

Doctors Jones And Ellis Will Offer Expanded Hours And Facilities

By Audrey C. Lodato
Post Staff Writer

When Doctors Jerry Jones and C. O. Ellis move into their new offices at 2021 E. 7th Street in early December, they will be able to offer their patients expanded office hours as well as the facilities for performing certain tests which are unavailable to the average physician.

Dr. Jones is one of only 14 or 15 gastroenterologists in Mecklenburg County. There are approximately 700 physicians practicing in the county, according to Dr. Jones. His area of expertise, gastroenterology, is a sub-specialty of internal medicine. Gastroenterology deals with all components of the digestive system. Dr. Jones' partner, Dr. Ellis, is an internist.

Dr. Jones has been practicing medicine here in Charlotte since 1979. Dr. Ellis, who had been on the teaching faculty of the Medical College of Virginia, joined him earlier this year.

The two physicians are definitely advocates of prevention. "My partner and I are actively involved in preventive medicine in Charlotte," Dr. Jones related. "We stress the early detection and avoidance of disease, which heretofore had been advocated but not realized." Both are active in the lecture circuit and are in the process of formulating what will be called the "Preventive Medicine Institute of Charlotte."

Education, screening and early detection are all elements of preventive medicine. "In practice," stated Dr. Jones, "we advocate and perform complete annual physicals for patients." In response to the current controversy on whether annual physicals really do help, he replied, "I think you're more likely to miss something if the patient is not in the doctor's office than if he or she is there."

Dr. Jones continued, "In a time when it's clear that we must reduce the magnitude of health care spending, we feel that prevention plays an important role in reducing health care costs. We believe we can reduce the number of office or emergency room visits by teaching patients to care for themselves."

To this end, the physicians - both Board certified in internal medicine - have invested in audiovisual equipment for their patient education program.

Dr. Jones explained how he came to be interested in medicine, and in gastroenterology in particular. "I was always interested in scientific subject matter," he recalled. "My mother was an X-ray technician, and our family dentist was an ideal role model in terms of his example to the community." Jones, who grew up in Savannah, attended Boggs Academy in Keysville, Georgia, and Knoxville College before going on to Meharry Medical College. It was there that he encountered an internist who inspired him to specialize in his chosen field. "There was an internist and gastroenterologist I worked with in medical school whom I considered to be close to the ideal internist. I admired the way he combined the two fields without compromising the quality of practice of either."

The Charlotte physician finds his work gratifying because "I can combine the field of science - my first love - with the opportunity to help mankind, all in one neat package. I consider myself lucky to be involved in medicine for this reason."

Doctors Jones and Ellis insist upon constantly upgrading their knowledge as well as that of allied personnel, through education and conferences. Besides the two physicians, the staff consists of Linda Cain, medical office assistant; Betty Anderson, nurse; and Willie Alexander, medical claims supervisor.

Dr. Jones revealed that their new office hours once they've moved to E. 7th Street will be 9-5, Monday through Friday, and 8-12 on Saturday. He expects the office telephone number to remain the same (372-9884).

After completing Meharry Medical College, Dr. Jones went on to study internal medicine at Wayne State University and gastroenterology at the University of Texas at



DR. JERRY JONES
...Gastroenterology expert

Galveston. He is a member and trustee of Memorial Presbyterian Church. Dr. Jones and his "supportive wife of 13½ years," Rosella E. Jones, have four children.

Dr. Ellis is an honor graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. According to Dr. Jones, his partner "recently married the lovely Ms. Sandra Quarles of Louisa, Virginia."



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