2006-06

MedCenter News: June 2006

Corporate Communications, Boston University Medical Center

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http://hdl.handle.net/2144/22910

Boston University
Medical campus welcomes BU president

BU President Robert Brown kicked off a weeklong inaugural celebration with a visit to BUMC that included an open meeting and reception for medical campus staff.

At the meeting, BUSM Dean Karen Antman, MD, provost of BU Medical Campus, greeted Brown and presented him with a white coat, symbolizing the time-honored gesture of welcoming new students into the medical profession.

During his presentation, Brown shared his vision for BU and the medical campus. He noted that the life sciences are changing at a faster pace than ever before, and the continuing challenge will be translating scientific advances into clinical applications. "I believe that Boston University is a great private research institution engaged..."

Nurses honored for strength, commitment

Torrential rains and cool temperatures did not dampen the spirits of the 435 elated graduates of BU’s schools of Medicine, Public Health and Dental Medicine who received their diplomas at various commencement exercises on Sunday, May 14.

Surrounded by families and friends who came to celebrate their achievements, the soon-to-be graduates listened as commencement speakers offered words of encouragement, wisdom and congratulations.

School of Medicine

To the music of a brass choir, 175 students marched down the aisle at BUSM’s graduation exercises held in the Grand Ballroom of the Boston Marriott Hotel/Copley Place.

The medical school conferred 154 MD degrees; of these, five were MD/PhD and three were MD/MPH. Twenty-one PhD degrees were also conferred.

In her welcoming address, BUSM Dean Karen Antman, MD, provost of BU Medical Campus, spoke of the responsibility and opportunities the graduates will meet.

Grades step forward with new goals and expectations

The Division of Nursing at BMC celebrated this year’s National Nurses Week, May 10-15, with an all-day education program, informal gatherings and an awards ceremony.

On May 10, Jeffrey Doucette, RN, MS, CNA, associate operating officer for Hospital Administration at Duke University Medical Center, gave a presentation called “Privileged Interruption: A Call to Caring.” The presentation included discussion on how nurses must care for themselves as they strive to provide excellent care for others.
Town meetings focus on patient satisfaction

A series of town meetings held in May, BMC President and CEO Elaine Ullian presented a report card on the hospital's progress in achieving its Volume, Safety, Satisfaction and Cost (VASC) goals. The volume goal aims to increase the number of inpatient discharges by three percent (16,000) during FY2006. Current progress is two percent over that goal (16,365). The patient safety goal is to prevent surgical site infections by delivering the correct perioperative antibiotics at the proper time to 95 percent of surgical patients. The medical center is close, standing at 86 percent. And $9.5 million has been identified in the cost goal to reduce operating expenses by $12.5 million.

The patient satisfaction goal is to achieve an overall inpatient satisfaction score that moves BMC to the 55th percentile ranking in FY2006. "I know all of you strive to provide exceptional experiences for all of our patients," she said. "However, there is room for improvement here.

Ullian identified opportunities to improve the satisfaction score by introducing BMC's seven cultural beliefs, which should be a common element of an employee's workplace. "Own It! Team Work! Step Up! Patient First! Build Trust! Deliver! And I Can!"

"These principles are simple approaches to the workplace that will make BMC a better place for our patients and employees," said Ullian. "I am confident that as we continue to incorporate the beliefs into our work, our measurements of performance will translate into consistently rising patient satisfaction scores."

BUMC names new chair, chief of Neurosurgery

Lawrence Chin, MD, FACS, has been appointed chief of Neurosurgery at BMC and professor and chair of the Department of Neurosurgery at BUSM.

Prior to his arrival at BUMC, Chin served as medical director of the Gamma Knife Center and director of the Maryland Brain Tumor Center at the University of Maryland. He was also professor of neurosurgery and radiation oncology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

"Dr. Chin is an excellent clinician," said Elaine Ullian, BMC president and CEO. "Our patients will benefit from his experience."

Chin received his medical degree from the University of Michigan. He completed his internship in general surgery at Los Angeles County General Hospital and his residency in neurological surgery at the same hospital, the University of Southern California University Hospital, Huntington Memorial Hospital and Children's Hospital of Los Angeles.

Chin's research centers on novel treatments of benign and malignant brain tumors with a focus on radiosurgery.

"Dr. Chin is an outstanding academician who has been a leader in research and education," said Karen Antman, MD, BUSM dean and provost of the BU Medical Campus. "We look forward to working with him."

The recipient of numerous awards, Chin serves as chair of the Young Neurosurgeons Committee and on the board of directors of the American Neurological Association. He is also a member of the Scientific Program Committee of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and a medical advisor for the International Radiosurgery Support Association.

Cancer survivors celebrate life

On a warm Saturday morning this spring, the Newton Pavilion lobby at BMC was again filled with joy and smiles as cancer survivors, their families and caregivers. More than 200 people participated in the second annual Cancer Survivorship Celebration hosted by the hospital, with assistance from the Friends of Women's Health at BMC.

Patients who had been treated for cancer at BMC, and who had persevered and survived during the past years, came from throughout the region to participate in the event. The survivors shared their experiences with one another and reconnected with the doctors and nurses who had cared for them.

"Being part of a large event makes our patients feel better and gives them more hope," said Michael Stone, MD, chief of the Section of Surgical Oncology at BMC and professor of surgery at BUMC. "Seeing others doing well made everyone feel good - doctors, nurses, patients and their families."

Many attendees signed the Wall of Hope with words of gratitude expressed in numerous languages. The wall, created last year, is displayed in the Chemotherapy Clinic in the Preston Family Building. Some survivors sang along with a jazz band in the Chemotherapy Clinic, and others handed written expressions in numerous languages. The wall, created last year, is displayed in the Chemotherapy Clinic in the Preston Family Building. Some survivors sang along with a jazz band in the Chemotherapy Clinic, and others handed written expressions into our work days, our moments of greatness will translate into a better quality of life," added Stone.

Moakley Campaign receives $2.8 million in new gifts

The generosity of BMC friends and new supporters continues to make BMC, J. Joseph Moakley Building a reality.

Scheduled to open this fall, the Moakley building will offer multi-specialty cancer care and services in a spacious, centralized location, ensuring more timely and effective care for cancer patients. The building will also provide a major gap in care for Boston's minority and low-income residents.

Recent gifts and pledges totaling more than $3.8 million have brought the Moakley campaign closer to meeting its $51.1 million goal, ensuring a $2.5 million match from the Kroge Foundation, according to Norman Stein, senior vice president of Development at BMC.

Alan Solomon, vice chair of BMC's Board of Trustees and his wife Susan Lewis Solomon, co-chair of BMC's Friends of Women's Health, pledged $500,000, increasing their total contribution to $1.5 million. Joe Dempsey and his family increased their campaign commitment of $2.5 million to $3.5 million; and BMC trustee Tom Alperin and his wife, Marsha, increased their commitment to $500,000, with an additional pledge of $150,000.

Other new pledges include $1 million from an anonymous donor and $500,000 from the Letch Foundation. BMC's immediate need to increase its capacity to $51.1 million; ensuring a $2.5 million match from the Kroge Foundation, according to Norman Stein, senior vice president of Development at BMC.

J. Joseph Moakley Building

State of the-art cancer services will be provided in a central location. The facility will fill a major gap in cancer care for Boston's minority and low-income residents and help BMC fulfill its mission of providing exceptional care without exception.

This six-level, 133,477-square-foot facility at 830 Beacon St., will provide cancer services including radiation oncology, chemotherapy and neurosurgery.

Scheduled completion: Fall 2008

FDH Building

The FHG Building is one of two remaining structures that belong to the original design of Boston City Hospital.

This renovated building will be used for administrative support functions to complement the clinical services offered at the J. Joseph Moakley Building, including hematology/oncology, radiology, endoscopy and surgical oncology. The building will also have a conference center on the ground floor and provide 28,516 square feet of space.

Scheduled completion: Fall 2007

BCD Building

The BCD Building was part of the original Boston City Hospital patient ward complex. Rehabilitation of this structure, which combines 21st century design with 19th century elements, will ensure that the design utilizes the building and preserves its historic integrity.

The building will house BMC's expanding Department of Information Technology Services (ITS). Two new service levels, adding 7,690 gross square feet of space, will be created between floors, creating open and work space for 101 ITS employees.

Scheduled completion: November 2006

610 Albany Street Garage

This garage will increase parking capacity on campus to ensure ample room for patients, visitors, and staff.

Scheduled completion: Summer 2006

Moakley Campaign receives $2.8 million in new gifts

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"The support of our loyal contributors, as well as the BMC community allows us to keep the promises we've made to our patients of delivering exceptional care without exception," said Stein. "We are very grateful for their many generous contributions."

To make a donation to the Moakley Campaign, visit http://www.bmc.org/development.
in the city and the world. The medical campus is key to this," said Brown. The meeting, held in the new auditorium at 650 Albany Street, was fo­lowed by a reception.

Brown was formally installed as BU's 10th president on April 27. Representatives from more than 90 colleges and universities joined BU offi­cials, trustees and honorary trustees, the board of overseers, and thousand of students, faculty, staff and alumni at the inauguration, where Brown pledged to do everything he could to earn the trust that had been placed in him.

"I commit my energy and I look forward to joining with all of us to make our vision for the future a reality," said Brown.

Research in Brief

BUSM researchers find common genetic Risk to obesity

BUSM researchers have discovered a genetic variant that may predispose people of European and African decent to obesity, a finding that could help scientists develop better drugs to treat the disease.

Using information gathered from the Framingham Heart Study, the researchers performed a genome-wide analysis to identify the common genetic variants associated with obesity. The analysis led to the discovery of a variant near the ENGR2 gene, an insulin-induced gene.

After collaborating with researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health, investigators sought the finding in several populations in Boston, Chicago and Germany. Collectively, the studies found that 10 percent of individuals who possessed the common genetic risk factor were heavier and showed an elevated risk of being obese, regardless of their gender and age. The association was also observed in children and adolescents.

According to study author Michael Christman, PhD, professor and chairman of the Department of Genetics and Genomics at BUSM, and Alan Heber, MB, PhD, assis­tant professor of genetics and genomics at BUSM, the finding suggests the variant may be involved in the underlying metabolic pathways leading to obesity, which could have a substantial public health impact.

The report was published in the April issue of Science.
BMC, City of Boston team up for violence prevention program

BMC is joining Boston Mayor Tom Menino in Boston Public Health Commission in a new program aimed at preventing violence in the city.

A recent press conference held in the Menino Pavilion, Menino announced the new partnership and offered BMC’s $50,000 grant from the City of Boston to provide special services to victims of violence—beginning when they arrive to the Emergency Department (ED).

The funding will pay for a community health worker, who will be stationed in the ED, to provide individual counseling, triage and referral services for victims of violence brought to the hospital for care. The services may also include hospital visits and assistance in accessing substance abuse treatment and other social services.

"I am particularly grateful for my role as mayor than ending the violence that we’re seeing in our neighborhoods," said Menino. "It’s my hope that the work that comes out of this program will not only provide the victims of violence, but will help develop strategies that every hospital in Boston can adopt."

According to Jonathan Ohbaker, MD, chief and chairman of the Department of Emergency Medicine at BMC and professor of emergency medicine at BUMC, an important aspect of the program is that it will provide services to victims even if they are not admitted to BMC, and that it is reaching a gap that exists for many victims of violence.

"With this new program, Boston Medical Center can create a timely and effective intervention to address this growing epidemic," said Ohbaker. "Certainly, it is challenging rewarding for us as health care providers to give life-saving care to victims of violence. However, it is even more exciting and gratifying to play a role in preventing future tragedies."

The event, sponsored by the American Diabetes Association, will take place from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., in the Healthy Lounge. Members of the BMC community are invited to participate by registering at: https://forms.faseb.org/answer_questionnaire.html (for more information, call (617) 414-7580 or e-mail mcohen@bmc.org).

Recognizing stars

Nurses honored for strength, compassion

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During the week, staff nurses and nurse practitioners also enjoyed informal lunches and an afternoon tea, hosted by Kathy Davidson, RN, MSN, MBA, vice president of Nursing at BMC, the director of Nursing, and Elaine Ulman, BMC president and CEO.

The celebration culminated with an awards ceremony honoring BMC nurses. The 2006 Nursing Excellence Awards to Roger Avery, RN, was bestowed by the Department of Medical Intensive Care Unit (ICU); Patricia Caball, RN, Critical Care Unit; Nancy Cunnings, RN, West, Rehabilitation Therapists; Robert Carianni, RN, Surgical ICU; Elizabeth Duffy, RN, 6 East; and Mary Jane, RN, Surgical ICU.

The Peggi Centi, RN, Memorial Award was presented to Rosy Assell, CNA, OR, Menino Pavilion. Diane Courtney, RN, Pediatric Emergency Department, received the Anne G. Harragten, RN, Award; and Jack Tumney, RN, Emergency Department, to Lincoln Community Health Center.

"Nurse Week is a time when nurses recognize their peers by nominating them for one of the many awards that celebrate our successes," said Davidson. "I am so proud and grateful to have the opportunity to work with such a phenomenal group of nurse leaders, educators and staff."
People

Saralynn Allea, ScD, professor of medicine in the Clinical Epidemiology Research and Training Unit at BUSM, and her co-authors were awarded first place by the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association for their article “Employment and Satisfaction Outcomes from a Job-Retention Intervention Delivered to Persons with Chronic Diseases.” The article, which appeared in Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin in 2005, is based on a randomized trial study of subjects with arthritis who were concerned about losing their jobs due to the disability.

Allea, principal investigator of the project, and co-authors Michael LaValley, PhD, associate professor of biostatistics at BUSPH, and Jingbo Niu, PhD, research associate, Clinical Epidemiology Research and Training Unit at BUSM, received the award at the Annual Convention of the American Counseling Association and Canadian Counseling Association recently held in Montreal.

Oscar Arocha, director of Interpreter Services at BMC, has been selected for the National Advisory Committee of a new program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The program, called Speaking Together: National Language Services the National Advisory Committee of a new program for 31 years.

Arocha will serve on the Board and as a fellow of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Other areas of interest include dental education, medical economics and practice management.

Lily Chang, MD, assistant professor of surgery at BUSM and director of Surgical Simulation at BMC, has been named chief of the Section of Advanced Minimally Invasive Surgery at BMC. Chang, who joined BMC in 2004, is interested in disorders of the esophagus, including gas-troesophageal reflux disease, and performs a variety of advanced laparoscopic procedures. Her specialties are colectomy and splenectomy. She is board-certified in general surgery and a member of the American College of Surgeons.

Richard Clapp, DSc, MPH, professor of environmental health at BUSPH, is the inaugural recipient of the Science for the Benefit of Environmental Health Award. The award, recently established by the Toxicology and Environmental Health Center, the New England Grassroots Environment Fund and the BU Superfund Basic Research Program, recognizes Clapp’s outstanding contributions to the environmental health field. The award includes a $500 cash prize, at a reception held recently on the Charles River Campus. Established by BU’s Faculty Council, the award is named after the late Barbara Perkins, who served the University for more than 50 years in various capacities.

Bookless brings 25 years of clinical experience to BUMC, including 10 years of clinical practice and four years as an assistant professor at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. Bookless received his DDS from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio Dental School, and completed his advanced training in oral and maxillofacial surgery at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and a fellow of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Other areas of interest include dental education, medical economics and practice management.

Andrew Burke, clinical and administrative manager at SDM, received the 2006 John S. Perkins Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor for BU staff. Burke received the award in recognition of his extraordinary service to the faculty and students of SDM and the BUMC/BU community. Prior to joining SDM in 2000, he served the Facilities Maintenance staff at BUSM for more than 20 years. Burke was one of three employees to receive the award, which includes a $500 cash prize, at a reception held recently on the Charles River Campus. Established by BU’s Faculty Council, the award is named after the late Barbara Perkins, who served the University for more than 50 years in various capacities.

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This spring, Jacobson received the Morton L. Perel Annual Award for Dental Implant Educators by the International Congress of Oral Implantologists. The award recognizes those who “initiate, advance, innovate, teach and/or motivate both students and practitioners in the multifaceted discipline of oral implantology.”

SDM recently received a $34,000 grant from the American Dental Association Foundation to determine how effective professional language removal is in preventing periodontists in people with and without known risk factors. The school’s proposal includes the review of studies in English that utilize patient navigators in periods which extensive periodontal research has been published. Thomas Dietrich, DMD, MD, MPH, assistant professor of periodontology and oral biology at SDM, is principal investigator.

Elaine Ullian, BMC president and CEO, recently received Health Care for All’s Lifetime Achievement Award for her “tireless efforts to improving the quality of health care for residents in Massachusetts.” Ullian’s award was presented at the organization’s annual community leadership awards celebration honoring individuals and organizations that made outstanding contributions to improve the health of their communities.

WE CARE Awards

BMC honors employees and volunteers who have shown exceptional care toward others with WE CARE Employee and Volunteer Recognition Awards. Individual WE CARE Employee Recognition Awards for May 2006 were recently presented to Quan Bui, interpreter, Interpreter Services; Timothy Donovan, team leader, Information Technology Services; Jillian McGuire, administrative assistant, Family Medicine; and Angela Nadkarni, special projects coordinator, Nursing Administration at BMC.

The WE CARE Volunteer Recognition Award for May was presented to Seema Sanessy at BMC’s recent Volunteer Night celebration. Sanessy began serving as a patient advocate at the BU Simulation and Training Unit at BUSM in 2005 and enrolled in the MS Degree Program at BUSM’s Division of Graduate Medical Sciences. After receiving her degree, Sanessy continues her work, supporting patients and their families, and training new volunteers in the ED.

New appointments

Fred Aleman has been named investigator in the Department of Public Safety at BUMC. Previously, Aleman served as a patrolman for the Newton Police Department for 31 years.

Steven Bookless, DDS, MBA, has joined the active staff of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at BMC and has been named assistant clinical professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery at SDM.

Grants and awards

BMC recently received a $50,000 award from the Boston Foundation to enhance its patient navigator program and support a navigator in the Medical Oncology Clinic. The hospital utilizes patient navigators to address barriers to cancer care often encountered by disadvantaged or low income patients. Navigators act as the liaison between the patient, the treatment team and the many people and services with whom the patient interacts at BMC, and develop a personal plan for each patient’s individual barriers to care.

Tony Tannoury, MD, has been named orthopaedic surgeon at BMC and assistant professor of orthopaedic surgery at BUSM. Most recently, he served as chief of Orthopaedic Surgery at Wilmington Memorial Hospital in Wilmington, Va. Tannoury, whose specialty is minimally invasive spine surgery, is the author of many articles and book chapters on spinal fractures and care, and has been present at various international meetings and grand rounds. After receiving his medical degree from the Lebanese University School of Medicine, Tannoury completed residency training at Georgetown University Medical Center and a spine surgery fellowship at the University of Virginia.

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