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DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

'IRU' Opens

Rehabilitation Unit Expanded



ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE—Oscar Aylor, right, assistant director of the Hospital, discusses details of the new Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit with Al Taylor, director of the Durham Rehabilitation Center where the new Duke ward is located. (photo by Thad Sparks)

Rehabilitation, according to the dictionary, means to "restore to a condition of health."

Duke's expanding rehabilitation program is going beyond that traditional definition and entering the area of "prospective rehabilitation," or what we commonly call preventive medicine.

In most rehabilitation centers, including the one at Duke, patients who have suffered crippling illnesses are "restored to health" through medical treatment and therapy.

But, extending the rehabilitation philosophy, "prospective rehabilitation" includes attempting to reduce high-risk factors in patients before they fall victim to a serious illness.

"An arthritic is no less a rehabilitation patient just because we step into the course of his disease early instead of allowing it to completely incapacitate him before we begin rehabilitation," explained Dr. E. Harvey Estes, chairman of the Department of Community Health Sciences and director of rehabilitation.

Duke leased a third of the new Durham Rehabilitation Center recently to serve as an inpatient rehabilitation unit (IRU) supporting the outpatient program at the Marshall I. Pickens Rehabilitation Center a mile away on Erwin Road.

With the addition of the IRU, which can accommodate up to 40 patients, Duke now has a special hospital area solely devoted to people who are starting the rehabilitative road back to more nearly normal lives but who haven't progressed far enough to be out from under close nursing and medical supervision.

The Medical Center began developing supportive services for rehabilitation of outpatients three years ago with the "Rehab I" addition to the back of Baker House.

Among other things, this unit houses hearing clinics, surgical and medical speech pathology clinics, and the division of orthodontics.

The second phase of the Duke program, "Rehab II," came into being in late 1969 with the dedication of the Marshall I. Pickens Rehabilitation Center, named for the vice chairman of the Duke Endowment and longtime director of the endowment's Hospital and Child Care section.

The Pickens building serves as departmental headquarters for Community Health Sciences, including the faculty and student health clinics, and as the coordination center for all Duke's rehabilitation functions.

"Rehabilitation is not an isolated entity," Dr. Estes said, "and it has to be established in the framework of the community instead of exclusively in an academic setting."

That is one of the reasons why, he explained, rehabilitation was brought under Community Health Sciences,

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Seven Faculty Changes Announced

Two associate professors and five assistant professors have been named to the Medical Center faculty, according to an announcement from University Provost Dr. John O. Blackburn.

Promoted from assistant professor of surgery and assistant professor of immunology to associate professorships in both fields was Dr. Hilliard F. Seigler.

Dr. Seigler, at Duke since 1965, is a graduate of the University of North Carolina and its medical school. He did his internship and residency at Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill and came to Duke as a research fellow in immunogenetics before joining the staff.

Dr. Raymond Massengill, Jr., formerly assistant professor of medical speech

pathology, was promoted to associate professor. He retains his title as director of medical speech pathology.

Dr. Massengill is a graduate of the University of Tennessee and earned his Ed. D. degree from the University of Virginia in 1965. He previously taught at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

Two persons, Dr. Frances K. Widmann and Dr. James W. Wilson, were named assistant professors of pathology.

Dr. Widmann, a graduate of Swarthmore College and the Western Reserve University School of Medicine, comes to Duke from a post as medical director of the Blood Bank at North

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