

## Scientist to discuss effects of aging

Dr. Monte Buchsbaum, chief of the Perceptual and Cognitive Studies Unit at the National Institute of Mental Health's Clinical Research Center in Bethesda, Md., will discuss how age influences changes in behavior and brain physiology in a Wednesday afternoon lecture here.

His talk, "Electrical Activity of the Brain: Age Changes and Personality Differences," will begin at 4 p.m. in Room 1504 of the Gerontology Building (blue zone, first floor). It is open to the public without charge.

Buchsbaum's research has centered on how individuals differ from each other in their reactions to various events. He has published many scientific papers on how age, sex and hormone levels affect the likelihood of developing mental illness, the ability to perceive pain and reactions to drugs.

The Council on Aging and Human Development is sponsoring the scientist's visit to Duke.



**TWO PRESIDENTS** — Duke's Dr. R. Wayne Rundles (second from left) was on hand in early April when President Jimmy Carter presented the American Cancer Society's Courage Award to Midshipman Tom Harper, who is recovering from Hodgkin's disease. Rundles is a professor of medicine and national president of the Cancer Society. Harper's mother and father (shown between him and Carter) also have

Duke ties. His mother, Dorothy, worked in the business office of the OPCs from 1947-49. Harper's father, Jack, graduated from Duke's School of Engineering in 1949. Shown to the left of Rundles is Mrs. William J. Seidel of Spartanburg, S.C., a member of the Comprehensive Cancer Center Citizens Advisory Committee and national vice president of the Cancer Society. (White House photo)

## Hall betters last marathon mark

Dr. William C. Hall just keeps running along, and in Boston last week he finished 75th out of about 4,000 runners who entered the Boston Marathon.

Hall's time in the 26 mile, 385 yard marathon was two hours, 25 minutes and 27 seconds (2:25:27).

An associate professor of anatomy, the 37-year-old Hall improved his position by 33 and his speed by nine minutes and seven seconds over his performance in the 1977 marathon, when he finished 108th with a time of 2:34:34. (Intercom 4/22/77. Intercom also carried a feature on Hall and his running in the 1/14/77 issue.)



DR. HALL

## Technique monitors fluid in lungs

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said. In addition, blood flow through the lungs can be calculated by the rate of acetylene absorption.

### Normal levels to be established

Tests will be performed on healthy human subjects to establish normal lung water levels at different ages and on animals to evaluate the course of lung injuries.

"The significant difference between what other researchers have done and what we are doing is to some extent tied up with the technology of gas measurement," Miller said.

The scientists will be making one of the first applications of a device known as a quadrupole mass spectrometer to a

medical problem. This sensitive and adjustable device, now used primarily to study air pollution, detects concentrations of up to eight different gases almost simultaneously by selectively filtering electrically-charged molecules of those gases.

### Mobile cart

Eventually, Miller and his colleagues hope to build a mobile cart that can be wheeled to a patient's bedside. The cart would include the breathing equipment and gases, the mass spectrometer and a small computer that would print out instant results.

"It may take 12 to 48 hours for respiratory failure to develop to where the oxygen levels in the blood are affected," Miller said. "I believe that this technique, which can be repeated quite frequently, will give us a very early indication of the direction of water dynamics in the lung."

The physician said the method also should prove helpful in evaluating which treatments are most effective in preventing respiratory failure caused by water building up in lung tissue.

## Any rule that can be made up, will be

Murphy's famous law, "If something can go wrong, it will," is often applied to frustrating situations, has been quoted by Ann Landers and even appears in the journalist's "bible," the Associated Press Stylebook.

Yet Murphy is but one of many scientists who have recorded such principles, discovered through trial and error (no doubt with emphasis on the latter).

Here are a few more worth noting:

**Skinner's Constant** — "That quantity which, when multiplied by, divided by, added to, or subtracted from the answer you get, gives the answer you should have gotten." (This is also known as *Flannegan's Finagling Factor*.)

**Horner's Five-Thumb Postulate** — "Experience varies directly with equipment ruined."

**Cahn's Axiom** — "When all else fails, read the instructions."

**The Spare Parts Principle** — "The accessibility, during the recovery of small parts which fall from the work bench, varies directly with the size of the part, and inversely with its importance to the completion of the work underway."

**Gumperson's Law** — "The probability of a given event occurring is inversely proportional to its desirability."

**The Ordering Principle** — "Those supplies necessary for yesterday's experiment must be ordered no later than tomorrow noon."

**The Transcription Square Law** — "The number of errors made is equal to the sum of the 'squares' employed."

**Chisholm's Law of Human Interaction** — "Any time that things appear to be going better, you have overlooked something."

**Riddle's Constant** — "There are coexisting elements in frustration phenomena which separate expected results from achieved results."

**Theory of International Society of Philosophic Engineering** — "In any calculation, any error which can creep in, will."

**Rule of Accuracy** — "When working

toward the solution of a problem, it always helps if you know the answer."

**Advanced's Corollary** — "Provided, of course, you know there is a problem."



**MR. GUITAR LINES UP PUTT** — Chet Atkins is best known for his skillful guitar playing, but he's not a bad golfer either. He'll maintain his perfect attendance record by returning for this year's Children's Classic celebrity golf invitational, along with fellow veteran Perry Como, newcomer David Hartman, and a host of other stars. Here Atkins gets ready to putt during last year's classic. Holding the flag is Wally Jarboe, director of logistics and management for Duke Hospital North. The tournament will be held May 27-28. If you're interested in playing alongside the stars and helping Duke heal children, call 286-1605 for further information. (Photo by John Becton)

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