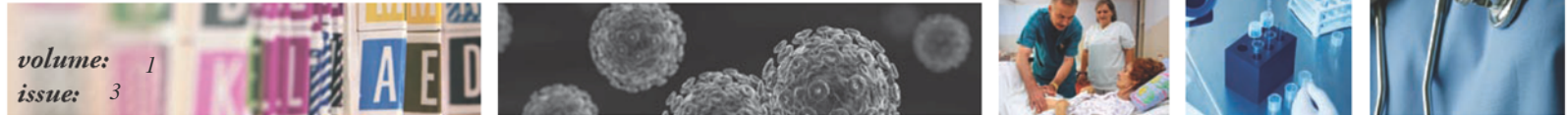




# Medicine at BUMC



NEWS UPDATE FOR BOSTON UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

## KUDOS!



### Lewis E. Braverman wins Endocrine Society Laureate Award

Lewis E. Braverman, MD was presented with the Robert H. Williams Distinguished Leadership Award. This award is presented in recognition of outstanding leadership in fundamental or clinical endocrinology as exemplified by the recipient's contributions and those of his trainees and associates to teaching, research and administration.

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### VA Boston receives Under Secretary for Health Customer Service Award

The National Veteran Service and Advocacy Advisory Board (NVSAAAB) recently completed its review of twenty-four (24) outstanding nominations for the Under Secretary for Health Awards for Veteran Customer Service. VA Boston was selected as the recipient of the award for a Comprehensive Customer Service Program for our facilities Customer Service Committee that focuses on internal and external customer service.

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Jacob Joseph, MD Associate Professor of Medicine, in the Section of Cardiology was invited to speak on his research on mobilization of bone marrow stem cells in advanced systolic heart

failure to an international audience at the "Fourth International Symposium on Stem Cell Therapy and Applied Cardiovascular Biology" held in Madrid on 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> April 2007. His contribution to this field will also be published in an upcoming issue of Nature Clinical Practice Cardiovascular Medicine. Dr. Joseph was also invited to write an editorial (in press) on the topic of stem cells in heart failure for the European Heart Journal, the official journal of the European Society of Cardiology.



James Kaufman, MD Professor of Medicine, and head of Renal research at VA Boston co-authored a recent JAMA article: Dialysis facility ownership and epoetin dosing in patients receiving hemodialysis JAMA. 297(15):1667-74, 2007 Apr 18.

The study reports that for-profit dialysis facilities give patients larger doses of Epogen (EPO) than nonprofit centers. For-profit chains increased epoetin doses three times more than nonprofit centers for patients with hematocrit levels of less than 33 percent, and also increased the doses among patients with hematocrit levels in the recommended target of 33 percent to 36 percent. Epogen accounts for nearly 25% of the profits of large dialysis centers. Already Congressman Pete Stark is encouraging Congress to adjust Medicare's reimbursement policy for Epogen. Dr. Kaufman's continuing work into the most cost effective manner to use this expensive but effective medication is quite likely to impact national policy on administration of epoetin.

## MORE KUDOS!

Lou Fiore, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, Chief Section of General Internal Medicine and Clinical Epidemiology at VA Boston, has been named the Chief of Informatics for the National VA Cooperative Studies Program. Lou is Co-director of MAVERIC, (Massachusetts Veterans Epidemiology Research and Information Center). MAVERIC was established in 1997 as one of 3 VA ERICs (Epidemiology Research Center), and in 2002 took on an additional role as one of 5 coordinating centers in VA's Cooperative Studies Program. Lou has been tapped for the creative and novel approaches MAVERIC has taken in data management. MAVERIC has installed state-of-the-art electronic systems that allow for real-time data management and clarification with less paperwork. New applications utilize web based technology to offer unique, easy to use, secure and advantageous approaches to the management of clinical trial information. Research nurses at VA hospitals across the country now send information about patients enrolled in clinical trials to MAVERIC through the VA Intranet and the World Wide Web.



A second electronic tool currently deployed at MAVERIC is an electronic Clinical Trial Management System that helps researchers locally and nationally share information and documents about a research project. At present MAVERIC is deploying video conferencing equipment to all participating Cooperative Study Centers to facilitate investigator communication. Together these tools allow the VA to conduct research safer, faster and less expensively.

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### Department of Medicine Faculty Member Selected as First Recipient of the Karin Grunebaum Cancer Research Foundation Faculty Fellowship Award



Dr. Isabel Dominguez of the Section of Hematology/Oncology in the Department of Medicine of the Boston University School of Medicine has been selected as the first recipient of a new annual award from the Karin Grunebaum Cancer Research Foundation. The Grunebaum Foundation has supported cancer research in Boston for over 40 years, initially through the support of MD or MD/PhD medical students.

The Foundation provided four year-long fellowships each year, two at Boston University School of Medicine and two at Harvard Medical School, giving these young investigators a laboratory cancer research opportunity. Over the years, more than 130 students have been supported in this way.

In 2002, the Karin Grunebaum Research Foundation, through a major gift, established an endowed chair at Boston University School of Medicine for cancer research.

In the last year, the Foundation made the seminal decision to move their ongoing support for cancer research from the level of medical student fellowships to the support of young and promising faculty members at Boston University and Harvard. The Foundation accurately surmised that its support could make the greatest impact at the level of young and committed cancer investigators.

A Boston University committee of senior scientists and translational investigators was set up to choose the inaugural incumbent for the first Karin Grunebaum Cancer Research Foundation Faculty Fellowship. Among a large number of very accomplished applicants from all departments and divisions in the School of Medicine, Dr. Dominguez was selected for her work in basic mechanisms of tumorigenesis and cell proliferative signaling. The Department of Medicine is proud that Dr. Dominguez was chosen as the first recipient of this prestigious award, and gratefully acknowledges the support of the Karin Grunebaum Cancer Research Foundation for one of its most promising young faculty members.

## RHEUMATOLOGY NEWS

The Rheumatology Section recently hosted Dame Professor Carol Black, a world renowned scleroderma expert from the United Kingdom. As part of the full day visit with the Section, Dame Carol spoke on scleroderma-associated pulmonary disease. Faculty member Drs. Robert Simms, Peter Merkel, Raphael LeMaire and Robert Lafyatis, and fellows, Michael York and Alessandra Farina presented their research.

## 2007 TEACHING AWARD NOMINATIONS

Nomination season for the 2007 Robert Dawson Evans Faculty Special Recognition Teaching Award is now upon us. This award, which began in 1998, is intended to recognize special contributions to the teaching mission of our department over time. The award is given by the Department of Medicine. Any member of the department; resident, fellow or faculty can nominate faculty for this award. The only requirement is that faculty member must have been on staff for at least five years. Nominations need to be presented in writing, (e-mail is adequate) and should include a detailed justification for the nomination. The nomination deadline is June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Previous awardees are: 1998 L. Jack Faling; 1999 (two awardees) Edward Alexander and Robert Levin; 2000 Eli Schimmel; 2001 Robert Witzburg; 2002 Tom Barber; 2003 (two awardees) Sheilah Bernard and Steve Borkan; 2004 Helen Hollingsworth; 2005 (two awardees) Angela Jackson and Sharon Levine; 2006 (two awardees) John H. Schwartz and Eric H. Awtry.

Please send your nominations to Jay Orlander, Chair Teaching Awards Committee through Melissa Bos in the residency program office: (<[Melissa.Bos@bmc.org](mailto:Melissa.Bos@bmc.org)>).

## CULTURAL COMPETENCY TRAINING

All BUMC faculty are required to complete Cultural Competency Training. The online course takes approximately three hours to complete and may be completed in segments.

Faculty may log on at: <https://lms.qualityinteractions.org/login.aspx>, click on 'New User' and enter the Organization ID (55000). Clinical section administrators have detailed instructions to distribute to faculty, if additional information is needed.

## SAVE THE DATE!

## UPCOMING MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS

**Friday, June 8** – Farewell Grand Rounds for Dr. David Battinelli, followed by a reception in the Hiebert Lounge.

**Friday, June 15** – 2007 Chief Residents. *Chiefs' Report*

## UPCOMING EVANS SEMINAR

**Thursday, May 31, 2007 - Aravinda Chakravarti, Ph.D.**, Chief of Genetics, Johns Hopkins, Knott Professor and Director, Institute of Genetic Medicine, Professor, School of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Pediatrics, and Molecular Biology and Genetics Professor, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Department of Biostatistics. "*Genetic Dissection Of Sudden Cardiac Death*"

**Please note- this lecture will start at 2pm due to the Jay Coffman Memorial.**

### FIRST THURSDAYS

Dr. Corkey will be instituting a new social hour beginning the first Thursday in June: the 7<sup>th</sup>. This social event will be held in the Evans Seminar Room (between the elevators and the Chairman's office) from 5 to 6:30. Beer and pretzels will be served and all are welcome to come and meet colleagues from the DOM.

### DR. JAY COFFMAN MEMORIAL SERVICE



A memorial service celebrating the life and accomplishments of Dr. Jay Coffman will be held Thursday, May 31, 2007 from 3:00-5:00pm in the Hiebert Lounge.