

ON ROUNDS AT CCHS

A NEWSLETTER
OF THE
COLLEGE OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH
SCIENCES
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

CCHS-VA Partnership: A Mutally Beneficial Relationship

Veterans Administration Hospitals play a crucial role in medical education, both undergraduate and graduate, at the national level, in Alabama, and in Tuscaloosa.

The partnership between the Veterans Administration and United States medical schools began in January 1946 through the efforts of Dr. Paul B. Magnuson, Professor and Chair of Orthopedics at Northwestern University, and Dr. Paul Hawley, a regular Army major general. These two physicians fought for the establishment of the VA Department of Medicine and Surgery and the subsequent affiliations with medical schools because, at the end of World War II, the VA had 100,000 patients with fewer than 1,000 doctors to care for them. The suggested remedy was that medical school deans would place residents and attending faculty in the VA hospitals. Policy Memorandum No. 2, which established the affiliation program, states:

The schools of medicine . . . are cooperating with the threefold purpose of giving the veteran the highest quality of medical care, of affording the medical veteran the opportunity for postgraduate study, . . . and of raising generally the standard of medical practice in the United States by the expansion of facilities for graduate education. . . . The purpose of the Veterans Administration is simple: affording the veteran a much higher standard of medical care than would be given him with a wholly full-time medical service.

The division of responsibilities was clear from the beginning and disagreements have been rare. The VA retained full responsibility for patient care, and the medical school accepted responsibility for all graduate education and training. Affiliation agreements between VA medical centers and medical schools are implemented through Deans Committees, which advise the medical center directors on the education and research activities of VA facilities. Since 1946 more than half of all physicians in the United States have received part of their training at VA facilities.

Today, 133 VA medical centers are affiliated with 101 medical schools. In 1983, 26,307 residents and 22,517 medical students received part of their training in VA facilities (37 percent and 34 percent respectively of the nation's total). In addition, 7,368 VA physicians held full-time or part-time faculty appointments in medical schools.

In July 1975, just six months after admitting its first full-time residents and medical students, the College of Community Health Sciences was awarded a seven-year grant totalling \$6,894,489 under the VA's "Grants to Assist in the Education and Training of Professional and Technical Allied Health Manpower" program. This grant was instrumental in providing the college with a solid base on which to build its programs.

CCHS signed an affiliation agreement with the Veterans Administration Medical Center, Tuscaloosa, in June 1977. Two family practice residents are now on the internal medicine service full-time under the direction and supervision of Dr.

Patrick McCue. The one-month VA Acting Internship under the supervision of Dr. McCue is a popular internal medicine selective among senior medical students. Finally, CCHS faculty conduct a diabetes clinic and a hypertension clinic under the auspices of the VAMC's outpatient department.

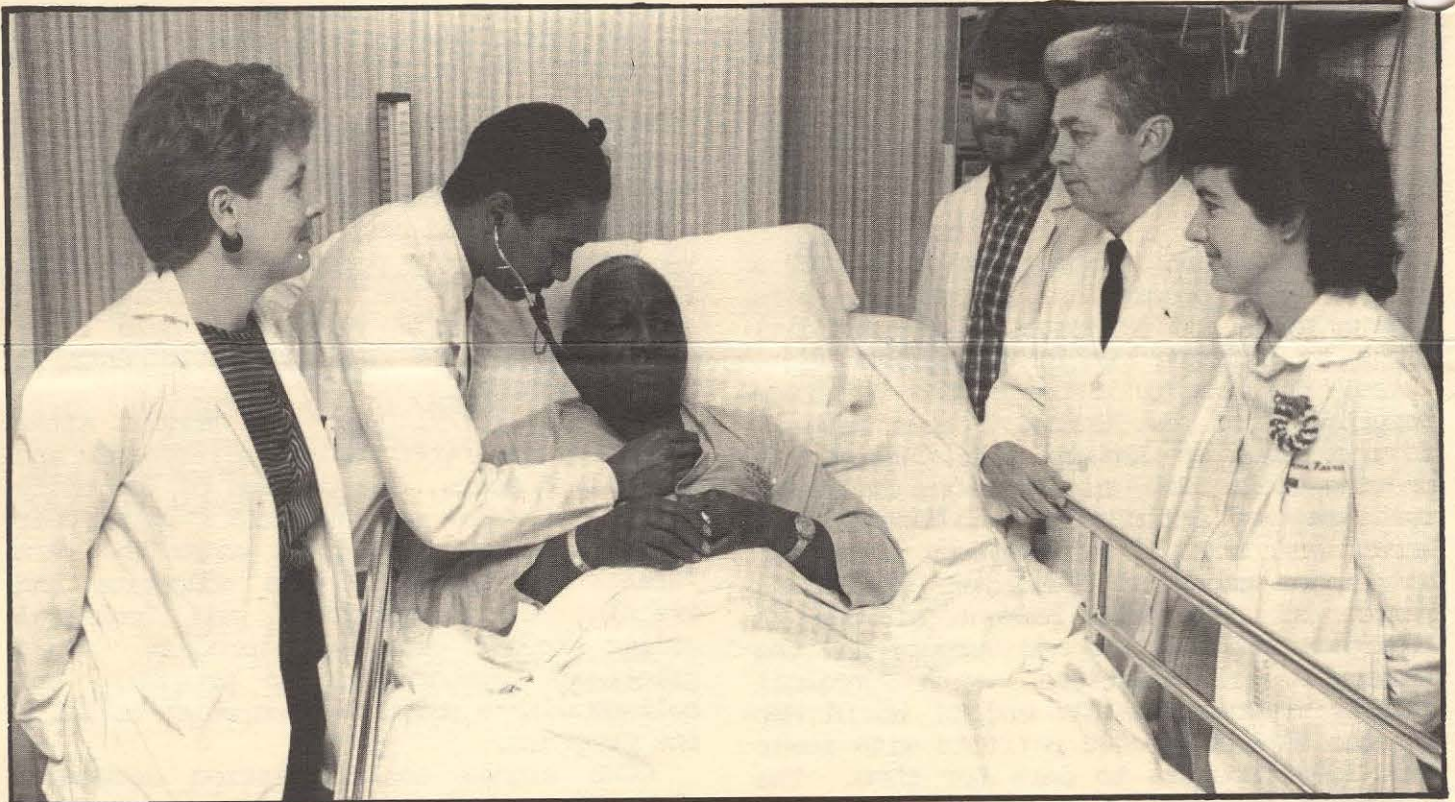
The VAMC psychiatry services are an integral part of the psychiatry curricula for family practice residents and medical students. For residents, one month of the two-month psychiatry rotation is spent at the VAMC. The psychiatry clerkship for junior medical students is based at the VAMC and includes training in the VAMC substance abuse unit. The Department of Psychiatry at UAB has recently initiated an institutional psychiatry rotation for its psychiatry residents that is based at the VAMC in Tuscaloosa. It is anticipated that collaboration among UAB, CCHS, and the VAMC will lead to the expansion of this program into an emphasis track.

For the future, expectations are that the relationship will be strengthened even further as the interests of CCHS continue

to complement those of the VAMC. From the VAMC's perspective, as presented by Joseph C. Snelling, VAMC Director, the quality patient care will continue to improve as the affiliation expands; therefore, the VAMC looks forward to an increase in resident numbers at its facility and a significant increase in clinical research opportunities. One of the VAMC's ultimate goals is to have every staff physician qualified for and appointed to the CCHS faculty. Currently, 13 out of 25 physicians hold such appointments.

Two other areas of parallel interest are the VAMC's increasing emphases on geriatrics as its patient population ages and its shift from inpatient to outpatient treatment as evidenced by the new Ambulatory Care Building.

The Veterans Administration Medical Center in Tuscaloosa has been and continues to be an integral part of the college's programs and, therefore, shares in its achievements. On both the local and national levels, the affiliation between the VA and medical schools has been a mutually beneficial partnership.



Dr. Patrick McCue, VA staff physician (2nd R), is shown with (R) Dr. Mike M. Machen, second-year resident; Rebecca Rainer, senior medical student; and (L) Ann Wade, senior medical student. John Barrett, medical unit patient, is being examined by Dr. Calvin Gibson, first-year resident.

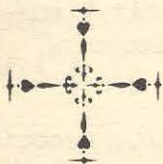
Profile

Patrick McCue, M.D.

Dr. Patrick McCue, Clinical Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, received his bachelor of science degree from the University of Alabama in 1949 and his medical degree from the Medical College of Alabama in 1953. Following an internship at St. Vincent's Hospital, he spent twenty years in general practice in Roanoke, Alabama. In 1975 he joined the staff of the Veterans Administration Medical Center, where he is the attending for medical students and residents on the medical service.

According to Dr. William W. Winternitz, Professor and Chief of Internal Medicine, "Dr. McCue has a talent, a gift for teaching that is rare. He teaches tirelessly and well. Dr. McCue gives the students responsibility and authority with just enough supervision. I do not know the secret of his approach, but I wish I did."

The residents and medical students concur with Dr. Winternitz. In 1983-84, Dr. McCue was awarded the Golden Stethoscope by the residents, and he has received the Faculty Recognition Award, presented by the senior class for outstanding contributions to undergraduate medical education, three times, in 1980, 1981, and 1983, an unsurpassed achievement. Dr. McCue's value to the educational programs is reflective of the college's relationship with and reliance on the Veterans Administration as a partner in providing excellent educational experiences for medical students and residents.



The Dean's Corner

Medical Manpower in Alabama

There is a widespread perception that the United States will soon have more physicians than are needed to provide a reasonable level of medical care for our population. The most reliable source of these perceptions is a study published in 1980 by the Graduate Medical Education National Advisory Committee (GMENAC). This study used a number of sophisticated mathematical models plus the "best guess" estimates of a nationwide panel of experts to come up with a projected excess of 70,000 physicians in the United States in 1990. We all have a tendency to accept a number such as that and take it as a fact, but the GMENAC Report itself warned that its estimates were based on a number of assumptions and that a number of occurrences could affect the validity of their estimates.

A reasonable second question should be, "If that projected number proves to be accurate, how many too many is it?" The projected excess turns out to be 15 percent higher than GMENAC's projected number of physicians "required" for the United States in 1990, and, given four years of hindsight on the GMENAC Report, it is safe to say that the 70,000 excess physician projection was too high.

A more cogent question for the state of Alabama is the extent to which excess numbers of physicians nationally might affect physician manpower in the state. If excessive numbers of physicians were indeed in the pipeline and available to enter into practice, we should be seeing some effect already. Actually, the growth in the number of physicians in Alabama shows a small, steady increase over the past six years. This increase has ranged from 2.3 percent to 4.9 percent annually. Last year the increase was 3.3 percent. The overall increase from 1978 through 1983 of active fully licensed physicians in the state was 20 percent; however, as of May 1984, 46 of Alabama's 67 counties were federally designated as primary care manpower shortage areas.

A conservative estimate of Alabama's population in 1990 would be four million. Currently, there are approximately 5,000

active fully licensed physicians in the state. If the state is to reach the GMENAC ratio of the "required" number of physicians of one per 500 people, we will need a net increase of 3,000 physicians in the next six years, which would require a rate of increase three times as high as that for the past six years. There is simply no evidence that Alabama is faced with an impending excess of physicians in the foreseeable future.

The numbers for the past six years do show that 70 to 80 percent of new active fully licensed physicians are settling in the five major metropolitan areas of Mobile, Montgomery, Birmingham, Tuscaloosa, and Huntsville. These numbers are somewhat distorted by the fact that resident physicians in training in the two medical schools are counted as active fully licensed physicians beginning with the second year of their training. Even taking this into account, the growth in physician numbers is still largely an urban phenomenon in Alabama. The nonurban counties situated some distance from the metropolitan centers are barely holding their own in physician manpower.

One study based on a nationwide sample shows that more specialists, such as general surgeons and specialists in internal medicine, are drifting toward communities as small as 10,000 people. Again, it would be dangerous to assume that this study will necessarily apply to Alabama. For those specialties that are hospital-based, such as surgery, there are now and will be in the future increasing disincentives to practice in a community with a small hospital because of the inherent inefficiencies of size. Whether there will be sufficient incentives to attract office-based physicians such as family practitioners, pediatricians, obstetricians, and psychiatrists to smaller communities remains to be seen.

W.J.C.

ON ROUNDS is published bimonthly by the College of Community Health Sciences.

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News Briefs

Appointments, Honors, and Awards

Margaret GARNER, Assistant Professor and Clinical Nutritionist, Department of Family Medicine, was recently appointed to the board of directors of the local chapter of the American Diabetes Association.

Dr. Robert GELLER, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, received his certification in pediatrics from the American Board of Pediatrics on November 21, 1984.

Dr. Riley LUMPKIN, Professor of Family Medicine and Assistant Dean for Continuing Medical Education and Professional Relations, has been reappointed to the University of Alabama School of Medicine Admissions Committee for 1984-85.

Dr. Robert PIERONI, Professor of Internal Medicine, has been asked to serve on the Pharmaceuticals and Therapeutics Committee of the American Society of Internal Medicine and the Insect Immunotherapy Committee of the American Association for Clinical Immunology and Allergy.

Dr. Arthur STAMLER, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, has been elected vice president of Alabama-Guatemala Partners of the Americas.

George TULLI, Administrator of Capstone Medical Center, has received an Employer Support Award from the United States Department of Defense.

Publications and Presentations

Dr. Don W. BUCKLEY, first-year resident, is a coauthor with D. Margaret Hunt and Edith F. Smith of "Aberrant Polyadenylation by a Vesicular Stomatitis Virus Mutant Is Due to an Altered L Protein" in the Journal of Virology 1984; 52(2):515-521.

Dr. William DESHAZO, Associate Professor of Family Medicine and Project Director of Athletic Medicine, and Margaret GARNER, Assistant Professor and Clinical Nutrition-

ist, Department of Family Medicine, reviewed a proposed module for family practice residents developed by Ohio State University titled "Nutrition and Physical Activity." Ms. Garner presented testimony titled "Accreditation--New Policies, Procedures, and Issues" to the Task Force on Education at the American Dietetic Association annual meeting in Washington, DC, on October 11-17.

Dr. Robert GELLER, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, lectured on "Pediatric Emergencies" for the paramedic training program on December 4 and on "Poisoning" to a class session of Principles, Practices, and Purposes of Emergency Medicine.

Dr. David HEFELFINGER, Professor and Chief of Pediatrics, presented a special conference on "The Application of Medical Genetics and Applied Counseling" at the Capstone College of Nursing on November 26.

Dr. Ralph JONES, Professor and Chief of Psychiatry, and Lee BADGER, Research Coordinator in the Department of Psychiatry, are coauthors of "Forensic Training in Family Practice Residencies" in the Journal of Family Practice 1984; 19(5):665-668. The principal author is Dr. Richard Parlour, formerly Associate Professor of Psychiatry.

Dr. James LEEPER, Associate Professor of Community Medicine, presented a paper coauthored with Dr. Michael O'REAR, Research Associate, Department of Community Medicine, titled "Mortality Analysis in Alabama by County" at the Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association in Anaheim, California, November 12-15.

Also at the Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association, Dr. Robert NORTHRUP, Professor and Chief of Community Medicine, presented a paper titled "Rural Alabama Pregnancy and Infant Health Project: A Two-County Home Visitor Program to Improve Pregnancy Outcome and Infant Health and Development." Over the Thanksgiving Holidays, Dr. Northrup gave a talk on "Oral Rehydration Therapy for Diarrhea" in Tunisia (North Africa) at the Second World Congress on Maternal and Neonatal Health. He was invited to give this presentation by the United States Agency for International Development.

Dr. Robert PIERONI, Professor of Internal Medicine, spoke on "Metabolic Disorders Involving Sodium and Potassium" at the VA Hospital on November 15. On November 17, Dr. Pieroni attended the First Fall Invitational Scientific Symposium in Montgomery, which was sponsored by the Medical Association of the State of Alabama, and participated in the presentation of the following: "Neck Mass and Pericardial Effusion in an Elderly Female" with Cliff DAVIDSON, junior medical student, and "An Unusual Reaction to Tetanus Toxoid," with Dr. Theodore S. CONE, Clinical Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, Sherry S. Palmer, Dr. Arturo J. OTERO, Clinical Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, and Dr. Alexandre B. TODOROV, Clinical Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine.

Dr. William SHAMBLIN, Associate Professor and Chief of Surgery, and his brother, Dr. James R. Shamblin, presented an exhibit on "Gastroplasty" at the American College of Surgeons meeting in San Francisco, California, on October 21-27.

Dr. Arthur STAMLER, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, was a guest lecturer for a class session of Introduction to Medical Sciences on October 22. Dr. Stamler presented a paper on "Child Abuse" at the First Fall Invitational Scientific Symposium, sponsored by the Medical Association of the State of Alabama, in Montgomery on November 17.

Dr. Bradley WARE, Assistant Professor of Family Medicine and Community Medicine, made the following presentations in October: "D/C Summaries Interpretation" and "The Respiratory System" to a University of Alabama School of Social Work graduate class and "Current Perspectives on Health Care in Tuscaloosa County" to the University of Alabama Health Care Management Society.

Grant and Contract Activities

The Department of Family Medicine has been awarded \$75,000 by the Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, for the third year of funding under the "Grants for Graduate Training in Family Medicine" program. A continuation application for the third year of funding of the "Grants

for the Establishment of Departments of Family Medicine" with UAB was submitted in November. Dr. Russell ANDERSON, Associate Professor and Chief of Family Medicine, is project director on both grants.

In collaboration with the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the University of Alabama at Huntsville, CCHS has participated in the preparation of an application to establish a Statewide Area Health Education Center program. Also involved are the Capstone College of Nursing, the College of Commerce and Business Administration, the School of Home Economics, the School of Social Work, and West Alabama EMS, Inc. If the project is funded, the co-program director in Tuscaloosa will be Dr. Stephen GEHLBACH, incoming Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor of Pediatrics.

Dr. Robert GELLER, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, has been awarded \$1,000 by the CCHS Research Committee under the college's Small Grants Program for his study, "Does Early Therapy With Penicillin Result in More Rapid Resolution of Streptococcal Pharyngitis?"

Dr. Robert PIERONI, Professor of Internal Medicine, has submitted an application to the university's Research Grants Committee for funding of the project "Use of an Innovative Method for Computer-Assisted Medical Instruction at CCHS." The total amount requested is \$3,960.

Gifts Received

Dr. Rex Perkins of Gordo has donated a M-430 Coulter Counter to the Capstone Medical Center.

Meetings, Workshops, Consultations

Dr. Russell ANDERSON, Associate Professor and Chief of Family Medicine, consulted for the Residency Assistance Program in Pueblo, Colorado, on October 15-17.

Dr. Joe BURLESON attended the Eastern Orthopaedic Society meeting in Acapulco, Mexico, on October 10-14.

Dr. Deborah COGGINS, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, and Dr. Wilmer COGGINS, Dean, participated in a Sino-American Study Tour

to China on October 15-30.

Dr. Roland FICKEN, Associate Professor and Chief of Behavioral Science and Director of Medical Student Affairs, was at Auburn University on November 13 and 14 interviewing prospective medical students with other representatives of the University of Alabama School of Medicine's three campuses.

Judy HODGES, Staff Assistant to the Assistant Dean for Financial Planning and Management, attended a seminar titled "Zero-Based Planning and Budgeting for Nonprofit Organizations" on October 17-18 in Madison, Wisconsin.

Dr. Ralph JONES, Professor and Chief of Psychiatry, attended the American Psychiatric Association Hospital and Community Psychiatry annual meeting in Denver, Colorado, on October 13-17.

On November 4-7, Dr. James LEEPER, Associate Professor of Community Medicine, attended the Eighth Annual Symposium on Computer Applications in Medical Care in Washington, DC.

Dr. David LEWIS, Assistant Dean for Financial Planning and Management, attended the Group on Business Affairs meeting of the Association of American Medical Colleges in Chicago, Illinois, on October 28-31.

Dr. Harriet MYERS, Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology, attended, by invitation, the 1984 Rorschach Workshops in the Bahamas on October 30-November 4.

Dr. Robert PIERONI, Professor of Internal Medicine, attended a meeting of the board of directors of the Alabama Society of Internal Medicine on October 17 in Montgomery. Dr. Pieroni completed the course "Expanding the Perspectives of Allergy Practice," sponsored by the American Association for Clinical Immunology and Allergy, in New Orleans, Louisiana, on November 29-December 2. While there, he participated in a meeting of the Committee for Insect Immunotherapy.

George TULLI, Administrator of Capstone Medical Center, attended a conference on "Prepaid Health Care--Strategies and Feasibility" sponsored by the Medical Group

Management Association in Orlando, Florida, on December 3 and 4.

Dr. Bradley WARE, Assistant Professor of Family Medicine and Community Medicine, attended a Corporations and Fitness Seminar in Atlanta, Georgia, on October 26.

Guests and Special Events

A ground-breaking ceremony was held at the Capstone Medical Center on December 13 for the new Family Medicine Supersuite. In addition to CCHS faculty, Dr. Joab Thomas, President of the University of Alabama, Dr. Roger Sayers, Academic Vice President, Congressman Richard Shelby, State Senator Ryan DeGraffenreid, and other local community leaders participated in the event. Completion of the construction is anticipated in early spring.

On December 4, Dr. Lowell Franklin Satler, Instructor in Medicine, Division of Cardiology, at Georgetown University, conducted grand rounds on "Thrombolytic Therapy in Acute Myocardial Infarction"; presented a noon conference on "Changing Concepts in the Approach to the Treatment of Coronary Artery Disease"; and participated in case discussions with medical students, residents, and faculty.

The CCHS Christmas Party for full-time, part-time, and volunteer faculty, staff, and residents was held at the Capstone Medical Center on December 18.

Community Service

Lee BADGER, Research Coordinator for the Department of Psychiatry, presented the results of research on child abuse to a meeting of the Children's Trust Fund Council, Seventh Congressional District, which was chaired by Dr. Arthur STAMLER, Associate Professor of Pediatrics. Other members of the research team were Dr. Ralph JONES, Professor and Chief of Psychiatry, and Dr. Nicholas GREEN, Associate Professor of Psychiatry. The research was funded through a grant from the CCHS Small Grants Program.

Sarah DEMELLIER, Coordinator of Contracts and Grants and Chair of the 1984 University of Alabama United Way Campaign, reports that this year's contributions total

\$109,367.37, of which CCHS contributed \$8,061.23. Dr. Robert NORTHROP, Professor and Chief of Community Medicine, was the college's campaign coordinator. The university's goal for 1984 had been set at \$90,000.

On September 11, Dr. Robert PIERONI, Professor of Internal Medicine, spoke on "The Genetic Aspects of Alzheimer's Disease" to the Alzheimer's Disease Support Group at the Family Counseling Center. On October 17, he spoke on "Folk Medicine" to a senior citizens group at Forest Lake Methodist Church.

Dr. Bradley WARE, Assistant Professor of Family Medicine and Community Medicine, presented "What the Elderly Person Needs to do to Stay Healthy" to retirees of the University of Alabama on November 14.

Arrivals and Departures

Anita L. CHARLES has been appointed Director of Medical Records at the CMC. She was formerly a supervisor in Medical Record Analysis at UAB.

Sandra DUREN is the new Patient Financial Aid Counselor at the CMC.

Dr. Stephen H. GEHLBACH joined the college January 1 as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor of Pediatrics. He was formerly Associate Professor of Community and Family Medicine, Duke University Medical Center.

Sandy HOWELL has joined the CMC staff as an LPN in the Pediatric Suite.

Karen MEGGS, Medical Records Clerk, has resigned her position effective January 2.

Vital Statistics

Joseph Hinton Lawrence, birthweight 7 lbs. 6 ozs., was born to Vic and BRENDA LAWRENCE, Accounting Clerk in the Dean's Office, on December 18 at Druid City Hospital.

Miscellany

During the past several months Dr. Robert PIERONI, Professor of Internal Medicine, has been a preceptor at Capstone Medical

Center for the following: Katherine Burkhalter, R.N., graduate student, Mississippi State College for Women; Kenneth Ponder, pre-med student, University of Alabama; Patsy Jones, Department of Vocational Rehabilitation; and Deborah Davis, R.N., graduate student enrolled in Special Problems in Geriatrics.

The National Library of Medicine's 5,000 videocassette programs identified in the National Audiovisual Catalog are now available for interlibrary loan. For more information or help in locating videocassettes in the National Audiovisual Catalog,

call the Health Sciences Library Reference Department.

The Health Sciences Library has recently received complimentary copies of the first eight issues of Physician's Weekly, a regularly published news poster. The poster is being distributed by the 13-30 Corporation of Knoxville, Tennessee. According to the publisher, "Articles will track the major scientific, clinical, social, economic, and political developments that affect the practice of medicine." The first issues are on display in the library.

College Calendar

January 8

Grand Rounds, 8:00 a.m., Oak Room, Druid City Hospital; Noon Conference, 12:30 p.m., 101 Educational Tower, Druid City Hospital; Case Presentations, 5:30 p.m., Oak Room, Druid City Hospital.

January 9

General Faculty Meeting, 12 noon, Carrel Room, Capstone Medical Center.

January 11

CCHS Research Conference, 12:30 p.m., 101 Educational Tower, Druid City Hospital. Dr. Daniel S. Turner, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Civil Engineering, "Alabama Traffic Accident Facts."

February 1

CCHS First Friday Letters, Science, and Medicine Conference, 12:30 p.m., 101

Educational Tower, Druid City Hospital. Dr. Philip Beidler, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School and Professor of English, "American Literature and the Experience of Vietnam."

February 5

Grand Rounds, 8:00 a.m., Oak Room, Druid City Hospital; Noon Conference, 12:30 p.m., 101 Educational Tower, Druid City Hospital; Case Presentations, 5:30 p.m., Oak Room, Druid City Hospital.

February 8

CCHS Research Conference, 12:30 p.m., 101 Educational Tower, Druid City Hospital.

February 13

General Faculty Meeting, 12 noon, Carrel Room, Capstone Medical Center.

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College of Community Health Sciences
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