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Boston University
Our new look

MedCenter News recently published a Leadership Survey seeking readers' opinions. Many respondents indicated that they often find it difficult to tell when a new issue of MedCenter News is on the stands. In response, we are instituting a color change on the masthead beginning with this issue. Each month, a different color masthead will help signify when a new issue has arrived. Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey and share your thoughts with us.

Center opening attracts state, hospital leaders

With the opening of its new Breastfeeding Center, BMC is continuing to promote breastfeeding as an important part of a healthy start for newborns. Lt. Gov. Jane Swift, and hospital leadership, including Manuel Ferris, chairman of the Board of Trustees at BMC; Elaine Ullian, president and CEO of BMC; and Bobbi Philipp, MD, medical director of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine at BMC and associate professor of pediatrics at BUSM, joined patients and employees at a ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the center on Tuesday, Feb. 9.

"Women who are thinking about or have already chosen to breastfeed often need some initial support in the hospital and once they get home," said Philipp. "We will now be able to provide the answers and support they need."

MedCAREERS provides online career counseling for students

A new computer-based career advising and planning program pioneered by Arthur Culbert, PhD, associate dean for Student Affairs, has been appointed to implement MedCAREERS at the school. How does it work? First-year medical students at BUSM and other participating schools will point their browsers at the MedCAREERS website, allowing them to conduct self-assessments and test their desires and inclinations against the real world. "These professional self-assessment tools provide insight on who they are and what they want to be at this point in time," said Culbert, a scholar-in-residence at the AAMC. "Over the course of their four years, medical students will complete modules on career exploration, decision-making, and implementation. MedCAREERS will give students a better understanding of how their interests and abilities match with the real world," said Culbert. "We're really putting them in touch with resources. We're not reinventing the wheel, we're continued on page 5.
Hematology service expands patient care beyond hospital walls

Providing comprehensive care to nearly 80,000 children and adolescents with blood diseases each year, the Pediatric Hematology Service at BMC has rapidly become one of the largest subspecialties within the Division of Pediatrics.

Under the leadership of Michael Osland, MD, director of the service and co-founder of the New Penn Pediatric Hematology Program at BMC, as well as chief professor of pediatrics at BUMS, the service treats individuals through young adults suffering from sickle cell disease, leukemia, sickle cell anemia, and related anemias.

The service provides inpatient care, medical clinic visits, and inpatient consultations for pediatric patients and their families. The team also provides educational services for parents and community organizations.

The Pediatric Hematology Service was the first in Massachusetts to offer genetic counseling and the first to establish a genetic database to predict which patients with sickle cell disease are at an increased risk for stroke.

As a more extensive program, the American Society of Hematology has added to its database of patient information and provided access to the American Society of Clinical Oncology database, allowing the team to identify patients who may benefit from certain treatments.

Blood donation is encouraged. Donors must be at least 10 years old and weigh at least 210 pounds. For more information, call the Pediatric Hematology Service at 414-2777 or the American Red Cross at (800) 448-3534.

Save your smile, stamp the stokes

Athough enjoying a movie has become the latest Hollywood fad, researchers at BMC say actors should stop cavity-causing habits if they want to keep their million-dollar smiles. Following a fellowship in oral and maxillofacial surgery, Sentovich became an assistant professor in surgery at Harvard Medical School in 1994. He specializes in oral and maxillofacial surgery and is among the few major interest unknowns to the public.

With the help of the American Society of Hematology, the team at BMC has designed a program to continue through 2010.

Surgeons bring talents to BUMC

Building upon an already prestigious surgical team, surgeons from both Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard Medical School have chosen to bring their talents to BUMC.

R. Armour Fox, MD, PhD; Timothy Babineau, MD, PhD; Stephen Sentovich, MD; and Peter Barsky, MD, joined BMC effective March 1, 1999. Paul Davis, vice president for Network Development at BMC, said the new surgeons bring a tremendous amount of skill and expertise to the institution. "We are fortunate to be able to add additional talents to our distinguished group of surgeons," he said.

Along with their hospital positions, all four surgeons will also hold academic positions at BMC. "Their reputations as outstanding physicians, surgeons and academicians is well known throughout the medical community," said BUMC Dean Aram Chabasian, MD, provost of the Boston University School of Medicine. "Their expertise will advance the academic mission of the school.

Fox received his MD from Harvard Medical School and completed his internship in surgery at the Harvard Medical School in 1994. He specializes in oral and maxillofacial surgery and is among the few major interest unknowns to the public.

With the help of the American Society of Hematology, the team at BMC has designed a program to continue through 2010.
Community workshops assist child-care providers

T he crowded lecture hall was filled with the aroma of pizza, whooping moans and child caretakers provided waited for the start of the program. How many of you were spanked when you were young?" began Stephen Nelson, MD, director of the Division of Behavioral and Developmental Pediatrics at BMC and professor of pediatrics at BUSM. Appropriately three-quarters of the group raised their hands. His next question immediately followed: "How many of you have been told by parents that it is OK to spank your children when they are in your care?" This time, very few raised their hands.

With those questions, the Community Education Workshop—"Spa nking: How Should We Deal With It?"—began. Developed and run by the Boston Children's Hospital Early Childhood Development (BEC/ED) at BMC, the workshop first few questions and answers show how times—and caring for children—have changed. Half Thursday, Feb 4, the workshop was one in a series of seminars designed to create a forum for the discussion of issues faced by providers and families from the communities served by BMC. Barry Zuckerman, MD, chief of the Division of Pediatrics at BMC, professor and chairman of Pediatrics at BUSM, and founder of the institute, has made community-based training a fundamental part of the institute’s mission.

According to Holly Newman, director of BEC/ED, the workshops are led by a multidisciplinary group of experts from BMC who present a case study and initiate discussion. Those attending are encouraged to discuss their own cases as well. "Ultimately, the goal of this program and the institute is to ensure that children are receiving the best care possible," said Newman. "These workshops are an effort to bring the people taking care of children in a variety of settings together.

According to Zuckerman, between 80 and 100 people—mostly nurses at BUSM—show up to these workshops, demonstrating the need for such programs in the community that BMC serves. "By training the providers, we are enhancing the quality of care that children receive in the community to better help children and their parents. Judging by the turnout, it has been tapped into a need that benefits many in the community.

The institute was created by the Division of Behavioral and Developmental Pediatrics at BMC, which has provided training and consultation to a variety of clinicians and other providers of care for children-aged the early childhood community fromgenesis to age 8. 

New software offers clinicians easy access to patient information

eigned to make clinicians live a lit­

tle simpler, a new computer program called "ChartView" will make it easier to access to inpatient and outpatient laboratory, pathology and radiology results. The program is currently being tested with just clinical lab results on 7 North in the Newton Pavilion, and pathology and radiology results are expected to be added to the system in the future. It is expected to be implemented throughout the institution’s inpatient and outpatient setting, and will be available on any PC on the hospital network and from physicians’ homes and off-site offices. Boston Health Care will also have access to the system from the neighborhood health centers.

Presented at ChartView, clinicians had to log-on to four different systems using different passwords and user names whenever they wanted to view a patient’s lab, radiology and pathology results. "ChartView will allow you to log-on to one system and see all of those results. Also, it is needed is one password and one brief training session," said Meg Aranow, vice president for Information Technology and chief information officer at BMC.

According to Aranow, while only a small number of physicians at the K.E. center have been trained on ChartView, she is already beginning to hear good things about the project. "Online results reporting is something that we have been requesting for quite some time," she said. "Improving the availability of clinical data has been identified as a high priority service for the system, and it is an important component toward that goal." Gregory Sanders, MD, chair of the Department of Medicine at BMC, one of the initial physicians trained on ChartView, agreed with Aranow. "It is extremely helpful," he said.

BMC Development Committee strives to increase fund raising

W hich is focused on increasing philanthropic donations, BMC has appointed 10 accomplished business leaders to the newly created Development Committee. The committee will be responsible for expanding fund raising and development efforts in the corporate, foundation and philanthropic communities on behalf of BMC and its many outstanding programs. The new committee will also be charged with expanding the building’s Corporate Partners Program, which pairs corporate sponsors with various BMC programs. "Our distinguished Development Committee will give us the opportunity to reach into board rooms and to senior level executives to cultivate funding for many BMC programs which are vital to our mission," said Neal Scott, vice president at Development at BMC.

Members of the committee include Chairman Adele Fontana, senior vice president and director of Public Affairs at Citizens Bank; Ted Bernard, former president of GECV International Group; Paul La Camera, president and general manager of WCVB-TV Channel 5; James McElrath, Esq., of McDermott, Will and Emery; Sal Persico, chairman of The Big Party; Kevin Phelan, executive vice president of Meredith and Grove Group; Michael Salomon, CEO of Salomon, Ball’s Ventures; John Valentine, chairman and CEO of Entrepreneurs’ Management at the Health Policy Institute; A. Raymond Tye, chairman of United Liquids Ltd.; and Robert Walsh, president of R.F. Walsh Company.
BCMC plans for constructing a new ambulatory care facility, which will help maintain and improve the quality of care provided to patients for many years to come, are moving forward.

The new facility is the focus of a construction and renovation project, which will create new space, modernize existing facilities, and remove some of the unsightly vacant buildings, which currently form a physical barrier in the middle of the BMC campus. The new construction is slated to begin in July 1999, with a projected completion date of March 2001.

The plan is progressive in its vision to bring together the entire medical campus and to integrate existing facilities with new construction. At the same time it is respectful of the neighborhood's past in re-establishing an important urban design relationship with the adjoining South End Landmark District. "Boston's South End has a rich and vibrant architectural history," said Brian Ullian, president and chief executive officer at BMC. "The new facility will be architecturally compatible with the historic structures adjacent to the campus and will be in harmony with the community and the history of the neighborhood."}

The project will begin with the demolition of the Administration Building at 818 Harrison Ave. BMC's needs, both immediate and future, for the site are determined by the Administration Building's current use. "By razing the Administration Building, we will be able to clear space for the construction of the new ambulatory facility, while also re-opening the important sight lines from Worcester Square," said Mood. Renovations to the RCD and FGH buildings also play important roles in the new plan. RCD has been vacant for 20 years and requires stabilization and facade restoration work, along with various interior repairs. It is needed. It is envisioned that the space will be used for clinic and doctor's offices. The research, administrative, and outpatient services currently housed in FGH will remain there after renovations are completed. In addition, the installation of new mechanical and electrical systems will be included in existing renovation and interior work, including the installation of new mechanical and electrical systems.

The proposal also calls for the demolition of the ThoroIdale, MBB, and Ives buildings forming East Concord Street. The removal of these buildings, the various small existing open spaces on each of the interconnected campuses will be combined to form a central unifying quadrangle. The ThoroIdale, MBB and Ives buildings currently form a barrier between the Newton and Harrison Avenue campuses," said Mood. The demolition will create an open green space between the Newton Pavilion and the Harrison Pavilion. The South End Landmark District Commission has requested that BMC further explore uses for the Surgical Building on East Concord Street. A proposal for the building will be presented to the commission in six months.

At the forefront

At the first hospital in the Northeast region to obtain the Pathology Imaging Network, BMC is on the forefront at the forefront of medical technology. The new system allows medical staff to instantaneously view high-quality, digital pathology images from several computer terminals throughout the campus. In addition, the system allows images to be permanently archived. Michael O'Brien, MD, chief of Biomedical Pathology at BMC, and professor of pathology, laboratory medicine, and clinical pathology at BUMC, (above) recently showed a presentation and received the appreciation of the audience.

Religious Services

April

1 Good Friday Service - An emergency Palliative Care service will be celebrated in the Israel Chapel, at the Newton Pavilion, at noon.*

2 Palm Sunday Mass - A Catholic Mass celebrating the Palm Sunday will be held in the Israel Chapel, on the second floor of the Newton Pavilion, at 8:45 a.m.

3 The Last Seven Words - The Last Seven Words will be led by Boston-area clergy in the Israel Chapel, at the Newton Pavilion, at 3:30 p.m.

On Track

BMC is changing cellular telephone provider BMC is changing its primary corporate cellular telephone service provider from Cellular One to Bell Atlantic Mobile (BAM). This change will affect all of the BMC Cellular One corporate accounts.

Beginning in the near future, all corporate users will receive a 4 percent discount on their monthly charges. All corporate users have 28 days to convert service from March 29 through April 2, 1999. Please contact BAM representative Edward Oncino at 429-4901 to discuss conversion options.

If you are unsure whether your account is the "Corporate Plan" or if you have questions, call 638-6890.

ITMA announces winner of newsletter contest Steve Cifari, manager of Organizational Development and Training in the Human Resources Department at BMC, was the winner of the Intentional Transportation Management Association (ITMA) "Name the Newsletter" contest, for submitting the title "Silent Gates. Cifari wins a one-year membership to ITMA. The newsletter is now being developed, and will focus on the latest MRTA, carpooling, bicycling, and Central Artery news, as well as all the information needed to make your commute dependable, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly. For more information, please call 638-7473.

Hospital celebrates International Week

Helping celebrate the many diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds of BMC employees, the Department of Human Resources, and the Employee Diversity Council will host an International Week from March 22 through March 26. During the week, employees will have the opportunity to participate in daily educational and celebratory activities, including a cultural forum, a multicultural art exhibit, and displays that will showcase medical traditions and technology from around the world. In conjunction with Food and Nutritional Services, different international meals will be offered each day in the cafeteria featuring foods representing the different cultures. In addition, a reception will be held at all BMC employees at the end of the week.

Employees are encouraged to participate by sharing art, books, and other symbols of their heritage. For more information, contact Barbara Catterson at 638-8546.
Substance Abuse Prevention. The grant — which will contribute $100,000 per year for three years — marks the first time that the center has funded training for SPH faculty in substance abuse prevention. The funds will go toward training both SPH faculty and Boston Public Health Commission staff, and will also help forge a close collaboration between the two groups. “We are training four professors on additions treatment and prevention,” said Amaro, “this will be able to offer new courses, and perhaps, a minor in the field.”

Amaro also received funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Those funds will be used to form the Boston Consortium of Services for Families in Recovery. The consortium will consist of SPH faculty, BMC clinicians, and Boston Public Health Commission staff, and is part of multisite study on women who are victims of violence.

Yasu Ido, MD, PhD, research assistant professor at BUMC, recently received a $100,000 grant from the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International. The funds will go toward research of C-peptide, a protein that is secreted from the pancreas together with insulin. Since its discovery, C-peptide has been considered a waste product without any biological function. This study will explore the mechanisms by which C-peptide can prevent some chronic complications of diabetes and has the potential for a new treatment method for diabetes patients. The goal of the research is to provide a basis for human clinical trials.

Breastfeeding Center opens its door

Breastfeeding is a very healthy option for both mothers and infants. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life, and continued breastfeeding, with the addition of solid foods, through at least one year of age. These suggestions are based on research that indicates breastfed infants have fewer ear infections and episodes of diarrhea, better visual and cognitive development, and a decreased risk of developing diabetes. For premature and low-birthweight babies, who make up nearly 20 percent of the births at BMC, breastfeeding is even more vital, as it protects against potentially fatal infections and intestinal complications.

“Breastfeeding is beneficial for mothers as well as infants,” said Philipp. “Not only does it help protect against breast and ovarian cancers, but it also enhances maternal self-esteem.”

The mission of the Breastfeeding Center lies beyond simply encouraging women to nurse their infants. One of the goals of the center is to establish BMC as the first World Health Organization-designated “Baby Friendly” hospital in Massachusetts. To earn the designation, which is held by only 18 hospitals in the nation, BMC must complete a lengthy qualification process, including the implementation of "10 Steps to Successful Breastfeeding." The hospital also has to undergo an in-depth phone interview and on-site assessment. The center is located on the fifth floor of the ACC.

Institutional abbreviations

BUMC — 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)
BUSM — BU School of Medicine
SDM — Goldman School of Dental Medicine
SPH — BU School of Public Health

Grants awarded

Hortensia Amaro, PhD, professor of social and behavioral sciences at SPH, director of the MOM’s Project, and vice-chair of the Boston Public Health Coalition, recently received a grant from the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.