

What Makes a Physician's Assistant?

Over the next five years, the 1,200 to 1,500 students across the nation enrolling in physicians' assistant programs will be "monitored" from the beginning of their educational curriculums through their first few years of practice.

Under the scrutiny of Dr. Eugene Schneller, Duke assistant professor of community health sciences and sociology, some of the following questions may be answered: What kinds of people enter this primary health care field and why? How do they, their teachers, administrators and employers see their developing roles? How can these roles be transferred into the real world of work?

The five-year study, initiated by Dr. Schneller, is being sponsored by the Bureau of Health Resources Development of the federal government's Health Education and Welfare department through a grant totaling almost \$300,000.

"We will start by taking all the students in the country who are enrolled in programs of this sort next September and survey them at different intervals in their education, and later, when they are beginning their practices.

"We want to see what kinds of people will go into high-need areas such as rural and ghetto areas, and wherever there is a deficiency of primary care people," continued Dr. Schneller. "We will also be looking for the kinds of people who will stay in these areas."

Studying the role development of physicians' assistants, he said, would be "very interesting. There are no specific boundaries for these people, except in a few states like California."

Professional News

Dr. Elaine Crovitz, clinical psychologist in the Department of Psychiatry and president-elect of the North Carolina Psychological Association, is attending an American Association of University Women seminar currently being held at the United Nations in New York.

The seminar is focussing on the objectives of International Women's Year, 1975. Those objectives are to achieve equality between men and women de jure and de facto; to increase integration of women in developmental planning and provide for the fruits of development to be shared equally by both sexes; and to enhance the role of women as a sine qua non toward realization of world peace. Women U.N. delegates are presenting progress reports, and the U.S. ambassador to the U.N. is hosting a reception.



So, he said, "it's a totally negotiated role" between the individual physician's assistant and his employer (most usually a doctor or a hospital).

"We will be learning how the students perceive their roles when they enter school and throughout their educational experience. At present, there are many ways to perceive the physician's assistant role, and no correct way to perceive it," Schneller stressed.

According to Dr. Schneller, there are two types of physicians' assistant programs found in the U.S. today. One program is similar to Duke's two-year "Physicians' Associate" program of combined classroom and clinical learning; the other is a shortened program (MEDEX), usually averaging three months of classroom training, many times taught in community colleges, and a 21-month preceptor or apprenticeship with a doctor.

The study will focus more detailed

surveys and interviews on the students, teachers, administrators and employers involved in eight prototype programs in various parts of the nation.

Of the 40 programs being studied, the eight prototypes will include five programs similar to Duke's PA program and three MEDEX-type programs. Some possibilities, said Dr. Schneller, may include programs being taught in communities, ghettos and medical centers, and vicinities such as the West Virginia/Appalachia region.

Dr. Daniel H. Funkenstein, associate professor at Harvard Medical School will be collaborating with Dr. Schneller during the study.

"The early years of these programs," explained Dr. Schneller, "were dominated by medics from the armed services. Duke's program was started eight years ago with three or four students. Today there are thousands of students participating in many programs throughout the nation."

Personnel Paragraphs

This is a column for and about employees, faculty and staff at the medical center. The subject matter will cover a wide spectrum of personnel policies, benefits, federal and state regulations, payroll information, wage and salary data, and many other matters affecting employees at Duke.

Questions from readers are encouraged. If you have a question, send it to:

*Personnel Paragraphs
Box 3354, Duke Medical Center*

All inquiries must be signed, but you may request that your name not be used if your letter is published. All questions will be answered or referred to an appropriate source, but only questions of wide, general interest will be published. "Personnel Paragraphs" is your column, so let us hear from you.

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

In accordance with university policy, the medical center will observe the Thanksgiving Day holiday on Thursday, November 28, 1974.

Q. By what rate of pay will I receive payment for Thanksgiving Day if I do not work on that holiday?

A. Payment for the holiday not worked will be made at the employee's regular rate of pay.

Q. Am I eligible to receive holiday pay?

A. To be eligible to receive holiday pay, an employee must work the regularly scheduled work days immediately before and after the holiday.

Q. What if I must be absent and have an excused absence for one or both of the days immediately before or after the holiday?

A. If an employee is absent on one or both of these scheduled days with an excused absence, he will receive holiday pay.

Q. How much pay do I receive if I do work on the Thanksgiving holiday?

A. Employees who work on the holiday will receive holiday pay plus holiday premium pay at the rate of one and one-half times the regular rate of pay. The employee may elect to receive only the holiday premium pay and take an alternate day off within sixty days following the holiday. Supervisors are instructed to provide as many employees as possible the benefit of having the day off.

Trading Post

FOR SALE—13-foot wooden fishing boat and motor for sale, excellent condition, never leaks, freshly painted, with 5 h.p. outboard motor, Sears trailer, lifejackets, paddles and even carpets. We must sell all. Call 688-5825 after 5 p.m.

FOR SALE—Two bunk beds with box springs and mattresses and matching chest of drawers. All are in good condition. Call 596-5934.

FOR SALE—Clothes dryer (Sears), good condition, real cheap. Call 489-1688.

FOR SALE—Violin, ¾ size, complete with bow and new case, 10 yrs. old, made in

Germany by Jan Kriml, \$85. Call Leslie anytime at 489-9217.

LOST—A large black fountain pen on Friday, Nov. 8 in the Orthopaedic Outpatient Clinic. Reward offered to finder. Contact Dr. William Moorefield, Beeper 180.

comments

Matas Ward

Dean and Jean Hanson, RN's on Hanes and Matas wards announce the birth of a daughter, born Aug. 31 . . . Judith Wickins, Cheryl Springer, Debbie McElhenney and Susan Elek, all RN's, are new faces on the ward . . . RN K. Kilber joined the Red Cross in mid-October . . . DTO Carolyn James transferred to the Surgical Outpatient Clinic.

Reporter: Virginia Barnette

BOWLERS NEED SUBSTITUTES

The Duke Ladies Bowling League is inviting any interested Duke women to serve as substitutes for league members on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. at the Sportland Bowling Lanes. The cost is \$2.50 for the night. Please call Marion Wilson at ext. 5684 or Polly Jordan at ext. 2891 if you would like to participate.



BOARD CHAIRMAN—Dr. David C. Sabiston, chairman of the Department of Surgery, was elected chairman of the Board of Governors of the American College of Surgeons at the national meeting of the college in October. Earlier this year Sabiston was elected president of the Society of Surgical Chairmen.

N.C. LPNs Hold Duke Workshop

The North Carolina Licensed Practical Nurses Association will sponsor a one-day workshop on "Venereal Disease" on Tuesday, Nov. 26, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Page Auditorium.

It will be the thirteenth annual workshop held for members of the association and students of practical nursing schools throughout the state.

Included on the morning's program will be Dr. John Rampone, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, who will speak on "Gonorrhea and Syphilis—Epidemiology, Diagnosis and Management"; C.P. Jones, retired Ob-Gyn research associate, who will discuss "Lymphogranuloma Venereum, Granuloma Inguinale and Chancroid Infection"; and Dr. Robert G. Brame, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, who will speak on "The Gynecologist View of Pelvic Inflammatory Disease."

After the talks there will be a panel discussion featuring Rampone, Jones and Brame.

During the afternoon session, Myron Arnold of the Venereal Disease Control Center at the North Carolina Department of Health in Raleigh will discuss "The Nurse's Role in VD Control and Education." His presentation will be followed by a film on venereal disease.

Some 1,000 licensed practical nurses, nursing students and instructors are expected to attend this workshop.



SCHOLARSHIP WINNER—Lynn Smiley, a medical school freshman, has been chosen by the Southern Medical Association to receive one of its \$500 scholarships. Here she receives her scholarship check from Dr. William D. Bradford, associate director of medical and allied health education. Ms. Smiley of Goodland, Kan., received a B.A. in microbiology at the University of Kansas in 1973. (Photo by Lewis Parrish)

Intercom

is published weekly for Duke University Medical Center employees, faculty, staff, students and friends by the Medical Center's Office of Public Relations. Joe Sigler, director; William Erwin, medical writer; Miss Annie Kittrell, secretary

Editor

David Williamson
Associate Editor
Margaret Howell

Public Relations Advisory Committee: Sam A. Agnello, audiovisual education; Dr. Robert Anderson Jr., surgery; James L. Bennett Jr., vice president's office; Wayne Gooch, personnel; Dr. Athos Ottolenghi, physiology and pharmacology; Michael Schwartz, hospital administration; Miss Isabelle Webb, RN, nursing service; Dr. Tom C. Vanaman, microbiology and immunology.