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Boston University Medical Center

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Boston University
Award given for 609 Albany St. building

Boston University and the contractor and architect who worked together to build the School of Medicine's 609 Albany St. research building have won a performance award from the Association of General Contractors of Massachusetts.

The award, which recognizes contractor R.F. Walsh and Co., the architectural firm of John Shesky Associates and Boston University, the owner of the 609 Albany St. building, acknowledges the three professional groups' success in working together under challenging circumstances to create a structure notable for its construction and architecture.

The honor, granted for the medium-size-project category, was given through the organization's "Build Massa-

New biomedical research building opens

School of Medicine Dean Aram V. Chobanian presided over a ribbon-cutting ceremony in the lobby of the new building.

Some 300 people turned out to celebrate the official opening of Boston University's new Center for Advanced Biomedical Research (CABR) on Oct. 14, at the site of the new building at 700 Albany Street. School of Medicine Dean Aram V. Chobanian called the building "a dream transformed into reality in a remarkably brief period of time."

The Center is the pioneering structure in BioSquare, a $350 million, biomedical/biotechnology complex planned for Albany Street by Boston University and BUMC Hospital. When completed, the "scientific village" is expected to be the largest and most comprehensive health care and biotechnology development in Boston.

"Albany Street and the South Bay area will undergo a wonderful transformation during this decade," said Chobanian.

The celebratory event opened with a two-ribbon cutting ceremony held in the foyer of the building. Chobanian presided over the inauguration, in which a number of dignitaries participated, including Boston University and BUMC leaders, as well as Judith Vaitukaitis, MD, a BUSM graduate and former faculty member, who is now director of the National Center for Research Resources at the National Institutes of Health in Washington, D.C.

Following the ceremony, Boston University's guests--including members of the Medical Center, Boston University and local community--gathered in a tent behind the Center for lunch and the remainder of the opening ceremony. Amongst the many speakers were Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, Vaitukaitis and Boston University President John Silber.

Vaitukaitis said she considered "multidisciplinary enter-

Center provides new open space

Southern exposure, coupled with landscaping and benches set up behind the new Center for Advanced Biomedical Research, should attract Medical Center employees looking for a sunny spot to have lunch or just get some fresh air during the winter months. Those employees looking to stretch their legs during the day may want to consider walking over to the new building and walking around it.
Harrison Avenue and its sidewalks revitalized

A major upgrade of much of Harrison Avenue and the sidewalks that line it is under way, and when it is through the buckled road will have been replaced with a completely new road, the worn out infrastructure below it will have been re-constructed, the sidewalks that have been precarious to walk on will have been replaced with new concrete slabs and brick trim, and acorn lights will be in place.

This project marks the third major development to take place on Harrison Ave. in the last year and a half that the Medical Center has prompted. A renal dialysis center for the Medical Center is being constructed at the corner of East Canton Street, the Harrison Court residential complex for the Medical Center opened in the spring of 1992, and the development of the Star Brush Lot was completed a year and a half ago. The Medical Center worked in conjunction with the local community to prompt the City of Boston to finance the road reconstruction project.

The reconstruction is being carried out on Harrison Avenue between East Brookline Street and East Concord Street. It will be completed by the end of December. The other portion of Harrison Avenue, between East Concord Street and Massachusetts Avenue, was repaired several years ago. In conjunction with this project, BUMC has upgraded the entrance to the receiving area between East Concord and East Newton streets.

The Harrison Avenue project includes rebuilding the damaged infrastructure of pipes and steam lines below the street. The damaged steam lines had caused shifting in the road and sidewalks, making passage by car rough and walking along the sidewalk dangerous, particularly for people in wheelchairs, those with other disabilities, and senior citizens. There will be acorn lights, resembling the old-fashioned poles with a single bulb, as exist outside the new Center for Advanced Biomedical Research, on Albany Street.

Harrison Court apartment complex for year-long rentals only

The Medical Center Office of Rental Property Management wishes to announce that Harrison Court, the Medical Center's residential complex on Harrison Ave., is 100 percent occupied, and is therefore not available for short-term leases as it was last year.

Award honors team performance

609 Albany Street
continued from page 1

The award notes the 609 Albany St. building's architectural detail, its scale, the types of materials used to construct it and the fact that it is architecturally in synch with the surrounding neighborhood. The Boston Redevelopment Authority now uses the building as a "measuring stick" for the construction of other structures in the area.

The award also commends the state-of-the-art construction techniques used to build such features of the building as a complex roof system. The lead-coated upper roof had to be built without the use of wood below it, which required a unique building technique.

The development of 609 Albany St. was considered complex for a number of reasons. The building was limited to a small site, which made staging of the construction difficult, and the floor plan was extremely tight, as it was "packed" with laboratories and offices, according to Jack Hobbs, of R.F. Walsh and Co. "There wasn't an inch to spare," he said.

The detailed work needed to successfully install all of the necessary elements required a great deal of coordination between subcontractors, according to Hobbs.

In the event of a medical emergency on Campus...

EMTs

In the event of a medical emergency occurring on the Medical Campus, whether it be in an office or on the grounds, call the Medical Campus Office of Security, at x85000. The security office has certified emergency medical training (EMT) staff.

New EdMedia director named

Domenic Screnci EdD has been promoted to the position of director of the Educational Media Center, bringing eight years of experience in the department to his new role. He has served as acting director since April.

Screnci is a member of the Association for Educational Communications and Technology, and the Biological Photographic Association, and has served these and other associations as a presenter in the areas of communication and photography.

The Educational Media Center provides a host of professional services to the Medical Center. These include classroom/student lab services, art and graphic design, medical illustration, electronic imaging, biomedical photography and printing/photocopying.

Help with mailings available from Huntington's disease volunteers

The Huntington's Disease Society of Massachusetts, based at BUMC Hospital, has a volunteer team of people with Huntington's disease who are interested in doing mailings for other departments at the Medical Center. The volunteers are particularly interested in stuffing and labeling envelopes. "This is our way of thanking the folks at BUMC who have always supported the work of the Huntington's Disease Society," said May Long, the executive director of the organization.

For further information, contact Long, at x88333.
Health care reform is focus of BUMC forum

BUMC held the first in a series of open forums on health care reform on Thursday, Sept. 23. Panelists were, from left, Wendy Mariner, JD, MPH, director of Boston Neighborhood Health Center; Robert Meenan, MD, MPH, director of Boston Neighborhood Health Center; Richard Egdahl, MD, MPH, director of Boston Neighborhood Health Center; and John Cradock, chief executive officer of the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center. The seven panelists, moderated by School of Medicine Dean Aram Chobanian, spoke to a standing-room only crowd of students, employees, faculty and administrators in the newly renovated Bakst Auditorium.

All of the participants supported the need for health care reform, and each evaluated the aspect of the current package that dealt with their area of expertise.

"I applaud the president, because this is about access," said John Cradock, chief executive officer of the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center. "If in my lifetime [this country] could see universal entitlement only—not that I don't want a lot more—I'd be delighted," he said. "I didn't believe that it could happen until very recently."

School of Public Health Director Robert Meenan, MD, MPH, also expressed enthusiasm for reform. "It's exciting to hear a Presidential address on a major, important domestic issue," he said. "Now that we don't have to perhaps worry about a bomb arriving on our doorstep from the Soviet Union, we can focus on very important issues of domestic policy."

Cradock and Meenan's fellow panelists were Patricia Barry, MD, MPH, chief of geriatrics at BUMCH; Richard Egdahl, MD, director of Boston Neighborhood Health Center; and Spencer Frankl, DDS, Dean of the Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry, and Wendy Mariner, JD, MPH, professor of public health (health law) and social policy at BUSM/SPH.

BUMC Director Egdahl was optimistic about the role academic medical centers play in Clinton's plan. "One thing that is very good from our perspective," he said, is that "there is $6 billion in there for such things as academic medical centers." How these funds will be spent is yet to be determined, he pointed out, but that money would be in addition to the kinds of reimbursements received by hospitals.

Chobanian pointed out that the Clinton plan does not neglect the roles of academic institutions, as funding for research would be included in health care reform.

By the same token, BUMC "absolutely has to become known as a place that is terribly committed to primary care in all its ramifications... in order to survive," said Eliastam. Therefore, BUMCH and BCH must unite and integrate services.

Health care reform continued on page 4

United Way campaign taps winners on Medical Campus

The generous donations of three Medical Campus employees to Boston University's United Way campaign qualified them for, and then led them to win, three out of the four drawings held so far this campaign season for those making donations of more than $93.

Ellen Wiklanski, a grants administrator in the BUSM Cardiovascular Institute, won the first drawing in the campaign. Wiklanski won the opportunity to participate in a one-day "fall culinary experience" through Boston University's Metropolitan College. Stephen Kane, a clinical assistant professor in the Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry's Department of Operative Dentistry, won tickets for two to the Huntington Theatre, while Cheryl England, a lab supervisor in the BUSM Department of Biophysics, won a $150 gift certificate to the Boston University Bookstore.

While Wiklanski was grateful for the prize, she stressed that making the donation was a lot more important to her. "It's a wonderful opportunity for people to give to their community," she said.

Ten reasons to take the #10 bus...

TEN fabulous prizes, now being distributed over TEN weeks, to TEN lucky people taking the new and improved Bus #10 (Copley Square, via Andrews Station), which makes one of two main stops at Back Bay Station. Prizes being donated by retail shops in Copley Square and the South End. Stay tuned for more details...

Support group being formed for victims of personal, family violence

Medical Campus victims of personal or family violence are invited to join a self-help group being established by the Boston University Faculty and Staff Assistance Program. All faculty and staff are welcome. Confidentiality is assured. Medical Campus employees who are interested should call x84666 or 353-5381.
The new research building: "A dream transformed into reality"

CABR
continued from page 1
prises like the Center [to be] the logical next step in the quest to conquer disease.

"Such enterprises require not only leading edge technology, but unprecedented collaborations between diverse medical specialists and specialties," she said.

Mayor Thomas M. Menino, then acting mayor, praised Boston University for infusing the South End with a potentially potent economic stimulus. "I fully recognize that attracting employment in biotechnology research centers and high tech companies is a path that Boston must follow to secure its future," he said. "Boston has demonstrated that it can attract the leading biotech companies in the world when the land, infrastructure and community commitment is there. This," he said, "is a perfect example."

"BioSquare represents an exciting new option for biotech companies, both large and small," he said. "I believe it will serve as a magnet for new companies and jobs in years to come.

Menino also praised Boston University for bringing jobs to the area. "BioSquare represents economic hope for Boston, because it will generate jobs for Boston residents and attract vital new businesses," he said, noting that the development of the complex should generate 2,000 construction jobs and 2,000 permanent jobs.

Silber also focused on the potential inherent in the birth of BioSquare. The complex "reflects Boston University's commitment not only to extending the frontiers of knowledge, but to working with industry in order to bring new products based on this knowledge to the market place and into our daily lives," he said.

BioSquare is intended to give BUMC the appeal to attract additional top-flight faculty to the Medical Center, and major biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies into cooperative ventures at the site. Negotiations for the leasing of space at BioSquare, which would lead to collaborations, are already under way.

BioSquare ultimately is intended to include medical office and ambulatory care facilities, two additional medical/research/office facilities totaling approximately 470,000 square feet, a 1,000-space parking garage with childcare center and retail space on the ground level, and a 240-room hotel and conference center.

The Center for Advanced Biomedical Research has nine floors of laboratory and office space, totaling 180,000 square feet. The building, already partially occupied, will house some of the key areas of investigation under way at the Medical Campus, including the Whitaker Cardiovascular Institute, the Department of Biophysics, the Center for Human Genetics, the Department of Urology, the Laboratory Animal Science Center and the Goldman School's Division of Oral Biology. Occupation is expected to be completed by early January.

Panelists evaluate Clinton package, focusing on their areas of expertise

Panel
continued from page 3
ices as soon as possible, Eliastam said.

Goldman School Dean Frankl focused on the real strides for dental care offered under the Clinton plan. "I'm very pleased that the Clinton plan will include dental care [for children] as part of its reform package," he Frankl. "Today, dental care is mandated for all residents in our correctional systems, while dental care for children has, to date, never been mandated. Perhaps tomorrow as a result of this health care reform package, dental treatment will no longer be considered discretionary or optional, but will rather be considered necessary, vital and valuable, especially for our nation's children."

Eliastam took issue with the fact that the Clinton plan for universal care excludes illegal aliens and prisoners. "While their dental care is good," he said about prisoners, "their health care is lacking." No matter what a person's circumstance, Eliastam said, all American residents should be covered by a health care plan.

From a public health perspective, Meenan said it is important to remember public health changes are integral to health care reform. Programs addressing such issues as teenage pregnancy, drug addiction and AIDS, must be structured and funded in order for health care reform to work, he said.

In regard to health care for the fastest growing population in America, Barry said, "Approach to elderly care really requires a continuum of care. One of the things I would like to see addressed, if we formalize this plan, is some sort of attention to how to move elderly people through different aspects of the system so that they can be where they need to be and receive the appropriate level of care based on their need at the time."

Hospital President J. Scott Abercrombie, MD, was unable to participate in the forum because he was at the White House that afternoon, having been invited to join the President and Hillary Clinton and other health care professionals in an event marking the beginning of the Clinton health care reform campaign.

BUMC plans to continue the series of open forums, entitled "The Road to Health Care Reform," in order to track health care reform as it works its way through the political process. Each forum will be designed to assist the Medical Center community in understanding the developments in the reform package.

Campus Update is published monthly by the Boston University Medical Campus Office of Business Affairs: William J. Gasper, associate vice president. Article ideas may be addressed to Mr. Gasper or to Michael J. Donovan, executive director of the Office of Personnel and Administrative Services. The publication is produced by the Medical Center's Office of Publication Services: Owen J. McNamara, director; Jennifer C. O'Brien, editor/writer; Georgia Stefanidakis, designer.