Nurses begin anesthesia program

Eighteen registered nurses from a number of states have begun the Anesthesia Program for Nurses, according to director Lawrence R. Stump.

New participants in the 24-month certificate program and their hometowns are:

Kenneth Bailey, Fitchburg, Mass.; Edward Bostian, China Grove; Robert M. Brimer, Louisville, Tenn.; Jean Marie Brown and Mack Evans Haddowk, Chapel Hill; Hedwig Anna Cisney, Gainesville, Fla.; Oscar Phillip Crabtree, Raleigh; Carleen D. Elmlinger and Robert A. Judge, Durham; and Caretta Jane Eubanks, Atlanta.

Also, Michael E. Faircloth, Roanoke, Va.; Randolph R. Harvey, Orlando, Fla.; Terry Ann Hudgins, Louisville, Ky.; Ann McGill, Warwick, R.I.; Myron G. Messich, Taylors, S.C.; Valerie Robinson, Washington, D.C.; Antoinette Schoene, Maplewood, N.J.; and Sandra Lee Hudson, Jefferson, Ky.

Connective tissue diseases studied

A Duke physician has received a grant from the March of Dimes for a study of genetic disorders involving a protein found throughout the body.

The birth defects research grant of $22,000 was awarded to Dr. Sheldon R. Pinnell, professor of medicine, for the first year of a two-year study of disorders involving collagen, whose strong, stable fibers are essential to the skin, eyes, joints and connective tissue.

What enables collagen to form a flexible sheet or a stiff bundle of fibers is chemical "cross-linking" between its molecules, a pattern of molecular bonds that are formed or broken by certain enzymes.

When any of the enzymes are missing or inactive because of a genetic defect, the result can be crippling weakness or deformity affecting bones, ligaments, skin and other structures.

For diagnosis, counseling, therapy

In a screening program here, Pinnell has identified a number of patients with abnormal levels of hydroxylysine, an amino acid known to play an important part in collagen cross-linking. Cells from these patients will be grown in the laboratory and Pinnell will study their enzymes to determine why they produce specific defects in collagen.

"We hope that these studies will allow us to better understand connective tissue diseases at a biochemical level," he said. "That understanding is needed for prenatal diagnosis, genetic counseling and therapy to help these patients."

Two disorders to be studied

Pinnell's research will focus on two disorders, each having several subtypes. One is Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, which involves extremely stretchy skin, weak joints and often serious problems with the eyes and blood vessels. The other is osteogenesis imperfecta, a severe weakness of bones, teeth, tendons and other tissues.

Pinnell was appointed to the faculty in 1973 as an associate professor in the Division of Dermatology. He earned his bachelor's degree from Duke in 1959 and his M.D. from Yale University in 1963.

The March of Dimes currently supports birth defects research, medical services and education with grants totaling more than $476,000 in North Carolina.

MANAGER AND FRIEND —Clarence E. (Pete) McGhee has been promoted to operations manager in the Division of Laboratory Animal Resources, where he has worked since coming to Duke four years ago. The Chapel Hill native previously was a supervisor for five years at Robbins Laboratory in Carrboro. McGhee was certified as a laboratory animal technologist in 1976 by the American Association of Laboratory Animal Science. *(Photo by John Becton)*

Nursing services names new coordinator for procedures

(From a report by Joyce Teston, reporter for nursing services.)

Patsy S. Brady has been appointed coordinator for policies, procedures and materials management in the Department of Nursing Services.

Wilma A. Minniear, executive director of nursing services, who announced the appointment, said that Brady will be responsible for coordinating revisions and updating of nursing policy and procedures manuals. She also will coordinate the interfacing of nursing services and other departments regarding materials selection and management.

Brady received a diploma in nursing at Watts Hospital in 1963, a bachelor's degree in nursing at UNC-Chapel Hill in 1970 and her master's degree from Duke's School of Nursing in 1977.

She was assistant director of nursing at Watts Hospital from 1973-1977 and had responsibilities similar to her current position during the planning and moving from Watts Hospital to Durham County General Hospital.

Brady worked at Duke from 1963-1966 in the operating room as a staff nurse, head nurse, assistant supervisor and supervisor.

From 1966-68 and since 1970 she has been an instructor at the Watts Hospital School of Nursing.

Report suggests new use for mammography

(Continued from page 1)

unusually dense breasts. (Normally, the breasts turn almost completely into fat as a woman ages and should look less and less dense on a mammogram.)

The next-highest risk group, called "P2", contained pictures showing milk ducts clearly visible in more than one-fourth of the breast image. The next-lowest risk category, "P1", had mammograms with milk ducts taking up less than one-fourth of the breast image.

Thickened walls can be precancerous sign

In the lowest-risk group, "N1," mammograms showed breasts composed mostly of fat with no milk ducts visible.

Milk ducts showed up only in mammograms of higher risk women, McLelland said, because their duct walls had thickened enough to cast shadows when exposed to the X-rays. This thickening can be a precancerous sign, he noted.

As the researchers expected, breast cancer patients tended to cluster in the high risk group.

Risk factors compared

Patients were twice as likely as cancer-free women to be labeled highest-risk "DY." Forty-four per cent of patients, but only 23 per cent of cancer-free women, fell into this category.

On the other hand, cancer-free women were twice as likely as patients to be classified low-risk "N1." Seventeen per cent of the cancer-free women, but only seven per cent of breast cancer patients, wound up in this group.

"P1" women have a breast cancer risk 1.5 times as high as the low-risk "N1s," the scientists estimated. "P2" women have a risk 2.7 times as high as "N1s." The highest-risk "DY" women have a risk 7.2 times as high as the "N1s."

New use for mammography

The findings generally confirm Wolfe's 1976 results. The Duke confirmation brings mammography one step closer to becoming a standard risk indicator for breast cancer.

The study also points to a new use for mammography at a time when the technique is under fire. Some health officials have cast doubt on the value of routine mammography in women under age 50 who have no breast cancer symptoms.

Few officials, if any, have questioned the value of mammography with women who have symptoms, with women who already have had breast cancer, with those who have a family history of the disease or with those over age 49.

When?

When should a woman without any of these factors have her first mammogram made to determine her future breast cancer risk?

"For most women, I don't think there is any point in starting before age 40," McLelland said. "If a woman has a strong family history or if her breasts are hard to examine, then she would be better off having the mammogram at age 35."

Women placed in the lowest risk category could probably wait three or more years before having another mammogram, he said, adding that higher risk women should have the examination at more frequent intervals.

(For more information about breast cancer and mammography, Durham area residents can call the Cancer Information Service at 286-2266. Other North Carolinians can call 1-800-672-0943, a toll-free number. From surrounding states, the number is 1-919-286-2286, a toll call.)

Professional news

Dr. Joy Princeton Clausen, associate professor of nursing, delivered a paper entitled "Adapting Obstetrics to Cultural Groups" during the National Convention of the American Society for Psychoprophylaxis in Obstetrics, held this week in Keystone, Colo.

At a National Education Conference for Nurses held in Vail, Colo., July 30-Aug. 5, Clausen served as a seminar leader and discussed "Conflict Resolution between Health Professionals and Clients" and "Cultural Differences among Enterstomal Therapy Patients."

Clausen was senior editor of "Maternity Nursing Today," the second edition of which was published last year by McGraw-Hill.

Drs. Allen D. Roses, professor and chief of the Divison of Neurology, **Edward H. Bossen**, associate professor of pathology, and P. Harper of Cardiff, Wales, are co-authors of a chapter on "Myotonic Muscular Dystrophy" in "Handbook of Clinical Neurology."

Dr. Erdman Palmore, professor of psychiatry and sociology, and a member of the Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development, presented a paper on "An Experiment in Pre-Retirement Planning" at the International Congress of Gerontology, held in Tokyo this week.

At the same meeting, **Dr. H.S. Wang**, professor of psychiatry, presented a paper entitled "Regional Cerebral Blood Flow and Mental Disorders in the Aged." Wang also chaired a session on dementia.

Dr. Barbara P. McCool, associate professor of health administration, has been elected to a two-year term on the board of directors of the Association of University Programs in Health Administration.

She also has been selected to serve on the American Hospital Association's National Review Panel on Proposed Education Essentials. The panel is to review, evaluate and suggest recommendations for improvement of proposals from the Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation of the American Medical Association.