

Boston University School of Medicine
Office of the Dean

Dear Colleagues,

Our academic year is well underway. We welcomed the Class of 2017 medical students at the White Coat Ceremony, our new graduate students during the GMS orientation and new faculty to the Medical Campus with an orientation program. In the last year, 97 new faculty members were appointed including 44 instructors, 47 assistant professors, three associate professors and three professors.

The [Times Higher Education World University Rankings for 2013-2014](#) of the top 100 universities for clinical, pre-clinical and health programs ranks Boston University 22nd in the world and 13th in the U.S. Also, BUSM is currently ranked 30th in the country by [US News & World Report](#) (USN&R), up from 43rd in 2008, and our primary care program has moved to 39th from unlisted in the USN&R rankings in the past three years.

Furthermore, our medical campus was chosen by the editors of [BestMedicalDegrees.com](#) as the second most attractive medical campus in the U.S. Criteria for this award included architecture, campus landscape and local environment. Kudos to our facilities professionals for this recognition.

Development

We celebrated the School's history with a dedication of recently restored historical pieces including artifacts, artwork and the marble fountain in front of the Instructional Building whose restoration was made possible by the philanthropy of BUSM faculty, staff, alumni and friends and the organizational leadership of Dr. Doug Hughes.

Special thanks to the following contributors to the restoration project:

Robert Beazley, MD – glass display case on 11th floor of the Instructional Building

James Brust, MD (BUSM '68) – historic Trustee China

Phyllis Carr, MD – 1851 circular

Domenic Ciraulo, MD – Evans Alcove study area; enlargement of campus photograph

Gerard Doherty, MD – Robinson painting

Karen Engelbourg – Kedem fountain

Kenneth Grundfast, MD – 2013 aerial photograph

Douglas Hughes, MD – hall of history, sepia aerial photograph

Linda Hyman, PhD – sepia aerial photograph

Thea James, MD – hall of history

Terence Keane, PhD – hall of history

Keith Lewis, MD – Kedem fountain

Robert Meenan, MD (BUSM '72) – Kedem fountain

Alexander Norbash, MD – grandfather clock

Rafael Ortega, MD – sepia aerial photograph
Jean Ramsey, MD, MPH (BUSM '90) – hall of history
Deborah Vaughan, PhD (GMS '72) – hall of history
Robert Vinci, MD – Kedem fountain
Michael White – sepia aerial photograph
John Wiecha, MD, MPH – 1960s aerial photograph
Robert Witzburg, MD (BUSM '77) – sepia aerial photograph

We are fortunate to have a cohort of generous faculty, alumni, parent and friends who have made recent gifts and commitments to the School including \$1.1 million for neuroscience research, \$300,000 for brain injury research, \$283,333 for a medical student loan fund, \$272,050 for Amyloidosis research, \$250,000 for a neurosciences award, \$100,000 to endow a medical student scholarship, \$100,000 for unanticipated emergency financial needs of medical students, and \$80,000 in gifts to support the Medical Student Residence (MSR) and \$50,000 in gifts to support research on lifestyle and health.

Academic Affairs

An update of the audio-visual equipment in the [Clinical Skills Center](#) has just been completed, with the addition of new, individual workstations for faculty to observe via video the interviews and exams of students. Also, the recording equipment was replaced providing greater reliability and fidelity of recordings.

To better integrate clinical skills, competencies and clinical reasoning, *Introduction to Clinical Medicine* and *Integrated Problems* courses in the first two years are now coordinated as the *Doctoring* curriculum. In November, workshops on interviewing skills will replace didactic delivery of information.

Medical student exams are transitioning from paper to electronic testing for first- and second-year courses as well as for third-year clerkships. To improve reporting of content in all courses and clerkships, the curriculum course objectives database is transitioning to the [E*Value](#) software program database and ultimately will be uploaded to the AAMC as part of their MedAPS project.

Academic Affairs also is assessing current clerkship sites, expanding current collaborations and forging new affiliations.

Office of Student Affairs (OSA)

A new OSA Director, Ms. Jessica Smith, was recruited from Brown University. The website has been redesigned and continues to be updated, with student input.

The First-year Orientation was streamlined. OSA facilitated the linkage of incoming students with Primary Care physicians at BMC.

The OSA recently held a deans' retreat to define priorities and develop short- and long-term goals. The Professionalism through Advocacy project, supported by a grant from MACY/IMAP, includes a faculty development retreat, advocacy

breakfast, and Time Capsule Project, where first year students write about the physician they hope to become. These reflective pieces will be returned in their third year.

Building on our current Student Wellness activities, a Student Wellness Committee is in development, drawing student volunteers from all four years. Students participate in 14 Service Learning Activities and have formed the Student Academies Council.

To advance medical student career development, new interactive workshops help prepare students for the residency application process.

The Office of Academic Enhancement continues to develop effective programs to assist students in reaching their maximal academic potential, with structured workshops and individualized study plan development.

The new [Medical Student Residence](#) welcomed its second class. Over the summer, a vegetable garden was created in the empty lot behind the MSR, along with a basketball and volleyball courts, and an open area for soccer, Frisbee, or throwing a football- the "[field of dreams](#)".

[Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs \(ODMA\)](#)

The Early Medical School Selection Program ([EMSSP](#)) continues to recruit and support students from historically black and Hispanic undergraduate colleges. Ten EMSSP students graduated in May 2013. Six graduates of the program are currently residents at BMC.

Initiatives like the new [Arts Outreach Initiative](#) with dozens of performances organized on the Medical Campus reflect our broadened concept of diversity within our community as does the School's participation in the Annual Boston Pride Parade. A Muslim Health Symposium was held in the spring to address health issues related to Boston's growing Muslim population.

The ODMC is actively working with BMC to develop *Employee Resource Groups* to foster diversity on the medical campus as a whole and continues to work synergistically with BMC's Minority Recruitment Program to recruit and support employees from diverse backgrounds.

[Continuing Medical Education \(CME\)](#)

One of the larger providers of CME among U.S. medical schools, BUSM sponsored 111 CME conferences and meetings in the past year and accredited 109 Grand Rounds Series. More than 40,000 healthcare professionals participated in and received credit for these programs this past year.

The School was awarded the first of its kind funding to provide FDA-mandated [opioid prescribing education](#) and has launched a program to train health care providers in safely and effectively managing patients with chronic pain using opioid

analgesics.

More than 15,000 Massachusetts physicians have accessed our Massachusetts Opioid Program that is cosponsored with the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine, the Massachusetts Medical Society, the Massachusetts Hospital Association and Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Nationally, we partner with or jointly sponsor programs with organizations such as the Federation of State Medical Boards and the Council of Medical Specialty Societies as well as a number of state medical societies, state departments of public health, state boards of registration in medicine.

This exposure clearly enhances BUSM's stature among the U.S. healthcare community as a valuable educational resource. Also, the international reach of our CME programs has recently extended to the Middle East and India via enduring materials, webinars and a visiting professors program.

[Graduate Medical Sciences GMS](#)

To create a more cohesive environment and enhance the graduate student experience for PhD students, GMS centralized PhD recruitment and launched their new consolidated graduate curriculum [Program in Biomedical Sciences \(PIBS\)](#), consolidating nine PhD programs.

Two new Masters programs have launched. The newly developed [Physician Assistant \(PA\)](#) program recently received preliminary accreditation. The program has already received more than 1,000 applications for 24-28 spots for the first entering class in spring 2014. In collaboration with the [Goldman School of Dental Medicine](#) the new MS degree in Oral Health Sciences, focused on preparation for dental school admission, enrolled 19 students this fall and is now an independent program, distinct from the MAc in Medical Sciences.

GMS's summer undergraduate research outreach program to underrepresented or disadvantaged students received NHLBI funds in 2013. The [Summer Training as Research Scholars](#) at Boston University (STaRS@BU) received \$775,000 for five years and is currently supporting 15 trainees including five students in the EMSSP.

Research

Despite sequestration our faculty continues to be very competitive for federal research funding. Our researchers have

- identified a genetic signature for [chronic obstructive pulmonary disease \(COPD\)](#) from airway cells harvested utilizing a minimally invasive procedure, which could lead to new treatments and better ways to monitor the effectiveness of treatment;
- discovered what may be a major neurological mechanism responsible for a

heightened state of [anxiety and possibly depression](#);

- developed a novel approach for creating an unlimited number of human [red blood cells and platelets in vitro](#) potentially reducing the need for blood donations for transfusions and that could help researchers examine novel therapeutic targets to treat a variety of diseases, including sickle cell disease; and
- identified a [new chemical class of compounds](#) that potentially block genetically diverse viruses from replicating that could facilitate the creation of broad-spectrum antiviral medications to treat a number of viruses, including Ebola and Marburg viruses.

These basic and translational studies expand our knowledge increase our capacity to care for our patients and herald new avenues for discovery.

Our faculty continues to receive national and international recognition for their work. Recently two of our most distinguished professors of psychiatry and psychology, Drs. [Patricia Resick](#) ([view profile](#)) and [Terence Keane](#) ([view profile](#)) received American Psychological Association awards for lifetime achievement in the field of trauma and distinguished scientific contributions to clinical psychology respectively. Dr. Dan Alford ([view profile](#)) was elected president of the Association for Medical Education and Research in Substance Abuse.

Dr. [Thomas Perls](#) ([view profile](#)) was honored with the Ewald W. Busse Research Award one of the most prestigious international awards for gerontological research.

The University named Dr. [Catherine Costello](#) ([view profile](#)) a William Fairfield Warren Professor and Dr. [Deborah Vaughan](#) ([view profile](#)) receiving the University's highest teaching award, the Metcalf Award and Prize.

Despite the challenges of sequestration and a government shutdown, we have capitalized on a number of opportunities and have many accomplishments. This new academic year holds great promise as we carry out our mission of providing excellence in education, research discovery and outstanding clinical care.

Sincerely,

Karen Antman, MD ([view profile](#))
Provost, Boston University Medical Campus
Dean, School of Medicine
Professor of Medicine



