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## When Australian Teenager Came to Duke, Lions International Was Right with Him

By Joe Sigler

Eighteen-year-old Kevin Hobba of Australia probably owes his life to a group of firemen in Portland, Ore.

He also owes it to the care he received at the University of Oregon Health Sciences Center there and to the surgery and related care he received at Duke.

But there's no group of people the Australian teenager and his family will remember longer or with greater warmth than members of Lions clubs in both Oregon and North Carolina.

And Lions International is still making its interest and concern felt at Duke.

### Exchange Student

Kevin Hobba was an exchange student living in the home of a Lions Club member in Oregon. Early this year in Portland, on his way to the airport to fly back home to Australia, he had a cardiac arrest — his heart stopped beating.

Firemen from a nearby station resuscitated him and rushed him to the University of Oregon Health Sciences Center where he was put under cardiac care and his condition was stabilized.

Kevin's problem was a relatively rare congenital heart defect called Wolff-Parkinson-White Syndrome (WPW).

### Electrical Malfunction

WPW is a malfunction of the electrical system of the heart. It's what Dr. Edward Pritchett, who was Kevin's doctor at Duke, describes as "a short-circuit that by-passes the normal electrical system of the heart."

The first surgical technique for correcting WPW was developed at Duke, and the first WPW operation ever performed was done here in 1967.

It was decided that Kevin Hobba should be transferred from Oregon to Duke for treatment.

### Australian Silver Mine

Kevin's parents — his father works in a silver mine in Broken Hill, New South Wales — had flown to Portland at their own expense, but the bulk of their expenses from then on, including Kevin's medical bills, were picked up by the Lions.

Dr. Lacy M. Pressnell Jr. of Raleigh is a director of Lions International and he remembers getting a call on Friday, Feb. 20, telling him of the Hobba family's expected arrival at Raleigh-Durham Airport the following Sunday.

Pressnell and local Lions set to work here, following up on work already started by Lions in Oregon.

### Lions Club Support

Lions purchased tickets for the Hobba family to fly here, and also covered the expenses of a doctor and a cardiac care nurse to travel from Portland with Kevin. They carried a portable resuscitation unit with them.

When the party landed in Los Angeles to transfer planes, Lions members there met the plane and saw them through for takeoff to Raleigh-Durham.

When they landed here that Sunday night, Feb. 22, Pressnell and other Lions were at the airport. When Kevin was safely admitted to Duke Hospital, the Durham Lions

Club got his parents and the doctor and nurse motel accommodations.

The medical team returned to Portland the next day at Lions Club expense, and the Durham Lions Club rented an apartment near the hospital where Kevin's parents stayed.

### Extra Heart Muscle

Persons with WPW have an extra piece of heart muscle connecting the chambers of the heart. This extra connection permits the heart's electrical impulses to move too quickly, disrupting the regular rhythm of the heart. Drugs can control the episodes in some patients, while surgery is required for others.

Surgery to correct the defect in Kevin's heart was performed by thoracic surgeon Dr. Will C. Sealy on March 5. It was the 54th WPW procedure performed at Duke, and five more have been done since then. Many others have been studied at Duke but have not required surgery.

Surgery is only one part of a complicated, cooperative program involving many physicians, technicians and others who pool their efforts in each WPW case.

It was some of the auxiliary effort involved in Kevin's case that attracted the Lions' attention. They became interested in the work performed by Dr. Pritchett and his immediate superior, Dr. John Gallagher, who is director of the Clinical Electrophysiology Lab.

### 'Mapping' the Heart

During the WPW operations, part of the work of Gallagher, Pritchett

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## Gentry Named Full Professor

Dr. W. Doyle Gentry has been promoted to professor of medical psychology, it was announced by Provost Frederic N. Cleaveland.

Gentry, 32, is head of the Division of Medical Psychology at Duke and a senior fellow at the Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development.

His present major areas of interest include the psychological aspects of coronary heart disease, chronic pain and disability, and behavior modification.

A native of Tampa, Fla., Gentry received his Ph.D. in clinical psychology at Florida State University in 1969, at which time he joined the Duke faculty as an assistant professor.

Widely published in professional journals, Gentry is co-editor of "Psychological Aspects of Myocardial Infarction and Coronary Care," a manual for nurse specialists, physicians, psychiatrists and consulting psychologists who must deal with a patient's emotional and behavioral adjustment to disease and illness.

## Red Cross Finds More Blood Here

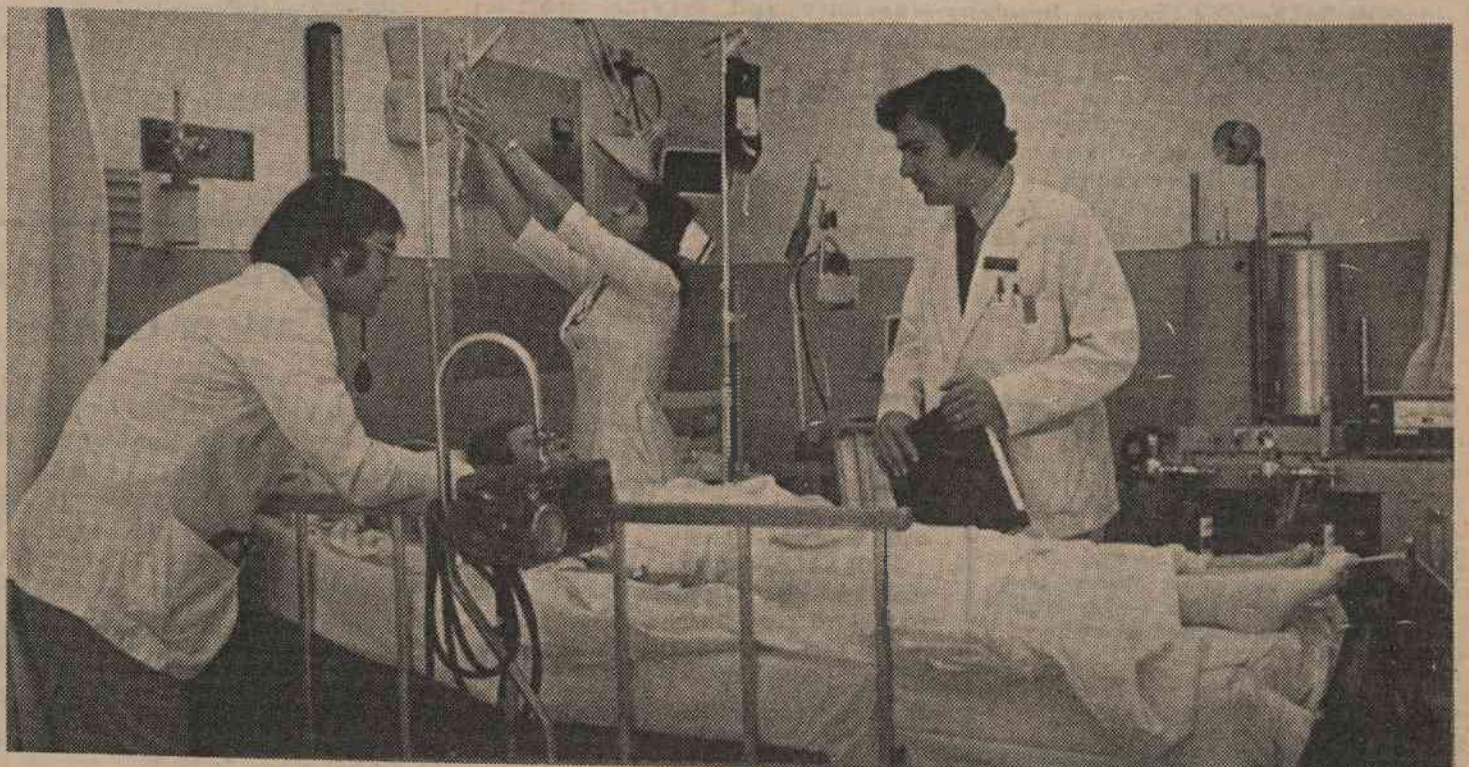
Medical center blood donors more than doubled their recent pint totals during the May 20 Red Cross visit, according to Jane Mahoney, assistant administrator for patient services, who coordinates blood drive activities here.

"We had 104 pints donated that Thursday," she said, "and I'd like to thank everyone who came."

Ms. Mahoney singled out the Medical and Surgical Private Diagnostic Clinics, the Storeroom, the Business Office and the various outpatient clinics as being particularly well-represented in the drive.

She also commended Annie Lee Terry and Martha McFarland of the Surgical PDC for their successful efforts as recruiters.

The next blood drive here is scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, July 7 and 8, following the July 4 holiday. It will be held in the third floor Ambulatory Dining Room, she said.



**SHOWING THE LIONS AROUND**—Dr. Edward Pritchett explains some of the equipment used in the Clinical Electrophysiology Laboratory of which he is associate director. With him from left are Dr. John Gallagher, the lab director; Wilbur Hales of Raleigh, governor of District 31-G, Lions International; and Dr. Lacy M. Pressnell Jr. of Raleigh, a

director of Lions International. Because of the role the Duke research lab played in the treatment of a young Australian heart patient the Lions sponsored, the Lions International Foundation made a \$3,600 grant to the lab. (Photo by Jim Wallace)