

# CENTER- INGS

Vol. 4 No. 3

Health Sciences Center, State University of New York

Stony Brook, New York

March 15, 1976

## Dental School, Media Services 'Teach' Regional Dentists

Dentists from several eastern universities found themselves back in the student-side of the classroom recently, but the subject wasn't teeth.

They were getting a one day crash course in do-it-yourself techniques for making attractive and more effective slides for use in teaching their dental students.

The School of Dental Medicine and the Division of Media Services teamed up to present a mini clinic on "Effective Slide Production For Removable Prosthodontics", led by Dr. Robert Renner, Assistant

Professor of Restorative Dentistry, who is also an artist, and Eugene McDermott, Media Services' Senior Medical Photographer. The occasion was the third annual meeting of the Eastern Regional Group of the Removable Prosthodontics section of the American Association of Dental Schools, hosted by the School of Dental Medicine at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

### Exchange of Skills

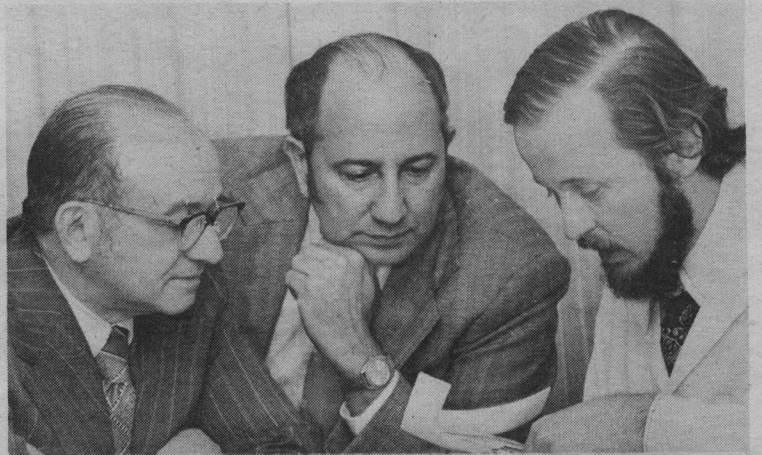
The decision to have the subject matter of the Third Annual Meeting be specifically

on learning the techniques of making improved teaching slides was made by "mutual consent", said Dr. Sidney Silverman, Chairman of the Department of Removable Prosthodontics at the New York University Dental School.

Dr. Renner explained, "Members of last year's meeting wished to set up an exchange of audio visual materials for the teaching of removable prosthodontics and asked me to chair a meeting on this topic. We at Stony Brook worked for over two months to put together a

program. We decided to offer a 'hands on' clinic where participants could create their own effective slides."

The members turned to Stony Brook for hosting a workshop program on effective slides." *(Continued on page 2)*



Dr. Sidney Silverman, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Removable Prosthodontics at New York University, and Dr. John Lucca, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Removable Prosthodontics at Columbia University observe slide-making process being demonstrated by Dr. Robert Renner, Assistant Professor of Restorative Dentistry at SUNY Stony Brook.

Photos courtesy of Media Services

## Professors Plan Cancer Data Bank

Three faculty members have begun a planning project which hopefully will give some Long Island cancer patients a longer and better lease on life.

Dr. Raymond Lerner and Dr. Andre Varma, both Associate Professors in the Department of Community Medicine of the School of Medicine, and Dr. Howard Kelman, Professor of Social Sciences in the Division of Social Sciences and Humanities, are presently working with the Long Island Cancer Council to set up an Island-wide cancer reporting system, based at the Health Sciences Center. The

cancer reporting system would serve as a central registry for a collection of data from hospitals and physicians in the bi-county area dealing specifically with patients afflicted with prostate, cervical, breast and colon-rectal cancers.

"This will produce a wealth of health intelligent data about these cancers, put on a computer file, which could easily be retrieved for trend evaluations, determination of survival rates and other analyses," said Dr. Lerner. "The computer file will thus hopefully eliminate fragmentation, increase speed of

services, improve referrals, reduce morbidity and mortality and make the quality of life for cancer patients better. In addition, members of the University faculty would have access to the data for other research purposes," he added.

### Contract Awarded

The initial funding to lay plans for a cancer control program for Nassau and Suffolk Counties came from the National Cancer Institute via a \$119,152 contract awarded to the Long Island Cancer Council. The reporting being planned by Drs. Lerner, Varma and Kelman is part of this larger plan for a local cancer control program.

It is expected that the planning proposal for the cancer control center will be submitted to the National Cancer Institute by summer. If this proposal is approved, the National Cancer Institute would issue an implementation contract which could mean as much as one million dollars a year in federal cancer funds for the next five years coming to Long Island, according to John B. Dibeler, Executive Vice President for the Long Island Division of the American Cancer Society.

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Dr. Leo Sreebny, Dean of the School of Dental Medicine, presents a plaque to Stephen Singer, third year dental student, who ranked fourth in the annual Student Table Clinic competition sponsored by the American Dental Association. Looking on are Dr. Max Schoen, Assistant Dean For Clinical Affairs and Dr. Virgil Lau, Chairman of the Department of Restorative Dentistry who arranged for Mr. Singer's participation in the competition.

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## Dental School and Media Services 'Teach' Regional Dentists

(Continued from page 1)

production of audio visual teaching materials because they had seen the better-than-ordinary slides done here by Dr. Renner and Gene McDermott, with assistance from Dr. Edward Antos, Assistant Professor of Restorative Dentistry, Kathleen Gebhart, Medical Illustrator, and Dan Brenner, Assistant Medical Photographer.

"They have developed methods much simpler and less costly than the ones we have been using and have produced slides which are original in appearance," said Dr. Silverman. "We have all had a lot of experience and we think it is important to get together for dialogues. The exchange of ideas helps us improve our teaching programs, and we have to do that—today's students are a tough audience! We have to be more interesting," pointed out Dr. Silverman, who attended the workshop with two other professors from his department at New York University, Dr. Louis Blatterstein, Chairman of Clinical Services, and Dr. Herman Sherman, Director of Pre-clinical Training.

Dr. John Lucca, Chairman of the Department of Removable Prosthodontics at Columbia University's Dental School

explained that the Eastern regional Group was looking for practical ways to put available resources into full use.

"We've aired our problems over the past three years. For two years we griped. Now we are taking a positive approach." He cited the mini-clinic as an example. "We've been forced into using more audiovisual material because the time our department is given for instruction of students has been cut down. We've got to find ways to increase the efficient learning. Audiovisual materials help them to conceptualize. After that, of course, they still have to do the work with their hands," Dr. Lucca emphasized.

### Self-Instruction

The do-it-yourself aspect of producing slides was a main part of the day's program, which included a visual presentation of how to pre-plan and carry out the steps leading to producing an attractive, punchy slide which makes the desired teaching point. The dentists were introduced to color-aid paper, press type, acetates, kodalith, and learned about reflection, overlays and shadows.

"You left out the most important thing we need," commented Dr. George Deyoung, Assistant Professor

and course director of Removable Prosthodontics at Fairleigh Dickinson University, "a twelve foot table!"

### Value

The Value of the practical side of the program was expressed by Dr. Michael Grzelak, Assistant Professor of Removable Prosthodontics at Fairleigh Dickinson.

"In the past, we always had to rely upon the photography department to make the slides. This points out how the individual can do it."

Dr. Nicholas Vero, Assistant Clinical Professor of Removable Prosthodontics at Columbia and a former student of Dr. Renner's, added that most of the dentists who were present have a basic foundation in how to produce audiovisual materials and it made both teaching and economic sense to assist one another in exchanging techniques and materials.

In addition to the four university dental schools which were represented at the mini-clinic, the Eastern Regional Group includes two other dental schools which were unable to participate in this program, the New Jersey College of Dentistry and the Dental School of the State University of New York at Buffalo.

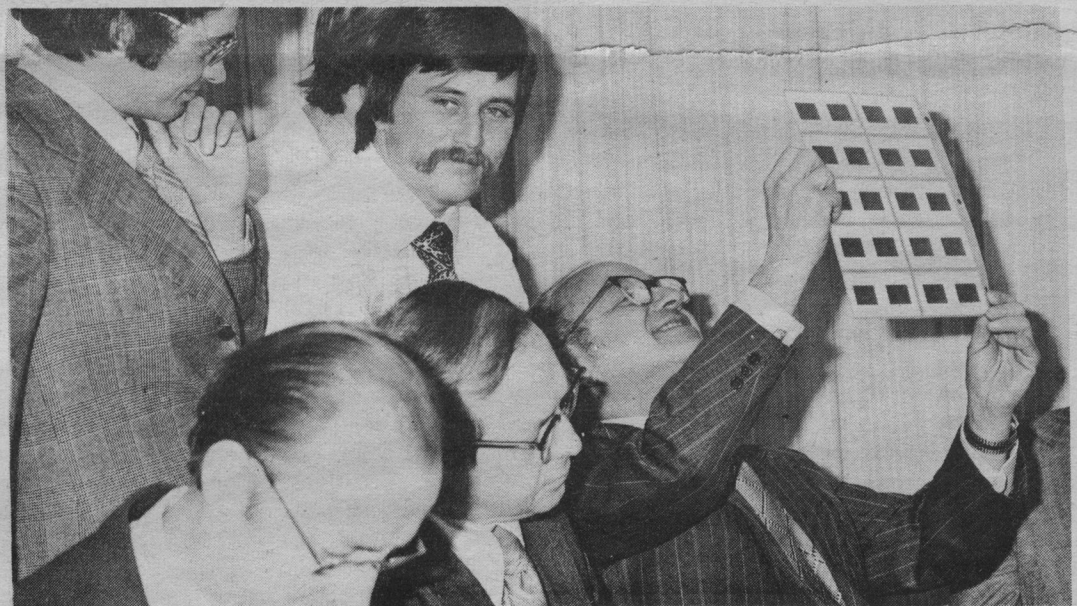


In the photo above, Dr. Robert Renner demonstrates early steps in actual slide production.

In the photo below, Dr. Sidney Silverman, Professor at New York University and Dr. John Yucca, Professor at Columbia, study materials. Both professors are chairman of the Department of Removable Prosthodontics at their respective universities.



In the photo above, Gene McDermott explains new methods used in slide production at the Health Sciences Center here to Dr. George Deyoung, Assistant Professor at Fairleigh Dickinson University and Dr. Nicholas Vero, Assistant Clinical Professor at Columbia. Dr. Renner is in the background.

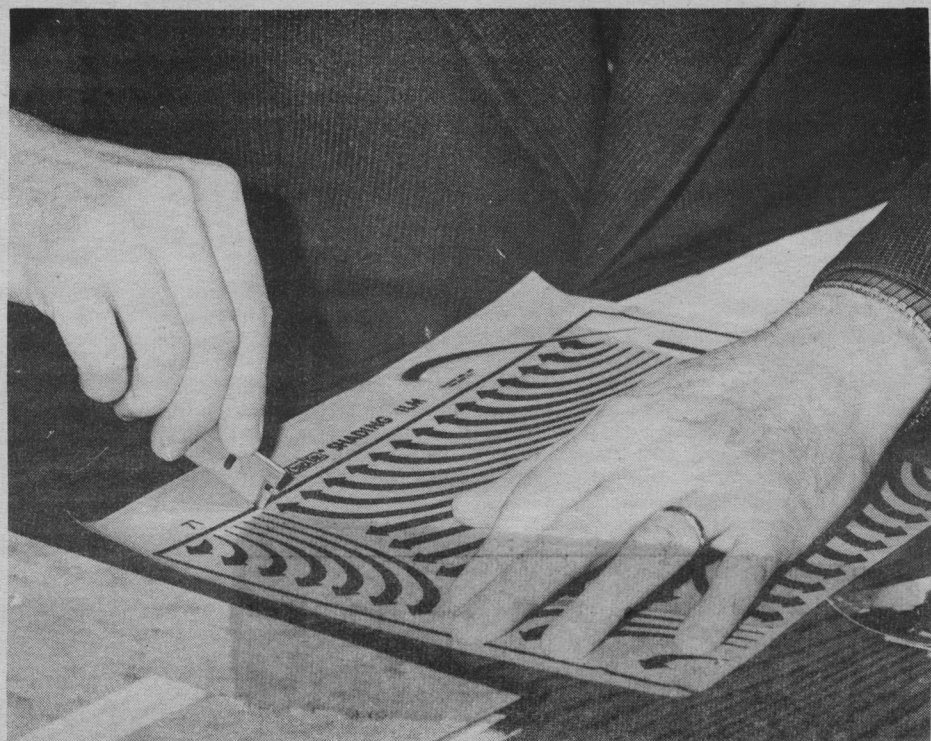


Dr. Silverman examines a slide sequence during a lighter moment of the program. Also on the scene, from left, are Dr. Edward Antos, Stony Brook, Dr. Michael Grzelak, and, seated, Dr. Deyoung and Dr. Louis Blatterstein, Chairman of Clinical Services at the School of Dentistry at New York University. Dr. Grzelak is an Assistant Professor at Fairleigh Dickinson.



Dr. George Deyoung works at composing and producing a slide during the workshop session of the program.

photos courtesy of Media Services





# They Call Him The 'Jail Doc'

The first Physician's Assistant to be hired as a health professional in the Suffolk County health system is a graduate of the Physician's Assistant Program in the School of Allied Health Professions at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

Ashton Besse, 36, who is pioneering the role of a Physician's Assistant within the County, has been working as a health provider for the past year at the Suffolk County Jail and at the County's Honor Farm in Yaphank. Known to his co-workers as "Doc" or "Hoby"—a long time nickname—Mr. Besse is medically responsible to the jail physician, Dr. Harry Montazem; and works under the supervision of Dr. Leo Gitman, Director of Patient Care, and Bessie Urquhart, Assistant Director, at Suffolk County's Department of Health Services.

## Pioneer

"Mr. Besse has proven the value of having a Physician's Assistant in the health delivery system and I am grateful to him for having suffered through the pioneering effort," stated Dr. Gitman, adding, "We are very supportive of the P.A. concept, and very impressed with 'Hoby' as a professional and as a person."

A physician's assistant is a health professional who can do medical histories and assist in diagnostic and therapeutic procedures because of having developed practical medical skills which qualify one to work under the supervision of a physician.

Mr. Besse who has worked full time at the jail since January 1975, explained his position, saying:

"My primary function is to make sure the inmates get the care they need."

## Wide Problems

In his first year he totaled up 7,000 patient visits, from examination of all new inmates to sick calls.

"I was surprised at the degree of medical problems I found. Everything from skin rashes to heart problems,

tuberculosis, diabetes, trauma, drug-related problems, epilepsy, hernias, dental disease, body lice.

"We're trying to do preventive medicine, too. We look at the inmates as human beings needing medical care, who will return to their communities. If we can initiate good preventive care here, maybe they'll take better care of themselves when they leave."

## Impact

Captain Nicholas Antoncic gave a "before and after" view of the difference made by having a full time medic at the jail.

"The impact is beyond description. The inmates are getting better health care then when they are free," he said. "We also have people brought to jail sick or with knife wounds, or from just being discharged from the hospital. We didn't know what do do before, but now there is someone here to cover these medical problems."

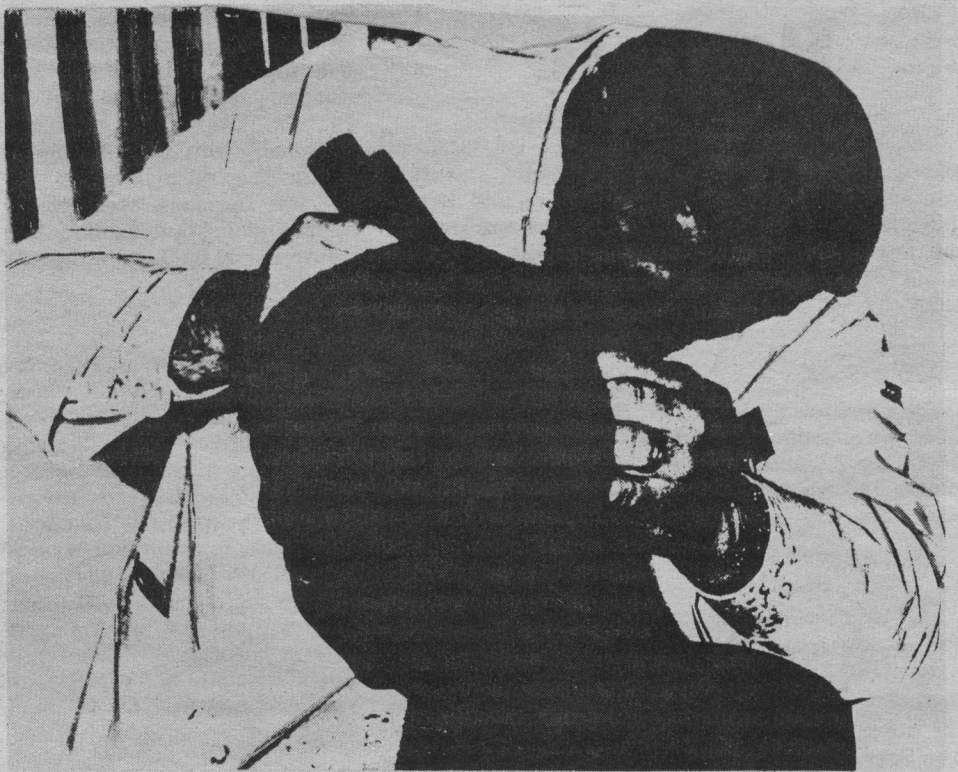
Mr. Besse's medical career began in 1956 when as a teenager right out of high school he began working for a private ambulance company in Louisiana, doing emergency rescue work.

"I have gone down into the hull of a ship to free someone trapped, extricated people from the wreckage of auto accidents, rescued people from house fires, saved people from suicide by jumping from a building, and delivered babies," he related.

## Army Medic

He was a medic as an Army sergeant, working mainly in emergency rooms. In 1962 Mr. Besse moved to New York working at Pilgrim State Hospital full time and as an orderly part time nights at Southside Hospital. In 1963 he decided to become a nurse and received his R.N. through the Pilgrim State Hospital Nursing Program three years later. He continued to work both in psychiatric hospitals and in emergency rooms.

It was while Mr. Besse was on



emergency room duty that a physician told him about the P.A. program at Stony Brook.

"I was interested because I saw the need for someone to be working along side a physician, actually doing medicine under his supervision, filling the gap between what doctors do and what R.N.s do," he said.

While still a student at Stony Brook, Mr. Besse went to the County Health Department to present his position that the County should consider employing Physician's Assistants to embellish health care in County agencies at a cost saving.

## Need at Jail

Dr. Gitman had already been working on the feasibility of hiring a P.A., and after meeting Mr. Besse, felt confident that he would be right for the pioneering position.

"It turned out that the jail was the place where a P.A. could best be utilized," Mr. Besse recounted.

At the Suffolk County Jail, in addition to examining new inmates and making sick calls, Mr. Besse is acting administrator for the health care unit in the jail, being a liaison between this agency and outside

medical consultants for the jail. The health personnel at the jail include Dr. Montazem, a part time physician; Mr. Besse, a full time P.A.; four full time R.N.s; three part time R.N.s; a full time pharmacist; a psychiatrist and psychologist; and two clerk typists. County dental personnel come to the jail three days a week to provide dental care. The jail has a consultant-relationship with specialty physicians, including surgeons, interns, ophthalmologists, neurologists, dermatologists, etc. to treat inmates needing specialized care for particular ailments.

"I also keep careful records," Mr. Besse emphasized. "I have been called to testify in court as to the physical condition of an inmate on his arrival at the jail for certain cases. Good documentation on the inmates' health history and initial physical exam is very important."

Married and the father of two children, Mr. Besse fits some specialized teaching into his schedule, helping to train ambulance drivers in life saving techniques for heart attack victims, as part of a course for Emergency Medical Technicians, given at Mather Hospital.

## Keeping P.A.'s Up to Date

A unique program, which is expected to have long-term beneficial effects upon the health care provided to thousands of Americans for years to come will soon be initiated—simultaneously—at the State University of New York at Stony Brook and at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. These joint projects, funded by a Bruner Foundation Grant, will seek answers to the question of how health practitioners (in this case, physician's assistants) can maintain their skills and knowledge at the same high level throughout a professional career as they possess on their graduation day.

### Need to Update Skills

When young professionals graduate in any field, they possess the maximum degree of knowledge and skill that can be achieved through an intensive, carefully structured, intense curriculum designed by experts in education in their field. From the moment the professional training program is completed, however, "professional obsolescence" sets in; the practitioner is then faced with the need to constantly sharpen and update skills and understandings on his or her own, usually without access to expert advice and counsel on how to achieve this goal, and with limited time to spare from practice to do this. While many practitioners have the sophistication and opportunity to keep quite up-to-date throughout their careers, others find it difficult to do so, either because of lack of skill in utilizing their available time effectively, or because of lack of access to appropriate continuing education resources. The latter problem is especially acute for rural practitioners.

Physician's Assistants and other non-physician primary care providers constitute new professions; the first P.A. training program was established only 10 years ago, and almost all Registered PA's have qualified only

within the past 2 or 3 years. Thus, these new professions have a unique opportunity, by building continuing education into their educational efforts while they are still all at a current stage of preparation. It is to promote this goal — of keeping all physician's assistants up-to-date from their day of graduation — that the Bruner Foundation, New York, has provided funds for Demonstration Continuing Education Centers for Physician's Assistants, to the School of Allied Health Professions at Stony Brook, and to the allied health program at Emory.

### Seed Money

Each Center will shortly appoint a Project Director; the programs of the two Centers will be carefully correlated to maximize utility of information and of programs developed, and to prevent duplication. Staff at Stony Brook will be responsible for overall evaluation of both projects; staff at Emory will be responsible for systems design and data processing for both projects. It is anticipated that the Bruner grant (\$250,000 to each Center over a 3 year period) will serve primarily as "seed money", to be supplemented by additional grants and by income generated by charges to participants for programs offered. Each Center will offer on-site workshops and preceptorship opportunities; similar programs offered at remote sites in a wide geographic area; and self-study programs for practitioners in isolated settings.

Another unique aspect for the total program will be that it is to be built upon the needs identified by the practitioners to be served. A needs study of practicing PA's in the regions surrounding both centers will soon be conducted, to be updated regularly. Program of continuing education will be designed to meet needs identified through this process, rather than preconceived needs developed by project staff. By the end of the third

year, a "Self Evaluation" instrument will be developed, which can be used by practitioners who wish to identify their own areas of weakness, where they are in special need of continuing education effort.

Programs of the two Centers will not be limited only to PA's; other primary care and allied health practitioners will be invited to participate in continuing education activities which are of interest and value to them.

## Dean McTernan to Leave for Sabbatical

Dr. Edmund McTernan, Dean of the School of Allied Health Professions, will begin a three month sabbatical in April, to assist the Western Australia Institute of Technology in educational programs planning.

Associate Dean Robert O. Hawkins has been named Acting Dean for the interim, it was announced by Dr. J. Howard Oaks, Vice President for the Health Sciences.

"I will assist the administration and faculty there in developing a new masters program and a continuing education program for allied health professionals," Dean McTernan reported. "Australia has only recently developed an allied health field, and my input is an opportunity to help them avoid some of the problems we have in America, specifically the proliferation of specialties," he added.

Dean McTernan will return to Stony Brook in late June.



# People

J. Schleichkorn, Chairman, Program in Physican Therapy, completed the Faculty Training Institute sponsored by the American Society of Allied Health Professions. The eleven day intensive course was given in Miami Beach in mid-December. The Society offers the Institute once a month in locations throughout the Country.

An article written by Robert O. Hawkins, Jr. Associate Dean of the School of Allied Health Professions has been accepted for publication in the Spring, 1976 edition of the Journal of Sex Education and Therapy. The article is entitled "Jealousy: a Solvable Problem."

Dr. S. Wayne Klein, Director of Neonatology, Nassau County Medical Center, and SUNY Associate Professor of Pediatrics, has passed the 1975 certifying examination in the sub-specialty of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine given by the Sub-Board of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine of the American Board of Pediatrics. This same honor is held by approximately 300 neonatologists in the world.

Dorothy Steckel, a secretary in the Office of the Vice President, will have her shell-art work displayed at the library in Port Jefferson during May.

Dr. Eugene Cronkite, Chairman of the Medical Department of the Brookhaven National Laboratory, was awarded the Semmelweiss Medal in Budapest, Hungary, recently. The bronze medal was presented to Dr. Cronkite in an unexpected ceremony after he delivered a lecture at Semmelweiss University during the course of a trip to Hungary. The award was given to Dr. Cronkite for career accomplishments and in recognition of the training opportunities in medical research given to Europeans at the Laboratory.

Gleniss Schonholz, the administrator of the Nassau County Medical Center, has been appointed by Governor Carey to the New York State Hospital Review and Planning Council. This State Council is a 31 member advisory group which makes recommendations in health and hospital matters to the Commissioner of Health. One of the primary functions of the Council is to oversee the construction of hospitals, nursing homes and other health facilities, additions to existing facilities and changes in ownership of such facilities. Its members serve without pay for three year terms. Mrs. Schonholz holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from New York University and a Master of Arts degree in Nursing administration from Columbia.

Dr. Arthur C. Upton, Professor of Pathology, has been appointed a Scientific Councillor of a new foundation called The Radiation Affects Research Foundation, a successor to the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission. The Foundation, established in accord with the provisions of the Japanese Civil Code, received equal financial support from the Japanese and American government.

Two Nassau County Medical Center University faculty members in Pediatrics recently concluded a feature article for the book, Regulation of Growth and Differentiated Functions in Eukryote Cells, a study of growth hormone on energy formation in liver. Dr. V. P. Madaiah, a research biochemist and SUNY Associate Professor, and Dr. P. J. Collipp, Chairman, Department of Pediatrics, and also SUNY Professor, co-authored a six page portion of the text recently released by Raven Press, New York.

Dr. David Annunziato, Director of Pediatrics Ambulatory Services, Nassau County Medical Center, and Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, attended a meeting on Child Abuse and Neglect in Syracuse, New York, during the week of January 26 through 30, under the sponsorship of the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect.

Dr. Costas T. Lambrew, Chairman, Department of Medicine, Nassau County Medical Center and SUNY Professor of Medicine, is one of five physicians recently appointed to the American Heart Association's Committee on Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiac Care. Dr. Lambrew also chairs the Task Force for Emergency Cardiac Care of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and recently testified for the U.S. Senate Committee on Health and Welfare on behalf of extension of legislation funding, emergency medical services systems development. Dr. Lambrew also functions as Medical Director of the Nassau-Suffolk Emergency Medical Services Project.

## Symposium Reveals Problems in Health Teams

If health professionals are going to work together as a team, they've got (1) "to get their heads together", (2) admit they are inter-dependent, (3) begin to develop processes leading to an effective team approach to health care delivery, and (4) confront the major blocking problem, stated as:

*Health teams are caught in a social structure which is preventing their effective development.*

In a Workshop held in the new Health Sciences Center building on January 30, which brought 200 health professionals together to probe the team development process, a frustration about the "social structure", which has put health professionals on layered status slots, kept coming up repeatedly.

Health workers listed the built in problems as being both legal and hierarchical, with the physician holding the power

position. Some of the barriers to team development cited by the participants were:

- Excessive need to manage egos
- Personality difficulties among staff
- Variations in commitment of staff
- Conflicts in management
- Non-clarification of goals and procedures
- Lip service to team
- Non-interaction of team
- Confusion as to what is a team

Dr. Richard Adelson, Assistant to the Dean for Continuing Education, School of Dental Medicine, who planned the symposium/workshop, gave as an example of frustration a situation where a physician discharges a patient who can't walk and lives on a second floor. The physician expects the social worker will take over, but the social worker sees this as inheriting a problem which could have been avoided had the social worker been in on the

treatment plan from the beginning.

A main objective of the symposium was to explore the team development process itself and look at how members view their roles and interact with one another in moving from a traditional setting to a team approach in delivering health care services.

"We wanted to look at the team development process and apply behavioral science principles to health care teams to make these more effective," Dr. Adelson explained.

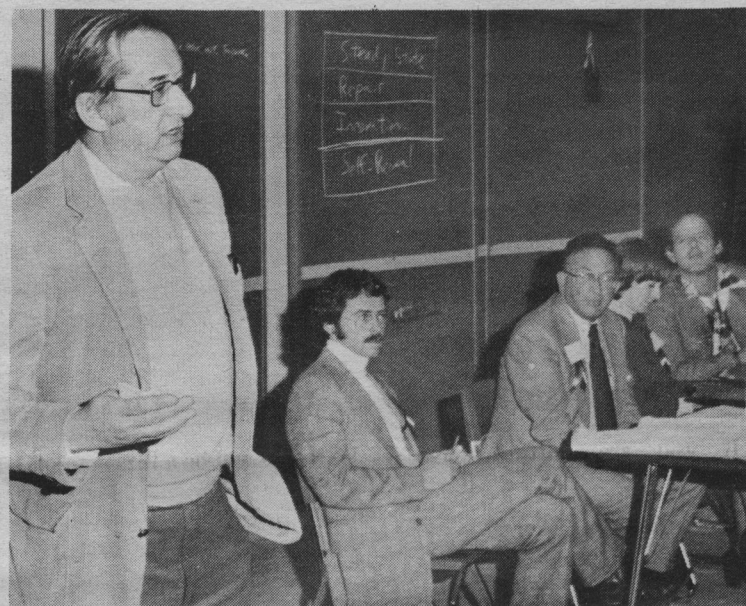
Some of the issues explored were:

- How to motivate a leader to accept the team concept
- Should patients be included in the team
- How to recognize competition and avoid it [role clarification]
- How to deal with personality differences
- How to make decisions

"One of the conclusions was that team development belongs in school—that early exposure and training in the team concept is vital," Dr. Adelson commented, adding "Most everyone felt the day was valuable, and they left asking for more programs on team development."

Participants in the program included guests, Doctors George Silver, Irwin Rubin, Jo Bufford and Noel Tichy; and HSC faculty members, Deaps Edmund McTernan, School of Allied Health Professions and Leo Sreebny, School of Dental Medicine; Associate Dean Leonard Meiselas, School of Medicine; Professors Elinor Polansky, School of Social Welfare and Madeline Zunno, School of Nursing.

The program was funded by the Nassau-Suffolk Regional Medical Program, Incorporated.



Dr. Leonard Meiselas, Associate Dean, School of Medicine, delivers a summary talk at the Team Development Symposium.

Photo courtesy of Media Services



Seventeen students of the Physical Therapy program, School of Allied Health, made a group of residents of St. James Nursing Center very happy on December 19th when they sponsored a special holiday party. The students, all members of the Physical Therapy Club, brought refreshments, entertainment, flowers and smiling faces to their appreciative audience. Highlight of the party was the arrival of Santa Claus, played by Susan LaViolette and her number one elf, Marian Carracino. In a letter of appreciation received by the PT Club President, Anthony Sarola, the St. James Activities Director Mrs. M. Kinner stated, "I don't have to tell you how much this type of activity means to our residents who derive an abundance of pleasure from it." The enthusiasm demonstrated by the students indicates plans will be made for additional activities at the nursing home.

Photo courtesy of Jay Schleichkorn

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# Coming Events

## News From Brookhaven Lab

March 19th — Lecture on New Factors Influencing Bone Metabolism, presented by Dr. Lawrence G. Raisz of the University of Connecticut Health Center

March 26th — Lecture on Estimation of Genetic Hazards of Radiation-Induced Cytogenetic Observation, presented by Dr. J. Preston of the Oakridge National Laboratory in Tennessee

March 30th — Medical Staff meeting at 4:00 p.m.

The lectures will be presented at 3:00 p.m. in the Seminar Room at the Brookhaven National Laboratory Medical Department. Coffee and tea will be served.

## Surgery Seminar — March 24

One day Seminar on Orthognathic Surgery, sponsored by the Nassau-Suffolk Academy of Dentistry to be held at the Long Island Jewish/Hillside Medical Center, Teaching Center Auditorium, New Hyde Park; hours from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration fee — \$50 [\$5 for residents, dental auxiliaries and students] includes lunch and coffee. For further information contact Dr. Mulvihill at LIJ-HMC 437-6700, extension 2665.

## Health Fair — March 27

Health Fair at the Smith Haven Mall in Lake Grove, sponsored by the Health Sciences Center Student Association. Participating groups will include the American Cancer Society, the Suffolk Heart Association, American Lung Association, American Red Cross, Schools of Allied Health Professions, Nursing, and Dental Medicine and the Suffolk Community Council. The Health Fair will include movies, hypertension screening and demonstrations. It is free and open to the public. For further information call Wendy Heller at 744-6304.

## Nutrition Day — March 31

A one-day course given by Dr. Albert Atkins, author

of "Dr. Atkins Diet Revolution" will be held at the Suffolk Academy of Medicine from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The course is sponsored by the Health Sciences Center Program in Education for the Dental Practitioner. The topic will be "Newer Aspects of Nutrition in Medicine." The course is open to dentists for a fee of \$45 and to dental auxiliaries and other health professionals for \$15. Full time Stony Brook students and faculty are invited to come at a \$5 fee on a space available basis. For further information contact Elaine Friedman at 444-2991.

## Aging — April 7

Lecture on Aging and Health: Gerontology and Geriatric Care given by Dr. Leo Gitman, Director of Patient Care Services, Suffolk County Department of Health, and William Delfyette, Assistant Professor of Health Sciences at Stony Brook. To be given in Lecture Hall I of the new HSC building at 12:00 noon.

## Reproductive Medicine — April 20

A mini symposium on "New Developments in Reproductive Medicine" to be held at the Amphitheatre of the Dynamic Care Building, Nassau County Medical Center. Time is 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For further information contact M. Cosgrove at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Nassau County Medical Center.

## CED for Physicians — April 21-June 16

A continuing medical education offering in "Echocardiography and Other non-Invasive Methods in Clinical Practice" to be held at the Long Island Jewish/Hillside Medical Center, Teaching Center Auditorium [201A] New Hyde Park. Time: on Wednesdays from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration fee \$60 [\$25 for residents and fellows] includes coffee break. For further information contact the Dean of the Clinical Campus at Long Island Jewish. Phone 516-437-6700, extension 2665.

## Dental Residencies — April 28

A conference on Resident Selection for Dentists sponsored by the Metropolitan Conference of Hospital/Dental Services of the American Association of Hospital Dentists to be held at Long Island Jewish/Hillside Medical Center, New Hyde Park from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Fee \$25 [includes lunch]. For further information call Dr. Seymour Roistacher,

## Special Notice

The Mail Room requests that for speed and efficiency, please insist that all outgoing and incoming mail include Health Sciences Center and Department name as part of your University address.

212-990-2755.

## Diabetes Information — April 28

A Diabetes Information Day sponsored by the New York Diabetes Association and the State University of New York at Stony Brook, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Pre-registration will be required. For further information call Terry Kivelowitz, Chairman of the Suffolk County Diabetes Association, 751-1667. The program will be held at the new Health Sciences Center building. Registration is limited to 200.

## Psychoanalysis Lecture — April 28

Psychoanalysis In Our Times: Training, Practice and Lives. Speaker: Marie Nelson, author and Editor of Psychoanalytic Review, Earth and Space Building, Room 001, 4:30 p.m., free and open to the public.

## Human Sexuality Institute — May 3-7, June 21-25

A special institute for faculty of Allied Health Programs on Human Sexuality in the Allied Health Curriculum, sponsored by the School of Allied Health Professions at S.U.N.Y. at Stony Brook. The Institute will be held in two parts on those dates. All participants will attend both parts. For further information contact Robert Hawkins at 516-444-2253.

## AHP Lecture — May 5

Lecture on "Scholarship and the Allied Health Professions" given by Dr. J. Warren Perry, Dean, School of Health Related Professions, State University of New York at Buffalo. Time: 12:00 noon; place: Lecture Hall I of the new Health Sciences Center building.

## Special Notice

May 23rd is Commencement Day; May 22nd is Alumni Weekend. Further information on both events will be forthcoming in other University publications.

# Coming: A Course As Current As Today's Headlines

If you are putting some thought into your course scheduling for 1976-77, here is a preview of a course worth thinking about.

HSH-200: Medicine, Health, and Society, to be offered in January 1977 by the Division of Social Sciences and Humanities, is looking into the health dilemmas making today's headlines and delving into the larger issues these stories are raising. The course intends to bring Health Sciences concerns to those of the Humanities, giving consideration to human and cultural values, interests and thinking, as exemplified by such questions as:

- Do parents have a right to deny permission for life saving surgery for a child?
- What action should be taken by the medical establishment in dealing with an incompetent physician?
- Are industrial concerns more important than the health of the community?
- Should public opinion determine research priorities and limitations?
- Who should have the power to commit a person to a mental institution?
- Should a father have the right to prevent his unborn child from being aborted?

"The impetus of this program is the increasing awareness shared by health professionals and humanists that overt intellectual and institutional bridges must be built between clinical medicine and humanistic thought," stated Dr. Peter Williams, Assistant Professor of Humanities.

HSH-200 will be a three credit interdisciplinary course, open to sophomores, juniors and seniors in all university and Health Sciences Center programs, particularly pre-med students.

"Our teaching format is, to our knowledge, novel in undergraduate education. Students will meet three times a week in three different social/pedagogical settings—a panel presentation/discussion; a lecture; small discussion groups. Each setting of the course is designed to carry a specific

intellectual freight, but all three share one common goal, indicating that humanities are inextricably interwoven with science, social science and medicine," Dr. Williams explained, adding, "It is the intellectual aim of the program that students, whatever they may individually take from the course, will arrive at a point of competence in understanding the historical, ethical, jurisprudential and social implications of modern health care."

## Tentative Schedule

Tentative Scheduling of Critical Problems and Lectures for HSH-200: Medicine, Health, and Society.

Week	Date	Topic
1	Jan. 17	CP: Parents of a malformed infant deny permission for a life-saving operation.
	19	LECTURE: The right to life: does it imply a right to medical care?
2	Jan. 24	CP: New York City house staff physicians go out on strike in 1974.
	26	LECTURE: The rights and duties of health care professionals.
3	Jan. 31	CP: Action and inaction by the medical establishment in the case of an incompetent physician.
	Feb. 2	LECTURE: Quality at a Cost: Socially Deleterious Effects of Present Alternatives Licensure Laws, and a consideration.
4	Feb. 7	CP: Confidentiality — the physician's conflicting obligations when treating criminals.
	9	LECTURE: The uses and abuses of medical testimony in the courtroom.
5	Feb. 14	CP: The medically unnecessary hospitalization of an elderly dependent patient whose children refuse to house him.

16		LECTURE: Images of aging: a literary perspective.
6	Feb. 21	CP: A patient denied medical care on the grounds of inability to pay suffers irreparable harm as a result.
	23	LECTURE: Public policy and the valuation of human life.
7	Feb. 28	CP: Involuntary committment to a mental institution.
	Mar. 2	LECTURE: Treatment of the Mentally Insane throughout American History: A Mirror for Society's Changing Values.
8	Mar. 7	CP: An industrial concern impairs the health of community residents.
	9	LECTURE: Health against wealth: towards an optimum level of pollution.
SPRING RECESS		
9	Mar. 28	CP: A terminal cancer patient requests cessation of life-sustaining medical care.
	30	LECTURE: The right to refuse medical care for oneself.
10	Apr. 4	CP: A genetics research project is halted in response to public protest.
	6	LECTURE: Non-scientific reasons for not doing certain kinds of scientific research.
11	Apr. 11	CP: A malpractice case in which the charge of negligence is highly questionable.
	13	LECTURE: From trust to trial: evolution of the present malpractice crisis, and a consideration of its consequences.
12	Apr. 18	CP: A father fights to prevent his unborn child from being aborted.
	20	LECTURE: The Abortion Controversy: Right to Life, or Right to Control One's Own Body?
13	Apr. 25	CP: Lung Cancer in a heavy smoker: should insurance pay the bills?
	27	LECTURE: Instability: Moral hazard and Community Instability: The Dual Dilemmas of Health Insurance.
14	May 2	CP: What constitutes informed consent for cancer chemotherapy involving children?
	4	LECTURE: Ethical Problems Encountered in Experimentation of Human Beings.
15	May 9	CP: A welfare mother refuses contraception and sterilization.
	11	LECTURE: The right of society to limit its numbers and the right of individuals to procreate: The equity of alternative schemes to control population growth.



## Dr. Steven Weisbroth

# "Animal Advocate" at HSC

Clinical investigators using laboratory animals no longer have a free hand in determining the conditions under which animals will be used, but must adhere to a number of animal welfare regulations and laws.

"A variety of extensive regulatory agencies now determine how laboratory animals are used," said Dr. Steven Weisbroth, a veterinarian who is an Assistant Professor of Pathology and Director of the Division of Laboratory Animal Resources at SUNY Stony Brook, adding, "It simply is not true that animals are allowed to be used in agonizing procedures without analgesic intervention."

### Protective Acts

The major protective developments, all of which have evolved within the past ten years, are the Federal Animal Welfare Act, which regulates not only what is proper physical care of animals but also determines what are humane procedures in the institutional laboratory; the American Association for the Accreditation of Animal Laboratory Care, which acts to establish a uniform high level of animal care standards to elevate animal care standards; and the National Institute of Health which mandates that recipients of NIH grants and contributions must meet animal care regulations, including veterinary care.

### Animal Advocates

Dr. Weisbroth, who refers to himself and other institution veterinarians as "animal advocates", helped to put some of the currently mandated standards for proper care and use of laboratory animals into writing. He served on the sub-committee of the National Academy of Science, which produced the "Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals". This guide is used both by the American Association for the Accreditation of Animal Laboratory Care and the National Institute of Health as their standard for animal care requirements.

Misconceptions about why animals are used in laboratory experimentation still are rampant and those who object to supposed "cruelty" to animals maintain that tissue cultures systems or simulated experiments via computer analysis could replace the use of animals in research.

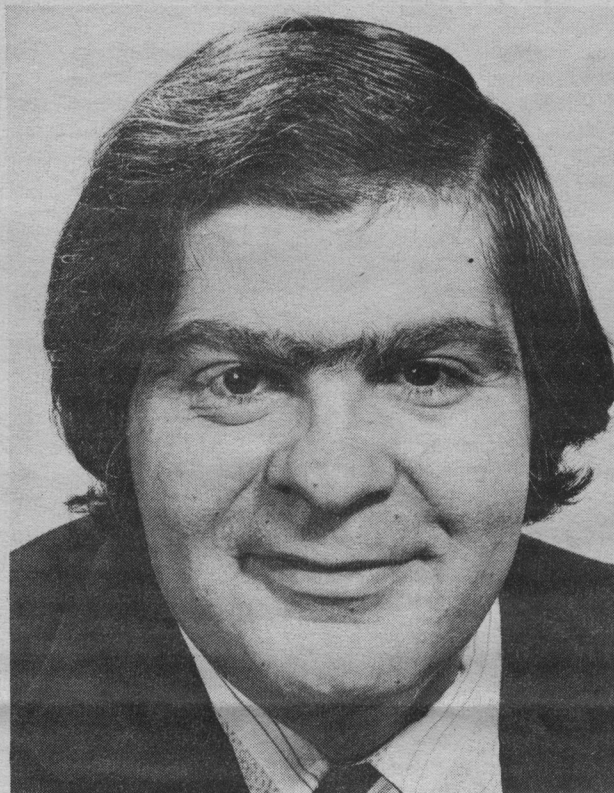
"I have yet to have a single successful simulation experiment brought to my attention," Dr. Weisbroth stated. "To use animals is expensive research but many processes simply cannot be understood in experiment substrates using less than a whole body approach. We have many examples of new drugs that appeared to be

efficient in tissue cultures, but when they were entered into an animal phase, they were screened out because of defects developed in animal systems that could not have been predicted."

### For Human Safety

Dr. Weisbroth continued, "Most laboratory animals are not used in experiments leading to new base-line information, but rather in regulating investigations on new drugs, household chemicals, pesticides, etc., in order to gain some insight about the effect of these products on human health. Particularly since the thalidomide episode in the 60's, industrial chemicals, cosmetics, food additives, paint, household products, new drugs—all are under scrutiny for toxic and carcinogenic potential in man. The only way to determine the possible hazard to man is by animal experimentation."

In actuality the entire sweep of medical progress in the past twenty years, including the development of many surgical procedures, such as organ transplants,



Photos courtesy of Media Services

rests on animal experimentation, Dr. Weisbroth commented, pointing out that we all benefit from the medical advances and safeguards directly achieved through the use of laboratory animals.

"The anti-vivisectionist can shoot shaving cream on his face without having to worry about getting skin cancer from this—because of laboratory animals. A moral obligation rests on everyone in this society to accept part of the responsibility for needing this kind of experimentation, since we are all beneficiaries of this era," he said.

### Animals Used

In descending order of frequency, the animals used on this campus for laboratory experimentation are rats, mice, hamsters, rabbits, guinea pigs, dogs, cats, primates, and at rare times, other species, such as birds and frogs.

"We have never used an animal on the endangered species list," Dr. Weisbroth interjected.

Most objectors to laboratory use of animals don't care about rodent use, but become emotional about the use of dogs and cats, which they can identify as pets.

After a letter by Dr. Weisbroth appeared in the January 20 issue of the New York Times, in which he objected to an article containing inaccuracies about laboratory animal use and then pointed out the laws protecting animals, the veterinarian-professor received a few responses suggesting that prisoners and mental defectives could be used for experimentation in place of animals.

The cost of procuring animals is a problem for the Division of Animal Resources here. A New York State Public Health Law recognizes the legitimacy of using animals for laboratory investigation and makes pound animals available to laboratories in lieu of being destroyed in public pounds.

"The pressure of anti-vivisection groups in Suffolk County has been sufficiently effective to preclude our ability to get animals free, as we are entitled to by the State Law," Dr. Weisbroth commented. "Thus we have to pay \$60 to \$70 a piece for dogs, which amounts to a substantial amount of tax dollars each year."

### Before Congress

Currently, a bill has been put before Congress by two Congressmen asking for a commission to be set up to examine the entire gamut of activities in which animals interact recreationally, industrially, scientifically and economically with humans.

"The Koch-Pattison Commission is a good idea if the Commission itself is made up of people having respect for the humane, scientific and industrial regulations being examined and does not become overbalanced with any one of the contending viewpoints," said Dr. Weisbroth, who also serves as the Associate Editor for two journals—Laboratory Animal Science and the Journal of Medical Primatology.

## Looking at Women's Health Issues

The Women's Health Alliance has come to the market place, largely due to the efforts of two women faculty members at the Health Sciences Center.

The Alliance is a multi-forum to get women thinking, talking and doing something constructive about understanding their health needs. Its work-locus varies from campus rooms to living rooms, to meeting rooms at A&S department stores.

### Here is how it all began—

A year ago Elinor Polansky, Assistant Professor of Social Welfare, and Gail Sinquefeld, Assistant Professor of Nursing, co-teachers of a HSC course called Women and Health Care, and their students joined with their counterparts in women and health interests at the College of Old Westbury, to form a new Island-wide corporation called the Women's Health Alliance of Long Island.

The Alliance has attracted more than 100 women who come to some of their monthly meetings and participate in the various activities. The goals of the Alliance are to identify the existing women's health services on Long Island and to examine women's personal experiences with these various medical resources; secondly, the Alliance aims to support consumers and female health care providers in their various roles in the institutions; third, the Alliance plans to develop new health-related services for women such as a women's health clinic, self help groups and possibly a residence for women needing shelter.

Underlying these goals is the necessity for outreach into the communities, in

order to reach the women who use the majority of the services on Long Island. The major activities thus far engaged in by the Alliance has been geared to reaching out to educating women about their bodies and their health care needs. A Women's Health Conference was held from October 10-11 at the College of Old Westbury which drew approximately 700 local women who attended the 45 workshops and films. The topics ranged from childbirth, nutrition and sexuality to menopause and beyond.

The excitement of the Conference has initiated bi-monthly women's health forums being held now at various A&S department stores on the Island. The topics to be covered include midwifery, nutrition and middle years and aging women.

The Alliance has developed a resource list of women's health agencies in Suffolk County and is in the process of doing the same for Nassau. 1,000 questionnaires have been distributed to women calling for detailed information about their personal health care experiences.

The Alliance is pressing for the creation of a County position similar to one held in Philadelphia for women to act as special assistant on women's health care.

The organization's efforts represent a spirit of how the academic world can join in a cooperative relationship with the community in the area of such broad social issues as health needs for 51% of our population.

—Elinor Polansky and Jane Porcino



Some classes are now being held in the new megastructure, while planning for the total move to the new building is in progress, due to be completed by the

start of school in September. Here, nursing students attend a lecture in one of the semi-circular classrooms.

Photograph courtesy of Media Services

## Sex Educators to Meet

Three members of the faculty of the School of Allied Health Professions have been invited to serve on the program of the Ninth National Sex Institute, sponsored by the American Association of Sex Educators and Counselors, to be held in Washington, DC from April 8th through 11th, 1976.

Howard Lempert, Assistant Professor of Health Sciences and a member of the faculty of the Program in Community & School Health Education will make a presentation on "The Use of Structured Experiences in Sex Education". Mr. Lempert is certified as a Sex Educator by AASEC.

Associate Dean Robert O. Hawkins, Jr., Associate Professor of Health Sciences, and Blossom Silberman, Assistant Professor of Clinical Health Science, will collaborate in presenting a conference on the topic: "Woman and Man — Life Style Options". Professor Hawkins is certified by AASEC as a Sex Educator, and Prof. Silberman holds certification as a Sex Therapist. Profs. Hawkins and Silberman are also recipients of a grant from the Division of Associated Health Professions, Health Resources Administration, for the presentation at Stony Brook of a special institute on sex education in allied health programs (see page 5).



# Choosing the Infirmary As a Work Setting

Do students coming for health care at the Infirmary comply with the treatment instructions given to them by the doctors?

Can health educators be utilized as part of the health delivery team in an infirmary?

Is peer group outreach an effective method for getting birth control information to students?

Propelled by questions like these, 9 students from the Community/School Health program in the School of Allied Health Professions chose the University Health Services as their field placement for a required ten-week practicum which ended in late January.

## Non-Compliance Study

Joyce Gibbons, Mary Barry and Mike Cathers teamed-up with Julie Zito, Director of the Pharmacy at UHS, to conduct a survey to determine the extent which students actually follow doctors orders.

The study revealed that at least 27% of students are non-compliant, using a variety of excuses for not taking prescribed medications, such as, "feeling better", forgetting, getting sick on the medication, or deciding to go to a private physician.

"The study seems to show a lack of information being given to students," Joyce pointed out, reporting:

- 10% of the students had no knowledge of the drug itself.
- 20% didn't know why they were getting a particular drug.
- 99% knew how long they were supposed to take the drug.
- 70% to 90% were not aware of special precautions needed with the drug, such as the importance of a full or empty stomach and potential interaction problems between the drug and certain foods.
- Only 9% knew the possible side effects of the drug.

"The study showed that doctors should explain the importance of compliance, deal with the patient's expectations about a drug and, perhaps, provide patients with a printed information sheet about precautions and side effects in using a drug," said Joyce. "We also found it is almost impossible to decipher physicians' handwriting!"

Julie Zito has high praise for the students' work on this project. "We had worked on the assumption that students would take the prescribed drugs. We will no longer make that assumption," she said.

**Hypertension Screening**  
Three of the students worked with Dr. Carol Stern, Assistant Director of UHS, on a variety of health education tasks including writing health brochures,

running health education films, working in the health shop, and helping with compilation of a health services handbook for incoming freshmen.

The major work of Pat Murray, Joe Domeischel and Dorith Hertz, however, was inaugurating and carrying out a campus-wide hypertension screening program. Throughout the month of February they, in conjunction with the Health Advisory Board, brought the screenings to several dorms, the Student Union, the Administration building and the South Campus.

"We learned how to organize a big health program, attending to all the details, utilizing the services of others, working within a health care team and doing this professionally and proficiently," the students responded.

Dr. Stern evaluated the students' contribution as a plus. "I'd be happy if they could stay," she said. "We always have so much to be done and these students have proved that health educators can be a valuable part of the infirmary health team."

**Gyn Education**  
Susan Sesta, Virginia Murphy and Missy Simon worked with Gloria Lamm, Coordinator of Gynecological Services, and EROS, a student sex counseling service based at the infirmary, with a goal of reaching out to bring birth control education to campus students.

"We found that many students were not aware of the existence of the GYN clinic and didn't even know where the infirmary was located," they said.

In spite of using a poster showing a pregnant man as an attention getter, the health educators found students to be shy about approaching them for material and information, "contradicting the popular image of Stony Brook students," Missy commented. Male students and commuter students were the least responsive.

The students concluded that "location," and should also go to the University Health Services where the students are—to the needs more public relations dorms and the Union—with about their services and health education offerings.



Students from the Health Sciences Center Schools participate in a month-long hypertension-screening program.

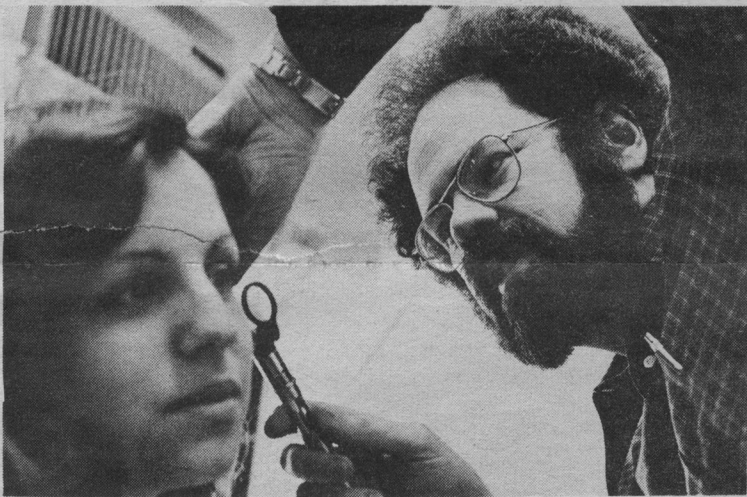
Photos courtesy of Media Services



The students concluded that "location," and should also go to the University Health Services where the students are—to the needs more public relations dorms and the Union—with about their services and health education offerings.

## Save These Numbers

Emergency AMBULANCE Service	444-2222
EROS—Birth Control Information	444-2472
Health Shop	751-9780
Counseling Service	444-2281
All other information on Health Care	444-2273
	4-CARE



Dr. Henry Berman, Director of University Health Services, examines a patient.

## Gloria Lamm—Gyn Nurse Practitioner

# Helping Women Understand Their Bodies

From September 1975 to January 1976, 78 young women from the student population at Stony Brook were afflicted with a preventable condition—unwanted pregnancy.

"We are now taking steps to find out why this is happening when birth control information is available to all students at the Gyn Clinic here at University Health Services," said Gloria Lamm, a certified Nurse Practitioner in Family Planning, who is a staff nurse and Coordinator of Gynecological Services at the campus infirmary.

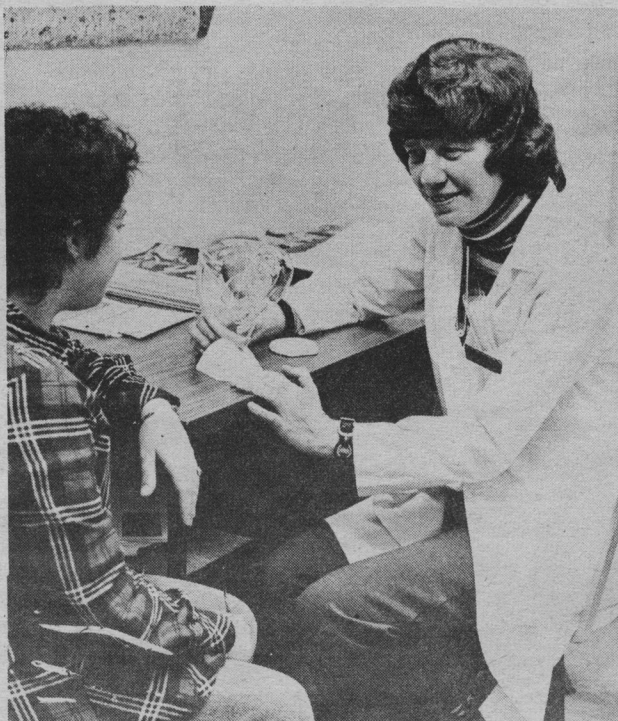
Dr. Henry Berman, Director of University Health Services, with Ms. Lamm's assistance, has set up a Pregnancy Task Force to attack the unwanted pregnancy problem with a visible education-blitz designed to reach larger numbers of students.

### Multi-Gyn Services

Education in how a woman's body works, what are trouble symptoms, and why preventive exams are important is one phase of Gloria Lamm's job. Direct care of patients takes a major part of her week in which she and the gynecologist see approximately 160 students needing some kind of gyn service.

"We offer a total range of gynecological services here, including birth control information and assistance, pregnancy testing, counseling, referrals and treatment for vaginitis and venereal disease," said Ms. Lamm.

The clinic is open from 9:00 to 5:00, Monday



Gloria Lamm demonstrates a point about female anatomy to a patient.

through Friday, by appointment.

"But we fit in emergencies," said Ms. Lamm, who

approaches her patients with every evident energy and concern.

### Women Concerned

In spite of the high number of unwanted pregnancies among students, Ms. Lamm sees a definite increase in sophistication among women students when it comes to understanding their bodies.

"Women are concerned and interested. They want information about diaphragms, IUDs and pills before they make a decision about which method to use. They want to know how to do a self breast exam," she explained.

Ms. Lamm said she "fell into the Gyn speciality by accident." She decided to go back to nursing when her daughter was in fifth grade and got a job with Planned Parenthood in Eastern Suffolk. She came to Stony Brook in 1972 as a staff nurse and later on heard about a Nurse Practitioner course in Family Planning which interested her—a twelve week program sponsored by Planned Parenthood World Population, being given at the College of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

"We learned how to totally assess and manage patients under medical supervision. Our training meant that in addition to doing vaginal cultures for vaginitis, we could now do complete Gyn exams, pap tests, and prescribe all methods of birth control," she explained.

Ms. Lamm's interest in her work at University Health Services is plainly evident. "As a woman, I like seeing my skills appreciated by other women," she commented.



## Enucleation!

# Microbiology Chairman Researches Viruses, Cells

The Department of Microbiology in the School of Basic Health Sciences is headed by Dr. Joseph Kates, an enthusiastic and youthful administrator and researcher who came to the Stony Brook campus from the University of Colorado in 1972. The department has flourished under his leadership, and his research has been well supported by the National Institutes of Health and the Damon Runyon-Walter Winchell Memorial Fund for Cancer.

Dr. Kates has been looking into the molecular biology of animal viruses and animal cells and he has been using the biochemical changes of the virus to provide clues to the more complex behavior of the host cell. Thus his work with the structure, function and replication of Vaccinia virus led to the discovery of polyadenylic acid sequences which attach to messenger RNA molecules under certain conditions, and this step led further to the discovery of like structures in the host cells. Vaccinia virus is not carcinogenic but shares properties with other viruses which are; for example, it contains enzymes which make nucleic acids in the virus particle and again an analogy can be drawn to good advantage by observing Vaccinia in action. (Vaccinia is miniscule though it is one of the largest viruses, but Dr. Kates claims that it is easier to study at the molecular level. He tags it with radioactivity, and uses radio-chemical methods to follow its permutations.)

### Transplanting Nuclei

There is another aspect to Dr. Kates' research program which is most intriguing. Dr. Joseph Lucas, a National Institutes of Health Postdoctoral Fellow, and Dr. Kates

have just surmounted a most formidable obstacle — they have succeeded in transplanting nuclei from one type of mammalian cell to another resulting in the production of a viable hybrid cell. This makes possible a huge variety of investigations. To what extent does the nucleus or cytoplasm, for instance, determine the specialization of a cell — each of which requires characteristics and functions quite different from the others? (The answer to this question seems to indicate a major role for the cytoplasm.) When a cell becomes cancerous, is it the nucleus or cytoplasm which alters biochemical instructions which control cell division? In the development of the foetus, how does the original undifferentiated cell explode into the infinite variety which make up our fingernails, brain, bones, muscles and



Dr. Joseph Kates, right, with Dr. William Bauer in the Microbiology laboratory.

so on? What triggers the timing that is so marvellously and intricately entwined with the need of the embryo as it develops?

The method by which nuclei are exchanged is almost as fascinating as the possibilities raised by their transfer. Cells treated by cytochalasin B cease movement and extrude their nuclei into pockets of cell membrane which remain attached to the cells by slender stalks. Centrifuging in the presence of this chemical will separate the nucleus with the membrane cover from the cell cytoplasm. At this point many questions can be asked about the functioning of these "enucleated" cells, such as their reactions to the introduction of viruses. However, the presence of Sendai virus causes fusion of cell components, and so allows the combination of the nucleus from one cell with the cytoplasm of another. Then the functioning and production of the hybrid cell can be monitored by chemical experimentation and electron microscopy.

### Grant

Dr. Kates is also the project director of a training grant involving faculty, adjunct faculty and a group of pre- and post-doctoral trainees on campus, at Brookhaven National Laboratory and at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, in the study of viral oncology. This, his research and the chairmanship of the Department of Microbiology should keep his name circulating in academic circles for quite some time.

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## New Intensive Care Pavilion at LIJ

Despite a fiscal climate which has virtually paralyzed hospital construction, one life-saving facility has just been completed for the Queens-Nassau community. It is a new intensive care pavilion at Long Island Jewish-Hillside Medical Center, dedicated Sunday, January 25.

The 32-bed facility provides for 12 intensive care beds and 20 progressive care beds, the latter for people past the critical stage of illness who still require special observation and care. The space — half the hospital's sixth floor — was banked in the '60s in anticipation of future need. The cost of construction and equipment is approximately \$2 million.

"This new facility, with its advanced equipment and specially trained staff, is a vitally important resource during times of critical illness," said Dr. Robert K. Match, president of the Medical Center.

The unit is designed for computerized monitoring equipment which will provide for the instant retrieval of each patient's full medical profile for the prior 24 hours. This means that the patient's condition and progress can be evaluated by the professional staff at any time.

The unit is built with movable windowed partitions to assure privacy, maximum visibility and easy interchange of emergency equipment. Each enclosed space has its own environmental controls and utility system — heating, ventilation, air-conditioning and emergency generators. Besides equipment monitors the patient continuously around the clock, recording heart action, blood pressure and respiration.

The new intensive care pavilion will accommodate critically ill adult patients. Three other intensive care units at LIJ treat newborn babies in crisis, acutely ill children and post-cardiac surgery patients.



Explaining computerized equipment in the new Intensive Care Pavilion at LIJ is Dr. Robert K. Match, center, President of the Medical Center, to United States Representative Lester Wolff, left, and Joseph Driscoll, Nassau Deputy County Executive.

## Pediatric Researchers Are Protecting Our Children

By BERT JABLON

Two Nassau County Medical Center-University pediatricians—co-directors of their hospital's Poison Control Center—are now in the midpoint of research directed towards product-package protection for children under five years of age. The project is being funded by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Drs. Howard C. Mofenson and Joseph Greensher, both Professors in Clinical Pediatrics, State University of New York at Stony Brook, were selected by the government to review the effectiveness of the Poison Prevention Act of 1970. The N.C.M.C. Poison Control Center is one of six such national centers selected for this research.

The physicians' research is focused on two features of accidental poisoning to youngsters: (1) hazardous substances which are already disposed in safety closure containers; (2) harmful products that are not now in safety closures and for which potential regulations are contemplated.

In order to establish pertinent data for weekly reports to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the doctors collect and monitor any reports on poisoning among children five years of age or younger received by the hospital's Poison Control Center. According to the investigators, this age group was selected for study because of the frequency and involuntary nature of their reported poisoning cases.

Information on each poisoning case is collected on a 39-item questionnaire by social worker, Mrs. Susan Rasch. She may actually have to make a home visit to obtain additional information on the circumstances of the poisoning and the type of container associated with that poisoning. Approximately 550 reports have already been filed on this



Dr. Howard C. Mofenson examines a sample safety cap in a research project for the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

subject.

In reviewing each of the poisoning reports, the physicians ascertain the following facts: (1) Was the substance in a container having a safety closure? (2) If so, was the safety closure actually closed? (3) Did the safety closure serve as a deterrent to the child, or was it manipulated open by the child?

Answers to these questions—plus other related data—are fed into a Washington, D.C., computer for statistical analysis and eventual review of safety closure techniques and effectiveness.

Among the 11 household products that the C.P.S.C. considers a causative agent in poisoning incidents are aspirin, furniture polish, oil of wintergreen, controlled drugs, sodium and/or potassium hydroxide, turpentine, kindling and/or illuminating preparations, methyl alcohol, sulfuric acid, prescription drugs, and antifreeze. A sample of products

for which regulations are now contemplated include such items as pesticides, ammonia, and cleaning products with petroleum distillates, noted the investigators.

From their long years of experience in this specialized field, the two pediatricians believe that accidental poisoning is not always accidental.

According to Dr. Greensher, "There has been found a significant correlation between poisoning and familial stressful situations such as illness, recent relocation, and parental strife."

### More Research Light

It is expected by August of this year Drs. Mofenson and Greensher will be able to shed more research light statistically on this entire subject—to the greater benefit of all children everywhere.

(For further information: Contact Drs. Mofenson and/or Greensher at 516-542-2323, Nassau County Medical Center, E. Meadow, L.I., N.Y.)