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Boston University
BioSquare leases space to CN Biosciences

BioSquare announced that CN Biosciences Inc., a life-sciences company based in San Diego, will lease approximately 28,000 square feet of research, manufacturing and office space in a new building currently under construction at BioSquare. The 16-acre state-of-the-art research and business park is now under development at BU Medical Center (BUMC).

To be located across Albany Street from BUMC, the second BioSquare building—a 160,000 square foot, biomedical research facility—is expected to be finished in October 1999. BioSquare opened its first building in 1993, the 200,000-square-foot Center for Advanced Biomedical Research building.

"We look forward to collaborating with CN Biosciences on novel biomedical research projects," said Aram Chobanian, MD, provost of Boston University's Medical Campus and dean of Boston University School of Medicine. "As a tenant of BioSquare, CN Biosciences will contribute significantly to the quality of research in Boston and its economy."

"As a tenant of the second BioSquare building, CN Biosciences will provide new research opportunities in Boston, with an emphasis on disease-related research, that will ultimately enhance patient care," said Elaine Ullian, Boston Medical Center (BMC) president and CEO. "Boston Mayor Thomas Menino says, "Boston is known around the world as a center for biomedical research. It makes sense for a company of CN Biosciences' caliber to expand here in Boston. It will be a great addition to the blossoming BioSquare area."

Commenting on the new lease, Steve Papadopoulos, CN Biosciences Inc. chairman, CEO and president says, "We are extremely pleased to be part of the growing group of companies locating in the Boston University Medical Center area. The facilities being constructed are state-of-the-art and will provide an excellent location to continue expansion of our Oncogene Research brand of products, produced today in Cambridge, Massachusetts."

BioSquare is a joint venture between BU and BMC that will result in the development of 2.5 million square feet of research and office space, including plans for a hotel and conference center and a parking facility. A wide array of biomedical research equipment and services is available to tenants, including a cardiovascular imaging suite, transgenic facility, a mass spectrometry resource facility and general business and operational services.

CN Biosciences Inc. is engaged in the development, production, marketing and distribution of a broad array of products used worldwide in disease-related research at pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, academic institutions and government laboratories. The company's products include biochemical and biological reagents, antibodies, assays and research kits, which it sells principally through its general and specialty catalogs under its own brand names.

Clowning around

A clown has the spotlight and a captive audience as he performs outside the Ambulatory Care Center at Boston Medical Center (BMC) during the Healthy Kids Fair held this fall. The event, which attracted more than 1,500 children from the Greater Boston area, treated kids to a day of fun and education. At the fair, children had the opportunity to get an inside look at fire trucks and ambulances, be entertained by clowns and magicians, and try an medical gear. Local celebrities, including Mayor Thomas Menino, his wife, Angela Menino, and WCVB-TV Channel 5 News anchor and health reporter Heather Rahn, stopped by the fair to read stories to the children.

A collaborative effort between BMC, WCVB-TV Channel 5, BankBoston and Tufts Health Plan, the fair provided free health screenings, informational exhibits and entertainment to young children, parents and teachers.

BMC ranks among nation's elite

In its annual "America's Best Hospitals" issue, U.S. News & World Report ranked Boston Medical Center (BMC) among America's leading hospitals—a testimony to the expertise and dedication of BMC and its staff.

The publication ranked the medical center for excellence in four specialties: geriatrics, neurology and neurosurgery, pulmonary disease and urology. The magazine evaluated 6,400 hospitals nationwide, with 132 scoring high enough to be evaluated in the final rankings. Primarily, the ranked hospitals are tertiary care hospitals and major medical centers with a teaching mandate that provide comprehensive state-of-the-art care. BMC was ranked 29th in geriatrics, 30th in pulmonary disease and urology and 38th in neurology.

"It's wonderful that BMC and these departments are recognized for excellence by this well-known, national publication, as well as our peers," says Elaine Ullian, BMC president and CEO. "It speaks very highly for the wonderful work that our doctors, nurses and all our staff do everyday."

The rankings were based on:
- Reputation — an annual survey of 150 board-certified specialists in each specialty
- Mortality — death rates for each specialty were calculated and adjusted for severity
- Other data — a mix of medical information, such as the advanced technology a hospital has available.

Researchers study family relationships after divorce

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BMC: DEFINING CULTURAL COMPETENCY FOR THE NEXT CENTURY


C
oise eyes your local newspaper on the main entrance and try to imagine that you’ve walked into the Great Hall at the United Nations. Farsi and Tagalog are spoken here, along with Ethiopian, Venetian, Arabic, Kazakh, Russian, Somali, and Maasai in Kenya. Where are you? At Boston Medical Center, where the medical community’s sensitivities are reflected in the most cosmopolitan of any hospital in New England.

Boston Medical Center, the vibrant new academic medical center that grew out of the merger between Boston City Hospital and Boston University Medical Center, holds its second anniversary this month. It’s no surprise that the event Boston have changed dramatically since 1996, and many people are working tirelessly to keep the momentum going.

Co-opting the role of welcoming and exposing our patient’s language. Know their customs. Respect their cultures. Take the medicine to people where they live while becoming culturally competent and respectful of their practice and traditions. Focus health care in your community to focus on the primary care delivery system. Prevention is the new health care. It’s no surprise that the event featured by the marriage of a coward health care. Expand public-private partnerships to reach out to our patients. As the HHI looks to the future, its focus on education and health care providers, with particular emphasis on those with special needs, such as Haitian parents, will study attitudes about breast cancer and its management. Health knowledge is a key to empowerment.

Haitian Health Institute serves as primary resource center

At the only hospital-based program in the region to focus on Haitian health issues, the Haitian Health Institute (HAI) at Boston Medical Center (BMC) is taking the lead in providing culturally and linguistically sensitive health care to Boston’s Haitian community.

The bilingual staff of HAI, which represents the community’s needs and serves as a conduit to the medical center, has been lauded with a $1.5 million grant from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) to continue work in the Haitian community.

The Haitian Health Institute (HHI) has received a grant from the Department of Public Health (MDPH) to continue to work in the Haitian community, providing culturally and linguistically sensitive information on breast and cervical cancer. Free mammograms, clinical breast exams and Pap smears will also be available to uninsured Haitian women over 40.

The impact of the institute’s work on breast and cervical cancer screening can be seen in the increase in the number of women getting mammograms and Pap smears. The HHI has also developed a six-part parenting program for Haitian families, in particular women. The program focuses on educating women to understand the importance of prenatal care, the benefits of breast feeding, and the importance of prenatal care.

HHI 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 Haitian women in the United States.

In every group some relationships were described by the Haitian community in the context of “love one’s children.”

Examine relationships years after divorce

The numbers seem staggering: some 4.3 million American mothers are members of stepfamilies. An estimated one in five young people in the United States are members of stepparent marriages, for whom many as half of all children will have lived in stepfamilies.

Researchers have looked at how these family maladjustments affect a child’s development, especially when the biological mother and biological father have no further contact with their offspring. But few studies have examined the interactions between stepchildren and their stepparents.

The findings are disturbing. Fewer than one in five of the stepchildren felt well-adjusted and happy in the stepfamily; one in five of the stepchildren reported less well-adjusted stepchildren.

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BUSM convocation celebrates past, looks to the future

A t Boston University School of Medicine's (BUSM) sesquicentennial convocation, U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher, MD, called upon the school and others involved in medicine to join together to create a better health care system for all, regardless of race or economic status.

The event, held this fall, celebrated the new academic year, as well as the school's 150th anniversary. Satcher, one of six distinguished guests to be honored at the ceremony, praised the school for its outstanding history. "This [the convocation] is a time of pride and joy, and a time to give thanks to those leaders who paved the way for this institution ... It is also a time to look forward." The nation's chief medical officer addressed five evolving priorities for health care and education in the United States, which included increasing access to health care for all; assuring a healthy start for every child; advancing mental health; promoting healthy lifestyles; and eliminating race-related health disparities by the year 2010. "Together we can shape the future," Satcher said, who received the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters.

"Together we can shape a health care system in this country that is responsive and responsible. Together we can respond to the needs of our children. Together we can treat mental health problems with dignity. Together we can promote healthy lifestyles. Together we can eliminate disparities. I look forward to the journey." Also honored at the ceremony were American Association of Medical Colleges President Jordan Cohen, MD; Boston Mayor Thomas Menino; and distinguished alumni Mary Jane England '64, Ralph D. Feigin '82, and Rachel Boone Keith '49. Dignitaries participating in the event included BUSM Dean Aram Chobanian, MD, provost of BU Medical Campus; BU Board of Trustee Chairman Earle Cooley; and BU President Jon Westling.

BU President Jon Wenting (left) and BU School of Medicine Dean Aram Chobanian, MD, (right) present at BU Medical Campus, greet U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher, MD, prior to the start of the convocation celebrating the school's 150th anniversary.

In presiding over the ceremony, Westling said the convocation allows the school to look back proudly at the accomplishments of the past 150 years, and also step forward into the next century-a-half "without complacency." Cohen, England, Feigin, Keith and Satcher all received honorary degrees at the event. Since January, BUSM has held a variety of events to celebrate the sesquicentennial milestone, including the first Alumni Career Day, "The Women in Medicine Awards ceremony, the Rebecca Lee 5K Road Race, the Sesquicentennial Gala, a Cardiovascular Symposium in honor of the 25th anniversary of the Whitaker Cardiovascular Institute at BUSM, and numerous scientific sessions."

Teamwork pays off for HealthNet patients

S ince the initiation of the HealthNet Inpatient Rounders System at Boston Medical Center (BMC) a year ago, Boston HealthNet patients have been reaping the benefits of teamwork between the hospital and the community health centers.

BMC and the Boston HealthNet (a partnership of BMC, BUSM, and 12 community health centers throughout Boston) introduced this new health care delivery system to increase the comfort and convenience of hospitalized HealthNet patients.

Through coordination with patients’ own primary care physicians, the innovative plan helps ensure that patients receive seamless, personalized care—from preadmission through their stay at BMC to post-hospital care.

Under the rounders system, HealthNet patients coming to the hospital are identified upon admission and placed on 6 East on the Harrison Avenue Campus—a designated floor for HealthNet patients. The patients’ care is coordinated through the HealthNet Community-Based Physicians Group, composed of Family Medicine physicians from BMC and physicians from the affiliated health centers.

A rounding physician from the group is assigned to the patient and is responsible for coordinating or staying apprised of that patient’s care throughout the stay at BMC. The rounding doctor also keeps the patient’s primary care physician at the health center up-to-date on the patient’s condition and treatments—ensuring the highest quality care.

Frank Doyle, executive director of Boston HealthNet, says the program has continued to grow throughout its first year. "We began with one rounding physician daily and have already had to increase to two daily." The rounding physicians—usually a doctor from the Family Medicine Department and one from a Boston HealthNet health center—care for an average of 30 patients in the system per day.

"It has not been easy," he says. "Establishing a new service is very time-consuming. A lot of time had to be put into this to make sure it was done right, and we are providing our patients with the best care possible."

Richard Kalish, MD, MPH, medical director of Boston HealthNet and South Boston Community Health Center, concurs with Doyle, saying the program has had its "share of growing pains," but says the positives far outweigh anything negative. "Our goal is to provide high-quality, seamless care for as many of our patients as possible, and we have been able to do that."

Kalish credits much of the program's success to weekly Monday morning meetings, where everyone from the rounders to the specialists to the nurses share information and ideas. It is also the time when the "baton is passed" to the two new rounding physicians for the week. "The meetings are critical to the system working properly," he says. "They help ensure that we are taking a team approach to caring for these patients."

Seven of the 12 community health centers are currently involved with the HealthNet Inpatient Rounders System at BMC, and the goal is to eventually expand the service to other health centers.

"Communication is really the key," says Kalish. "We have made a point of priding ourselves on our communications. Now it is up to us to live up to our own expectations— for the good of the system, and more importantly, for the good of the patients."

House calls

D iscussing everything from practical, general health topics to more specialized, recent research, BU Medical Center physicians are now heard by nearly half-a-million people throughout New England on a new program on 90.9 WBUR-FM.

Called Monthly CheckUp, the program features BU Medical Center physicians and researchers discussing the most current topics in medicine with Tim Belay, senior producer of Boston University Programming. One 15-minute segment will air monthly on the radio station weekly program, Boston University’s World of Ideas, which can be heard on Sundays at 9 p.m.

B USEAN Dean Chobanian, MD, provost of BU Medical Campus, says the new program is a "win-win" situation for the doctors, the radio station and its listeners. "Monthly CheckUp provides a direct avenue for doctors and nurses to promote their work and share their expertise with the listening audience, while at the same time to provide the radio station with experts to talk about the latest advances in health care."

Michael Holick, MD, MPH, professor of medicine, dermatology and physiology at BUSM and chief of Endocrinology, Nutrition and Diabetes at Boston Medical Center, was the program's first featured guest. Holick, whose recent Lancet study indicates that ultraviolet B light reduces blood pressure—while increasing blood levels of vitamin D—discussed the study with WBUR, on a segment which aired Oct. 25.

Along with highlighting the latest research and health care trends, BU Medical Center doctors also will discuss timely topics on the program. Seasonal subject matters, such as reducing holiday stress and protecting against skin cancer, are examples of possible upcoming topics.

WBUR, a leading National Public Radio (NPR) news affiliate, reaches approximately 400,000 listeners every week. Monthly CheckUp will also be broadcast on Rhode Island's NPR affiliate, 1290 WRNI-AM.

Busm Convocation celebrates past, looks to the future

Walk in the rain

A t the University of Michigan School of Public Health, many of our public health students are learning the importance of incorporating physical activity into their daily lives. This is especially true for those who are attending BUSM Convocation, a celebration of the school's 150th anniversary.

"We are celebrating the past, but also looking forward to the future," said BUSM Dean Aram Chobanian, MD, provost of BU Medical Campus; BU Board of Trustee Chairman Earle Cooley; and BU President Jon Westling.

Boston University’s World of Ideas, which can be heard on Sundays at 9 p.m.

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