



DR. ROY T. PARKER

## Rising Insurance Costs Burden Physicians And Patients, Says Ob-Gyn Past President

The average obstetrician-gynecologist in the United States next year will start out Jan. 1 with a \$20,000 liability insurance premium hanging over his head before he ever opens his office door.

The mounting cost of professional liability insurance is one of the major problems facing physicians and their patients, who end up with the bulk of the burden.

That thought was expressed this week by Dr. Roy T. Parker on the eve of his stepping down as president of the American College of

Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), a post he has held the past year. Its membership includes 18,000 physicians and 14,000 nurses.

### Catastrophic Illness Insurance

Parker, chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, in an interview prior to his trip to Dallas for the ACOG sessions, said that another problem area is inadequate insurance for catastrophic illness resulting from pregnancy.

"These are young people," Parker said, "struggling to start their home

and family and are overwhelmed by a major illness associated with a pregnancy."

Parker also spoke out on risks associated with "the pill," warning that women whose health may be at great risk from side-effects of oral contraceptives stand an even greater risk to themselves and their babies if they get pregnant.

### High-Risk Category

He identified women in the high-risk category from both oral contraceptives and pregnancy as including those in their late 30s and early 40s, women who have high blood pressure, who have histories of heart disease or formation of blood clots, who suffer from severe headaches and liver disorders among other problems.

Besides danger to their own health, the doctor said high-risk mothers also stand greater chances of having babies with illnesses or abnormalities.

Because of what Parker termed the pill's "convenience, ease of use and effectiveness — nothing else comes close to the effectiveness of the oral, contraceptive—" other types of birth control practices have lost popularity.

### Recommends Alternatives

But for women who face high risks from both oral contraceptives and pregnancy, Parker said the alternatives of intrauterine devices (IUDs) or the "conventional barrier techniques such as condoms and diaphragms" should be used.

"There has been a temporary swing away from the pill," Parker said, "and this already has resulted in unwanted babies and pregnancies in high-risk mothers. This can only result in further impairment of the mother's health and the danger to a baby. We don't want to see our maternal mortality go back up and our perinatal mortality increase."

The theme of Parker's presidential year has centered on planning for the health care of women in the next 25 years. His major efforts during the year have been aimed at obtaining national recognition of Ob-Gyn as a primary care discipline, instituting a manpower study in the health care of women and establishing a liaison committee for Ob-Gyn to further communications and education for patient care.

### Other Duke Speakers

J. Alexander McMahan, president of the American Hospital Association and chairman of the Duke University Board of Trustees, spoke at one session on "Your Hospital Today and Tomorrow."

Other members of the Duke Ob-Gyn faculty on the program included Drs. Carlyle Crenshaw, Charles Hammond, William Creasman, Sezer Aksel and Stanley Gall. Dr. F. Bayard Carter, chairman emeritus, also attended.

## Education Fund Is Established

A memorial education fund for the two small daughters of Dr. Charles M. Lindsey has been established. Donations may be sent to Dr. John Grimes, Department of Urology, Box 3059.

Dr. Lindsey, 32, was a former chief resident in urology here and died while serving a rotation at the Oteen VA Hospital.

His daughters are 8 and 4 years old.



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DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

## To Discuss Impact of Collective Actions

# National Forum Meets Today

"Increasingly, hospitals have become direct targets or indirect victims of collective actions within the health system," said Dr. B. Jon Jaeger, chairman of the Department of Health Administration.

"Strikes by both non-professionals and professionals, slow-downs in admissions, heal-ins and boycotts have altered the ability of hospitals to carry out their social mission," he said.

The nature of these collective actions, their impact on hospital operations and the responses employed by health administrators to

deal with them are the subjects of a meeting being held today and tomorrow in the amphitheater.

More than 200 hospital administrators and health care professionals from across the United States and Canada are expected to attend the 12th annual National Forum on Hospital and Health Affairs, sponsored jointly by the Department of Health Affairs and the Duke Endowment.

The forum, which is entitled "The Impact of Collective Actions on Hospitals," will feature nine addresses by authorities on the health

labor market and health management.

The morning program, presided over by Dr. Barbara P. McCool, associate professor of health administration, was to include the following:

"Collective Actions by Organized Labor" by Norman Metzger, vice president of The Sinai Medical Center of New York; "Collective Actions by Professional Employees" by Mrs. Anne Zimmerman, executive administrator of the Illinois Nurses' Association; and "Collective Actions

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**CEREMONIES AND SERVICES**—Commencement weekend revived a number of annual occurrences at Duke in addition to graduation. At left, senior nurses Nancy Miller, Justine Muench, Elizabeth Muir, Nancy Munn and Kathleen Nacey, alphabetically arranged for entry into the chapel for the School of Nursing's Recognition Service on Saturday, seemed amused



by a young man who was looking for a familiar face in the crowd. Earlier on Saturday, also at the chapel, Barbara L. Blaylock of Winston-Salem let her feelings shape her smile at the School of Medicine's traditional Hippocratic Oath Ceremony. Ms. Blaylock became Dr. Blaylock the following day. (Photos by Jim Wallace)