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Boston University
Convocation planned for BUSM's sesquicentennial

To commemorate the start of the 1998-1999 academic year, BUSM will continue its year-long sesquicentennial celebration with style as national, local and school leaders converge on the campus.

On Friday, Sept. 18, a tent will be erected in the parking lot across Albany Street from the Talbot Building for the convocation. Dean Aram Chobanian, MD, provost of BU Medical Campus, will host the ceremony. Scheduled to attend the event are U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher, MD; American Association of Medical Colleges President Jordan Cohen, MD; Boston Mayor Thomas Menino; and distinguished alumni Mary Jane England '64; Ralph D. Feigin '62; and Rachel Boone Keith, '49.

"The convocation marks 150 years of excellence in medical education and research at BUSM," says Chobanian. "As this academic year begins, we are pleased to host an event that honors our past achievements and celebrates our future promise — our students."

The event will ring in the new academic year and honor accomplished individuals for their dedication to ensuring the highest quality health care for all. Receiving honorary degrees at the ceremony are Cohen, England, Feigin, Keith and Satcher, while a special sesquicentennial medal will be presented to Menino for his constant support of BUSM and its programs. Satcher also will deliver the keynote speech.

The convocation begins at 2 p.m. BUMC faculty, staff and students are welcome to attend the event.

Since January, BUSM has held a variety of events to celebrate the milestone, including the first Alumni Career Day, The Women in Medicine Awards ceremony, the Rebecca Lee 5K Road Race and numerous scientific sessions. This fall continued on page 6
SPH centralizes student services

Workshops demonstrate BMC cares

SDM growing in leaps and bounds

BMC to honor employees

Researchers stress the benefit of mammograms for African-Americans
A new clinic at BU Medical Center is championing the sexual local health and satisfaction of women. Opened in July, the Women's Sexual Health Community Clinic is run by doctor Jennifer Berman, MD, and sex therapist Laura Berman, PhD, who happen to be sisters. The clinic, tout- eulogized nationally in the September issue of Ladies' Home Journal, is one of the first in the country to bring together medical and psychological specialists to focus on women's sexual health. In collaboration with the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Department of Urology at BU Medical Center, the HHI has created a clinic that offers women a wide range of solutions for the complex problems that can impede sexual health. With the help of The Boston Foundation, the clinic has also received funding from the MDPH for two benchmark studies — one will look at breast cancer attitudes among women over 40 in Boston's Haitian neighborhoods, and the other will study attitudes about HIV counseling and testing among pregnant and post- partum Haitian women. The HHI has also developed a six-part parenting program for Haitian families, with particular emphasis on such difficult issues as discipline, sexuality education and the management of chronic illness. With the help of The Boston Foundation, the clinic has also received funding to continue its efforts to forge coalitions with Haitian community-based organizations, public health agencies and private foundations, to advocate for the public health needs of Haitians statewide and strengthen the leadership role of Haitian community-based groups. As the HHI looks to the future, its efforts will focus on educating members of the medical community about the needs of Haitian women. "We would like to become a health care resource center not only for seeking medical care, but also for those providing the services to the Haitian community," says President. The HHI is helping develop an upcoming BMC Cultural Diversity Forum and training courses in Haitian Creole, the language spoken by most Haitians, for BMC, physicians and staff. Keeping in step with technological advances, the institute, the institute's website at a www.bmc.org/program/haïti. The website provides background information about the HHI and its programs, in addition to an extensive guide of Haitian resource agencies and health-related events. BMC has long been a leader in caring for Boston's Haitian community, "says David. "We strive to build on this tradition of excellence and to help provide this community with outstanding health care services."
ITMA offers new services for fall

Dedicated to providing cost-effective, dependable and environmentally sound modes of transportation, the Intrastitutional Transportation Management Association (ITMA) continues to make it easier for employees, students, patrons and visitors to travel to and from BMC.

The ITMA, representing BUMC and the Public Health Commission, offers several transportation services, including computerized ride matching for those wishing to carpool and vanpool, public transit information (maps and schedules), campus shuttle services and personalized assistance with commuting.

This fall, new and enhanced services for commuters include:

- the opportunity for BUMC employees to participate in the MassPac Program, which gives unlimited access to the restricted Ted Williams Tunnel.
- Participants are issued an electronic toll device that saves time and money.
- enhanced security by the new bike portal throughout the medical campus.
- formation of a bike-user group, as well as bike registration with BMC police officers this fall.
- new bicycle racks installed throughout the campus.
- up-to-date transportation materials, including information about the Central Artery Project, now available on the ITMA website.
- a new, more convenient Evening Transit Shuttle schedule.

The ITMA continues to coordinate the following shuttle service schedules:

**All Day Medical Campus Shuttle**
- West Howard Street Parking Lot Shuttle Evening Campus Shuttle
- Evening Transit Shuttle
- Boston VA Medical Center Shuttle

**Brooks Medical Campus Shuttle**
- BU Charlie River Campus Shuttle

For more information, the ITMA offers an automated, 24-hour phone line that provides hands-on activities that focus on safety, health, nutrition, fitness, beauty and quality-of-life information. For more information, call 617-358-8722.

Open Enrollment 1999 for BMC employees

Beginning Wednesday, Sept. 30, BMC employees have the opportunity to make changes to their benefits, including health and dental insurance, short- and long-term disability insurance, life insurance and flexible spending accounts. To kick off Open Enrollment 1999, representatives from each of the benefit plans will be on-hand to answer questions.

Changes made to benefit elections will be effective Jan. 1, 1999. BMC employees eligible to receive benefits will have open enrollment information packages sent to their home address on file. If you need to update your benefits, you should review any questions regarding Open Enrollment 1999, please contact Human Resources at 638-8385.

September

11 Golf Tournament - The Bedf Scrabble for The Kids Fund Golf Tournament will be held Friday, Sept. 11, at the Beverly Country Club in Dedham. The tournament is sponsored by Bedfriends, with proceeds benefitting the former Boston City Hospital. The fee is $150, which includes cart, lunch and a buffet breakfast. For more information, please contact Mary Langmore, director of The Kids Fund, at 414-9571.

15 Jewish Teaching Session - A Jewish Reb Holub ( renowned Yiddish speaker recently held sessions will be held from noon to 1 p.m. in the Atrium, Atrium East Newton Street Campus. The sessions will be led by Rabbi Paul H. Lewenson, hospital chaplain. All staff and hospital staff are invited for singing High Holy Day songs and prayers with explanations. Apples and honey will be served.

17 Brain Symposium - A Brain Symposium will be held in Baker Auditorium from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 17, and 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 18. The purpose of the workshop is to bring scientists of different disciplines together to work toward a greater understanding of the functions of the brain.

October

23 Prostate Screening - As part of an ongoing commitment to the Boston Medical Center community, BMC's Department of Urology is offering free prostate cancer screening from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration will take place in the Atrium Pavilion Lobby on the East Newton Street Campus. The screening includes a free prostate exam and PSA blood test. For more information, call the BMC Health Connection at 638-6767.

25 Healthy Kids Fair - Approximately 500 children between the ages of 5 and 16 are expected to attend this annual event. The fair, now in its fourth year, will be held in the lobby of the Inpatient Facility, as well as in the adjoining courtyard and circular driveway on the Newton Avenue Campus. From 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., children can participate in several hands-on activities on topics such as nutrition, safety, fitness, nutrition, fitness and reading. For more information, call 638-8722.

Cultural Diversity Forum - The diversity forum, the fifth in a series, will focus on comparing the similarities and differences of the various cultures served at BMC. The forum will take place from noon to 1 p.m. in Dowling Auditorium on the Newton Avenue Campus (BUMC). Guest speakers: Cochenn Haddad, president, Cochenn Haddad Associates, will lead the forum. Those attending are encouraged to bring a lunch, as desserts and refreshments will be available. For more information, call 414-5045.

November

2 Women's Health Expo - At the Baystate Expo Center in Boston, from Oct. 2-5, the expo will feature health, nutrition, fitness, beauty and quality-of-life information, products and services for women. Representatives from BMC will host a Healthy Lifestyles booth and provide hands-on activities on cooking, computerized health assessments, cooking demonstrations and information about BMC services for women. For more information, call 638-8805 or check out the Web site at www.womenshealthexpo.com.

3 Pianos Recital - To celebrate BMC's 25th anniversary and the 125th anniversary of the Center for Human Genetics, a piano recital will be performed by Ronika Kushkuley. The performance will be held at 8 p.m. in the School of Management Auditorium, 595 Commonwealth Ave. A reception follows the recital. Kushkuley, a 15-year-old Louisiana prodigy, won four international piano competitions, appeared in Carnegie Hall and performed on television and radio. Most recently, she was awarded the Jane Goodall Pediatric International Prize for Excellence in the Arts. For more information, call 638-7083.

Supporting the fight against cancer

A reception was held recently to acknowledge members of Aid for Cancer Research (ACR) for their generous contributions to BMC. During the past two fiscal years, individuals contributed more than $300,000 to the school. Standing in back of a liquid nitrogen storage container that ACR helped fund are (left to right) ACR Chairperson Dr. Carol Ann Epstein; Peter Mozden, MD, professor of surgery at BUSM; ACR President Marcia Smirnoff; and winning ACR President Jane Weinberg.

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People

Arlene Ash, PhD, research professor in the Department of Mathematics in Medicine at BUSM, has been named a Fellow of the American Statistical Association. The honor recognizes an individual's outstanding professional contribution and leadership in the field of statistical science.

Michael Eikort, '98, recently received the Outstanding Medical Service Award at the Annual Meeting and Awards Program of the Greater Boston Association for Citizens with Mental Retardation and Related Disabilities (GBARC). Eikort was recognized for the research he conducted as a medical student studying the experiences and perspectives of the parents of children with severe neurological disabilities.

John Healy, MD, assistant clinical instructor in pediatrics at BUSM and a fellow with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), has received the Pediatrics Review and Education Program Education Award. The award recognizes AAP fellows and candidates fellows who have earned a minimum of 150 AAP approved continuing medical education credits over the course of three consecutive years. Fewer than 10 percent of the members of the AAP receive this prestigious award.

BUSM and SPH were well represented at the 12th World AIDS Conference in Geneva held Sunday, June 28, through Friday, July 3.

Kenneth Freedberg, MD, associate professor of medicine and associate professor of public health (epidemiology and biostatistics) at BUSM and SPH; Jeffrey Samet, MD, director of Clinical Addiction Research and Education, and co-director of the HIV Diagnostic Evaluation Unit at BMC, and associate professor of medicine and social and behavioral sciences at BUSM; Jacqueline Savetsky, project manager in the Section of General Internal Medicine - Research Unit at BU Medical Center; and George Seage III, MPH, DSc, associate professor of Public Health (epidemiology and biostatistics) at BUSM and SPH, presented the results of their research on HIV at the international conference.

New Appointments

Rabbi Paul H. Levenson has been named interim Jewish chaplain at BMC. Levenson has extensive experience as a hospital chaplain, as well as having served in a Boston area congregation and a university campus over the last 20 years. Trained in counseling and clinical therapy, his 40 years in the rabbinical field will ably enhance the work of the Pastoral Care Department at BMC.

Kevin Monahan, MD, has been named director, Electrophysiology Laboratory, Arrhythmia Service and Device Service at BMC, and assistant professor of medicine at BUSM. Monahan comes to BU Medical Center from Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, where he served as director of the Pacemaker and ICD Center. He also served as an instructor in medicine at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard Medical School. Between 1992 and 1996, he served as a fellow in electrophysiology and cardiology at Beth Israel Hospital.

A 1985 graduate of Georgetown University, Monahan received his medical degree from the University of Connecticut Medical School in 1989 and completed his internship and residency at Beth Israel Hospital from 1989 to 1992. Monahan has received board certification in cardiovascular disease and cardiovascular electrophysiology, holds a Massachusetts Medical License and is also licensed by the American Board of Internal Medicine. The author of numerous articles, Monahan has also won many awards including the Internal Medicine Award from the University of Connecticut and the Sandoz Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement.

Remco Spanjaard, PhD, has been appointed director of the Molecular Biology Laboratory and director of research for the Department of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery. Spanjaard received his PhD in 1989 in bacterial genetics from Leiden University, Leiden, The Netherlands. He received a post-doctoral fellowship from the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NOW). He comes to BMC from Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) where he served as an instructor in the Department of Surgery and developed an independently funded research program in melanoma and retinoids. At BWH, he also contributed to the development of new cancer treatments. At BMC, Spanjaard will continue his work with melanoma and devote his time to developing translational research in squamous cell cancer of the head and neck. He will also direct and supervise residents and medical student research programs for the department.

Grants Awarded

BMC's Department of Pediatrics has joined forces with the Children's Sentinel Nutrition Assessment Program to monitor the impact of welfare reform on the growth and health status of young children in Massachusetts and five other states. Funded by a three-year, $2.4 million grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, pediatric specialists and advocates will monitor how changes in welfare policies impact a child's health.

The study will assess health associations with state welfare plans in Massachusetts, Arkansas, California, District of Columbia, Maryland and Minnesota. Summaries of the findings will be provided to policy makers so that policies with negative effects on children can be reconsidered and those with positive effects can be expanded. In addition, children at risk for growth or nutrition problems will be identified and linked to clinical, social or other services.

Practice expands affiliation with BMC

In a continuing effort to better serve patients in suburban communities, BMC has expanded its long-standing affiliation with the primary care practice of Stephen E. Sweet, MD.

Sweet's practice, located in the Coolidge Corner section of Brookline, will be relocating within the neighborhood later this month to a larger office at 209 Harvard St. The move coincides with expanded office hours which will assure new patient appointments within a few days of an initial call.

Sweet, who has worked closely with BMC for the past 20 years, is board certified in internal medicine and in cardiology. His office stresses prompt delivery of patient services and attention to medical details. The practice welcomes new patients, with or without specific cardiovascular disease or concerns.

"We are pleased to enhance a long-standing relationship with a wonderful physician such as Dr. Stephen Sweet. His newly designed BMC practice in Brookline offers improved access and convenience for our primary care patients," says Paul Drew, vice president for network development at BMC.

Sweet received his medical degree from Tufts University School of Medicine. He completed his internship and residency at the Boston VA Medical Center, and his cardiology fellowship at the former University Hospital, now BMC.

In October, Sweet will be joined in his practice by Philip E. Knapp, MD. Together they will be developing a BMC practice that stresses exceptionally high levels of patient services. Knapp comes to the practice from the BU Residency Program in Medicine at BMC.

Robert Wirzbug, MD, vice chairman of the Department of Medicine, associate chief medical officer and chief of the Section of Community Medicine, was instrumental in recruiting Knapp to Sweet's practice. "This affiliation and partnership is a great opportunity for us to grow in Brookline and surrounding areas," says Wirzbug.

Patients wishing to contact Sweet or Knapp for an appointment should call (617) 738-7785. 

Institutional abbreviations

BMC – Boston Medical Center
BU – Boston University
BU Medical Campus – BU Schools of Medicine, Public Health and Dental Medicine
BUMC – Boston University Medical Center (includes BU Medical Campus and Boston Medical Center)
BUSB – BU School of Medicine
SDM – Goldman School of Dental Medicine
SPH – BU School of Public Health

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