BCM gains new international collaborators

The Center for Globalization at Baylor College of Medicine has two new international collaborators in health care and education.

Dr. Bobby Kapur, BCM class of 1998 and Director of the Center for Globalization and Assistant Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics at BCM, announced collaborations with Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou, China, and the American University of Beirut in Lebanon.

A memorandum of understanding was signed late last year between Sun Yat-sen University and BCM to establish the foundation for future education endeavors such as joint multidisciplinary research projects and creation of a shared research space at Sun Yat-sen.

The Dean of Medical Education at Sun Yat-sen has already agreed to sponsor BCM clinicians as visiting faculty to the university. The initiatives of the MOU will also include exchange programs for students and faculty.

Dr. Michael Coburn, Chair and Professor of Urology and Director of the Residency Training Program at BCM, has worked with the

Guntupalli awarded highest honor from President of India

Dr. Kalpalatha Guntupalli, Professor and Chief of the Section of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine at BCM, recently received the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award, the highest award given by the Indian government to Indians living overseas.

Guntupalli was one of 15 recipients of the award this year and one of only two from the United States to receive the award, which she received at a ceremony hosted by the President of India, Pratibha Patil, in Jaipur, India, in early January.

Guntupalli came to the United States from Hyderabad, India, in 1973 after graduating from medical school for higher medical studies. However, she continued to travel back and forth to India for more than 30 years to teach, organize conferences, see patients and even establish a medical school and school of respiratory therapy in India.

At the award ceremony, Guntupalli received the additional honor of being asked to give remarks on behalf of all of the recipients.

In February, the Department of Medicine hosted a reception to congratulate Guntupalli on receiving the award.

BCM students celebrate Match Day

Match Day 2012

Forget March Madness, it was Match Madness at Baylor College of Medicine on March 16 as 158 fourth-year medical students learned where they will be going for their residency training. Match Day is the culmination of the National Residents Matching Program that pairs fourth-year medical students with residency programs across the country.

Students and their families, along with faculty and staff, gathered in the BCM courtyard for the festivities. Students mobbed the match board promptly at 11 a.m. to grab the envelopes that revealed their match.

Before the unveiling of the board, a group of students surprised the crowd with a flash mob dance performance.

Dr. Mary Brandt, Associate Dean of Student Affairs, noted that 100 percent of the fourth-year students matched. This was Brandt’s first Match Day as Associate Dean, and it will be an experience she won’t soon forget, especially since she Tweeted the entire event starting first
STUDENT CORNER: Quianta Moore
Fourth-year medical student

First M.D./J.D. dual degree program graduate

Moore has always had an interest in health policy and access to health care issues. However, as she learned more about health care policy, she realized that most of the people making the decisions about reform were lawyers, not doctors. She felt that without actually practicing medicine, it is difficult to understand all of its complexities. She also felt physicians who have been involved in policy work and advocacy could be more effective if they knew the “language” of attorneys and the intricacies of the legal system. She decided that if she was serious about impacting health care reform she would need both degrees.

The skills she learned in law school will help her become a better advocate for health care reform, but will also make her a better physician. She can now see all sides to an issue and develop reasonable solutions. Law school also helped to improve her analytical and writing skills.

Moore has three children—a 3-year-old and a set of 1-year-old twins. She has been a member of the admissions committee for several years and is currently a member of the BCM ophthalmology society. She hopes to do her residency in ophthalmology. BCM’s MD/JD dual degree program is a collaboration with the University of Houston Law Center.

International Collaborators

university on past research projects and was present at the MOU signing. Dr. Zhou Songyang, Professor in Biochemistry, is another connection to the university. He holds a joint appointment as Dean of the School of Life Sciences at Sun Yat-Sen.

The signing of an MOU with the American University in Beirut will also expand on existing collaborations. Many faculty have worked with AUB, including Dr. Nasser Lakkis, Professor of Medicine – Cardiology, and Dr. Huda Zoghbi, BCM Resident alum ‘85, Professor of Molecular and Human Genetics, Pediatrics, Neurology and Neuroscience and Director of the Jan and Dan Duncan Neurological Research Institute at Texas Children’s Hospital. Both Lakkis and Zoghbi are also alumni of AUB.

Future plans for this collaboration include joint continuing medical education programs, a student, faculty and resident exchange program and joint research projects. A coordinating committee has already been created with BCM and AUB faculty to carry out these initiatives.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION GALA LUNCHEON AND AWARD PRESENTATIONS - APRIL 21

For a list of award recipients and reservation information, visit www.bcm.edu/alumni.