

# Patient Discharge Unit Under Construction

Imagine you're a patient entering Duke Hospital, and your doctor instructed you to be here at 11 a.m. to be admitted.

You show up on time and you are processed promptly for admission. But you have to wait because the bed you were to occupy has not been vacated by the out-going patient.

So you wait, and the wait stretches into the afternoon and evening, sometimes as long as 10 hours or more.

By the time you are taken to your room (perhaps missing the evening meal because of the late hour), your mood is far less pleasant than it was at 11 o'clock that morning.

Over the past several months, Duke

has taken some major steps aimed at getting incoming patients admitted and settled comfortably on the ward as promptly as possible.

This week work began on a Duke Hospital Discharge Unit which will further aid the prompt-admission concept.

Construction of a Discharge Unit was

proposed by the Committee on Patient Services and Personnel Relations (sometimes called the Quail Roost Committee because the committee was organized formally during a meeting at the Quail Roost Conference Center last February). Dr. Richard Kramer, a neurosurgeon, chairs the committee.

The Discharge Unit will be built in what has been an eating lounge area across from the Auxiliary Snack Bar on the first floor.

Persons purchasing food and beverages at the snack bar will be instructed that they can find seating in the cafeteria or the cafeteria annex. Consumption of food and beverages is, of course, not permitted in the main lobby.

A wall separating the eating area from the adjacent vending machine area will be removed, and the Discharge Unit will occupy the entire section.

Vending machines, including those from the Carousel Room in the hospital basement, will be moved to the cafeteria annex where they will be centralized and be more accessible to patients, visitors and employees.

The Discharge Unit will be an enclosed ward of the hospital, walled in from the main lobby on one side and the corridor in front of the snack bar on the other side. Primary entry into the unit will be through a door from the lobby, only steps away from the main entrance, the gift shop and the business office, and only a short distance from the cafeteria.

Staffed by a nurse and a DTO (Data Terminal Operator) who also will serve as a receptionist, the Discharge Unit will contain a reception area, a nursing station and a patient lounge with 20-25 chairs.

It also will contain three smaller  
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## Delays in Mental, Physical Growth Are Targets of Development Clinic

Jody's mother noticed early that her son seemed a bit slow. He didn't learn to walk or talk as soon as he should have.

When Jody was five his kindergarten teacher noticed it, too. Jody was clumsy and slow to learn, and he was always disrupting the class.

At the teacher's suggestion, Jody's parents brought him to the Developmental Evaluation Clinic at Duke.

The clinic works with any child who is delayed in his physical or mental development, from mentally retarded children to those with cerebral palsy, learning problems or behavioral difficulties.

Jody went in for a day and a half of testing by a team that included a pediatrician, psychologist, social worker, nurse, speech therapist, physical therapist, special education teacher and child development specialist.

Consultants in audiology, neurology, psychiatry and pastoral counseling were also available if needed.

Jody was found to be borderline to mildly retarded. The center staff recommended that he repeat kindergarten, this time in a more structured and formal setting. His family was counseled on how to handle his behavior problems at home.

At the end of the second year of kindergarten, Jody was brought back to the center for another evaluation. The staff recommended that he start first grade and be given special tutoring.

The center staff will continue to follow Jody's progress, helping his parents and teachers to understand and work with him more effectively.

"Our task is to find out exactly what his abilities are and to help the family work with him and maximize these abilities," said Dr. Ann Alexander, a pediatrician and director of the clinic.

The clinic is administered by Duke and is one of 11 funded by the Maternal and Child Health section of the state Division of Health Services. It is intended primarily to serve Orange, Durham, Chatham, Person, Granville and Vance counties, but the clinic sees children from all over the state.

Families pay for the clinic service on a sliding scale depending on their incomes. No one is turned away because he can't pay.

When the clinic first opened in 1965 it operated only two days a week in the pediatric clinic here. The clinic now occupies modern facilities in the Civitan

Building, and since this summer it has been operating four days a week.

Three days a week are devoted to seeing patients, and the fourth day is spent in home visits and contacts with other agencies.

"Our function is basically evaluation," said Dr. Drew Edwards, a clinical psychologist and assistant director of the clinic. "If there is any other agency available to handle the treatment, we refer the child there. But sometimes if there are no services available where the child lives, then our people do get involved in some treatment.

"For instance, our child development specialist has been helping a Rocky Mount family toilet train their retarded child so that she would be accepted at a local day care center for the retarded," he said.

One Wednesday a month the clinic staff drives to Oxford to work with children from Granville and Vance counties. This also gives the staff a chance to work with local health clinic nurses and social service workers.

The clinic staff has also held workshops for teachers and other people in the community on how to look for developmental difficulties in children and how to refer children to the appropriate agencies.

The clinic can now handle two or three new children a week in the program. The target age is birth to 10 years, with priority given to children under seven, although the clinic can take persons up to 21 years of age.

"We handle a majority of pre-school age children," Dr. Alexander said. "We are seeing greater numbers of children three years and under as parents become aware that there are facilities available for assessing the development of young children."  
—YVONNE BASKIN

## Epoch Campaign Creates Cancer Fund, Professorships

The University's Epoch Campaign is only four months old, yet good progress has already been made toward achieving the three-year goal of \$162 million. To date over \$31 million dollars has been pledged.

More than half of the funds sought during the campaign are to be used to increase Duke's endowment—increased endowment to support professorships, scholarships and research. Three of the

first major gifts during the campaign support the university's endeavors in these areas.

Of interest within the medical center is the establishment of the \$300,000 James M. Ingram Endowment Fund to support cancer research and treatment. The endowed fund was established through the estate of Mrs. Mary Luceil Vansant of St. Petersburg, Fla. to honor and pay tribute to Dr. Ingram. Ingram, a practicing physician in St. Petersburg, is a 1944 graduate of the Duke Medical School.

Income from the endowment fund will be used primarily for cancer research and treatment within the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the medical center.

A previous commitment to the campaign that supports the leadership Duke is providing in the area of cancer research and treatment is the pledge from the J.A. Jones Construction Company and the Edwin L. Jones family of Charlotte for a cancer research building. Other goals of the drive include partial funding for two additional buildings at the medical center for cancer research and treatment.

Mrs. Isobel Craven Martin of Lexington, a Duke Trustee and graduate, has created an endowed scholarship fund to honor her great-grandfather, Braxton Craven. Craven was the first president of Trinity College.

The \$250,000 Braxton Craven Endowed Scholarships are to be awarded on the basis of academic aptitude,  
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**CHECKING REACTIONS**—Physical therapist Betsy Denny (left) and student Mary Ellen Boynton test the reactions and dexterity of a 20-month-old boy with cerebral palsy. The child was brought to the Developmental Evaluation Clinic, where a team of experts from psychologist to speech therapist will evaluate his abilities and recommend to the parents how to maximize them. *(Photo by Jimmy Wallace)*