Medical update to highlight Davison Club Weekend

An “Update on Medical Progress at Duke,” business and social activities and Blue Devil football are all on the schedule as more than 200 members and guests of the Davison Club gather at Duke this weekend.

The Davison Club is a donor organization whose members pledge at least $1,000 annually to the School of Medicine. It was founded in 1969 to honor the late Dr. Wilbert C. Davison, the first dean of medicine at Duke.

Serafin and Lefkowitz to speak

The medical update will be presented tomorrow morning. Dr. Donald Serafin, associate professor of plastic surgery, will speak on “Microsurgical Composite Tissue Transplantation: A New Horizon.” This summer, Serafin led a team of Duke surgeons which created a thumb on a child’s right hand from the second toe on her left foot. (See Intercom, 9/15/78.)

Also speaking tomorrow morning will be Dr. Robert J. Lefkowitz, a professor of cardiology in the Department of Medicine and an assistant professor in the Department of Biochemistry.

Lefkowitz has received a $10,000 research award this year for his studies of receptors, groups of chemicals usually located on cell surfaces that are believed to act as anchors to allow the body to interact with various naturally occurring and foreign substances. (See Intercom, 3/17/78 and 6/2/78.)

Other activities

The weekend will include receptions in the homes of University President and Mrs. Terry Sanford and Dr. and Mrs. William G. Arlyan. Arlyan is vice president for health affairs.

A club business meeting will follow the medical talks, and the afternoon will be devoted to the Duke-University of South Carolina football game.

D. (Ducky) Waters, assistant to the vice president for health affairs, is executive director of the Davison Club.

Club officers are Dr. G. B. Hodge of Spartanburg, S.C., president; Dr. Hugo L. Draxton of Hickory, vice president; and Dr. Rufus R. Hambright (M.D.’30) of Greensboro, secretary-treasurer.

Waters said the Davison Club now has 257 active members representing 25 states, the District of Columbia and Johnston Island.

He noted that over the past year membership has increased 20 percent and that the club generated nearly a quarter of a million dollars for the medical school during that time.

New Imaging Division established in radiology

In an effort to spare patients the expensive and inefficient "shotgun blast" of diagnostic tests they have faced in recent years, the Department of Radiology has created a new Imaging Division.

The division, according to department chairman Dr. Charles E. Putman, will bring together for the first time all of the different tools radiologists use to determine what is wrong with a patient.

Putman said Dr. Carl E. Ravin, former clinical director of diagnostic radiology and assistant professor at Yale University School of Medicine, has been appointed chief of the new division.

"Departments of radiology at the larger medical centers in this country have traditionally been divided into separate disciplines," Putman explained.

"Unfortunately, a patient could undergo six or seven different studies without the radiologist doing each of those studies knowing what else had been done."

The most information at lowest cost

The Imaging Division here will encompass conventional radiology (X-ray), nuclear medicine and the newer techniques of computer tomography and ultrasonound, he said. Conferences that include physicians from all of the radiologic specialties are being held to discuss patients and decide which tests are likely to produce the most diagnostic information at the lowest cost to the patient.

"We don't need and society can't afford the continuing 'shotgun blast' of diagnostic procedures," Putman said.

"Most radiologists now realize that if we don't address the problem of cost, someone in the federal government is going to address it for us."

The move into the new Duke Hospital North next summer should facilitate the new system of handling patients by bringing all of the equipment into close proximity, the physician said.

Conventional radiography will form the hub of the department while nuclear medicine, ultrasound and computed tomography will be located around it. Putman said the unified "imaging" concept in radiology is not original to Duke, but geographical limitations and professional resistance at some medical centers have prevented it from becoming more widespread.

"I think we have a unique opportunity to do something good here, not only for our patients, our institution and our academic interests, but also for other hospitals as well," he said. "A lot of people will be looking at us to see how this works."

Improved avenue for training

Duke now has one of the three largest radiology residency programs in the United States. Putman said he believes the new system will provide an improved avenue for training specialists because the young doctors will now be able to follow the entire radiological workup of patients.

Eventually, he explained, as radiologists become more patient-oriented, they will become increasingly

By Robert Wilson
Duke News Service

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Duke University Medical Center

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Project encourages students to HEED the call of good health

By Robert Wilson
Duke News Service

"We have broken through the borders of common sense and moderation so far as our behavior toward personal health is concerned," said DeMaria, a clinical professor of pediatrics at Duke and medical director for N.C. Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

DeMaria, who earned his M.D. at Duke in 1948, had been a full-time faculty member in pediatrics here since 1952 when he joined Blue Cross as its first medical director two years ago. He also served as associate dean of medical and allied health education with responsibility for continuing education.

"We have become blind believers in pills and procedures which we hope will rescue us from problems created by our various excesses," DeMaria said.

"The most startling thing to him, he said, is that a child's journey into this

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