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News & Notes

Boston University School of Medicine



July/August 1985
Issue #89

BOARD OF VISITORS ATTEND
ANNUAL MEETING AT BUSM

Tours of Boston Med Flight, a new emergency helicopter service (see News & Notes, #85), a Cardiology laser laboratory and a new student computer resource center were among the activities at this year's Board of Visitors meeting, held June 7 at the School. Board members also heard presentations on the Student Revolving Loan Funds, the Cardiovascular Institute and the Humphrey Cancer Research Center.

During a morning discussion, Board member Paul Rothbaum announced his intention to donate \$100,000 to the John and Hannah Sandson Student Revolving Loan Fund.

Board members also viewed a slide presentation on the Program in International Health, and Daniel Bernstein, M.D., associate dean for resources and hospital affiliations and director of the Office of Industrial Liaison, spoke about the Technology Transfer Program. Felix Strumwasser, Ph.D., a professor of physiology, discussed neurotransmitters and their role in human biorhythms.

PORTRAIT BUST OF HUMPHREY
UNVEILED IN WASHINGTON

Dean Sandson and Herbert Wotiz, Ph.D., director of the Humphrey Cancer Research Center, were among the approximately 225 friends and admirers of Hubert H. Humphrey who recently gathered in Washington, D.C., for the unveiling of a portrait bust of the late Vice President. The sculpture, by Mexican artist Gabriel Ponzanelli, was given to the School by Board of Visitor member John B. Amos, and will be displayed at the School where "future physicians will view it and be reminded of Hubert Humphrey," said Sandson.

Humphrey's sister, Frances Howard, and Hubert Humphrey III, Attorney General of Minnesota and son of the late Vice President, presented the sculpture to Sandson and Wotiz. The presentation was followed by memorial tributes by a number of distinguished guests.

RICHARD ELKORT, CANCER SURGEON
AND BUSM PROFESSOR, DIES AT 51

Richard J. Elkort, M.D., an associate professor of surgery at BUSM, died June 5 in University Hospital after suffering a brain hemorrhage. He was 51.

Elkort received his M.D. degree summa cum laude in 1962 from the State University of New York in Brooklyn. After completing his surgical residency at BCH, he joined School of Medicine faculty in 1970. From 1975 to 1979, Elkort was co-director of UH's Regional Oncology Program.

During the past three years, Elkort and Joseph Vitale, M.D., associate dean for international health, led teams of lecturers from BUSM and other medical institutions to South America and Europe where they conducted seminars on nutrition and disease, especially cancer. Elkort was a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and a member of the board of directors of the American Cancer Society of Massachusetts and president of the Neponset Valley unit of the ACS. He also was on the staffs of University Hospital, Norwood Hospital and Southwood Hospital in Norfolk, Mass. Elkort is survived by his wife, Avril (Tweedley); his son, Michael; and his daughter, Carolyn; all of Canton, Mass.

MARY FAULKNER, WIDOW OF
FORMER BUSM DEAN, DIES

Mary Faulkner, 78, widow of former BUSM Dean James Faulkner, died Jan. 29 at her home in Brookline, Mass. Mrs.

Faulkner was a long-time supporter of the School of Medicine and a member of the Board of Visitors since 1980. Her husband, the late James M. Faulkner, M.D., served as dean of the School from 1947 to 1955, and as director of Boston University Medical Center from 1960 to 1962. Mrs. Faulkner maintained a keen interest in educational programs and research at the School of Medicine, at University Hospital and at the Medical Center.

Mrs. Faulkner was also interested in fertility control and family planning and was active in the Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts since its inception in the early 1930s and in the Planned Parenthood Federation of America. She was a board member of the Institute for World Order, the Margaret Sanger Research Bureau (now the Margaret Sanger Center) and the Association for Voluntary Sterilization, located in New York.

GILCHREST JOINS BUSM
AS DERMATOLOGY CHAIRMAN

Barbara A. Gilchrest, M.D., recently was named professor and chairman of the Department of Dermatology at BUSM, and chief of Dermatology at UH. She succeeds Peter E. Pochi, M.D., who has been serving as interim chairman since August 1984. Gilchrest, formerly a professor of dermatology at Tufts University School of Medicine, assumed the post July 1.

Gilchrest graduated cum laude from Harvard Medical School in 1971. She completed her internship and residency in internal medicine at Boston City Hospital in 1973. Gilchrest remained at HMS until 1983 when she joined Tufts as an associate professor of dermatology. She was also a member of the USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University.

Gilchrest's major research interests are in cutaneous gerontology, the control of skin cell growth and differentiation, and photobiology. She is chairman of the medical and scientific committee at the Dermatology Foundation, and a member of the Society for Investigative Dermatology, the Gerontological Society of America and the American Federation for Clinical Research.

BUSM PEDIATRICIANS AWARDED
RESIDENCY TRAINING GRANT

A team of BUSM pediatricians has been awarded a three-year \$705,000 grant from the Health Service Resource

Administration to further residency training programs in general pediatrics. The project is led by Joel Alpert, M.D., chairman of the Department of Pediatrics, Owen Mathieu, M.D., an associate professor of pediatrics and director of Pediatric Ambulatory Services at BCH, and Steven Pelton, M.D., an associate professor of pediatrics and director of pediatric education at BCH.

The grant, which became effective in July, continues an 11-year-old program to train pediatricians as leaders in pediatric primary care. So far, 76 percent of residents who have completed the program have gone into primary-care practice and/or teaching.

ZUCKERMAN RECEIVES GRANT
FOR CHILD SERVICES

Barry Zuckerman, M.D., an associate professor of pediatrics and director of the Division of Development and Behavioral

Pediatrics at Boston City Hospital, recently received a \$135,000 award from the Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust and the Boston Foundation, both located in Boston, to develop a Child Development Center at Boston City Hospital. Zuckerman said the Center will strive to coordinate and expand child development services within BCH and at community agencies, and to provide a model for inner-city hospitals that offer pediatric services. Zuckerman also expects the project to generate information regarding the ability of present community-based programs to serve young handicapped children. The program also aims to train educators to work with disadvantaged minority children in a hospital setting.

The Child Development Center will be a collaborative effort with Wheelock College. Margot Kaplan-Sanoff, Ed.D., of Wheelock, will co-direct the center with Zuckerman. Steven Parker, M.D., an assistant professor of pediatrics at BUSM, will direct the clinical programs within BCH.

DIMENSION IN OPERATION;
SNAGS BEING WORKED ON

The switchover to the Medical Center's new Dimension 2000 telecommunications system occurred on July 5, but the transition has

not been without some difficulties that continue to be worked on, according to Edwin Stedman, director of Security and Telecommunications.

Among the problems have been the operation of the tie-lines from the Medical Center to Boston City Hospital; these lines currently are not in operation. A shipment of equipment, however, is expected to arrive at the Medical Center soon to help rectify those problems.

Departments also are reminded to enter new Medical Center phone numbers on all faculty and staff turnaround forms filed with BUMC Personnel. Phone numbers listed on these forms will be used as the data source for compiling a personnel listing of the new phone numbers in the coming weeks.

NEWSLINE NOW HAS NEW
PHONE NUMBER: 638-NEWS

With the changeover to the new Dimension 2000 telecommunications system, NEWSLINE, the Medical Center's 24-hour information line,

has a new telephone number: xNEWS (638-NEWS). By dialing NEWSLINE, faculty,

staff and students can find out the Hospital's daily F-1 Cafeteria menu, and, when necessary, receive need-to-know information concerning such matters as severe weather conditions or traffic tie-ups.

BROITMAN GETS GRANT
FOR CANCER RESEARCH

Selwyn A. Broitman, Ph.D., a professor of microbiology, recently was awarded a two-year grant for \$81,000 from the American Institute for Cancer Research to continue studies on the effect of dietary fats on colon cancer development. While previous research in this field has implicated dietary fat in the development of colon tumors, Broitman's research will explore how different quantities and types of fat affect their growth and spread. The results of the study could help colon cancer patients by establishing nutritional guidelines for more effective therapy, said Broitman.

FREED AWARDED \$214,045
FOR REHABILITATION MEDICINE

Murray M. Freed, M.D., chairman of the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, was awarded a two-year \$214,045 grant renewal for long-term residency training in physical and rehabilitation medicine. The grant, which became effective July 1, was from the Rehabilitation Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Education. The funds will be used to train physicians to work in the rehabilitation field.

VACHON NAMED INTERIM
CHAIRMAN FOR PSYCHIATRY

Louis Vachon, M.D., an associate professor of psychiatry, has been appointed interim chairman for the Division of Psychiatry. Sanford I. Cohen, M.D., chairman of the BUSM Division of Psychiatry for the last 15 years, recently stepped down from that post to take a year's sabbatical. Cohen will formally resign his administrative duties in July, 1986.

A search committee for a new chairman will be established in the next few months, according to Vachon. Vachon has been director of the outpatient psychiatric services at UH since 1978 and a BUSM faculty member since 1962. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Neurology and Psychiatry and a member of the American Psychiatric Society, the International Psychoanalytic Association and the Massachusetts Medical Society.

DUKAKIS VISITS UH; BRAIN
INJURY CENTER ANNOUNCED

Governor Dukakis visited the New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center in July as part of his campaign to urge legislative approval of mandatory seat-belt use. The occasion also marked the start-up of the Northeast Regional Center for Brain Injury, a multidisciplinary head-injury program based at University Hospital.

According to NERCBI director Edward L. Spatz, M.D., chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery, the new program will coordinate the various medical strengths UH has to meet the multiple needs of head-injured patients. Other members of the Center's planning committee include Robert Feldman, M.D., chairman of the Department of Neurology; Murray Freed, M.D., chairman of the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine; Sanford Auerbach, M.D., an assistant professor of neurology and director of Neurobehavior at UH; and Stanley Ducharme, Ph.D., assistant clinical professor of rehabilitation medicine and

chief of the Rehabilitation Psychology Section and Sexuality/Disability training center at UH.

ROSENTHAL RECEIVES FELLOWSHIP; Steven R. Rosenthal, a third-year BUSM
WILL TRAVEL TO INDONESIA student, recently was awarded a SmithKline Beckman Medical Perspectives Fellowship. He will use the grant to study attitudes toward village-level health-care workers in Indonesia. Rosenthal plans to travel to Central Java, Indonesia, in March, where he will spend five months working for the Community Health Program at Gajah Mada University in Yogyakarta. Rosenthal decided to focus on public-health issues in such developing countries as Indonesia after studying that area's culture for several years.

Rosenthal was one of 33 medical students to receive a fellowship from the Medical Perspectives Fellowship Program, which is now in its eighth year.

SAOUAF AWARDED ACS Rola Saouaf '88, was one of four first-year
STONE FELLOWSHIP medical students in Massachusetts to receive a cancer research fellowship from the American Cancer Society's Betty Lea Stone Research Fellowship program. Saouaf was awarded a \$2,000 grant to work with Peter Brecher, Ph.D., a professor of biochemistry. Saouaf's research involves studying diacylglycerol, a chemical that makes cells multiply by activating a particular type of protein.

The Betty Lea Stone Fellowship program was established in 1979 to encourage medical students to pursue careers in cancer research. The fellowship is offered each year to one medical student from each of the state's four medical schools.

MEDICAL EDUCATION FELLOWSHIPS The National Fund for Medical Education in
AVAILABLE FOR POSTGRADUATES Hartford, Conn., is offering grants and fellowships for innovative projects in medical education. One-year fellowships are available to postgraduate students for supervised study in medical education. Other grants, which encourage medical schools to adapt proven educational programs in the NFME's five priority areas, also are available. The NFME grants cannot be used to cover the costs of biomedical research projects or the operating expenses of established programs.

Grant applications should address one or more of the following medical issues: advances in cost control; programs to enhance patient/physician relationships; improvements in the medical education selection process; or programs to integrate subjects that have recently emerged or have been inadequately addressed in medical education. The deadline for institution project proposals is Oct. 1; applications for postgraduate fellowships are due Nov. 1. Applications are available in the Dean's Office and in the Grants and Contracts office.

PHARMACOLOGY FACULTY The 36th fall meeting of the American
TO HOST ASPET MEETING Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics will be held August 18 through 22 at the Sheraton-Boston Hotel. BUSM faculty from the departments of

Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics played key roles in organizing the international conference, which is expected to draw the largest number of attendees and scientific sessions ever. A satellite conference entitled "The Second International Symposium on Subtypes of Muscarinic Receptors," organized by Ruth Levine, Ph.D., BUSM associate dean for graduate biomedical science studies, will be held August 22 through 24, following the ASPET meeting.

In addition to approximately 1,000 poster and platform presentations, 20 symposia are scheduled for the ASPET meeting. Conan Kornetsky, Ph.D., a professor of psychiatry (psychology) and pharmacology, has organized a symposium entitled "Behavioral Models for Assessing the Abuse Liability of Drugs." There will be a graduate-student convocation on "Application of Computers in Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics." A two-day symposium, "Vistas in Pharmacology," will cover the role of calcium in cardiac function.

School of Medicine members of the ASPET steering committee include Joseph Cochin, M.D., a professor of pharmacology and psychiatry; Conan Kornetsky, Ph.D., a professor of psychiatry (psychology) and pharmacology; Allan Kupferman, Ph.D., an associate professor of pharmacology and ophthalmology; Ruth Levine, Ph.D., also a professor of pharmacology and chairperson of the Division of Medical and Dental Sciences; Carol Walsh, Ph.D., an assistant professor of pharmacology; and Edward Pelikan, M.D., chairman of the Department of Pharmacology.

Registration will take place Sunday afternoon, August 18, at the Sheraton-Boston. Inquiries should be directed to the Department of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics at x4300 (638-4300).

BUMC TO SPONSOR MEETING
WITH SOCIAL PSYCHIATRY GROUP

The Division of Psychiatry at BUMC will co-sponsor the annual meeting of the American Association for Social Psychiatry, to be held Sept. 6 through 8 at BUMC. The theme will be "Rapidly Escalating System Forming/Systemic Factors Dominant in Today's World in Medical and Psychiatric Practice." Participants will attempt to clarify the new social, scientific, economic, ideological and political contexts in which people live, and to offer suggestions on how to link these factors with the degree of mental health or illness in a society, and the efficacy of psychiatric efforts.

Richard C. Pillard, M.D., an associate professor of psychiatry, is co-organizer of the conference. Speakers will include Sanford Cohen, M.D., a professor of psychiatry, who will present "Measurement of Human Adaptation to Stressful Environments." Dean Sandson will speak on the price of cost containment in health care, and George Annas, J.D., M.P.H., the James Utley professor of health law at SPH, will present "New Hearts for Old: America's Mythical Sporting Life."

In addition, a Sunday panel workshop on the evolution of family structure, function and problems will feature Daniel Shaw, M.D., an assistant clinical professor of psychiatry, who will discuss "Families and Schizophrenia," and Richard Pillard, M.D., who will discuss "Families with Gay Children."

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON
MYOCARDIAL PROTECTION HELD

The art and science of protecting the ischemic myocardium before, during and after surgery was the focus of a recent symposium

sponsored by BUSM and the Cardiac Programs of University Hospital. Approximately 120 physicians and researchers from the United States, Canada, England, Germany, Austria and France attended the two-day conference, held at the Westin Hotel in Boston. Participants, including investigators in cardiac surgery, cardiology, biochemistry, pathology and physiology, heard approximately 40 original scientific abstracts on myocardial protection as well as numerous presentations by BUSM faculty and other internationally recognized researchers. Proceedings from the symposium are scheduled to be published and circulated this fall.

Arthur Roberts, M.D., chairman of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, was course director and chaired the session on basic considerations related to myocardial protection during cardiac surgery. Other BUSM faculty who participated at the conference included: Thomas Ryan, M.D., a professor and chief of the Section of Cardiology at UH, who presented an overview of medical advances in myocardial protection, and David Faxon, M.D., an associate professor of medicine, who presented "Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty." Other speakers included Mirle Kellett, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine; Timothy Sanborn, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine; and Carl Apstein, M.D., a professor of medicine and chief of the Section of Cardiology at BCH. James McCormick, M.D., an associate professor of surgery, chaired the session on current clinical techniques in myocardial protection.

BUSM FACULTY FEATURED
IN FALL CME COURSES

The Department of Continuing Education is offering several fall courses featuring faculty members from BUSM departments.

"General Principles in Toxicology and Toxicologic Pathology" will be held August 19 through 23 at the University's Charles River Campus. The course will teach principles and methods used in studying mutagenesis, carcinogenesis and other manifestations of chemical toxicity in microbial and mammalian cells; current concepts of xenobiotic metabolism; and risk-assessment approaches for exposure to chemicals. Course directors are pathology professors Adrienne E. Rogers, M.D., and Paul M. Newberne, D.V.M., Ph.D.

"Frontiers in Critical Care Medicine" will be offered Sept. 6 and 7 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Cambridge. The course is designed for medical personnel who are involved in the care of critically ill patients. The state-of-the-art approach to mechanical ventilation, recent advances in ICU poly-pharmacology, and new concepts in hemodynamic and metabolic monitoring capabilities will be covered. Course director is Neil S. Yeston, M.D., an assistant professor of surgery.

The 7th Annual Emergency Pediatrics course will be held Sept. 20 and 21 at the Parker House in Boston. The course will feature workshops by faculty from the departments of Pediatrics, Orthopedics and Pediatric Surgery. The courses are designed for medical and nursing personnel who have contact with emergencies involving children and adolescents. Robert M. Reece, M.D., an associate professor of pediatrics, is course director.

BRIEFLY NOTED

Robert E. Leach, M.D., chairman of the Department of Orthopedic and Fracture Surgery, recently was appointed to a four-year chairmanship of the Sports Medicine Council of the U.S. Olympic Committee. Leach also was elected to the

American Board of Orthopedic Surgery....Henry Rosett, M.D., a clinical professor of psychiatry and medical director of the Fetal Alcohol Education Program, received a Special Award from the Research Society on Alcoholism, presented at a recent annual meeting in Charlestown, S.C. Rosett was recognized for his efforts regarding research and the dissemination of information relating to alcohol use and pregnancy....Jerome H. Shapiro, M.D., chairman of the Department of Radiology, recently was appointed to a four-year term of membership on the National Board of Medical Examiners, a non-governmental organization that develops and administers examination programs for the health professions....Two BUSM alumni were honored this spring by Massachusetts colleges. Jack T. Evjy '61, an associate clinical professor of medicine, received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Merrimack College. Nicholas J. Fiumara '39, a clinical professor of dermatology, was awarded a degree of Doctor of Science, honoris causa, from Worcester State College....James F. Cummins, M.D., F.A.C.P., an associate clinical professor of medicine and chief of medicine at BUSM-affiliated Jewish Memorial Hospital, recently toured hospitals in the Liaoning Province, China, where he met with selected young Chinese physicians who will spend a year at the JMH learning geriatric medicine....Leonard S. Gottlieb, M.D., chairman of the Department of Pathology, and Ernest Blaustein, Ph.D., associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts, spoke at the annual meeting of the Boston Chapter of the Sustainer Group of Hadassah about the recently signed BUSM-Hadassah Medical Center (Jerusalem) affiliation.

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