BUSM’s Orly Leiva Selected to Minority Medical Student Award Program

South Essex Orly Leiva, a fourth-year medical student at Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM), has been named by the American Society of Hematology (ASH) as one of 22 medical students selected to take part in the 2017 Minority Medical Student Award Program (MMSAP).

The program encourages underrepresented minority medical students to pursue careers in hematology by supporting them as they implement their own hematology-related research project in the lab of a research mentor.

Under the guidance of his BUSM research mentor, Katya Ravid, DSC, professor of medicine and biochemistry, Leiva’s research will explore the mechanisms necessary for controlling inflammatory events in the polyploid cell. This has led to severe diseases, including leukemia, sickle cell disease, and some lymphomas.

BMC Grows First Hospital-Based Rooftop Farm in MA

Boston Medical Center (BMC) is taking its reputation as the greenest hospital in the Boston area literally, as the once barren roof of its power plant building has been transformed into the largest rooftop farm in the city. The 7,000 square foot of growing space, already flourishing with fresh produce, including arugula, bok choy, radishes, Swiss chard and kale, is expected to produce approximately 15,000 pounds of food growing space, already flourishing with fresh produce, including arugula, bok choy, radishes, Swiss chard and kale, is expected to produce approximately 15,000 pounds of food.

Joys and worries

At Mayor’s South End Coffee Hour

BY MICHELE D. MARISCALCO

The Mayor’s annual Coffee Hour in the South End, held at 9:30 AM on July 15, took a unique turn this year, combining the usual coffee and cookies with music, featuring Dunkin’ Donuts coffee and treats and potted plants, and the grand reopening of the updated Monongahela Playground at Washington and Malden Streets.

About 175 neighbors of all ages, including about 60 children from the Blackstone Community Center and IBA’s Kids program, joined Mayor Martin J. Walsh to cut the ribbon on the refurbished playground and to air their concerns and frustrations regarding rampant drug use, recent shootings, crime and vandalism.

Festival Betances Huge Success

This past Saturday and Sunday, Festival Betances brought the South End performers, parade, food, a greasy pole, and great music.

The annual event was hosted by IBA, Inquisition Boricua en Acción.

Water Main Flushing Notice

Boston Water and Sewer Commission will begin Water Main Flushing in the areas of Roxbury and the South End July 23, 2017 through September 5, 2017.

The boundaries for the areas being flushed are: Kearsley Street at Harvard Street to the north, Dudley Street at Shawmut Avenue to the south, Kearsley Street at Hudson Street to the east and St. Alphonsus Street at South Street to the west.

The purpose of the Water Main Flushing Program is to improve drinking water quality for residents and businesses.

Water Main flushing will take place between the hours of 10:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M.

The flushing process may cause discolored water and a reduction in pressure. The discoloration of the water will be temporary and is not harmful. If the condition persists, please contact BWSC’s 24 Hour Service at (617) 983-7000.

If you have any questions, contact BWSC’s Night Operations Manager at (617) 983-7000 or visit our website at www.bwsc.org.

SUMMER FUN At Boston Center for Youth & Families

Connect online: www.boston.gov/BCYF
Facebook: BCYFBoston Twitter & Instagram: BCYFteens

BCYF Blackstone Community Center 50 West Brookline Street

Summer Fun: Stop at BCYF Blackstone Stirling Joffe 10 Mon-Fri, time TBD Ages: 8-14 Free Drop-in program provides structured games, sports activities and arts projects for up to 20 children.

BCYF Blackstone Academy Enrichment Summer Program July 18-18 Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Ages: 6-12 Fee: 34 Summer Fun: Stop at BCYF Blackstone Stirling Joffe 10 Mon-Fri, time TBD Ages: 8-14 Free Drop-in program provides structured games, sports activities and arts projects for up to 20 children.

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Youth Connection Summer Program July 14-August 18 Mon-Fri, and Saturday Times TBD Ages: 11-14 Fee: TBD Safe and affordable summer programs featuring arts, field trips, recreation and more.

Swimming Programs: Ongoing for all ages in our indoor pool.

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around the South End.

Walsh was accompanied by administration officials including chief of health and human services Felix C. Arroyo, inspection services chief William ‘Buddy’ Christopher, Boston Transportation Department commissioner Gina Fiendance, Jim Greene, director of the Emergency Shelters Commission, chief of streets Chris Ogrod and Boston Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD) commissioner Christopher Ouellette, whose agency coordinated the event; Boston Police Department (BPD) Deputy Commissioner Wayne Lawrence, officers Richie Lutro, officers Bernadette McCarthy and community service officers Mayor Tewes and others, and local residents from the south end who live in the area.

Sam Chambers, outgoing South End/ Bay Village liaison, was on hand to assist Paula Sheridan, a South End resident who just took over the post. Chambers now works as a public information officer for the Mayor’s City Council District 2. Candidate Michael Kelley and Ed Flynn also attended, talking and listening to residents throughout the event.

While the Mayor’s Coffee Hour in the South End usually occurs in mid-May, this year’s event was scheduled for mid-June. Asked about the departure in scheduling, the Mayor and Chambers cited the desire to combine the coffee hour with the re-opening of the playground.

After greeting guests and mingling, the Mayor gathered the children around to help him cut the ribbon to the playground, which features new climbing and play equipment and a new, soft ground cover.

In his opening remarks, the Mayor announced funding for various improvements coming to the neighborhood, including renovation of the South End Library Park, street, sidewalk and signal enhancement along Harrison Avenue, upgrades to Titus Sparrow Park and renovation of the Carter Elementary School so that it can expand programs for children with disabilities. Walsh then launched into the issue that so many come to discuss: drug activity and homelessness on South End streets.

“It’s not because Long Island Bridge was closed. What we have is people hanging around the streets who do not live in Boston,” he began. Walsh said that his administration has housed 1,300 formerly homeless people in the past three years.

Walsh cited “major investment” over the past two years to add drug counselors and intake counselors to the city’s homelessness program, opening the tented day center behind South End Street to give homeless people lunch, coffee and assistance; asking the hotels to put fences around their properties, and meeting with the directors of the two methadone clinics over his concern that methadone users are not seeking the counseling and other services they need to become sober.

Walsh added that he has been talking to state officials about a new opening, shuttered drug treatment program in Quincy and other communities as well as opening homeless shelters in other cities and towns. “I want to apologize because people are angry. I can see it in your faces,” Walsh said. “You have every right to be angry, but I need you to help us.”

End Lenersky, a board member of the Waltham Gateway Main Street and the Chestnut Square Neighborhood Association, cited statistics quoted by the BPD that 80 per cent of those coming for services in the South End are from outside the city and the Commonwealth. Lenersky said that local business owners have told him they are adversely affected by the wandering addicts, and has heard of a uptick in home sales around East Springfield Street. Lenersky also questioned the wisdom of combining the playground celebrations with the coffee hour at which heavy topics such as drug abuse and crime were to be discussed.

A contingent of 30 to 40 members of the Worcester Square Area Neighborhood Association told the mayor about their increasing unease and fears stemming drug transactions.

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discussed needles, over injecting on the street and in the alleys, defeating, pan handling and overdosing on a daily basis. WSANA board member Andrew Board questioned the sincerity of the mayor’s commitment to solving South Enders.

"The neighbors were able to express their concern to the mayor, but we haven’t heard anything representative mentioned at all in the media; they were going out to use the stuff, and the mayor was full of platitudes, but we’ve been talking about these things for years and nothing has happened. The amount of violence and gunshots has gotten worse. It doesn’t give me confidence that they are taking the problem seriously."

He continued, "The Peace Street plan is a national model for how to deal with neighborhood outreach. What we would like to see is

BUSM
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survivors of domestic and sexual violence. It is hoped that this research will allow for greater understanding of one facet of the disease.

As part of the program, MMSAP provided $7,000 to help cover the research project and travel expenses to the 59th ASH Annual Meeting in December, where they will present their research findings during a special session. In addition, each student is paired with two ASH mentors: a research mentor who oversees the project and a career-development mentor who guides the participant throughout his or her MMSAP experience.

In addition to this honor, Leven was inducted into the Gold Humanism Honors Society. He also received the Alpha Omega Alpha Carolyn L. Kuchin Student Research Fellowship Award, and the American Society of Hematology 2016 Hematology Opportunities for the Next Generation of Research Scientists (HONORS) award, also under the mentorship of Bardes.

for the service providers in the Melnea Cass and Worcester Square areas try to create that same neighborhood outreach model. It’s partly a city issue, a state issue and a service provider issue and they all need to work together to serve addicted and help providers achieve those goals,” WSANA president George Stiegitz added, “That’s our message.”

After more than an hour of meeting with guests and posing for pictures, Mayor Walsh departed around 10:45 AM. Afterward, Cook commented, “Today was very very special. There were lots of Blackstone and BIA who developed a curriculum around community engagement. They got to come to this coffee hour not only to see adults who took time out of their schedule to engage with the mayor and the mayor was totally engaged with those adults. On top of that, the kids themselves got to interview the mayor on his priorities for the city. I think it’s our job to take that experience and reinforce more positive experiences with the government over the year. That’s how you build citizenship.”

Candidate Flynn said, “It’s a great event, bringing people together, especially young people, investing in the neighborhood and giving them the opportunity to enjoy a beautiful park like this. It’s also great to see city officials here giving residents a chance to talk about their concerns, to talk to City Hall right here in the park.”

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Photo by Michele Mariscato

PARKER HILL APARTMENTS
The Yale Apartments of Cambridge MA

1 Bedroom available for $1,600

Pet of the Week

Meet Cosmo, a 2 year old albino female that enjoys sitting in laps and being petted. She could do well in a home with all ages. Cosmo was in foster care. Foster home needs to be provided and we are looking for a home for her that would be able to keep her in the house at all times. Cosmo enjoys a routine of daily exercise every day.

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

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Boston, MA 02129

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this growing season, most of which is going directly to BMC patients.

Close to 1,800 pounds of crops were harvested from the rooftop farm in June alone. BMC's Corporate Food Policy received more than 960 pounds of the first yield, and the hospital's kitchens received 830 pounds, ensuring the food is widely distributed to cafeterias across campus and that it is used in patients' meals. Programs through BMC's Demonstration Kitchen have also given the BMC community opportunities to visit the rooftop farm and learn about cooking with fresh, seasonal ingredients. Later-season crops such as tomatoes, eggplants, cucumbers, summer squash, and peppers will be ready for harvest in mid-to-late July.

"Boston Medical Center provides outstanding medical care to patients every day, but we also know that the building blocks to healthy and happy lives include the food we eat," said Kate Welch, president and CEO of BMC. "This rooftop farm will provide nutritious food to our patients, and it shows BMC's commitment to health and the environment.

"The goal of our rooftop farm is to provide fresh, local produce to as many of our patients, employees, and community members as possible," said David Maffeo, BMC's senior director of support services. "This initiative supports our mission to deliver social determinants of health by improving access to healthy fruits and vegetables, and it is a perfect example of BMC's dedication to sustainability and green efforts."

The brainchild of Maffeo and Robert Biggio, senior vice president of facilities and support services, with input from BMC's Office of Development, the rooftop farm project was a year and a half in the making. Maffeo worked with Lindsay Allen and John Stoddard of Higher Ground Farm to find a rooftop and growing system that would work best for BMC's needs. The farm was designed and installed by Somerville-based, ReCover Green roofs, and Higher Ground Farm is managing the growing. Allen, who is serving as BMC's first farm manager, also completed a light study of the roof to determine the feasibility of growing crops in the space.

"I think one of the other important factors that make the rooftop farm possible is the knowledge exchange that happens around health and local food in relationship to the farm," said Allen. "We are what we eat, so the more people we can provide healthy, nutrient dense food to, the healthier our communities will be."

According to Stoddard, founder of Higher Ground Farm, rooftop farms function similarly to ground level farms and generally can accommodate the same crops as other farms. The main constraint on a rooftop is root depth, wind, and exposure — you cannot simply drive a truck right up to the farm for compost delivery.

Two urban beekeepers, painted to be bright and colorful by BMC's pediatric patients, were installed on the rooftop in early June. Tours, volunteer opportunities for employees, and programs through the Demonstration Kitchen for patients have allowed dozens of other individuals to get hands-on experience on the farm.

The rooftop farm reduces BMC's carbon footprint by increasing green space, adding carbon-sequestering plants, and reducing the building's energy use. The farm absorbs and slows the flow of rainwater, which helps address the issue of "combined sewer overflows," a common urban problem where storm water combines with sewage in periods of high rainfall and pollutes waterways. In addition, by producing food onsite, BMC is decreasing the energy required to transport food.

The rooftop farm is only the latest green step BMC has taken. As part of a clinical practice design, BMC is cutting emissions by 50 percent, and last fall, the hospital announced a solar power purchase agreement with MIT and the Post Office Square Redevelopment Corporation. The solar purchase was expected to contribute to 100 percent of BMC's projected electricity consumption, making BMC the greenest hospital in Boston and on pace to become the first carbon neutral hospital in New England upon completion of the campus redesign in 2018.

Becker's Hospital Review has named BMC one of the 50 greenest hospitals in America, and in 2017, received three prestigious awards from Practice Greenhealth in 2017: the Top 25 Environmental Excellence Award, the highest honor Practice Greenhealth bestows on hospitals, as well as the Greening the OR Recognition Award and the Circle of Excellence award in the energy category.

Photo by Matt Morris, Boston Medical Center.
Four Jazz and Blues Concerts in Library Park with Pat Loomis & His Many Friends Tuesdays 6:30–8pm

Return To Forever: Salute To The Music Of Chick Corea  July 18
In the Tradition: An Evening of Jazz Standards  Aug 1
Aidan’s Choice: Birthday Tribute to Aidan Sheil-Loomis  Aug 15
Quiet Storm: An Evening of Smooth, Seductive Grooves  Aug 29

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SERVICE GUIDE

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Neponset River Fest

What: Celebrate Summers at the Neponset River Fest!

The River Fest is a free, family-friendly, public event. All are welcome. Bring a blanket and a picnic, and spend the day. Entertainment to the park is on Hilltop St. near Granite Ave. Try out a kayak or canoe on the Neponset River, explore a tide pool with the New England Aquarium, listen to great music, create art, and more.

When: Saturday, July 22nd from 10 am to 2 pm
Where: DCR Neponset Park, Dorchester

Kroc Field Movie Night

What: Enjoy field games, activities, and a family movie in the field and huge inflatable screen. Food and ice cream trucks on location. Free and open to the public.

When: July 21st and August 18th, 2017 7:30-10PM
Where: The Salvation Army Bay & Joan Kroc Corps Community Center, 65 Dudley Street, Dorchester, MA 02125 http://bostonbhec.salvationarmy.org/

Wellness Warrior Yoga in Franklin Park

What: Outdoor Yoga series under the trees on School Master Hill. Bring water, wear comfortable clothes, invite friends and the entire family. In the event of rain, classes will be cancelled, please check Laura Wellness Warrior’s Facebook page for notices posted by 9pm the night before for morning classes. All levels welcome.

When: Every Saturday throughout September from 9 am-12 pm, next class Saturday, July 22nd 2017
Where: Franklin Park, School Master Hill Circuit Dr. Boston, MA 02130

More Info: Please email Contact@laurawellnesswarrior.com

Salsa in the Park

What: Fun, free and family friendly outdoor dancing experience to promote health and well being. Performances, health information, music, games, social dancing and more!

Kerry Thompson, a DeafBlind dancer herself, of Silent Rhythms Boston will also teach Salsa in American Sign Language (ASL) to those who are deafblind of Hearing and/or blind.

When: Every Monday through August 28th 6 pm-9 pm next Salsa in the Park will be held Monday, July 24th
Where: Blackstone Community Center Courtyard 50 W Brookline Street Boston, MA 02118

More Info: Please visit website

Resources

Union Capital Boston Network nights and Table Talks

What: Network Nights, first developed by Bill Traylor at Lawrence Community Works, are described as “The place where we meet and greet, have the conversations we want to have, and exchange wisdom and favors.” Network Night includes a 20-25 minute breakout session called “Table Talks”. It is an opportunity for people to host conversations about things they want to talk about in the moment. The emphasis is that there are just short conversations and don’t have to lead to a new program or action. If people find that there are some natural next steps then they can and should stay connected to each other. There will be a $50/raffle, dinner and childcare for children ages 3-10 will be provided.

When and Where: June 22 and 29, July 13 and 27, August 10 and 17, from 5:30-7:30pm at Urban Edge (1542 Columbus Ave)

When and Where: July 21, August 4 and 18 from 5-8pm at East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (20 Maverick Square)

More Info: Please visit this website for more specific date/time and to register

Housing Search Workshop

What: This workshop offers information and answers about how to conduct a successful housing search, including learning how to communicate with housing authorities, agents, and landlords.

When: First and third Wednesdays of each month from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM
Where: 60 Temple Place, Room 501, Boston, MA 02111
More Info: Call 617-398-5665 or visit the website: http://bostontalk.org/contact/ for any questions

Immigration Consultants with Volunteer Attorneys

What: These consultations are on a first-come, first-served basis. Please call at least 1 week in advance for interpretations other than Spanish and/or disability accommodations.

When: The first and third Wednesdays of every month from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM
Where: Boston City Hall, Room 906
More Info: Please call 617-538-2900 or visit Boston’s City Calendar here.

Letters Policy

The South End News welcomes letters to the editor. All letters must be signed and accompanied by a mailing address and phone number. Because of space limitations, letter should not be more than 200 words.

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