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DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Doctors Attend Ob-Gyn, Surgery Meetings

7th Thomas Symposium

Approximately 100 obstetricians and gynecologists from throughout the eastern United States are meeting here today and Saturday to discuss cancer of the uterus and pelvic infections.

The physicians are attending the seventh Walter L. Thomas Symposium, an annual scientific meeting sponsored by the Division of Oncology in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

The event will be held in the Amphitheater.

Estrogen Controversy

According to symposium director Dr. William T. Creasman, the program will feature a full day of talks today on the diagnosis and treatment of cancer of the uterus, including current research and the controversy over whether estrogen treatment may cause cancer.

The development and management of pelvic infections will be discussed tomorrow, he said.

Creasman is head of gynecologic oncology and associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology.

Guest Faculty

Guest faculty will be Dr. Leo J. Dunn, professor and chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Medical College of Virginia; Dr. Byron Jack Masterson, chief of gynecologic oncology at Kansas University Medical Center; and Dr. Paul B. Underwood Jr., director of gynecologic oncology at the Medical University of South Carolina.

This morning, Dunn is presenting the annual Walter L. Thomas Lecture, "Current Concepts of Endometrial Cancer."

Moderators will be Drs. Samuel Atkinson of Ft. Walton Beach, Fla.; Jack Gordon of Johnson City, Tenn.; Kenneth Podger of Durham; and William Nebel of Chapel Hill, all of whom are in private practice.

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Unusual Sewing Class

"A very practical postgraduate sewing class" might be one way to describe instruction a select group of students are receiving at the medical center this week.

The students — more than 150 of them from across the United States — are licensed orthopaedic surgeons who will learn the latest techniques for repairing blood vessels and nerves as small in diameter as the lead in a mechanical pencil.

The most dramatic application of the microscope-assisted surgery is on accident victims whose fingers, hands, arms or legs have been partially or completely severed.

Surgery with a Microscope

Course chairman Dr. James R. Urbaniak said the surgeons will use laboratory hamsters to practice reattaching vessels, so that blood will flow through them once again, and nerves, so that individual fascicles or nerve fiber bundles will be properly aligned.

Urbaniak, professor of orthopaedics, said participants in the course will work under the supervision of the Duke Orthopaedic Replantation Team which has gained an international reputation by treating more than 140 amputation victims since 1973 with better than an 80 per cent success rate.

The team, headed by Urbaniak and Dr. Donald Bright, an assistant professor, is primarily composed of surgeons in the orthopaedic residency program.

Scientific Presentations

A symposium today in Page Auditorium will supplement the day-long Thursday and Saturday workshops in the School of

Medicine. It will consist of opening remarks by Dr. J. Leonard Goldner, chief of orthopaedics at Duke, a panel discussion on microsurgical instruments and 16 scientific presentations.

The transfer of toes to the hand, tendon and nerve repair, spinal surgery and the post-operative care of patients with replanted limbs are among the topics to be discussed by faculty from Duke, Johns Hopkins, Indiana University and the universities of California, Kentucky, Montreal and Pennsylvania.

The continuing education course is being sponsored by the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgery.

Two Join DHN Information Team

Two veteran Duke publications specialists have transferred to the medical center as part of the publications and public information program for Duke Hospital North.

John A. Furlow, who had been director of the university's Office of Publications since it was established in 1973, has been appointed to a new position called Director of Graphic Communications for the Duke North project.

Edith Roberts, a staff writer at the Office of Publications since 1973, has transferred to the medical center's Office of Public Relations as staff writer for Duke North publications and programs.

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LOOKING NORTH—Workmen lay the foundation for a lobby which will be the south terminal of the PRT (Personal Rapid Transit), linking Duke Hospital South and Duke Hospital North. The photo, taken above the present emergency entrance, shows the tunnels through which the two PRT cars will pass under the Edwin A. Morris Clinical



Cancer Research Building (top of photo) and a tunnel for a supply conveyer between the two hospitals (left). Meanwhile, plans for the new hospital's public information program are being made by (left to right) Joe Sigler, Edith Roberts, John Furlow and Wallace Jarboe. (Photos by John Becton)