

# Leukemia Experts Gather Here, June 3-11

According to an old truism, too much of a good thing isn't always good.

As far as medical science is concerned, white blood cells are a perfect example. These little structures, which float around in everyone's blood and are called leukocytes, gobble up germs at an amazing rate. They are usually invaluable in keeping man from getting sick.

Unfortunately, sometimes white cells reproduce themselves too fast. The result is a cancer of the blood known as leukemia. There is no sure cure for it, and although researchers have been making

rapid progress combating it in recent years, it still usually leads to death.

In an attempt to discover new techniques for diagnosing and studying leukemia which will be more informative, the world's foremost authorities on the serological detection of the disease will meet at the medical center for a workshop and conference, June 3-11.

Ten teams will participate in the workshop, including two from France and one from the Netherlands and seven from the United States.

"The purpose of the workshop, which

is the first of its kind ever held, is to bring together all of the research groups involved in the serological detection of leukemia in order that each group can test blood cells from the same selected patients under controlled conditions," said Dr. Richard S. Metzgar, professor of immunology at Duke and coordinator of the event. Drs. T. Mohanakumar and Donald S. Miller are co-hosts for the workshop.

Using their own immunological methods and working independently, each team will attempt to distinguish cells

of leukemic patients from cells of normal donors and patients with other forms of cancer, Metzgar said.

The studies will be "blind" in that researchers won't know the nature of the disease of the patient being studied.

Blood from patients at St. Jude's Children's Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., Philadelphia Children's Hospital, the Roswell Park Memorial Institute of Buffalo, N.Y., the Sloan Kettering Cancer Institute in New York City and Duke will be examined by each of the different

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# Intercom

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**A GIFT OF REMEMBRANCE**—When former physical therapy director Helen Kaiser retired from Duke after 27 years of service she received a generous gift from her fellow colleagues and friends. Part of this gift afforded her the opportunity to travel to New Zealand and Australia. With the other part, she decided to plant a rose garden near her home in remembrance of her years spent at Duke. (Photo by Dale Moses)

## After 16 Years Veronica Gets Degree in Dietetics

When Veronica Gremillion was principal of the Holy Ghost School in Stann Creek, British Honduras, she used to keep a machete under her desk in her office.

The long knife, which the people of the area use for chopping everything from bananas and coconuts to sea turtle meat and poisonous snakes, wasn't there for disciplining the children.

Instead, the then 24-year old educator used it for protection when irate parents came to call.

The parents, who were Carib Indians and the descendents of slaves shipwrecked during colonial times, must have been staunch supporters of learning because they didn't take kindly to their children being sent home early or expelled for misbehaving.

Although she never had occasion to use the wicked instrument, it did help her maintain the courage of her convictions when uncomfortably graphic threats

followed all the pleading the parents cared to make.

Miss Gremillion is presently a senior food server in the Dietary Department at Duke Hospital. More than this, however, she is a highly motivated individual who knows what she wants and knows where she's going.

She is also the first member of the hospital's dietetics staff to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in foods and nutrition through Duke's Paths for Employee Progress program (P.E.P.).

This program was initiated in 1970 and is headed by Human Development Director Howard N. Lee, who also is mayor of Chapel Hill. It offers university employees the opportunity to take high school and college completion courses while working a reduced weekly schedule. The university pays tuition costs and provides a supplemental income to the student for as long as he or she progresses

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## Focus on Helen Kaiser

# P. T. Pioneer Reminisces About 'Good Old Days'

"My idea of a poorly trained physical therapist is that you'd better let nature take its course rather than receive help from an incompetent clinician," emphasized Helen Kaiser, founder and former director of Duke's Physical Therapy (PT) Department for 25 years.

A woman who has devoted over 50 years of her life to the growth and development of physical therapy as a profession, Miss Kaiser joined the Duke staff in 1943 as director of PT.

In the beginning there were three people in the PT department who were handling approximately 25 patients a week. When Miss Kaiser retired in 1970, the department had grown to over 25 members who were serving 130 patients a week and graduating 22 students a year from its graduate program.

For Miss Kaiser, her work in establishing both clinical and educational programs in PT at Duke was always a challenge.

"At the time I came to Duke," she explained, "the army was training 'six-month wonders' to fill the role of PTs. While the army had its hands full, I had my hands full at Duke, expanding our department's services so that we could cater to all types of patients and not only those with arthritis and fractures."

Miss Kaiser is described by her former students and colleagues as a hard worker who had to fight many battles to develop the department into what it is today.

"She was always ready to work for something she believed in," said Grace Horton, a former student of Miss Kaiser's who presently works in PT as an assistant professor.

"She never fought for anything in our department or the hospital," Mrs. Horton continued, "without being fully informed of all the angles and facets of the problem at hand. She would go into the battle and ask for the whole cake, but would then come out of it, graciously accepting her quarter."

During her first years at Duke, Miss Kaiser worked with the original department heads of the university.

"These were the men who had been chosen to head their departments because they showed great promise and were secure in their own jobs because they were good," Miss Kaiser noted.

It was at this time during World War II, Miss Kaiser recounts, that many of the department heads were losing their young assistants who had gone off to war.

These department heads, like Dr. Wilburt C. Davison, pediatrics; Dr. Joseph E. Markee, anatomy; and Dr. Richard Lyman, psychiatry, were entrusted with the responsibility of treating patients and at the same time conducting classes. "I don't see how they managed then, but I guess we were all in the same boat," Miss Kaiser added.

It was back in those good old days when Duke Hospital was just getting on its feet that Miss Kaiser fondly remembers the close relationships that were formed. "We always functioned as a team and as a matter of fact," she emphasized, "I guess you could say we were like one big happy family—working for and with each other."

To illustrate this bond of comradeship, Miss Kaiser recalls the time she was in desperate need of a faculty member to teach her PT students physics.

Both she and Dr. Lenox Baker, then chief of the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, called upon Dr. Walter McKinley Nielsen, chairman of the Physics Department. Bearing in mind that Dr. Nielsen was functioning without young assistants, he quite willingly offered to help Miss Kaiser but outlined for her his own responsibilities.

"What, with his time being spent conducting classes for the Navy, Duke undergraduates and graduates," Miss Kaiser remarked, "Dr. Baker and I came away from our meeting saying to him, well, if there is any way we can help you, please let us know."

This type of cooperation, Miss Kaiser emphasized, was what she constantly experienced throughout her early years at Duke.

"One of the happy relationships at (Continued on page 3)