

FAMILY MEDICINE



Contact Us

**FAMILY MEDICINE
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**
One Boston Medical Center Place
Dowling 5 South
Boston, MA 02118
T. 617-414-4465
F. 617-414-3345

FAMILY MEDICINE CENTER

Christine Odell, MD
Medical Director
850 Harrison Avenue
Yawkey Ambulatory Care Center fl 4
Boston, MA 02118
T. 617-414-2080
F. 614-414-2090

MEDICAL DIRECTORS & UNIT LEADS

Jennifer Jose Lo, MD
Greater Roslindale
Amola Shertukde, DO
Charles River Practice
Karin Leschly, MD
East Boston Neighborhood HC
Yen Judith Loh, MD
Dorchester House

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Lead Article

A health center was born 40 years ago this month

Dec. 10, 2014

By Bill Walczak

My memory is a bit hazy as to the specifics of the meeting. I remember that it was held at the Second Church in Dorchester (the big white church on Washington Street) in Codman Square, and that it was the regular (Dec. 10, 1974) meeting of the Codman Square Civic Association, the precursor to the Codman Square Neighborhood Council.

The president, Marge Muldoon of Kenwood Street, had invited four representatives of Dorchester health centers and the Carney Hospital to speak on how they were able to start their health centers, which were still a new concept in providing health care in underserved communities. The first of these in the entire country was the Columbia Point Health Center, which, with the entire movement, will celebrate its 50th anniversary next year.

As I remember, at this Codman Square meeting were Ethel Lenox, a founder of the Uphams Corner Health Center, Jean Hunt, a founder of Neponset Health Center, Pat Edraos, a founder of the Bowdoin Street Health Center, and Sr. Kathleen Natwin, head of ambulatory care at the Carney Hospital, which supported the development of a number of health centers. They constituted a panel and spoke for a few minutes about how their centers had started, the health needs they addressed, and how the centers made a difference in their communities.

The notion of starting one in Codman Square was very attractive to those in attendance. The neighborhood was in a terrible state at the time, and getting worse. Much of the commercial district was vacant and/or decrepit. The residential housing in the area was nearly valueless. Large single-family houses were selling for a few thousand dollars, and many houses went vacant for lack of a buyer at any price.

Houses were burning down daily west of Washington Street. Crime was on the upswing and residents' faith in their own community was suffering. The private physicians who provided primary care services in the area were moving out or not taking new patients, so new residents used hospital emergency rooms for basic primary care. And to make matters worse, the city's Public Library department had announced that it was moving out of the historic Codman Square branch library (now the Great Hall) to a new location on Welles Avenue.

So starting a health center seemed like a great idea. Not only would it be a way to show that positive things could happen in Codman Square, it would also meet a great health care need, and maybe utilize a building which, the community believed, would be burned down if it became vacant.

Marge Muldoon appointed a group of volunteers at the end of the presentation to form an ad hoc group, the Codman Square Health Committee, that would investigate whether a health center was feasible, and, if so, to create one. She asked the person with the biggest mouth that evening, that is, the person who asked the most questions about starting a health center, to chair the committee, and that person was me, despite my age (I was 20).

So a group of about 20 people from all the neighborhoods around Codman Square started meeting in January. After a few months, we determined that a health center was indeed feasible and in April 1975, we incorporated as a way of getting the job done.



**Codman Square
Health Center**

**FAMILY MEDICINE
RESIDENCY**

Thomas Hines, MD
Residency Director
Kathryn Whitley
Residency Coordinator
Stella Rupia
Residency Assistant

**SPORTS MEDICINE
PROGRAM & FELLOWSHIP**

Doug Comeau, DO
Director

**MEDICAL STUDENT
EDUCATION**

Miriam Hoffman, MD
Director
Clerkship Director
Molly Cohen-Osher, MD
Associate Medical Director

Those who formed the Codman Square Health Center 40 years ago had no idea of the challenges that lay ahead. It took almost five years of effort and struggles with the Kevin White administration and state health agencies before the doors opened in 1979 with three employees inside. The consensus at the time was that the new facility would not survive. A bad call. That small group of citizen volunteers opened a health center that now has 100,000 square feet of space, several hundred employees, a budget of nearly \$25 million, and more than 22,000 patients who make 100,000 visits per year.

The center has helped to create two charter schools (the Edward Kennedy Health Careers Academy and Codman Academy), the HealthWorks Fitness Center, Latin Academy Housing, and has started programs ranging from public health to community organizing to a farmers' market, the BOLD teens, an adult education center, nutrition programs, and many more community efforts. It has greatly enhanced the idea that a health center can become a hub for community change.

In my speech at the dedication of the Center on Nov. 3, 1979, I congratulated these citizen volunteers who stuck together through five years of working, agonizing, and fighting with various officials and bureaucracies to win the day. I quoted, fittingly, Alexis DeToqueville, the early 19th century French observer of American culture:

"These Americans are peculiar people. If, in a local community, a citizen becomes aware of a human need that is not being met, he thereupon discusses the situation with his neighbors. Suddenly, a committee comes into existence. The committee thereupon begins to operate on behalf of the need and a new community function is established. It is like watching a miracle."

The lesson of the Codman Square Health Center is that even in the face of overwhelming odds, a few people can make a difference, and that it's worth the effort.

Bill Walczak is president of the Lewis Family and Grand Circle foundations.

UPCOMING DATES

JAN 19 MLK Day

JAN 21 Residency Final Rank Meeting

JAN 23 Residency CHC Flash Rounds Session

JAN 30 Residency Curriculum Retreat

FEB 2 Groundhog Day

FEB 3 Master Scheduling Meeting

FEB 7 Residency Winter Warm Up

FEB 14 Valentine's Day

FEB 16 President's Day

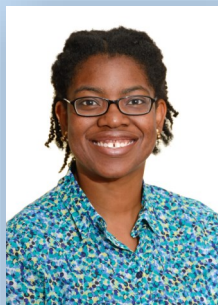
WELCOME

to our new faculty!



Eric Hwang, MD

Eric is our recent Family Medicine Chief Resident graduate class of 2014! Eric received his medical degree from Tufts University School of Medicine. He now joins our Family Medicine team as a provider at the Codman Square Health Center! Eric has been practicing with us since Fall 2014.



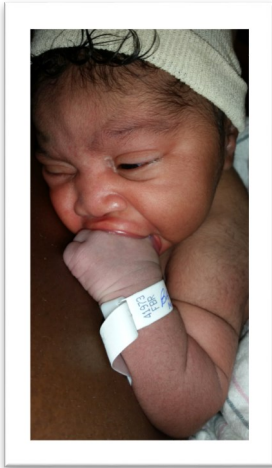
Afi Mansa Semanya

Mansa received her medical degree from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center at Memphis, and a Masters in Public Health at Drexel University. She completed her residency at the University of North Carolina Family Medicine Residency Program. We are delighted to have Mansa joins our team at the Uphams Corner Health Center! She has been practicing with us since Fall 2014

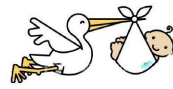
Gabrielle Johnson

Gabe received her medical degree from Meharry Medical College School of Medicine in Nashville, TN. She completed her residency at the University of Virginia Family Medicine Residency Program and then continued on to complete a fellowship in Family Medicine Faculty Development at the University of Virginia. Gabe now joined Dr. Odell and our team at the Family Medicine Center YACC4 in November 2014!

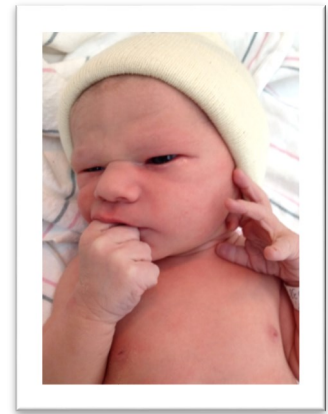
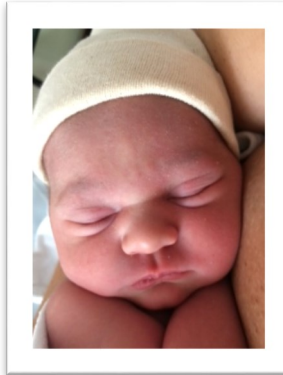
NEW BABIES!



Congratulations to **Jenny Dupera Teramene** from the ACC call center on the birth of her baby, **Elijah Nasir!** Elijah was born on November 10, 2014 @8:30pm!



Congratulations to **Hannah Severns** who gave birth to a girl, **Wallis-Jean!**



Congratulations to **Dr. Anne Dwyer-Wilmer** who gave birth to a baby boy, **Donal Francis Wilmer!** Donal was born on December 15th, 2014 @10:36pm, weighing in at 6lbs 5oz.

SPOTLIGHT



Thank you for your 20+ years of commitment to BMC and Family Medicine! **Jerome Collins**, DFM Manager of Finances and Operations, has recently accepted a position as Assistant Director of Administration and Finance at the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health. Jerome moves to this exciting new opportunity after 25+ years of commitment to BMC and Family Medicine. We thank Jerome for his service and congratulate him on his new position!



Congratulations to **Thomas Hines** and **Brian Jack** who's named this years (second year in a row!) top doc in *Boston Magazine's* "Top Docs"!



Congratulations to **Dr. John Wiecha** who was featured in the article "Virtual communities can help patients manage type 2 diabetes," in the *UMASS Med Now!*

[Read More](#)



Congratulations to **Dr. Ramon Cancino** who accepted his 2014 Emerging Leader Award at the FMEC!



UPDATE from our former FM fellow and our current CMO of the Mattapan Community Health Center-

"I was interviewed by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement 2 months ago (for an education module they are doing on Disparities). The IHI's CEO, Maureen Bisognano, was so impressed with my interview she came and visited me yesterday!" -Ramon Cancino, MD, MPH

Warm message from former Family Medicine Chair at Brown University. Vince was a mentor and friend, and whose devotion to Family Medicine came from his will to "meet the needs of the people". Vince is of the founding generation of Family Medicine, and as he says, in the early days, he could only dream of what Family Medicine could be. I sent him some information about our department; his response below. *—Brian Jack*

"Thank you for this information, Brian. These are remarkable accomplishments on so many levels - clinical, educational, scholarly, research, financial, and global while caring for the underserved and creating and maintaining a positive supportive environment for staff, faculty and trainees. Congratulations! You and your department are paving the way in to the future based on the foundation of FM principles and approaches - something that I used to dream about when in rural practice in the 60s and here you are doing this right in the midst of the doubting Thomases of Boston, Harvard, etc. I'm sure none of this has come easily and there is a lot of hard work, vision and energy behind each slide." -Vince

REFLECTIVE MOMENTS IN MEDICINE

This month's Reflective Moments in Medicine submission was written by Carol Mostow, LICSW and Assistant Professor of Family Medicine. Inspired by a quiet moment outdoors, I hope this poem brings a perspective of blessings and fullness as we care for ourselves, each other, and our patients during the dark, cold days of winter. Please address comments to carol.mostow@bmc.org.



WHAT WE SEE IN WINTER

By Carol Mostow, LICSW

The leaves fallen away
Reveal finely etched branches and intricately laced twigs
With infinite blue sky between outstretched arms.
Loving what is here more than what is gone
What we have rather than what we don't
Who you are rather than who you're not
Here is joy.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AUTHORS OF THE FOLLOWING PUBLICATIONS, ACCEPTED POSTERS AND PRESENTATIONS

Congratulations to **Katherine Gergen Barnett** for the publication of her article in *GLOBAL ADVANCES IN HEALTH AND MEDICINE* entitled "Physician Obesity: The Tipping Point." [Read More](#)

Congratulations to **Katherine Gergen Barnett, Hannah Watson and Tom Petzet** for the publication of their article "Crossing the Quality Chasm in Residency Education: Building a Bridge from Quality Improvement to Health Equity" published in the *Journal of Family Medicine*. [Read More](#)

Congratulations to Bayla Ostrach for the publication of her article "Critical medical anthropology as a roadmap: Understanding access to abortion in the Catalan health system." [Read More](#)

Congratulations to **Brian Penti** and colleagues for their presentation of a poster entitled "Assessing Relationship between Intimate Partner Violence & Preconception Care Risks amongst African American Women through Gabby Preconception Care System — that was presented at the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities National Conference! [Click here](#) for more information.

RESIDENCY

Upcoming Residency Events:

Friday, January 23 –CHC Flash Rounds Session

Friday, January 30th –Curriculum Retreat at South Boston Community Health Center, 12pm – 5pm.

Saturday, February 7th – Winter Warm Up at Flatbread Co. n Somerville, 1pm – 4pm.

Our last interview day for this season will be Friday, January 16th and we want to thank all of the residents, faculty and admin staff for being so welcoming to the applicants and helping us to have what we are sure will be another successful interview season that will lead to another fabulous intern class!

BMC had it's first visit from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) for a Clinical Learning Environment Review (CLER). The CLER program is used by the ACGME to assess the "learning environment" of each training institution and foster an atmosphere that engages and includes residents and fellows in quality and patient safety priorities. After this initial visit, ACGME representatives will visit BMC once every 18 months. To learn about what BMC is doing to foster a learning environment, visit the BMC intranet <http://internal.bmc.org/>



Codman Square Family Medicine Resident & Faculty get-together.

From the Desktop of Kate Walsh
President & CEO



Dear Colleagues,

We just completed our two and a half day Clinical Learning Environment Review (CLER) site visit from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). In many ways this was similar to a Joint Commission site visit. They visited a host of different clinical areas and units and spoke to numerous front-line residents, fellows, attendings, and nurses. I was extremely proud to hear their assessment and feedback and the remarkable consistency of commitment to Quality and Patient Safety from the many individuals with whom they interacted. The level of integration of our educational programs with Quality and Patient Safety is very high and although all training programs across the country are in the early stages of this aspect of Graduate Medical Education, we appear to be doing extremely well and are quite advanced.

The journey to improve patient safety and quality of care is a never-ending one. We deliver wonderful care each day to our patients and now, after the CLER site visit, I recognize even more clearly how we are meaningfully helping to shape our trainees' understanding of quality improvement and system-wide approaches to patient safety. This will be an ongoing legacy of an institution that has so many things of which it can be proud.

Thank you for all you do for our patients each day.

Kate

MEDICAL STUDENT EDUCATION

WE NEED YOU!

A strong Family Medicine/primary care workforce is at the core of all rational healthcare systems. It is critical that we grow and develop the Family Medicine workforce in this country. We need to provide students with training that will captivate and develop students with an interest in Family Medicine. We also need to equip students with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to make them physicians in *all* fields who understand and respect the value of Family Medicine, provide the highest quality evidence-based care, and have a strong understanding of what a well-designed healthcare system is.

This is how we will transform healthcare and ultimately health in our country.

YOU are the key to this important mission! Now more than ever, we need clinical spots for students in their third year Family Medicine Clerkship at BUSM.

Students consistently love and gain so much from the outstanding clinical experiences they have at our clinical sites. Our clinical sites run the gamut from solo practices to group practices and community health centers, and our preceptors universally value the experience of having clerkship students in the office with them.

Please let us know which blocks you can take a student by indicating on this form:

<http://www.bu.edu/fammed/forms/clerkship/preceptor2015-2016.html>

If you have any questions, feel free to email Miriam Hoffman at MHoffman@bu.edu.

Best wishes for a happy new year,

The Boston University Family Medicine Medical Student Education Team

Teaching Family Medicine Today ... Transforming Healthcare Tomorrow

DFM Alumni



Greetings from our former academic fellow in BU-DFM, TuMai Tran, who is now working at an American operated international clinic that has hospitals throughout China. They are setting up Family Medicine Residency Training Programs and TuMai is in charge of Faculty Development. Her husband Hu is a BUSM MD/PhD graduate.



Greetings from the Pecci's all the way from sunny California!

Medical Anthropology & Cross-Cultural Practice

Meet our 2014-2015 MACCP Students! [Click here for more info.](#)



Stephanie Treadwell



Nick Emard



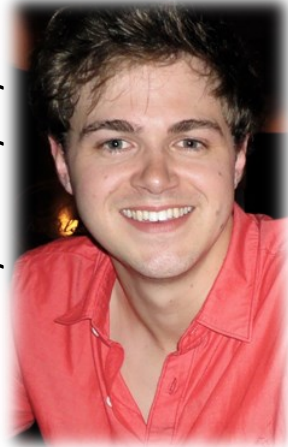
Erin Mellet



Staci Rosenthal



Katie Lynch



Dylan Atchley BrayProctor



Ashley Houston



Kellan McNally



Kanwal Haq



Sarah Candio



Kristen Resnick

"Slavvy" K. Petrov



Bianca Bracho-Perez

Carolina Major Diaz San Francisco



DFM Conferences

Family Medicine Grand Rounds

Please see below for specific location

12:00—1:00PM

January 20—Palliative Care—Sandhya Rao

Location BUSM L110

January 27—Mytopcare and Opioid Prescribing—Jane Liebschutz

Location FGH

February 3—NO GRAND ROUNDS

Location

February 10—Medical Student Awards—Medical Student Education

**The Department of Family Medicine is accredited by the American Academy of Family Physicians Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide CME for physicians. The Department of Family Medicine designates this educational activity for a maximum of 1 CME credit through the AAFP*

**Lunch Provided for attendees , all are welcome!*

Research in Progress (RIP)

The research group meets every Tuesday from 3:30-5PM in Dowling 5409 Large Conference Room, to discuss work in progress, learn from each other and support each other. For any questions, please contact Nechama Greenwood at Nechama@bu.edu

January 20—Karla Damus

January 27—Research Retreat

February 3—Becky Lara—Fellows Report

**All are welcome*

Inpatient Noon Conference

12:00—1PM

E. Newton Pavilion, 2nd floor conference room
(To the right— just before entering cafeteria)

January 15— GI Bleed —Charles Williams

January 22— Vasculitides—Brian Jack

January 29— TBD—Heather Miselis

February 5— Team Case Presentation

**This conference is limited to DFM members only*

**Lunch provided for attendees*



Inpatient Documentation Tips

From

The Documentation Team at BMC

Documenting Heart Failure

WHEN DOCUMENTING CHF, PLEASE TRY TO CAPTURE SEVERITY OF ILLNESS

HFpEF: Consider **DIASTOLIC HEART FAILURE**

HF reduced EF: Consider **SYSTOLIC HEART FAILURE**

Right or Left sided heart failure: If appropriate, consider if it's also **SYSTOLIC** or **DIASTOLIC**.

PLEASE DOCUMENT SEVERITY OF CHF: ACUTE, DECOMPENSATED, ACUTE ON CHRONIC, CHRONIC.

**Try to avoid "ADHF" as it's a nonspecific abbreviation.*

Thank you! Specific documentation accurately reflects the excellent care you give to our patients as BMC.

Global Advances in Health and Medicine issues Call for Papers

Global Advances in Health and Medicine is a peer-reviewed Medline-indexed journal that publishes six print and digital issues per year. Rob Saper MD MPH, Associate Professor of Family Medicine in our Department, is the Co-Editor-in-Chief. Global Advances seeks research related to any of these four broad areas:

Whole person care: Physical as well as psychological, social, and spiritual factors influence health and wellbeing.

A Systems perspective: Health and healing are impacted by the structure and function of family, community, health care, government and other relevant 'systems'.

Integrative health and medicine: An approach to care that is patient-centered, relationship-based, and makes use of all appropriate therapies, professionals and disciplines.

Global health: Improving health and wellbeing worldwide by reducing disparities and addressing important problems that go beyond national borders

Please see the **Call for Papers** and forward it to any potentially interested colleagues or trainees. Clinical trials, observational studies, qualitative research, systematic reviews, quality improvement projects, and case reports are all welcome. The Journal does not charge any author publication fees. Thank you for considering submitting a current or future paper to Global Advances. Please feel free to email or speak with Dr. Saper with any questions or to discuss a potential paper.

OPPORTUNITIES



Wonca

Global Health

The World Health Organization (WHO) recruits twice a year for interns. Being a WHO intern is a great opportunity for medical students and family doctors in training to develop academic and policymaking skills, as well as to understand how the WHO works.

For (Northern Hemisphere) Summer of 2015 the intake will run until January 31st 2015. For more information, [click here](#).

**BOSTON
UNIVERSITY**

Department of Family Medicine Faculty Positions

Boston University Family Medicine is seeking energetic family physicians for several growing, dynamic practices in diverse settings. We are looking to expand our community health center practices, our urban medical center practice and our practice in the BU undergraduate campus neighborhood. Leadership positions available. Our practices offer full spectrum family medicine in well supported settings with an integrated EHR. Our patients are culturally and socio-economically diverse. We are committed to innovation in primary care and the patient centered medical home.

Live in beautiful Boston and become part of an exciting team at the forefront of health care reform!

We offer competitive salary, excellent benefits and faculty appointments at BUSM with opportunities to teach. Maternity and inpatient care optional. Women and minority applicants encouraged to apply.

Send CV to: Ted Constan, Administrative Director,
Department of Family Medicine, Dowling 5, One
Boston Medical Center Place, Boston, MA 02118
E-mail (preferred): Ted.Constan@bmc.org
Fax: (617) 414-3345

Boston University Department of Family Medicine Faculty in Geriatric Care

The Boston University Department of Family Medicine is seeking faculty interested in Geriatric Care. The Department provides care in several nursing homes, and teaching for FM residents and medical students. There are opportunities to provide primary care and to participate in research. Leadership positions are available. The geriatric program is highly integrated with our Boston Medical Center FM practice and local Community Health Center teaching practices. Live in beautiful Boston and become part of an exciting team on the forefront of health reform.

Send CV to:

Ted Constan
Administrative Director
Department of Family Medicine
One Boston Medical Center Place
Dowling 5 South
Boston, MA 02118

Email (preferred): ted.constan@bmc.org

Fax: 617-414-3345