



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

BMC celebrates opening of Moakley Building

"WE ARE PROUDLY AND PASSIONATELY SETTING A NEW STANDARD IN A CITY KNOWN WORLDWIDE FOR ITS MEDICAL LEADERSHIP," ELAINE ULLIAN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER.



BMC's new Moakley Building at 830 Harrison Ave. brings together numerous clinical services and specialties in one location.

Representing the largest expansion project in the hospital's history, Boston Medical Center (BMC) recently celebrated the opening of the John Joseph Moakley Building.

Medical center employees attended a special preview on Oct. 11, and the facility was open to patients on Nov. 5.

The building is named in honor of the late Massachusetts congressman John Joseph Moakley, who was a devoted champion of BMC.

The Moakley Building is designed to create an exceptional patient experience by bringing together many programs of clinical excellence and specialty services in one location, streamlining access to care and providing patients with the latest in technology and treatment. The facility also will fill a major gap in cancer care for Boston's low-income and minority residents.

Services offered include the Solomont Center for Hematology and Medical Oncology, the Belkin

Breast Health Center, surgical oncology, radiation oncology and nuclear radiology, as well as the Dempsey Center for Digestive Disorders and comprehensive otolaryngology, head and neck surgery. A state-of-the-art ambulatory surgery center features six of the newest and most technologically advanced operating rooms in New England.

"In this stunning building, our clear and bold vision to be a world-class institution that provides exceptional care, without exception, is truly fulfilled," stated Elaine Ullian, BMC president and CEO. "All patients receive the most advanced, coordinated and dignified medical care available, anywhere."

The building design includes a sweeping entryway, a four-story atrium and light-filled waiting areas for patients. Nearly 50 pieces of art created by Boston-area artists have been installed throughout the building to create a welcoming, friendly environment.



BU School of Dental Medicine (SDM) students Carolyn Dicus '08, Jasun Mahaffey '09, and D'Vano Forbes '08, were volunteers in the dental school's interactive exhibit at the Boston Public Health Commission's annual Boston Area Health Education Center Expo. The trio, along with members of the school's Office of Admissions and Student Services, spoke to about 80 local high-school students on careers in dentistry and also offered lessons on flossing.

The high school students were part of the center's Youth to Health Careers summer enrichment program, which offers Boston high school students a chance to take classes and complete internships at sites including Boston Medical Center and SDM.

BMC HealthNet Plan Commonwealth Care: Real health insurance

BMC HealthNet Plan is now enrolling members in Commonwealth Care, the state's new program for residents without health insurance. Already, more than 13,000 Massachusetts residents have enrolled in BMC HealthNet Plan Commonwealth Care since October. More people have chosen BMC HealthNet Plan than any other plan offering Commonwealth Care.

If you are uninsured and meet the income eligibility requirements, Commonwealth Care may be just what you need. BMC HealthNet Plan Commonwealth Care is real health insurance, giving members access to a very large network of doctors and providers throughout Massachusetts, including many community health centers in Greater Boston. In fact, BMC HealthNet Plan Commonwealth Care is the only plan offered statewide.

BMC HealthNet Plan offers four different Commonwealth Care plans. The monthly premiums for Commonwealth Care members

are subsidized by the state on a sliding scale based on your income. No matter what plan you qualify for, you'll be covered for:

DOCTORS' VISITS

HOSPITAL STAYS

PRESCRIPTIONS

MENTAL HEALTH

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

VISION SERVICES

... AND MORE

You will also have access to a free 24-hour Nurse Advice Line with trained nurses available to answer your health questions. The Plan offers help for disease management if you have asthma, diabetes or other chronic conditions. With nearly 175,000 members, BMC HealthNet Plan is also the largest managed care plan for people who have MassHealth.

For more information or help joining BMC HealthNet Plan, call 1 (800) 792-4355 or visit <http://www.bmchp.org>.

No health insurance?

We've got a plan for that.

Commonwealth Care is real health insurance.
It covers:

- Doctor's visits
- Hospital stays
- Prescriptions
- Mental health
- Substance abuse
- Vision services
- ... and more

And, BMC HealthNet Plan members get even more – like our free 24 hour nurse advice line.



For help joining, call
1-800-792-4355
or visit www.bmchp.org

BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER
HealthNet Plan
Commonwealth Care

For all your Commonwealth Care options call 1-877-623-6795 (TTY: 1-877-623-7773).
Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories: Update

In the winter of 2006, BUMC received a final decision from the federal government to fund construction of a biosafety laboratory on the campus. The facility, which will be called the National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories (NEIDL), will conduct research to develop tests, drugs, vaccines and treatments for emerging infectious diseases, whether they occur naturally or are introduced through bioterrorism. The laboratory will be part of a national network of secure facilities and will include Biosafety Levels 2, 3 and 4 laboratories where microorganisms such as West Nile, equine encephalitis and ebola viruses may be studied under the most stringent safety and security requirements.

Construction began in March 2006 and the facility is currently in the third phase of a seven phase construction schedule. During this phase, steel-column beams and bracing are erected on top of the foundations to form the structural skeleton for the entire building and the concrete floors are put in place.

More information on the NEIDL can be found on the Web at <http://www.bu.edu/NEIDL> or by visiting the Grove Hall, South End, Dudley or main branches of the Boston Public Library.

Partnership lets asthma patients Breathe Easy at Home

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITY OF BOSTON, BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER (BMC) HAS CREATED A NEW PROGRAM TO HELP ASTHMATIC PATIENTS.

Breathe Easy at Home, a program of BMC's Division of Pediatrics and Medical Legal Partnership for Children, connects BMC health care providers who treat children with asthma with city inspectors who can solve the housing conditions that have been found to worsen the asthma.

Led by BMC, the program allows doctors to send referrals from their offices via e-mail to Boston's Inspectional Services Department (ISD). The referring doctors then receive automatic email updates as their cases progress through ISD review, as well as online access to review all their referrals. Housing inspectors visit patients' homes to look for code violations that are also asthma triggers -- violations such as mold, rodent infestation, poor ventilation and sanitation, cigarette smoke and unsanitary carpeting.

"Given that a home inspection to remove asthma triggers is often the best prescription for children with asthma, we salute Mayor Menino for bringing his team together with us to address this serious problem," said Barry Zuckerman, MD,

chief and chair of Pediatrics at Boston University Medical Center.

The referral system also includes a Web page where physicians may sign up with the partnership and review their referrals, and where the general public may obtain information about asthma.

"Using modern technology, we are connecting two entities that normally would have little-to-no contact," said Megan Sandel, MD, a BMC pediatrician and assistant professor of pediatrics at Boston University School of Medicine.

"Research shows that children who live in conditions they are allergic to, such as cockroach infestation or mold, are much more likely to end up in the emergency room or hospitalized.

"This program helps me help my patients with asthma to lead a better life," added Sandel.

For more information, call (617) 414-3649.



A GOOD START

Boston University School of Dental Medicine student Paul Johnson gives a 5-year old boy a free oral screening during "Countdown to Kindergarten," a program sponsored by the City of Boston to help families as children start school. The school's Division of Community Health Programs and 22 doctoral students filled the Dr. Seuss Room at Boston Children's Museum with interactive stations, where children learned about dental health, good nutrition, dental sealants and fluoride. The youngsters received free toothbrushes, stickers and educational material at the event.

Program improves health-care access for public housing families

THE BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH (BUSPH) HAS LAUNCHED A NEW PROGRAM TO INCREASE AWARENESS AMONG LATINO PARENTS WHO LIVE IN PUBLIC HOUSING IN EAST BOSTON ABOUT HEALTH CARE BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO THEM AND THEIR FAMILIES.

The Latino Health Insurance Program also will help eligible participants enroll in health insurance programs and link them with primary care.

The program will instruct Latino community leaders who live in public housing how to conduct outreach and enrollment for the state's MassHealth (Medicaid) and Children's Medical Security Plan. The program's model was developed during a BUSPH practicum by Milagros Abreu, MD, an epidemiology student at the school and the program's director.

Despite the fact that all children in Massachusetts are eligible for public health insurance, 37 percent of Latino children in East Boston are uninsured.

"About a third of East Boston residents are now Latino, and Latino children are far more likely than whites to be uninsured," said Abreu. "Children without insurance are significantly more likely to be in poor or fair health, to not have a regular physician, and to utilize emergency care rather than other health care services."

Through this program, more than 125 people — many of whom are children — already have received assistance in applying for health care.

"This program has far exceeded our goals," said Patricia Hynes, MS, professor of environmental health at BUSPH and Abreu's faculty mentor. "We now have the framework and model for a very successful program and we're already exploring ways to expand it into surrounding communities with high Latino populations."

The initiative is funded in part by a \$25,000 grant from the John W. Henry Family Foundation, a private foundation established by Red Sox owner John Henry.

The program is based at BUSPH's Partners in Health and Housing Prevention Research Center, in partnership with the Boston Housing Authority, the Boston Public Health Commission, and the Community Committee for Health Promotion.

For more information, visit <http://www.phhprc.com>.



A FLU-FREE COMMUNITY

Anna Bissonnette, RN, MS, Community Medicine at Boston University Medical Center (BUMC), administers a flu shot to Maria Trozzi, MEd, director of the Good Grief Program at Boston Medical Center, during the hospital's recent annual Community Flu Shot Day. This year, a record 4,300 doses of vaccine were given to the public and employees at the medical center. In a concerted, health-community effort, the vaccines were administered by staff and students at BUMC and several other Boston-area medical and nursing schools.

Medical center seeks subjects to find secrets to long life

THE BOSTON UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER (BUMC) ONE OF THREE U.S. SITES SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN AN INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECT ON THE FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO A LONG AND HEALTHY LIFE.



Thomas Perls, MD, MPH

The Long Life Family Study -- the first of its kind to research long-life factors that run in families -- is funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and co-developed by NIH's National Institute on Aging.

BUMC, along with Columbia University, the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Southern Denmark, will recruit long-lived families within their respective area. Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis will act as the Data Management and Coordinating Center.

BUMC researchers are seeking a large number of families with several long-lived members for the three-year study. They are particularly interested in hearing from families with at least two living members, 90 years or older, who have children

residing in Massachusetts and neighboring parts of New Hampshire, Maine, Rhode Island and Connecticut. Family members who live outside these areas may also be asked to participate.

Trained clinical staff members will meet with study participants in their homes to ask questions about their family and health history and to conduct physical assessments. Study participants will also be asked for a small blood sample to obtain genetic information that will help determine the role genes might play in longevity among family members.

According to the researchers, previous studies have indicated that exceptional longevity tends to run in families.

"By studying these families, we hope to determine the genetic and environmental factors that may contribute to longevity and to the ability to escape diseases normally associated with aging," said BUMC principal investigator, Thomas Perls, MD, MPH, director of the New England Centenarian Study and associate professor of medicine in the Section of Geriatrics at Boston University School of Medicine.

Persons interested in participating in the study may call the BUMC recruitment office at 1 (888) 333-6327. For more information, visit <http://www.longlifefamilystudy.org>.

BUSM launches graduate program in forensic sciences

THE DIVISION OF GRADUATE MEDICAL SCIENCES AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE (BUSM) HAS A NEW MASTERS PROGRAM IN BIOMEDICAL FORENSIC SCIENCES.

This is the only graduate program in forensic sciences in Massachusetts and only the second of its kind in New England.

BUSM's Masters of Science program is also one of the few forensic science programs in the country based at a major medical center.

According to Tara Moore, PhD, associate director of Biomedical Forensic Sciences at BUSM, the two-year program provides a unique opportunity for individuals to pursue graduate-level forensic sciences education in one of the fastest-growing scientific fields today.

"The need for broadly trained, forensic professionals has become an urgent one, on a national level," stated Moore, assistant professor of anatomy and neurobiology at BUSM. "Individuals with a strong biomedical background and trained in the basics of forensic science provide a crucial level of expertise to forensic investigations."

Many of the core courses include laboratory components in which students will gain hands-on experience with the equipment, methods and techniques used in forensic sciences laboratories.

The program prepares students for employment in many settings, including forensic sciences laboratories, law enforcement agencies, medical examiner and coroners' offices, law firms, the military, academia, and hospital and pharmaceutical laboratories.

Courses are taught by forensics experts from local, state and federal forensic laboratories and law enforcement agencies, as well as the BU Schools of Law and Medicine.

For more information, visit <http://www.bu.edu/biomedforensic> or send an e-mail to Moore at tmoore@bu.edu.

Nurses provide callers with connections at BMC

WHETHER CONNECTING PATIENTS WITH A SPECIAL MEDICAL SERVICE OR FIELDING QUESTIONS FROM DOCTORS IN THE COMMUNITY, THREE KNOWLEDGEABLE AND EXPERIENCED NURSES AT THE BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER (BMC) ARE MAKING THE HEALTH CARE PROCESS LESS DIFFICULT TO NAVIGATE.

Rita Galvin, RN, Linda Viano, RN, and Jan Zildjian, RN, staff BMC's Health Connection, a telephone information center created to help patients, their families, members of the community and referring physicians to access BMC's doctors, programs and services.

In addition to providing basic health information, the nurses assist patients in selecting a primary care physician or specialist; setting up follow-up appointments; finding specialty physicians for students from Boston University Student Health Services; and, if needed working with BMC's Interpreter Services. They also facilitate appointment scheduling and referrals from several preferred physician groups.

"Introducing new patients from the surrounding community to the medical center is a major aspect of our job," said Galvin. "We connect callers without health insurance to Patient Financial Services, and we work to find these callers an appropriate physician or clinical service."

The nurses also assist referring physicians by helping transfer patients to the hospital. Additionally, the nurses help patients obtain information for participation in clinical research trials.

Boston HealthNet Community Health Centers are around the corner

BOSTON HEALTHNET, BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER'S NETWORK AFFILIATION WITH 15 COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS, IS ALWAYS READY TO SERVE THE RESIDENTS OF BOSTON AND QUINCY WITH THEIR HEALTH-RELATED NEEDS. FREE SHUTTLE-BUS SERVICE IS AVAILABLE FROM BMC TO MANY OF THE CENTERS. **FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (617) 638-4899.**



Codman Square Health Center
637 Washington St.
Dorchester, Mass. 02124
(617) 825-9660

Dorchester House Multi-Service Center
1353 Dorchester Ave.
Dorchester, Mass. 02122
(617) 288-3230

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center
10 Gove St.
East Boston, Mass. 02128
(617) 569-5800

Greater Roslindale Medical & Dental Center
4199 Washington St.
Roslindale, Mass. 02131
(617) 323-4440

Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center
632 Blue Hill Ave.
Dorchester, Mass. 02121
(617) 825-3400

Boston Healthcare for the Homeless
729 Massachusetts Ave.
Boston, Mass. 02118
(617) 414-7779

Mattapan Community Health Center
1425 Blue Hill Ave.
Mattapan, Mass. 02126
(617) 269-0061

South Boston Community Health Center
409 West Broadway
South Boston, Mass. 02127
(617) 269-7500

Upham's Corner Health Center
500 Columbia Rd.
(617) 287-8000

Whittier Street Health Center
1125 Tremont St.
Roxbury, Mass. 02120
(617) 427-1000

Roxbury Comprehensive Community Health Center
435 Warren St.
Roxbury, Mass. 02119
(617) 442-7400

South End Community Health Center
1601 Washington St.
Boston, Mass. 02118
(617) 425-2000

Neponset Health Center
398 Neponset Ave.
Dorchester, Mass. 02124
(617) 282-3200

Manet Community Health Center
110 West Squantum St.
North Quincy, Mass. 02172
(617) 376-3000

Geiger Gibson Community Health Center
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