

## Dr. Glenn Elected President Of Pediatric Urology Society

Dr. James F. Glenn, chairman of the Division of Urology, has been elected president of the Society for Pediatric Urology, a 200-member organization of urologic surgeons in the United States and other countries.



DR. JAMES F. GLENN

Glenn, a native of Lexington, Ky., has served as chief of urology at Duke since 1963. He is a graduate of the University of Rochester and the Duke School of Medicine and received postgraduate surgical training at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston and at Duke. He served on the faculty of Yale University School of Medicine and Bowman Gray School of Medicine prior to his return to Duke as professor of urology.

He is the author of four textbooks and nearly 200 scientific articles, many of them dealing with surgery in children.

Glenn is the immediate past president of the Southeastern Section of the American Urological Association and currently serves as chairman of the Section on Urology of the American Medical Association. He is past secretary and past president of the Society of University Urologists, of which he was also a founding member.

## Promotions Go to Five Faculty

The promotions of five medical center faculty have been announced by University Provost Frederic N. Cleveland.

Dr. Nelson Louis Levy has been promoted from assistant professor to associate professor of immunology in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology.

Promotions effective July 1 are Dr. Jane Elmlade Brazy, from associate in pediatrics to assistant professor of pediatrics; Dr. James C. A. Fuchs, from Burroughs Wellcome assistant professor to Burroughs Wellcome associate professor of surgery; Dr. William Moreau Thompson, from assistant professor to associate professor of radiology; and Dr. Andrew S. Wechsler, from assistant professor to associate professor of surgery.

Levy earned B.A. and B.S. degrees from Yale University in 1963, and his M.D. from Columbia University in 1967.

He came to Duke in 1969, serving as a staff researcher while completing a Ph.D. degree, awarded in 1973. He was appointed to the faculty the same year.

Brazy was an honors graduate in nursing from the University of Colorado in 1967. She earned her M.D. in 1972 at Washington University School of Medicine and completed internship and residency training at St. Louis (Mo.) Children's Hospital.

She came to Duke in 1974 as a fellow in neonatal-perinatal medicine.

Fuchs began his internship and residency at Duke in 1964, after receiving an M.D. from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. He is a 1960 graduate of Princeton University.

He was appointed to the faculty in 1974. Fuchs also holds the rank of Burroughs Wellcome assistant professor of pharmacology.

Thompson graduated from Colgate University in 1965 and was awarded an M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1969. He completed his internship at Case Western Reserve Medical Center in 1970 and served two years with the U.S. Public Health Service in Alaska before beginning residency at Duke in 1972.

He was chief radiology resident, 1974-75, and appointed assistant professor in 1975.

Wechsler, who also serves as chief of cardiac surgical service at Durham's V.A. Hospital, received an A.B. from Brandeis University in 1960 and an M.D. from State University of New York's Downstate Medical Center in 1964.

He served his internship and residency at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Harvard Medical School, 1964-66, and at Duke, 1968-73. He also holds the rank of assistant professor of physiology and pharmacology.

## Marijuana Element May Inhibit Conception

Animal experiments conducted at Duke indicate that tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the major active chemical component of marijuana, inhibits the ability of some mammals to produce a hormone necessary for conception.

Dr. Lee Tyrey, an associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, told scientists attending



**ELECTED**—Dr. E. Harvey Estes, professor and chairman of the Department of Community Health Sciences, has been elected president of the North Carolina Medical Society. Dr. Josephine Newell, associate in community health sciences and director of the Breast Cancer Screening Project, has been named first vice president.

the 59th annual meeting of the Endocrine Society in Chicago yesterday that THC suppresses secretion of luteinizing hormone (LH).

LH is a chemical produced by the pituitary gland near the brain that causes delicate structures in ovaries to release eggs for fertilization, Tyrey explained in an interview before the meeting. It also helps to maintain another structure in the ovaries known as the corpus luteum that produces progesterone, a hormone that prepares the womb for receiving and nourishing the fertilized egg.

**Comparable To Smoking Marijuana**  
"Because these studies included doses of THC comparable to what a human would be exposed to by smoking one or two marijuana cigarettes, we have to be concerned that the same thing might happen in humans," the scientist said.

"At this point, we can't say that it does, but the possibility certainly needs to be looked at."

Tyrey's experiments were conducted on female laboratory rats that had had their ovaries surgically removed. The ovaries were taken out, he said, because those organs can naturally limit the amount of LH produced by the pituitary, and the scientists wanted LH production to be at a maximum before injecting the rats with the marijuana derivative.

After giving the animals varying amounts of THC, Tyrey and his staff took tiny blood samples from the

rats' hearts through tubes entering the jugular veins of the animals.

### Hormone Suppressed

Hormone measurements showed that doses ranging from .5 milligrams per kilogram of body weight (mg/kg) to 8 mg/kg all suppressed the pituitary's rhythmic release of LH, he said: The length of the effect depended on the strength of the drug.

"If this suppression occurs in rats with single injections, we wonder what the effect of chronic exposure would be," he said. "Can it prevent pregnancy from being established or can it cause early abortion?"

The scientist pointed out that birth control pills prevent pregnancy by reducing LH production.

The research is continuing with rats that will have intact ovaries, Tyrey said. He also plans to study the long-term effects of THC on the test animals.

Federal Drug Administration regulations currently prohibit using THC in experiments with women of childbearing age, the scientist said.

### GET SET TO TRAVEL

Recent government statistics indicate that more than half of all American families take at least one vacation every year. Furthermore, each of those families travels an average of over 1,100 miles, according to the U.S. Travel Data Center in Washington, D.C.

## We Get Letters...

Merrick Moore School

2325 Cheek Road

Durham N.C. 27704

Mar. 18, 1977

Dear Duke Univ. Medical center,

I am writing this to say thank you for staying up at night and helping us get well. I have been very sick before. We are reading about night workers. I just want to thank you one more time. When I grow up I am going to work in a Hospital. Thank you!

Yours truly,  
Lisa Willigord  
3rd grade