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Public Harbors Myths About Research Grants

Recently a brief newspaper story appeared announcing that a doctor at Duke had received a \$40,000 research grant.

Within a few days the doctor had received calls from a bank, an insurance agent and a car salesman advising him on ways to use the "check."

Incidents such as this reveal that the public harbors many myths about grants.

The fact is that most researchers never handle any actual cash from their grants.

Here are some other myths that appear to be widely held:

—That the university has a huge pool of money from grants which collects interest while it is waiting to be spent.

—That a grant increases the salary of the researcher.

—That a researcher can pretty much spend the money as he pleases.

The truth is that, although Duke spent about \$34,700,000 in funds last fiscal year from 2,540 grants and contracts, in most months the university was about \$1 million in deficit on grant spending.

This is because 85 to 90 per cent of the grant money comes in the form of a letter of credit or as a reimbursement for money already spent.

As for salaries, if a researcher is making \$20,000 a year at Duke and receives a grant which includes \$5,000 in salary support for himself, his salary does not increase. The grant money simply relieves the university of the burden of paying one-fourth of his salary.

And on the spending of grant money, a researcher is answerable to everybody from his department chairman and the university accounting office to the federal auditors.

The largest chunk of the grant dollar goes to pay salaries, not only those of the researchers but those of young research associates, technicians, secretaries and bottlewashers.

During fiscal year 72-73, some \$15,979,000 of the total grant money at Duke went for salaries, and another \$1,768,000 for the fringe benefits. About two-thirds of this went to faculty and staff and the other third to clerical and lab personnel.

The second largest portion, \$7,000,000 of the \$34,700,000 in grant expenditures, went to fellowships and scholarships for young researchers.

The rest of the grant money was spent as follows: \$3,400,000 for supplies and materials; \$3,000,000 for equipment; \$50,000 for repair and maintenance; and \$3,500,000 for such things as computer services, publications and travel.

The grant process begins when a researcher decides to seek funds to help support his work.

The medical center's Office of Grants and Contracts helps in this process by keeping track of funds available from federal and other sources and passing this information along to department chairmen. The office helps doctors get

applications for funds, and if needed, helps write the applications.

The grants office also watches the budget estimates in the grant applications to make sure the costs are realistic and to make sure that any cost-sharing provisions don't commit the university to money it doesn't have.

Before the university actually approves the application and allows it to be sent to the granting agency, dozens of people must see and approve it. For instance, if there is money for computer time requested, someone from computer services must check whether the budget request is reasonable. The same goes for money for purchase and maintenance of research animals or permission for human experimentation.

Once a grant is awarded by a federal or private source, the handling of the funds becomes the province of the university Sponsored Programs Office. Joe Byers, assistant coordinator of Sponsored Programs, said very few foundations send a lump sum payment for grants. Most send grant funds in quarterly installments, or else the grantee spends money from the university's general fund and Sponsored Programs bills the foundation for repayment.

Federal grants from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the Atomic Energy Commission and the National Science Foundation operate on a letter of credit basis.

For example, HEW has established a letter of credit with Duke which is to cover expenses incurred on most HEW grants. This allows Duke to draw a designated amount each month to cover current expenditures. However, this monthly allotment is sometimes not sufficient to cover expenses for that month, since each researcher is not limited to how much of his grant he can spend in any one month.

As of the end of May, Byers said, the university's letter of credit for NIH grants was \$64,000 "overdrawn." This "overdraw" is made up in later months when the expenditures are less than maximum.

Federal contracts and non-governmental grants and contracts are another area in which the university

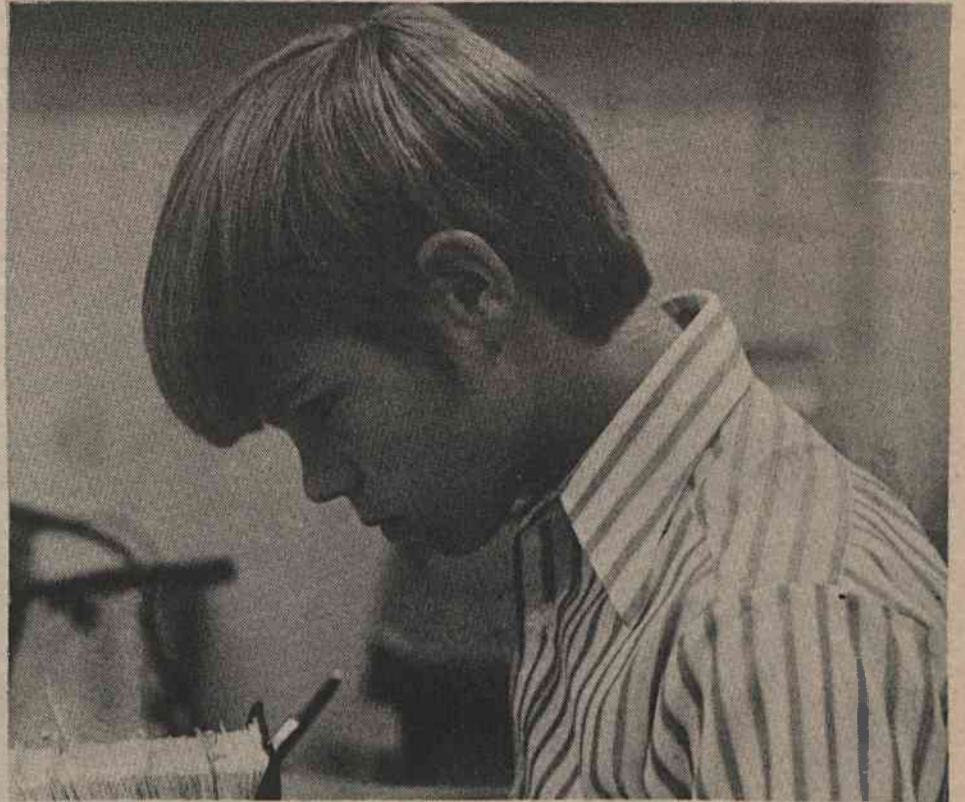
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Registration

Annual motor vehicle registration for the medical center will begin on Monday, Aug. 20, and the Traffic Office has devised a system that will make it simpler for people to register this year.

You might call it: "Taking Registration to the People."

Whatever you call it, look for the details and the published schedule in next week's (Aug. 17) issue of INTERCOM.



VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION—Robert Gordon Sims is a junior volunteer at Duke during the summer months. He along with 55 other volunteers have been working throughout the hospital and gaining an education from their exposure to a hospital setting. See page three for additional photographs and a story about the junior volunteers. (Photo by Dale Moses)

11 Promotions Announced

Provost Frederic N. Cleaveland has announced the promotions of 11 faculty members at the medical center.

Promoted to full professorships are Dr. Frank H. Bassett, orthopaedic surgery, and Dr. Gordon K. Klintworth, pathology.

Faculty members who have been promoted to associate professorships are Drs. Victor S. Behar, Yi-Hong Kong and Robert H. Peter, medicine; Dr. William T. Creasman, obstetrics and gynecology; Drs. Robert Oliver Friedel and James David Jones, psychiatry; Dr. Frances E. Ward, microbiology and immunology; and Dr. Hendrik J. Zweerink, virology.

Dr. Charles Bryan Norton Jr. has been promoted to assistant professor of psychiatry.

A native of Hopkinsville, Ky., Bassett received his B.S. degree and post-graduate work in anatomy and physiology from the University of Kentucky. He obtained his M.D. degree in 1957 from the University of Louisville School of Medicine.

He came to Duke in 1957 as a surgical intern and completed his residency in orthopaedic surgery in 1963.

Aside from his recent promotion, Bassett holds the position of assistant professor of anatomy and is the assistant medical director of the North Carolina Cerebral Palsy Hospital in Durham.

Klintworth received his B.S., M.B., B.Ch., and Ph.D. in anatomy from the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa.

He was an intern in medicine and surgery and a senior house physician in psychiatry at the Johannesburg Hospital in South Africa. He served his residency in neurology and neurosurgery at both the Johannesburg Hospital and the University of Witwatersrand.

Klintworth joined the Duke staff in

1962 as a fellow in neuropathology. He has since become a research associate in ophthalmology and was a visiting professor at the University of London's Institute of Ophthalmology for six months in 1970.

Behar received his B.A. degree from Washington-Jefferson College in Washington, Pa., in 1957 and obtained his M.D. from Duke in 1961.

He served his internship and residency at Duke and presently holds the positions of associate director of the Cardiovascular Laboratory and co-director of the Cardiovascular Training Program.

A native of Canton, Kwantung, China, Kong joined the Duke faculty in 1962 as a fellow in cardiology. He received his M.D. degree from the National Defense Medical Center in Taipei, Taiwan, China, in 1958.

Along with his recent promotion, he is an established investigator for the American Heart Association and is the director of Duke's Cardiovascular Laboratory.

Peter received both his A.B. and M.D. degrees from Duke. He was an intern and junior assistant resident in medicine at Duke and from 1963-64 he was a senior assistant resident at the Yale-New Haven Medical Center in Connecticut.

He returned to Duke in 1967 as a special fellow in cardiology and is presently an associate director of the Cardiovascular Laboratory.

Creasman received his B.A. and M.D. degrees from Baylor University in Waco, Tex. He served his internship at Jefferson Davis Hospital in Houston, Tex., and residency in obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York.

Prior to his arrival at Duke in 1970 as an assistant professor of obstetrics and

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