

Funding cut for sickle-cell anemia programs

By The Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. -- Doctors working with Georgia's sickle-cell anemia patients plan to ask the state for money to keep open clinics in six south Georgia cities and continue a statewide newborn-testing program.

The clinics and the testing program are among the Medical College of Georgia's sickle-cell anemia programs threatened by a March 31 loss of an annual \$800,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health.

"I am looking for various other ways to continue supporting the program," said Dr. Titus Huisman, founder and director of the college's Sickle-Cell Center. "Otherwise, the services will fade away."

The grant supports the state's only comprehensive basic research

program of sickle-cell anemia, as well as the newborn-testing program and the outreach clinics in Brunswick, Waycross, Valdosta, Savannah, Albany and Dublin.

About 3,000 Georgians -- all blacks -- suffer from sickle-cell anemia, an inherited abnormality in the oxygen-carrying component of blood. The patients' red blood cells become warped and brittle and may lodge in small blood vessels, causing severe pain, strokes or damage to the spleen and other organs. There is no cure and 3 percent of sufferers die from the disease.

Huisman said he is planning to submit new grant applications to the National Institutes of Health by Feb. 1 for money to support the college's basic research programs.

He said he would ask the state for money to continue running the

satellite clinics and to fund the newborn-testing program.

The National Institutes of Health first awarded the grant in 1972 to Huisman, who started the program after he came to the state from the Netherlands in the 1950s. The grant was used to support research into a variety of blood abnormalities. In addition, the program educates public-health nurses, high school students and others about sickle-cell anemia.

The program's south Georgia clinics are operated by two physicians, who care for about 1,000 impoverished sickle-cell anemia patients.

"What we hope to do is get this program funded by the state, which seems to be a reasonable thing to do," said Dr. Virgil McKie, a pediatric blood specialist who donates time five days each month to treat patients at the clinics.

The state has not supported the Medical College of Georgia's programs, although it allots \$1.16 million for sickle-cell disease programs, including \$550,000 for the sickle-cell clinic at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta and \$40,000 each for clinics in Waycross and Savannah.

"We're real concerned," said Ginger Floyd, director of the Human Resources Department's family services division. "If we can't augment those funds, we'll have to cut services to kids."

"We've got to find another way of funding it," said Dr. Jim Eckman, director of Grady's sickle-cell clinic. "That is an invaluable research and service facility for the state. They are also doing lots of research into basic hematology and outreach. This was a complete surprise to me. It's a critical loss."

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Penny Hill receives master's degree

Penny Lynette Hill, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie E. Hill of Winston-Salem, received her master of arts degree in English at the Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio on Dec. 11.

Dr. Henry Ponder, president of Fisk University in Nashville, Tenn. delivered the commencement address.

Hill completed a thesis entitled "The Relationships Between Black Folk English and Characterizations in Alice Walker's Prose Fiction" in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the master's degree.

Hill received her bachelor of arts degree in 1986 from Bennett



Hill

College in Greensboro where she was an honor student.

'Faith Journey' to bring musical memory of King to Winston-Salem

"Faith Journey: A Musical Memory of Martin" will crown the activities of Winston-Salem State University's National Martin Luther King Holiday Celebration. AFRI Productions of New York will bring the musical to the Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium on Thursday, Jan. 21 at 8 p.m.

"Faith Journey" is a musical theater documentary that fuses choreographed movement, choral speaking, dramatic episodes, moving melodies, and haunting harmonies to skillfully blend a momentous movement on American life. The message is in the music, which serves as the spine of this theater piece.

Songs, preaching and prayer all combine to spark the passion and pride of a people turning the corner of history. Among the songs included in the production are "Precious Lord," "Woke Up This Mornin' With My Mind Stayed on Freedom," "Hold On," "Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round," "Oh Freedom," "We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace," and "I'll Overcome/We Shall Overcome," and more.

"Faith Journey" is sponsored by the Student Activities office of WSSU. Admission is free. For more information contact Elaine Browne, director of student activities at 750-3350.

Young passes law examiners board

Winston-Salem native, Barbara L. Young was recently passed the Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners test.

Young was listed among 2,325 successful applicants who took the exam in July, 1987. Attorney Young is currently employed as a member of the law firm Post and Schell of Philadelphia. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert (Donnie) L. Young reside in Winston-Salem.

A 1987 graduate of Wake Forest University School of Law, Young distinguished herself during her collegiate and graduate studies at that institution. While at Wake Forest she was regularly identified as an academic achiever and winner of several school competitions.

During the 1986-87 school term Young served as Chief Justice of the Wake Forest Moot Court. Prior to that honor, she was also declared winner of the Order of the Barrister competition. In her first year of student eligibility she was

first place winner the Moot Court competitions at Wake Forest.

Other competitions and experiences provided the opportunity for Young to demonstrate her competencies in courtroom settings. As a first year law student she won the Student Trial Bar Competitions and was named second-place oralist in the Moot Court.

During the fall of 1985 Young was a quarter-finalist in the Stanley Moot Court exercises. She placed third in the national Frederick Douglass Moot Court Team competition in the spring of 1986.

Other significant experiences which contributed to Young's development include her summer internships with Human Services Department of Winston-Salem; the Forsyth County Experiment in Self-Reliance; and the Attorney General's Office, North Carolina Department of Justice. In 1984 she was a special student at the London School of Economics.

WSSU offers child care seminar

The Early Childhood Center at Winston-Salem State University will sponsor a seminar offering 10 clock hours of training in early childhood education.

The seminar sessions will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Jan. 12, 19 and 26 and Feb. 2 and 9 in the Anderson Center at WSSU.

The registration fee is \$25 per

person. Licensed child care professionals will serve as consultants for the seminar.

Interested persons may pre-register by mailing appropriate fee and the names of all participants to WSSU, Early Childhood Center, P.O. Box 13297, Winston-Salem, 27110.

Registration will also be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Jan. 11.

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