program was chaired by Ron Collman, BUSM II.

CLASS OF 1982 PROFILED: The 135 first-year medical students who began classes September 7 included 36 women, 15 members of minority groups, and 45 members of the Six-Year

Program. They come from 49 colleges and from 20 states; 10 hold graduate degrees, and four are 30 years of age or older. The 135 were selected from among 6,247 persons who completed applications.

An additional six students--three men and three women--have entered the M.D.-Ph.D. program, administered jointly by the School of Medicine and the Division of Medical and Dental Sciences of the Graduate School, and designed to enable students to earn both degrees in five to seven years of study.

In addition to the 45 Six-Year Program students, 10 others are graduates of undergraduate Boston University programs. Brown and Harvard each have 7 of their graduates in the entering class; Yale has 5; Cornell, 4; Columbia, the University of Pennsylvania, and Smith, 3 each; and the following schools have 2 each: Bowdoin, Brandeis, Dartmouth, Howard, Pace, the University of California at Berkeley, and Williams. Thirty-four other schools have one graduate each in the entering class.

Massachusetts is the most heavily represented state, with 49 students, followed by New York with 34; New Jersey with 11; California, 8; Connecticut, 7; Pennsylvania, 6; Rhode Island, 4; Illinois, 3; and Maryland, 2. Ten other states and the District of Columbia have one each.

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS HAVE MORE HYPERTENSION: Air traffic controllers whose health was monitored for three years by researchers from the departments of Psychosomatic Medicine and Behavioral Epidemiology had two to four times as much hypertension as the population at large. In addition, they were more likely to be heavy drinkers off the job and tended to have "significant difficulties in controlling anger and anti-social impulses."

Controllers who felt alienated from their working environment, expressing dissatisfaction with management, working conditions, or their co-workers, had more frequent episodes of mild to moderate illness and psychological disorders. The findings were contained in a 970-page report prepared by the BUSM researchers for the FAA and released in Washington, D.C., August 10.

Hypertension was the most frequently occurring chronic illness among the 416 air traffic controllers from several northeastern air traffic centers followed in the rigorously designed study. A significant finding of the Boston University study was that men who entered the study with normal blood pressure, but whose blood pressure tended most to rise and fall in response to the pressures of the workday, were more likely than other controllers to develop hypertension before the three years of the study were over.

The five-year project--two years were devoted to preparation and data analysis--was designed to measure the amount and kind of health changes among air traffic controllers and to identify the factors relevant to those changes.

Principal investigators of the study were Robert M. Rose, M.D., formerly a professor and chairman of the Department of Psychosomatic Medicine at BUSM and now a professor and chairman of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston; C. David Jenkins, Ph.D., a professor and director of the Department of Behavioral Epidemiology, BUSM; and Michael W. Hurst, Ed.D., an assistant professor of psychiatry (psychology) in the Department of Psychosomatic Medicine, BUSM.

A copy of the 26-page summary report may be obtained by writing the BUMC Office of Informational Services, P-300 (720 Harrison Ave., Suite 300, Boston 02118).

\$330,000 GRANT TO AID MINORITY STUDENTS: A three-year DHEW Health Career Opportunities grant totalling \$330,563 has been awarded to the Office of Minority Affairs to assist the medical school in the recruitment of minority and disadvantaged students. The funds will be used partly to continue the ongoing eight-week summer enrichment program for minority students accepted to BUSM each year, and to help support the Office of Minority Affairs. They will also be used to institute other programs--at the high school, undergraduate and medical school levels--designed to recruit more minority students to medical school, to retain those who do enroll, and to increase the pool of minority applicants.

ALPERT NAMED TO INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE: Joel J. Alpert, M.D., chairman of the Department of Pediatrics and director of the BUSM primary-care training program, has been elected to a five-year term of membership in the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. As a member of this quasi-official agency, Alpert will serve as an advisor to various governmental committees concerned with the protection and advancement of public health.

Membership in the Institute of Medicine is limited to a select group of distinguished physicians and scientists, chosen on the basis of professional achievement and active involvement in the problems of the health sciences. Alpert is also pediatrician-in-chief at Boston City Hospital.

NEUROLOGISTS TO DEVELOP STROKE DATA BANK: Information expected to be useful in the prognosis and treatment of stroke patients will be gathered and analyzed by Department of Neurology researchers under a \$375,000 contract to develop a pilot data bank network in stroke. The three-year contract with the National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke is being undertaken by BUSM in conjunction with Duke University and Southern Alabama University College of Medicine in Mobile. It calls for the investigators to amass information about large numbers of stroke patients, at University Hospital and the Boston Veterans Administration Hospital, as well as at hospitals affiliated with Duke and Southern Alabama. The information would include such variables as the type of stroke, predisposing factors, treatment methods used, and outcomes.

In addition to its application in prognosis and treatment, the data bank is expected to yield information valuable in answering research questions about the epidemiology of stroke and the efficacy of various treatment approaches. Principal investigator of the study is Philip A. Wolf, M.D., a professor of neurology; co-investigators are Robert Friedman, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine, and Margaret Kelly Hayes, R.N., an assistant clinical professor of neurology (neurological nursing).

BUSM AFFILIATES WITH CENTRAL MAINE MEDICAL: The School recently entered into formal affiliation with the Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston. The new association will allow BUSM to participate in CMMC's clinical training in family medicine.

This year, approximately 10 BUSM students will receive elective training in family medicine at CMMC, and the number will double next year. The affiliation was the first for the newly created section of family medicine in the Department of Socio-Medical Sciences.

In addition to the new affiliation, CMMC admitted its first eight residents to the Family Practice Residency Program in July. The residents will also have the opportunity to receive clinical training at hospitals associated with BUSM.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD TO LYTHCOTT: George I. Lythcott, M.D., BUSM '43, received the Special Distinction Award of the General Alumni Association of Boston University at ceremonies September 24. Lythcott is administrator of the Health Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. He was cited for his "tremendous humanitarian contribution to public health," and was described as a "modern hero" at the ceremonies in the George Sherman Union.

Each year the General Alumni Association honors alumni whose distinguished accomplishments bring credit to themselves, their professions, and Boston University. Lythcott, who also received a Centennial Alumni Citation in 1973 from the BUSM Alumni Association, is best known for his role in an international public-health effort to eradicate smallpox and control measles in Central and West Africa. He represented the U.S. Public Health Service and the National Communicable Disease Center from 1966 to 1969 as regional director of a successful five-year, 20-country, \$50-million assistance program.

AUA ASKS OLSSON TO DIRECT '79 SEMINAR: Abundantly honored in recent months has been Carl A. Olsson, M.D., professor and chairperson of the Department of Urology. The American Urological Association (AUA) has asked Olsson to direct its 1979 postgraduate seminar, at which 40 international authorities in urology will discuss various aspects of genitourinary disease. Olsson will lead the three-day conference, which will be held in Boston in November, 1979. The occasion will mark the first time that a BUSM urologist has been selected by the AUA to direct its most significant continuing medical education activity.

Olsson will also conduct a regional seminar on neurourology, entitled "Controversies in Clinical Neurourology," in Boston this November. The conference is being organized by the BUSM Department of Urology at the request of the AUA, and participants will include BUSM urologists Robert J. Krane, M.D., an associate professor of urology, and Mike Siroky, M.D., an assistant professor of urology.

Olsson was recently elected to the American Association of Genitourinary Surgeons, a select group of academic urologists, limited to fewer than 100 members in the United States and overseas. In addition, he has been named chairman of the cost-control committee of the AUA.

SMALL HONORED FOR 'DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT': Donald M. Small, M.D., a professor of medicine and biochemistry, has received one of Modern Medicine magazine's 1978 Awards for Distinguished Achievement for his part in the development of a nonsurgical treatment for gallstone disease. Small showed in the early 1960s that gallstones could be dissolved, and subsequently laid the groundwork that led to the discovery that chenodeoxycholic acid dissolves gallstones.

Small was one of 11 American physicians honored for their contributions to biomedical research, clinical medicine, and surgery and medical education by the bimonthly medical journal. The 11 were selected by medical school deans, leaders of professional organizations and members of Modern Medicine's editorial board.

Small, who is chief of the biophysics section in the Department of Medicine, is currently doing research on lipoproteins and atherosclerosis.

FACULTY WEIGHS FIRST-YEAR ALTERNATIVES: Currently under discussion by the faculty are several variations on a proposal for an alternative basic medical science curriculum for the first year. The plan would aim to make available the option of easing the first-year crunch by spreading the tightly packed curriculum over two years. The

proposal, still in preliminary form, was drawn up over the summer by a faculty committee consisting of John McCahan, M.D., Carl Franzblau, Ph.D., William F. McNary, Jr., Ph.D., and Stanley Robbins, M.D.

SINEX ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF ADVISORY GROUP ON ELDERLY: F. Marott Sinex, Ph.D., head of the Biochemistry department's section of biomedical gerontology, was sworn in September 15 as chairman of the Citizen's Advisory Committee to the state's Department of Elder Affairs. The committee, whose 48 members come from a wide range of backgrounds, advises the cabinet-level department, headed by James J. Callahan, Jr., Ph.D., on policies relevant to the Commonwealth's elderly.

Earlier this year, Sinex was appointed by Gov. Michael Dukakis to the state's new 13-member Special Commission on Aging. The Commission, which includes three state senators and five representatives, is charged with studying the needs of the elderly and reporting to the governor.

FIVE Ph.D. STUDENTS RECEIVE FELLOWSHIPS: Five Ph.D. candidates in the Division of Medical and Dental Sciences graduate program were recently awarded one-year fellowships from the Graduate and Professional Opportunities Program of DHEW.

Sunny Choi, Anna Tai, Jesse Jordan, Arlene Ramos, and Sandra Eggelson each received \$7,800 for tuition and expenses for one year. The Graduate and Professional Opportunities Program provides financial assistance to minority students in graduate school.

ROY TO UNIVERSITY STUDENT HEALTH POST: Shirley I. Roy, formerly executive assistant to the director of the Medical Center, has been named associate director of Student Health Services at Boston University, President John R. Silber announced recently.

In her new position, Roy is assisting the director, W. E. Hemperley, in the administration of Student Health Services. Roy served for nine years as executive assistant to Richard H. Egdahl, M.D., Ph.D., director of the Medical Center and the University's academic vice president for health affairs. Simultaneously, she was an assistant administrator at University Hospital.

COHEN TO BE PANELIST AT SELYE FILM PROGRAM: Sanford I. Cohen, M.D., a professor and chairperson of the Division of Psychiatry, will be one of a distinguished panel of discussants at a film-and-discussion program on the life and career of Hans Selye, M.D., Ph.D., D.Sc., the eminent authority on the physiological effects of stress. The program, one in the continuing "Leaders in American Medicine" series, will be held Wednesday, Nov. 8, at 4:30 p.m. at the Countway Library of Medicine, 10 Shattuck St., Boston. Selye himself, who is director of the Institute of Experimental Medicine and Surgery at the University of Montreal, will appear on the program as one of the discussants.

The next film-discussion program in the series, scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 11, at the Countway, will be devoted to Varaztad H. Kazanjian, D.M.D., M.D., professor of plastic surgery, emeritus, Harvard Medical School.

ROBBINS RECEIVES 100,000TH COPY OF HIS BOOK: The publishers of Stanley Robbins's best-selling textbook, Pathological Basis of Disease, recently presented Robbins with a handsome specially bound copy of the book in hand-tooled leather, representing the 100,000th copy of the book's fifth edition. A spokesperson for the W. B. Saunders Company said the memorial edition was prepared to honor Robbins on a book that "exceeded all expectations of sales."

Pathological Basis, which is in its ninth printing, is also published in Spanish, Japanese, Portuguese, and Italian. Circulation figures are closely guarded by the publisher, but one source estimated that roughly 250,000 copies have been printed in all editions.

Robbins is the subject of a cover story in the fall issue of Centerscope, published this week.

COHEN ADDRESSES BRAZIL MEETING: Alan S. Cohen, M.D., chief of medicine at Boston City Hospital and director of the Boston University Arthritis Center, was the principal guest speaker at the meeting of the 12th Brazilian Congress on Rheumatology in Porto Alegre, Brazil, in July. He delivered an address on acute infectious arthritis and one on amyloidosis. He was also awarded an honorary membership in the Brazilian Rheumatism Society.

COLLEAGUES MOURN JACOBS: Many of her BUSM and University Hospital colleagues attended memorial services in the Hospital's Interfaith Chapel Aug. 30 for Alice Jacobs, Ph.D., who died suddenly Aug. 25 from a cerebral hemorrhage. Jacobs was an associate professor of microbiology, and an assistant research professor of medicine, and was the clinical microbiologist in the UH Department of Laboratory Medicine.

HOSPITAL PR PROGRAMS WIN TOP AWARDS: University Hospital was honored with the nation's highest award for achievement in hospital public relations this month during the American Hospital Association meeting in Anaheim, Calif. The American Academy of Hospital Public Relations conferred its MacEachern Award for External Programs on UH for its entry entitled "Building a Public Identity." Donald R. Giller, director of the Office of Informational Services, accepted the award on behalf of the Hospital.

Also winning an award this month was Take One, the Hospital's biweekly news flyer, which was awarded first place in internal communications by District One of the International Association of Business Communicators in its 1977 "Brightest Ideas" judging. Editor Owen J. McNamara, associate director of informational services, accepted the award in Rochester, N.Y.

GIFFORD EDITOR OF TWO NEW BOOKS: George E. Gifford, Jr., M.D., an associate professor of socio-medical sciences, is editor of two recently published books. Psychoanalysis, Psychotherapy and the New England Medical Scene, 1894-1944, published by Science History Publications, is a collection of writings from a 1973 symposium sponsored by the Boston Psychoanalytic Society and the Countway Library, which drew on the expertise of 27 scholars from around the world.

Dear Jeffie, published privately and in a limited edition by Harvard's Peabody Museum, contains 59 letters from Jeffries Wyman, M.D., a noted nineteenth-century physician and comparative anatomist, to his eight-year-old son, relating his impressions of life and of nature. The letters were illustrated by Wyman with distinctive drawings.

BUSM STUDENT AIDS PROBE OF VINEYARD MYSTERY DISEASE: Robert Wolkow, a BUSM fourth-year student, assisted epidemiologists from the National Communicable Disease Center recently in efforts to trace a mysterious respiratory illness that affected six visitors to Martha's Vineyard.

Wolkow helped check all the records of emergency room treatments and admissions for respiratory ailments on the island for the past two summers and interviewed people who had been diagnosed as having pneumonia. The mystery disease has since been identified as tularemic pneumonia.

Wolkow is fulfilling the fourth-year requirement in community medicine by working on the island in the office of a family practitioner and an internist.

FALL CONTINUING ED COURSES ANNOUNCED: The Department of Continuing Education has planned an active program of courses for the fall. For more information on the courses listed here, please contact Mary Bryant or Donna Marcy, Department of Continuing Education, at 247-5602.

Pediatric Radiology in the General Hospital. Oct. 4-6, Dunfey's Hyannis Resort, Hyannis, 17 credit hours. Course directors: John F. O'Connor, M.D., professor of radiology and pediatrics; and Jerome H. Shapiro, M.D., professor and chairman, Department of Radiology.

Spinal Cord Injury II. Oct. 13-14, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Cambridge, eight credit hours. Course director: Murray M. Freed, M.D., professor and chairman, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine.

Recognition and Management of Medical Emergencies. Oct. 19-20, Howard Johnson's 57 Park Plaza Hotel, Boston, 14 credit hours. Course director, Robert Levin, M.D., associate professor, Division of Medicine.

Clinical Neuropharmacology. Oct. 21, Bakst Auditorium, School of Medicine, 6.5 credit hours. Course directors: Robert G. Feldman, M.D., professor of neurology and pharmacology and chairman, Department of Neurology; and Daniel Tarsy, M.D., an assistant professor of neurology.

Use of the Laboratory in Clinical Medicine. Nov. 9-10, Howard Johnson Motel, Cambridge, 14 credit hours. Course director: Dr. Levin.

SHUTTLE SCHEDULE TO CHARLES RIVER CAMPUS ANNOUNCED: The shuttle bus from the Medical Center to the Charles River campus operates on the following schedule:

Daily, Mon. through Fri.: Bus departs Talbot yard, BUMC, at noon; returning bus departs 718 Commonwealth Ave. at 12:45 p.m.

Tues. and Thurs.: In addition to above, bus departs Talbot yard at 1:15 p.m.; departs Comm. Ave. at 1:45 p.m.

Wed. and Fri.: In addition to noontime service described above, one bus will run continuously from 2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m., with the first (2:30) bus leaving from the Charles River campus, and having a transit time of 30 minutes.

(Unless sufficient use is made of the Wednesday and Friday continuous-service shuttle, it will be discontinued.)

The shuttle bus to "C" lot from the H-1 lobby area departs every 15 minutes from 6:30 to 9:30 a.m.; from 2:30 to 3 p.m.; and from 4 p.m. to midnight.

CORRECTION: In its coverage of Commencement, the July 21 issue of News & Notes inadvertently omitted the name of Kenneth Berg from its list of prizewinning graduates. Berg received one of two Pediatric Awards at commencement; the other went to Jean R. Brodnax, whose name was included in the News & Notes list.

BRIEFLY NOTED: Frank W. LoGerfo, M.D., F.A.C.S., is principal investigator of a recently awarded two-year NIH grant totalling \$121,000 for a study of "Pulsatile Hemodynamics in Vascular Surgery"...The second edition of Pharmacology: Drug Actions and Reactions, by Ruth R. Levine, Ph.D., was the principal midsummer selection of The Nurse's Book Society, a book club for nurses. Levine is a professor of pharmacology and chairman of the Division of Medical and Dental Sciences....Robert M. Levin, M.D., an associate professor of medicine and chief of the endocrine clinic at Boston City Hospital, was scheduled to speak on "Thyroid Emergencies" at a symposium on emergency medical care Sept. 29-Oct. 1 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Cambridge. The symposium is sponsored by the 804th Hospital Center of the U.S. Army Reserve.

TALKING TO THE PRESS? NOTIFY INFO. SERVICES: If you are contacted by a member of the media and asked to be a source for an article or a subject for a radio or television interview, please notify Lorraine Loviglio, Owen McNamara, or Donald Giller of the Office of Informational Services. Informational Services needs to know when someone from BUSM is quoted in a newspaper or magazine or appears on the air, because people frequently call that office after reading or hearing about the work of a BUSM researcher to request additional information.

Informational Services should also be notified in advance of the publication of an important paper, the announcement of a research development at a scientific meeting, or other newsworthy event, so that it can respond effectively to press inquiries. With sufficient advance notice, Informational Services can also help you with plans for an appropriate press announcement, timed to coincide with the publication of your paper or the announcement of your research development. Call Loviglio, McNamara or Giller at 247-5606.

News & Notes

Boston University
School of Medicine
Office of Informational Services
720 Harrison Ave., Suite 300
Boston, MA 02118

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Boston, Mass.
PERMIT NO. 56031

CHRISTOPHER, IRENE
IB 12
80 E CONCORD ST

3