Recent Accomplishments of the Amyloid Treatment and Research Program:

- **2002:** The Gerry Amyloidosis Research Laboratory in opens, a home for multidisciplinary laboratory and translational research on amyloidosis. This effort was led by Dr. Martha Skinner and supported by Dean Aram Chobanian, President John Silber, and a large donation from Sandra and Alan Gerry. Dr. Lawreen Connors directs the laboratory.

- **2002:** Dr. Martha Skinner is awarded the first NIH Program Project grant for research on AL amyloidosis. Program and Core leaders include Drs. Lawreen Connors, Cathy Costello, David Seldin, and David Sherr. The grant supports the development of ALBase, a database of amyloidogenic immunoglobulin light chains, supplementing the existing clinical database of information on more than 3000 patients with systemic amyloidosis.

- **2005:** Congress recognizes systemic amyloidosis as a disease for which additional research and innovative treatments are urgently needed in the Departments of Labor, Health, and Human Services and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriation Bill 2005, which mandates the trans-NIH study to assess the current state of the science and to determine the next steps to increase the understanding, prevention, and treatment of amyloidosis. The language adopted by Congress was submitted by patient Ann Peel and her husband, Terry.

- **2005:** Dr. John Berk is awarded a grant from the Food and Drug Administration and the National Institute of Neurologic Diseases to coordinate the first multicenter international trial for treatment of ATTR transthyretin familial amyloidosis. The study involves 7 sites around the world with patient accrual and follow up over 5 years.

- **2006:** The BU Amyloid Treatment & Research Program hosts the XIth International Symposium on Amyloidosis at the Marine Biological Laboratory campus in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. The symposium was attended by 275 researchers from many countries including: the United States, Germany, Hungary, Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. The focus of the meeting was translational medicine and emerging diagnostic and therapeutic approaches.