



Duke University Medical Center

Intercom

VOL. 25, NO. 32

AUG. 11, 1978

DURHAM, N.C.

Diabetic children have fun, learn at camp

By John Becton

It's summertime and that means time for going off to camp for many youngsters.

But what if a child has diabetes mellitus?

Again, it's the camping season for more than 200 North and South Carolina children with diabetes.

What do diabetic children do at camp?

Just what one expects to do at camp: swimming, canoeing, fishing, various sports, etc. It depends more on personal interest than on one's medical condition.

And along with standard camping activities, children with diabetes have the opportunity to learn more about their condition from staff made up of physicians, nurses and other health professionals and students.

Camping and more

The main objectives of the Carolinas' Camp for Diabetic Children (CCDC), according to director Dr. George J. Ellis III, are to provide an enjoyable, safe and healthy recreational camping experience for children with diabetes and to help them learn more about their disorder, how to adjust to it, how to control it and how to maintain independence and self-discipline in their approach to it and to life.

In addition, "this experience is designed to educate health professionals and students about the disease and to help them make observations about diabetes in children," Ellis, an assistant professor of medicine, said.

Since 1920s

The idea of specialized summer camps for diabetic children goes back to the 1920s and the discovery of insulin.

The impetus for CCDC came from a resident of Greenville, S.C., named Adam Fisher, whose daughter had attended a camp for diabetic children in another state.

Fisher's efforts resulted in the establishment of the CCDC in 1968, with Dr. Harry K. Delcher, former fellow in endocrinology at Duke, as medical director.

Fisher also was able to enlist the support of the North Carolina Diabetes Association (NCDA) and helped establish the Greenville Lay Society, which became the founding unit of the South Carolina Diabetes Association (SCDA).

Tripled in size after first year

In 1968, the Carolinas' Camp for Diabetic Children had 19 campers. The following summer, the camp had moved to Eagle's Nest Camp near Pisgah Forest and drew 65 campers.

As he left for Eagle's Nest last week, Ellis said 135 campers are enrolled for the session which began this past Sunday.

"And this session is sponsored solely by the NCDA," Ellis said. "We had about 100 campers at an earlier session sponsored by the SCDA."

Cabin clinicians

A cabin clinician in each cabin of 10 to 12 children provides instruction in and supervision of insulin administration,

(Continued on page 4)



CONGRATULATIONS — Dr. E. Harvey Estes (left), professor and chairman of the Department of Community and Family Medicine, presents a certificate and congratulations to Edward Gaile, during the Physician's Associate Program graduation ceremony. Gaile, who spoke at the event, was co-winner with Kenda Hills of the Richard J. Scheele Award for outstanding performance. For the story, see page 3.

From Munich to Durham for treatment

One of the one-in-five Duke Hospital patients from outside North Carolina recently came from halfway around the world.

And because of the special nature of the treatment he was to receive, his physician came with him to observe the procedure firsthand.

Klaus Morlein, from Munich, West Germany, underwent surgery on July 31, for Wolff-Parkinson-White (WPW) syndrome, a relatively rare congenital heart defect. The defect causes a malfunction which doctors here have described as "a short-circuit that bypasses the normal electrical system of the heart."

Extra connection

Persons with WPW have an extra piece of heart muscle connecting chambers of the heart. This extra connection permits the heart's electrical impulses to move too quickly, disrupting the regular rhythm of the heart. Drugs can control the episodes in some patients, while surgery is required for others.

The treatment Morlein underwent here is a complicated, cooperative program involving many physicians, technicians and others who pool their efforts in each WPW case.

A surgical technique for correcting the syndrome was developed at Duke by Dr. Will C. Sealy, professor of thoracic

(Continued on page 3)

Really new shop location opens

The Nearly New Shoppe has a "really new" location.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony, scheduled for 9:45 this morning, marks the official opening of the new shop at 615 Douglas St., behind the Hilton Inn.

A project of the Medical School Faculty Wives, the Nearly New Shoppe provides funds for medical student scholarships—more than \$300,000 worth over the past 10 years.

The shop was opened in 1969 at 1801 Erwin Rd., but has since outgrown the original quarters.