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Wakeman Award address

If ever there was an opportunity to alleviate suffering...

At last month's Wakeman Award banquet here (see Intercoms 929/78 and 10/6/78), one of the principal speakers was a layman whose substantial knowledge of paraplegia and nerve regeneration research goes beyond his extensive study of the field. He is a paraplegic himself. The speaker was Alan A. Reich, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce and a founder and the current chairman of Paraplegia

Cure Research. Because of Reich's succinct statement of research needs and his call for activation of a 10-point program, the text of his address, "If Ever There Was an Opportunity..." is being published here.

Prior to World War II, there were few paraplegics. They simply did not survive. Medical science and the commitment of numerous dedicated people (including

many here tonight) have made it possible for paraplegics to live and accommodate to wheelchair living.

Rehabilitation has facilitated an increasingly normal existence and opportunity for personal fulfillment. In the United States more than in any other country, there has been a climate of encouragement for this process.

In March of 1970, the year the word "impossible" was redefined by landing a man on the moon, at a conference sponsored by the National Paraplegia Foundation in Palm Beach, Fla., scientists overturned the old dogma that central nervous system regeneration was impossible. For the first time a group of neuroscientists declared, "the problem should no longer be considered hopeless; it is amenable to solution through basic research." This validation challenged the world's scientists and strengthened the hope of paraplegics.

Significant progress

At that time too, Mrs. Gardiner established the Wakeman Award in memory of her paraplegic husband to stimulate central nervous system regeneration research aimed at curing paraplegics. Have her generosity and foresight brought results? The answer is a resounding yes!

While we may not be able to make

specific connections, I believe it is reasonable to attribute much of the progress to the momentum generated by the Wakeman Award process. That progress includes:

— In 1970 only a handful of scientific articles was published on central nervous system regeneration. Last year there were over 400. Many more investigators throughout the world are now working on the problem.

— Government funding by the National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke and by the Veterans Administration of regeneration research has increased from about \$200,000 in 1970 to about \$5 million last year. Both agencies have sponsored conferences.

— The National Paraplegia Foundation has held four international conferences on CNS regeneration. Its new research division has published bibliographies and has initiated an exciting fellowship program.

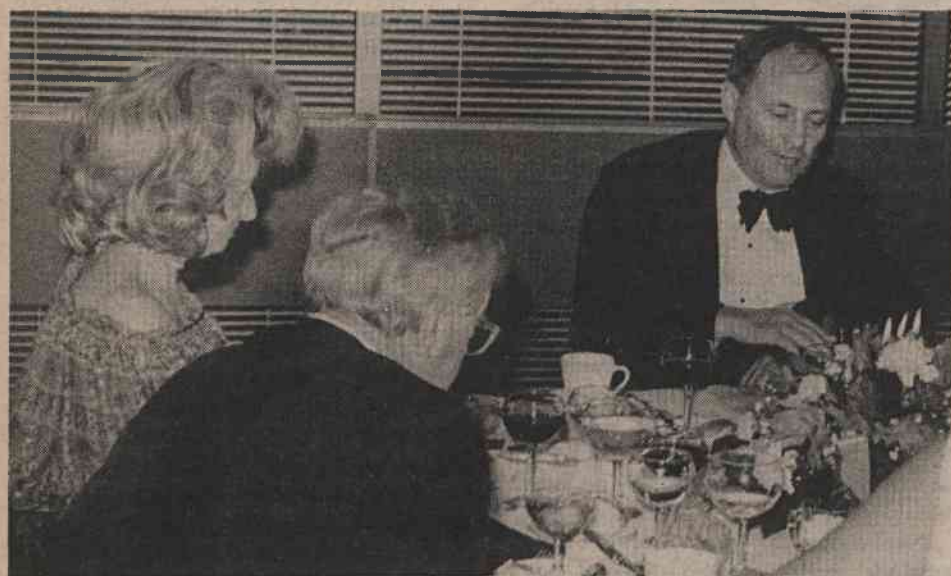
— The Paralyzed Veterans of America has created a new research foundation which has funded close to a quarter of a million dollars of CNS research.

— Several universities have started up regeneration research programs and laboratories.

— Six annual congressional luncheon reviews, hosted by Congressmen Orval Hansen and Bill Frenzel, have been held in the Capitol in Washington.

— The government's Neurologic Institute sponsored an 18-month task force by eminent neuroscientists who concluded "the field is ripe for a push."

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ALAN A. REICH, seated here with Dr. and Mrs. James H. Semans of Duke, was a special guest at the Oct. 4 Wakeman Award banquet for presentation of the 1978 Wakeman Award for Research in the Neurosciences. Reich's address on the need for continuing research in central nervous system function and regeneration is reprinted in the accompanying article. (Photo by Lewis Parrish)

First participant helped shape new residency

By John Becton

(From a report by Linda Wilson, reporter for speech and hearing.)

As knowledge in the health care field continues to expand, specialized training becomes more of a necessity for a significant number of health professionals.

In response to a perceived need for specialization in speech pathology and audiology, Duke is developing a residency program funded by a seven-year grant from the Veterans Administration.

The Speech Pathology-Audiology Residency Program is designed to offer one-year, post-master's degree curricula in each of five areas of specialization. It is under the overall direction of Dr. Luvern H. Kunze, professor and director of the Center for Speech and Hearing Disorders, and Dr. Robert G. Paul, chief of

the VA Hospital's Audiology-Speech Pathology Service.

The first resident, Mary Ann Barden, recently completed training in neurogenic speech and language disorders in adults.

This year, the second for the pilot program, there are residents in childhood language disorders, communications disorders associated with craniofacial abnormalities or trauma and audiology, as well as a new participant in the neurogenic disorders specialty. The program also will offer a residency in organic voice disorder and laryngectomy.

As the pioneer speech pathology resident, Barden was supervised by Dr. Jennifer Horner, assistant professor of speech pathology and coordinator of the neurogenic disorders residency.

Horner explained that the program is

called a "residency" because it is roughly patterned after the medical model. Participants' clinical fellowship year which follows completion of their masters' degree is essentially an internship, and like the degree program, general in nature.

"In contrast, the Speech Pathology-Audiology Residency program offers a course of specialization in the medical

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Intercom takes break

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, Nov. 23, *Intercom* will not be published next week. The next issue of *Intercom* will appear Friday, Dec. 1.

Harper's says Duke among best

Some of the best health care for women in America is available at Duke, according to an article in the September issue of Harper's Bazaar.

Based on a poll of respected members of the medical profession, the magazine listed the "best medical specialists" and "best medical centers" for treatment of medical problems unique to or common among women.

Included on the lists were Dr. William T. Creasman, professor of obstetrics and gynecology and director of that department's oncology division; the Dietary Rehabilitation Clinic; the Division of Infertility in obstetrics and gynecology; and Highland Hospital, a division of the Department of Psychiatry located in Asheville.



'AUNT BEE'—Dean of Nursing Ruby Wilson leans over to greet Betty Dumaine of Pinehurst, a long-time friend and supporter of the medical center, known to many Duke people as "Aunt Bee." Aunt Bee was here for many of last week's Medical Alumni Weekend activities. For more photos from the weekend, see page 4. (Photo by Parker Herring)