

MED CENTER NEWS

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In this issue

PAGE 2 GSDM professor receives NIH grant, serves as mentor

PAGE 3 Team BMC readies for 2008 Boston Marathon

PAGE 3 Hospital initiative under way to increase patient satisfaction

PAGE 5 Annual BMC Gala set for May 10

PAGE 6 Ujamba: Good health for African women refugees

PAGE 7 BUSM names chair of Physiology and Biophysics



Breaking barriers

Catherine Cooper, receptionist for Guest Support Services at BMC and a 41-year hospital veteran, responds to a call at the Moakley Building Information Desk. Gracing the wall is a painting created by Boston artist James Paradis and titled "Barriers." Paradis generously donated the oil-on-canvas to BMC in memory of a longtime neighbor, Walter Terlecki, and in gratitude for the geriatricians at the medical center who arranged for Terlecki's care during the last years of his life.

MEDICAL CENTER APPOINTS NEW CHIEF OF CARDIAC SURGERY

Robert Poston, MD, has been named chief of cardiac surgery at BMC and will be recommended for an appointment as associate professor of cardiothoracic surgery at BUSM.

Poston comes to BU Medical Center from the University of Maryland School of Medicine, where he served as associate professor of cardiac surgery.

Poston has pioneered the use of robotics in minimally invasive surgery to treat the most complex forms of coronary artery disease, which afflicts 16 million Americans and is the leading cause of death in the United States, claiming 1 million lives each year.

Minimally invasive, robotically-assisted bypass surgery allows the surgeon to remove or redirect a blood vessel from one part of the body and place it around the obstructed part of the artery, effectively bypassing it and restoring blood flow to the heart muscle. With this procedure the patient has smaller scars, fewer side effects and complications, less pain, reduced risk of infection and faster recovery than with conventional bypass-graft surgery.



Robert Poston, MD

BMC, under Poston's leadership, will be the only hospital in Boston – and one of only a handful in the nation – to offer this innovative procedure that uses the da Vinci® robotic surgical equipment. [See related article, *MedCenter News* October 2007.]

After receiving his medical degree from Johns Hopkins Medical School, Poston completed a residency in general surgery at the University of California-San Francisco. He also completed a research fellowship in the Cardiothoracic Transplant Laboratory, Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Stanford University School of Medicine, and a cardiothoracic residency at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

In addition, Poston, a recipient of funding from the National Institutes of Health, is the author/co-author of almost 100 papers and abstracts.

SECOND-YEAR MEDICAL STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM RESEARCH PROGRAM

Thirty-three second-year BUSM students presented their research at this year's Medical Student Summer Research Symposium.

The poster presentations were the culmination of research that students began eight months ago as participants in BUSM's Medical Student Summer Research program. This program introduces students to the principles of research before their second year and provides a mentorship experience with a seasoned faculty member. Students selected for the program receive scholarship assistance for their work.

The project conducted by Andrey Ostrovsky, titled "Household Transmission of *B. pertussis* in Southeastern Massachusetts," contributed to the second-year student's clinical, as well as research, experience.



BUSM Dean Karen Antman, MD, learns about the pharmacology/psychiatry research project shared by second-year medical students Meghan Campo (left), Alexandra Stillman and Victoria Kerestes at this year's student research symposium.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5