



Intercom

Duke University Medical Center

VOLUME 23, NUMBER 39

OCTOBER 1, 1976

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Annual Meeting Includes Tour of Mudd Facilities

The medical center library and its staff are playing an integral part in the upcoming regional meeting of the Medical Library Association (MLA).

The annual meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Group (MARG) of the MLA will be held Oct. 6-9 at the library and the downtown Ramada Inn.

Knowing that the library would be in its new home in the Seeley G. Mudd Building was part of the reason medical librarians from Duke and throughout North Carolina volunteered to host this year's meeting, according to Mary Ann Brown, chief of readers services.

200 Medical Librarians

Ms. Brown is in charge of preparations for the meeting which is expected to draw at least 200 medical librarians from North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia.

Dr. William G. Anlyan, vice president for health affairs, will welcome them to the first MARG meeting which has been held here.

The medical librarians will be a diversified group, Ms. Brown said. "We use the term 'medical' in a wide sense. We will have people here from hospitals, drug libraries, and government agencies, as well as medical centers."

International Organization

The MLA is an international organization with most of its membership in the United States and Canada. There are annual MLA

(Continued on page 2)

Carter Ob-Gyn Society Meets Here for Silver Anniversary

About 80 physicians from across the nation with special ties to Duke are gathering here this weekend to review scientific advances in obstetrics and gynecology and to exchange ideas on the practice of their specialty.

The physicians, who are coming from as far away as California, will attend the silver anniversary meeting of the Bayard Carter Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists to be held in the Markee Lecture Hall (M224, green zone) on the second floor of the Davison Building.

According to Dr. Arthur C. Christakos, professor of obstetrics and gynecology who is secretary for the organization, the society was formed in 1951 in honor of Dr. Bayard Carter.

Carter founded the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in 1931 and served as its chairman until 1964



"WILL IT HURT MUCH?"—A three-year-old girl with a heart problem nervously awaits catheterization in the new Pediatric Cardiology Catheterization Laboratory while patient care technician Lucy Bullock, partially hidden by an X-ray camera, gently strokes her head. At right, Dr. Brenda Armstrong, a fellow in pediatric cardiology, prepares the catheter she will

use to determine the pumping capacity of the little girl's heart and to take tiny samples of cardiac blood to measure its oxygen content. The new lab is one of the most sophisticated diagnostic centers of its kind in the United States, according to its director, Dr. D. Woodrow Benson. (Photo by Jim Wallace)

Pediatrics Opens New Catheterization Lab

By David Williamson

The Department of Pediatrics has opened a new clinical laboratory to help physicians diagnose and correct congenital heart defects in children.

The facility, the Pediatric Cardiology Catheterization Laboratory, is one of the most sophisticated diagnostic centers of its kind in the United States, according to Dr. D. Woodrow Benson, assistant professor of pediatrics and laboratory director.

Most Helpful Tools

Benson said he believes the lab brings together for the first time in a hospital setting the most helpful electronic tools that heart specialists and biomedical engineers have yet devised to measure heart structure and function in children.

Benson said equipment in the laboratory enables him and his colleagues, Dr. Sam Edwards and Dr. Gerald Serwer, to conduct such procedures as cardiac catheterizations, two-dimensional echocardiogram measurements and recently developed electrophysiological studies.

It also enables them to view and record their findings on an advanced video system for "instant replays" or long-term medical record keeping.

Tube into Heart

Cardiac catheterization, Benson explained, is a sterile technique in which physicians insert a plastic-coated flexible tube into an artery or a vein in a patient's groin and then direct it upward with the

help of X-rays into one or more of the heart's four pumping chambers.

The physicians can then inject an opaque liquid through the tube into the heart and measure its flow with X-rays to determine the heart's pumping capacity.

The catheter also can be used to test for anatomical abnormalities and to take small blood samples to measure oxygen levels in the chambers, he explained.

Benson said the two-dimensional echocardiogram, under the direction of Dr. Serwer, usually precedes catheterization and works on the same principle as sonar and radar.

High-Frequency Sound

High-frequency sound waves passed through the heart cause certain small crystals in the device to vibrate and change shape. As the crystals change their structure, they emit an electrical current which physicians can record on paper and interpret in terms of heart function and anatomy.

"We use the echocardiogram first because cardiac catheterizations are like minor operations, and they have some risk to them," the pediatric cardiologist said. "We feel that anything we can learn about the heart before the catheterizations, the better off the patients are."

(Continued on page 3)