

# Dr. Habig Named Director Of Clinical Chemistry Lab

## Letter

The Medical Center's Clinical Chemistry Laboratory will begin a series of changes under a newly appointed director in the next few months to provide more services at less cost to patients.

Dr. Robert L. Habig, associate in biochemistry and formerly acting director of the lab was named director in March by Dr. Stuart M. Sessoms. His promotion to assistant professor of clinical biochemistry will be effective July 1.

Clinical Chemistry at Duke, a department which employs about 35 people, completes some 500,000 chemical tests on blood serum, urine and other body fluids each year to aid physicians in diagnosis of disease.

Scheduled changes in the lab's activities center around installation of SMA 12/60 and SMA 6/60 AutoAnalyzers to mechanize 18 common medical tests. Several more tests will be added to the list done manually in the lab.

Other innovations will include expanded data processing facilities to speed recording of test results, a more complete central emergency laboratory, and a new central collection agency. Details on operation of new emergency lab services and the collection agency will be announced when they go into effect in July.

With automation of a large number of routine tests, the laboratory will be able to reduce substantially the cost of many tests to patients during the next fiscal year.

The SMA 12/60 will run tests for total protein, albumin, calcium, phosphorus, cholesterol, uric acid, creatinine, total bilirubin, alkaline phosphatase, CPK, LDH, and SGOT at the rate of 60 specimens per hour. The 6/60 will do sugar, BUN, and electrolytes, also at 60 samples per hour.

In addition to supplying these tests to inpatients on admission, the lab will offer all 18 or a variety of combinations of them to Duke outpatients.

New manual tests to be offered by the lab include T<sub>4</sub> (thyroid), osmolality (measuring particles in solution), and electrophoresis (a quantitative fractionation of serum proteins).



DR. ROBERT HABIG

Dr. Habig came to Duke as assistant director of clinical chemistry in 1966 shortly after he received his Ph.D. degree in analytical chemistry from Purdue University. He was named acting director in 1969.

A native of Middletown, Pennsylvania, Dr. Habig graduated from Lebanon Valley College with a B.S. in chemistry in 1962.

He is married to the former Arbelyn Fox of Lebanon, Pennsylvania, and they have one son.

## Ellis Jones at Work In Employee Relations

"My job is to try to close the communications gap between employees and their supervisors," says Ellis Jones, new employee relations assistant in the Medical Center Personnel Office.

Mr. Jones, who recently joined the Med Center, is in personnel to counsel employees who need assistance with job-related or even personal problems.

Much of his work involves interpreting personnel policy at Duke, although he is also in charge of the Medical Center recreation program and employee orientation.

Any employee who would like to talk with Mr. Jones can stop in the Medical Center Personnel Office (no appointment necessary) or call him at extension 3424.

Dr. Stuart M. Sessoms  
Director, Duke Hospital

Dear Sir:

During the year 1951, I was confined to your hospital for about 10 days, and left your hospital somewhat dissatisfied since the personnel on that particular ward were not very cooperative, and since it appeared as though no one was really interested in helping me.

However, just the opposite has been true of my stay on Welch (4011B). Everyone has been most cooperative, everyone has a smile on their face, and everyone seems to "bend over backward" to help you. This is most encouraging and satisfying to a sick person.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, and all of the personnel on Welch Ward for such a pleasant visit at your hospital. Oh yes!—the meals were very good and those who planned, prepared, and served them did a splendid job.

I shall certainly "sing your praises" and be a booster for Duke Hospital.

Again, thanking you, the doctors, and all the employes of the hospital for a pleasant stay at Duke Hospital.

Very truly yours,  
Al Mann, Jr.  
2732 University Drive  
Durham, North Carolina



MR. ELLIS JONES