



Nancy Willis, assistant chief nurse anesthetist, labels equipment in preparation for the opening of Presbyterian Hospital's SameDay Surgery Center. (Photo By Audrey Lodato)

Hospital's SameDay Surgery Center Is "Complete Surgical Hospital"

By Audrey C. Lodato
Post Staff Writer

Presbyterian Hospital's SameDay Surgery Center was officially dedicated on May 19. On a recent pre-opening tour of the facility, the center's medical director, and pediatric surgeon, Dr. Duncan Morton, and director of ambulatory services, Ruby Mitchell, RN, showed off the cheerfully decorated entrance and waiting areas, the four operating rooms, and the recovery area, where patients will rest on recliners rather than being confined to hospital beds.

The 17,000 square foot, self-contained complex, was described as "a complete surgical hospital." The facility is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mitchell expected the center to handle from 15 to 20 surgeries per day.

Many types of surgery are suitable to be performed on an outpatient basis, according to Mitchell. "Pediatric surgery does beautifully in an outpatient setting," she noted as one example. But, as important as the type of surgery, how much an individual patient can participate in his or her own care determines whether outpatient surgery is suitable for that person.

Dr. Morton remarked, "There is more responsibility on the patient's part to let the doctor know if problems develop at home. Patients

have become more sophisticated," he added.

Presbyterian Hospital pioneered outpatient surgery in 1960. Initially, outpatient surgery was limited to minor surgery not requiring general anesthesia. In 1970, Presbyterian became the first Charlotte hospital to perform sameday surgery under general anesthesia. Six years later, Presbyterian was one of the first hospitals in the country to open an outpatient surgery center dedicated only to sameday surgery. The center, located in the hospital, will continue to be used for more complex cases.

The SameDay Surgery Center is Charlotte's first hospital-affiliated freestanding outpatient surgery center. It reflects Presbyterian's continuing goals of cost-efficiency and highest-quality medical care. It also serves as an example of the private sector taking a leadership role in reducing health care costs.

Twenty-five years ago, insurance companies did not provide coverage for outpatient surgery. Today, insurers accept sameday surgery as standard. And, according to Mrs. Mitchell, the SameDay Surgery Center offers the same senior citizens programs as does the hospital, wherein no out-of-pocket costs are collected from Medicare patients.

Today, Presbyterian performs about 75 percent of all sameday

surgery in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area - over 100,000 operations since 1960. This is more than all other Charlotte hospitals combined.

Newly Formed Charlotte Organizing Project Ready To "Meet Charlotte"!

With the walls newly painted, the office set up and the first two staff positions filled, the board of the newly formed Charlotte Organizing Project is ready to meet Charlotte. From 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on the evening of June 6, the staff and board members will host an Open House at the office located at Christ the King Center in Optimist Park, 425 W. 17th St.

Director of the Charlotte Organizing Project (CHOP) is Melvin Whitley, a 1980 business management major who graduated from the J. Sargent Reynolds College in Richmond, Va.

Neighborhood Organizer of CHOP is Michelle Handler. Whitley is currently in the process of hiring a third staff member.

The project aims to foster leadership development and organization building in low and moderate income Charlotte areas struggling with issues affecting their communities. Sponsored by a group of active community leaders who formed the CHOP in late 1983, the cause will be supported financially for three years by a Campaigns For Human Development grant and contributions from individual supporters and grassroots fundraising events.

"The aim of leadership training in neighborhoods enhances the likeli-

hood of a strong and viable neighborhood," Whitley stated. The products of strong community organization in turn could build a superb economic base for any residential area.

Examples of the programs offered according to Whitley is the Economic Development Program and the Beautification Projects. "Realtors are attentive to neighborhood improvements and when the neighborhood is improved the property value is increased."

The Organizing Project will not only work in specific communities to build action-oriented neighborhood associations, but will also strengthen existing civic groups - an important way to increase the involvement of citizens in issues that impact their communities and families.

"That's why I wanted to become involved," says board chairperson Mildred Taylor. "I felt that we as a group could promote leadership skills in our community and other communities. There is a great need for all to develop leadership qualities because of various issues and problems we are now facing."

Mrs. Taylor, who is also the vice president of the Mecklenburg Council of Senior Citizens, continued, "There is a great need for this kind of service in the community. I

remember the trials and failures the Optimist Park Community Organization went through. Without training and staff assistance, we wouldn't have been successful."

The Project will also build issue groups around specific concerns of low- to moderate-income constituencies (senior citizens, tenants, children, etc.) It will encourage joint efforts with other community groups at the local, state, and national levels.

Leadership Development skill training will include: Basic Organization Skills; Fundraising; Strategic and Tactical Research; Coalition building; and Media and Publicity.

Targeted neighborhoods include: Wilmore, Washington Heights (Biddleville), Mayfair (in Ashely Park), Enderly Park, Seversville, Double Oaks and Greenville, Belmont (Optimist Park), Matheson (North Charlotte), and Westery Hills.

For more information concerning CHOP, contact Melvin Whitley at 332-0022.

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Study: Alcohol Plays Major Role In Many Drowning Deaths

Special To The Post

Raleigh - State health officials are concerned about the results of a recent study which showed that alcohol played a major role in many of the drowning deaths in North Carolina, and they are cautioning citizens to stay out of the water if they have been drinking.

The study is being conducted by Dr. Page Hudson, the state's chief medical examiner, and Dr. Paul Biddinger, a pathologist at East Carolina University. It involved 1,570 drowning deaths in the years 1973-75 and 1981-83. The study showed that of the 834 drowning victims over the age of 15 tested for alcohol, 55 percent had alcohol in their blood. Approximately 40 percent of them had levels higher than 0.10 percent, the concentration at which a person's driver's license can be revoked.

"We've all heard the advertisement 'if you drink, don't drive - if you drive, don't drink.' That also applies to water activities," Hudson said.

He pointed out that regular recreation activities such as swimming, boating, skiing, diving, or fishing can turn into serious injury or even death if people combine these activities with alcohol.

"When people drink alcohol, their judgment becomes impaired and they take risks they normally wouldn't take - such as jumping out of a boat and trying to swim to shore," Hudson emphasized. "Sometimes that shoreline can be farther away than it looks."

According to the study, adults aged 40-49 had the highest blood alcohol levels. Over one-third of the teenagers between the ages of 15-19 had alcohol in their blood, and 18 percent of them were legally intoxicated at the time of drowning.

The study also showed that most drownings take place in spring and early summer. About 91 percent of the drownings were accidental. The rest were deliberate such as suicides or homicides. About 45 percent of the accidental drownings were associated with swimming or wading; 19 percent with watercraft such as boats; and about seven percent resulted from motor vehicle accidents. More than half of the accidental drownings occurred in lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams.

Hudson said there are several precautions people should take when participating in water activities:

- Do not mix alcohol and water

activities:

- Avoid going into deep water if you do not know how to swim well;
- Use proper floatation devices when boating or skiing;
- Supervise children carefully when they're near the water, including bath tubs;
- Be sure that diving areas are deep enough;
- Take a buddy along.

"Water recreation is fun and good exercise if you avoid alcohol and follow safety precautions," Hudson pointed out. "Alcohol makes some people reckless—they do things they wouldn't ordinarily do, things that could cause them serious injury or even cost them their lives."

Honor Society

Thirty-five new members of the Phi Theta Kappa national honor society were inducted into the Phi Lambda Chapter at Central Piedmont Community College this month.

Phi Theta Kappa recognizes and encourages scholarship among community and junior college students.

New members are Jaishri Acharya, M. C. Chandrashekhara, Kehinde A. Adeniji, Taiso A. Adeniji, William H. Barwick, Thomas C. Calhoun, and Ashley W. Cates.

Also, Watson Finger, Edward C. Goodwin Jr., James M. Hoelscher, Betty H. Hughery, Thao C. Huynh, Peggy Ingram, Theresa N. Johns, Ernestine B. Johnson, Nilesh K. Kachalia, Christina T. Lyon, Lena Lindsey, Kelly M. Lawhorn, and Susan Mackey.

Also, Mitzi Mills, Veronica Moore, Carol R. Pettigrew, Michael L. Polk, Joe Putnam, Frankie D. Royster, Diana A. Sanchez, James T. Sentilles Jr., Sherry Smith, Scott W. Stalvey, Patricia J. Swann, Keith Troutman, Donna W. Whicker, Amanda J. Wilson, and James R. Worley.



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