

# 2 Most Americans ill-informed about aging

(Continued from page 1)

development averaged only 80 per cent correct.

"Older persons do not tend to become more religious as they age," Palmore wrote in *The Gerontologist*, a professional journal that recently published his quiz. "While it is true that the present generation of older persons tend to be more religious than the younger generations, this appears to be a generational difference, rather than an aging effect, due to the older persons' more religious upbringing."

He said Masters and Johnson, pioneers in sexual research, found more than a decade ago that the capacity for satisfying sexual relations continues into the decades of the 70s and 80s for healthy couples. Studies here indicate that sex continues to play an important role in the lives of most men and the majority of



women through the seventh decade of life.

"Drivers over age 65 do have fewer accidents per person than drivers under age 65," he said pointing to National Safety Council statistics. "Older drivers have about the same accident rate per person as middle-aged drivers, but a much lower rate than drivers under age 30."

Palmore said studies at Duke and elsewhere have shown that the majority of old people are seldom irritated or angry. Over one half of the aged said they are never or hardly ever irritated, and this proportion increases to two-thirds at age 80 or over.

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Eighty-six per cent of the Duke undergraduates who took the quiz incorrectly believed that more than 15 of every 100 Americans are now 65 or older. The actual figure is about 10 per 100.

Among faculty members in human

development tested at Duke and Pennsylvania State University more than half erroneously thought the majority of old people are frequently bored.

Three quarters of the students and almost half of the faculty members marked true the statement, "The majority of older people have income below the poverty level as defined by the Federal Government." Actually, only about 15 per cent of the aged are below the official poverty level.

"Older workers have less job turnover, less accidents and less absenteeism than younger workers."

senile, bored, isolated or lonely, however, and less than five per cent of those over age 65 and 10 per cent of those over 75 live in institutions.

Studies also have shown that the majority of workers over age 65 perform as well as or better than young workers at most tasks, the sociologist said.

"When speed of reaction is important, older workers sometimes produce at lower rates," he said, "but they are at least as accurate and steady in their work."

"Consistency of output tends to increase by age, as older workers perform at steadier rates from week to week," he said. "In addition, older workers have less job turnover, less accidents and less absenteeism than younger workers."

Palmore said he created his quiz because earlier such tests have contained mixtures of facts and opinions. They also have been too long, and their answers have not been documented.

## Professional news

Dr. Samuel L. Katz, professor and chairman of the Department of Pediatrics, and Dr. Catherine Wilfert, associate professor of pediatrics and microbiology, attended the Congress of Pediatrics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 23-30. Katz spoke on "Neonatal Hepatitis," "Opportunistic Infections," "Rubella Virus" and "Viral Respiratory Infections." Wilfert spoke on "Childhood Bacteremia" and "Neonatal Sepsis."

Dr. Jeffrey J. Collins, an assistant professor of surgery and a member of the Comprehensive Cancer Center, delivered a paper on "Immunotherapy of Murine Leukemia" at the Third International Congress of Immunology in Sydney, Australia in July.



COLLINS

Dr. George J. Ellis, assistant professor of medicine, worked at the N.C. Camp for Children with Diabetes, in Pisgah Forest, Aug. 7-19.

Several faculty members in the Division of Immunology attended the Third International Congress of Immunology, July 3-9, in Sydney, Australia.

Dr. Nelson L. Levy, associate professor, spoke at three sessions on "Tumor Specific Antigens on the Surface of Human Brain Cells," "Current Status of Studies with a Diagnostic Test for Multiple Sclerosis" and "Presence of Immune Complexes in Spinal Fluid of Multiple Sclerosis Patients and Possible Clues that the Antigenic Component of These Immune Complexes May Give to the Etiology of Multiple Sclerosis."

Dr. Hillel S. Koren, assistant professor, discussed "In Vitro Generation of Cytotoxic T-Lymphocytes and the Role of Accessory Cells in Primary In Vitro Immune Response" at a poster session.

Koren was co-author of a paper on "Selective Cellular Natural Killing Against Human Leukemic T Cells and Thymus," published in *Nature*, Vol. 266. Co-authors were Dr. D. Bernard Amos, professor and chief of the Division of Immunology, and Dr. Akira Ono, a former postdoctoral fellow.

Also at the Congress of Immunology in Australia were Dr. David Scott, associate professor who is on sabbatical in Australia, and Dr. Peter Cresswell, assistant professor.

Dr. Linda George, assistant professor of medical psychology, spoke at the annual North Carolina Family Living Seminar at N.C. State University, June 9. The seminar's theme was "Government in Family Life."



BENNETT



JACKSON

James L. Bennett, executive assistant to the vice president for health affairs, has been elected president of the Duke Management Club for 1977-78. He succeeds Richard L. Jackson, assistant vice president and director of personnel.

Warren P. Howard has resigned as medical center architect with the Planning Office to take a new position as director of facilities planning at North Carolina Memorial Hospital. He will be concerned with the planning and development of physical facilities, aimed at meeting the growing programs and patient care needs at the hospital.

Elizabeth Faucette, head nurse in the Medical Specialties Clinic, received a scholarship from the Research Triangle Lung Association at the annual Institute on Tuberculosis and Other Respiratory Diseases at the Blue Ridge Assembly, Black Mountain.

Participants at the XIV International Congress of Rheumatology, June 26-July 1, in San Francisco, Calif., included Dr. Ralph Snyderman, chief of the Division of Rheumatic and Genetic Diseases; Dr. Edward W. Holmes, assistant professor; Dr. Nicholas Kredich, associate professor of rheumatic and genetic diseases and assistant professor of biochemistry; and Dr. Gale McCarty, fellow in rheumatology.

Snyderman participated in a workshop on Levamisole, an investigational drug currently under study at Duke for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.

Holmes presented a congress symposium paper on renal factors involved in the pathogenesis of hyperuremia.

McCarty presented an abstract on "Serum Complement and Anti DNA in the Rheumatic Diseases," a study co-authored with Snyderman and Kredich.

Dr. T.C. Vanaman, associate professor of microbiology, was an invited speaker and session chairman at the Gordon Conference on Cyclic Nucleotides at Tilton School, Tilton, N.H., July 4-8. He began a one-year sabbatical in September with Dr. S.V. Perry, Department of Biochemistry, University of Birmingham, England.



VANAMAN

Dr. Page A.W. Anderson, assistant professor of pediatrics, is one of seven North Carolina physicians elected fellows of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the pan-American association of physicians certified in the care of infants, children and adolescents.

## Intercom

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Joe Sigler  
Director

John Becton  
Editor

Primary contributors: William Erwin, Comprehensive Cancer Center media relations officer; Ina Fried, staff writer; Edith Roberts, staff writer; David Williamson, medical writer.  
Circulation: Ann Kittrell.

## Gentry to edit unique journal

Dr. William D. Gentry, professor of medical psychology, has been named editor-in-chief of a new professional journal entitled *The Journal of Behavioral Medicine*.

Gentry said the journal will publish reports of behavioral science research of interest to physicians, psychologists, sociologists, epidemiologists, public health specialists and anthropologists.

"The journal will have a multidisciplinary focus," he said. "It is the first professional publication of its kind to link traditional medicine with the behavioral sciences."

Alcoholism, obesity, smoking, stress and stress management, health maintenance behavior, placebo effects and the development and use of behavioral diagnostic techniques are examples of topics to be discussed, Gentry added.

The first issue of the quarterly journal is scheduled to appear in March next year. It will be published by the Plenum Publishing Corporation of New York.

An equal number of physicians and behavioral scientists will comprise the journal's editorial board, Gentry said.

## Sunday mass

The Rev. C. Ralph Monk, Roman Catholic hospital chaplain, has announced that he will say mass in the hospital's Allen Memorial Chapel each Sunday at 4 p.m. beginning this Sunday.