

ON ROUNDS AT CCHS

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

cians and family physicians who deliver babies. Vigorous efforts are underway to correct these inequities, and I have no doubt that the situation will improve within the next two years.

The expansion of for-profit hospitals is a real issue in Alabama. The for-profit hospitals have invested widely in Alabama, even in rural areas. This is a curious phenomenon. For-profit hospital chains are buying small hospitals in rural areas in which no intelligent person could hope to make much money over the short haul. This means that they are expecting the rural hospitals to serve as referral sources for the big hospitals in the chain, where they have a chance to make some real money. Another possibility is that the owners expect the rural hospitals to stop doing those things that incur losses while doing more of those things that at least break even or make a small profit.

Ten years ago, it was not clear whether for-profit hospitals could bring improved management techniques and economies of scale to the business of running a hospital that would lower the cost to the patient or to the third party payer. That question has been answered. They charge more for comparable services, not less. Non-profit community hospitals and tertiary care teaching hospitals are left to absorb the cost of providing care for indigent patients and the more complex critically ill patients for whom the costs of care are very high. The game of hospital cost containment is not being played on a level table right now, but I have no doubt that Congress and the state legislatures will intervene in this matter since almost two-thirds of the funds that pay hospital costs come from federal, state, or local governments and only the remaining one-third from individual patients and their families or from the private sector.

The perceived excess of physicians is dependent upon where you are and whom you count. There may be a few urban counties in Alabama with a sufficient number of doctors, but the state as a whole remains short of doctors in the medium-sized and smaller counties. We are producing far fewer physicians than the state needs, and Alabama will remain a net importer of physicians for years to come. In addition, medical school applications have declined both nationally and in Alabama; on the

The Dean's Corner

I write this while immersed in the annual meeting of the Association of American Medical Colleges in Washington, D.C. Each year some 3,500 medical educators, administrators, and even a few students gather for that array of speeches, awards, colloquia, and informal gatherings that is so typically an American phenomenon. There is a pervasive atmosphere of gloom and doom both in the formal sessions and in the hallways. The frightening issues include the escalating number of malpractice suits, which has led to rapid increases in the cost of malpractice insurance, the perceived excess of physicians entering practice in many cities, and the declining number of applicants to medical school. Each of these is a complex issue. Not one of them lends itself to an easy solution.

Some of these issues are less critical than others in Alabama. The escalating costs of malpractice insurance is a serious problem here, particularly for obstetri-

brighter side, however, there is no decline in the quality of the applicants. In fact, the qualifications of candidates for medical school continue to go up.

Change induces anxiety. Anxiety and concern are appropriate in this time of sweeping change in hospital financing, medical practice, and payment methods; but practicing physicians, medical educators, and medical administrators are, by nature and training, problem solvers. If we continue to focus on providing the best medical care for all people, we will find workable solutions.

W.J.C.

New Suites Open at CMC

It was ten years in coming, but a sigh of relief and satisfaction was heard in the Capstone Medical Center in September as physicians and staff celebrated the final phase of construction and renovation, which brought all patient care areas inside the main CMC building.

The September opening of the newly renovated Ob/Gyn Suite followed the July introduction of the newly constructed Family Medicine Red Suite. Both clinical areas had previously been housed in temporary trailers behind the main building that had long outlived original plans for their elimination. Now, with all clinical areas

in one building, patients have easier access to laboratory, x-ray, and special procedure facilities.

The construction of the family medicine supersuite reduced the number of family medicine clinical areas from three smaller suites to two large ones. (The Blue Suite was completed in 1983.) Eighteen residents are assigned to each suite. This new configuration has already reaped some benefits by allowing more equitable scheduling of residents in morning and evening clinics and insuring continuous availability of attending physicians in both areas. The new supersuite occupies approximately 4,000 square feet and contains 15 examining rooms plus a minor surgery and procedures room. Both supersuites contain a patient waiting room, reception area, nursing station, physicians' work and dictation areas, and patient education area. Both are also equipped with audiovisual equipment for monitoring and taping resident-patient encounters for teaching purposes.

The benefits realized in the renovated Ob/Gyn Suite (formerly Family Medicine Gold Suite) include six examining rooms, a larger patient restroom, facilities for gynecologic surgical procedures, and receptionist station that provides greater privacy for conversations with patients. The new suite totals approximately 1500 square feet.

An open house is scheduled for November 1 at CMC from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to celebrate the opening of the new patient care areas.



Patient Waiting Room
Family Medicine
Red Suite

Profile

Carolyn Mobley, Admissions Clerk

Few fixtures at the Capstone Medical Center have been more lasting than the presence of Carolyn Mobley at the main admissions desk. Since August 1974, she has been the first point of contact for most patients coming to the center. In addition to interviewing and preparing charts for an average of 25 new patients per day, she handles most telephone inquiries from prospective patients about the center and its services. On a daily basis, she must maintain a rare blend of courtesy, diplomacy, patience, and sometimes raw courage.

"I'd rather have this job than any other in the center," she says. "I really love meeting people."

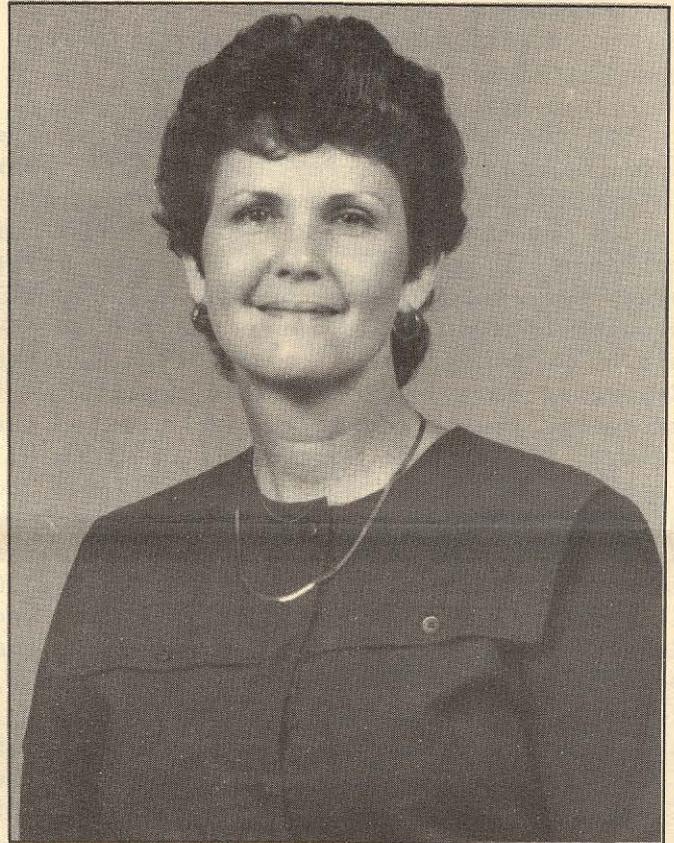
Before coming to CCHS in 1974, Ms. Mobley had worked for four years at Medical Arts, P.C., in Enterprise, where CCHS Assistant Dean for Continuing Education and Professional Relations, Dr. Riley Lumpkin, was then in private practice in a five-physician group.

"When he hired me there, Dr. Lumpkin told me a requirement for the job was to be scatterbrained in order to handle everything. I guess being scatterbrained helps here too," she laughs.

Although she knew Dr. Lumpkin was to join the faculty at CCHS, Ms. Mobley actually preceded him to Tuscaloosa when her husband was transferred. Through her contacts in the Medical Assistants Society, she was able to get an interview with the administrator of the newly started Family Practice Center, then housed in what are now the offices of West Alabama Rehabilitative Services on 6th Street. Ms. Mobley remembers the days when she was a one-woman admissions and medical records department.

"I personally moved all the medical records from the 6th Street office to the new center, or rather, the trailers. Of course, there weren't all that many records then," she concedes. Now there are over 43,000 patient charts, most of which she has prepared herself.

Listening to her "war stories" of experiences at CMC, one concludes that Carolyn Mobley has seen, heard, and handled virtually everything. She has had one patient who would come in and collapse in



front of her desk on a regular basis. She is the first to announce fire alarms and contact the fire department. She has had to call several emergency codes on sick patients in the admissions area as well as taking care of patients who have strayed away from nearby Bryce Hospital. And she has handled, without cracking a smile, some really bizarre inquiries from patients and the public. Celebrities who have come past her desk have included Bobby Kennedy, Jr., Mrs. Nelson "Happy" Rockefeller, Lady Bird Johnson, as well as Joe Namath and Paul "Bear" Bryant.

Carolyn Mobley has been the first line of CMC public relations for eleven years. The "scatterbrained" admissions clerk Dr. Lumpkin brought from Enterprise is a vital part of the Capstone Medical Center.

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Child Abuse in Alabama

For the past two years, members of the CCHS Department of Psychiatry have been investigating the occurrence and characteristics of physical and sexual abuse of children in Alabama. This is the first study of this major health and social problem because child abuse was not accessible to study prior to the 1975 Alabama Reporting Law, which mandated reporting of suspected abuse and neglect and created the Central Registry in Montgomery in which all reports are filed and made available to persons engaged in bona fide research. Since 1975, the annual number of reports has increased from just over 700 to 28,000 in 1984. In June and July 1984, Lee Badger, Research Coordinator for the Department of Psychiatry, Ralph Jones, formerly Professor and Chief of Psychiatry, and Nicholas Green, Associate Professor of Child Psychiatry, spent many days in the Central Registry at the Department of Pensions and Security in Montgomery collecting detailed information on confirmed abuse from a sample of 6,800 of the reports for the year 1982.

Based on their analysis of these confirmed reports, the interrelationship between the size of the community and race of the child influences a child's risk for abuse. For example, white preadolescent girls in urban areas have by far the greatest frequency and rates of sexual abuse; black girls, on the other hand, are more frequent victims of sexual abuse in nonurbanized communities. The most frequently reported and confirmed victim of physical abuse in Alabama is unquestionably an elementary school-age white boy who lives in a midsize town or city. Black sons and daughters appear to be abused most frequently by their mothers, but white abuse, which is most prevalent in two-parent households, is perpetrated by fathers on sons and mothers on daughters. Stepfathers account for the most confirmed cases of sexual abuse of both black and white children.

Equally important to the researchers' conclusions about the perpetrators and victims of abuse, from a public policy perspective, are their findings on the abuse reporting, surveillance, and investigation system. The final rates of abuse

and the calculation of risk factors, they have concluded, are highly dependent upon a similarity in definition used by the person who first reports the abuse and the caseworker/investigator who confirms it. The frequency of reports tends to be lowest from areas of greatest poverty; however, the proportion of reports that are confirmed by the caseworker is highest in these communities. In general, black children are reported to the system by institutions, such as schools and hospitals, whereas white children are reported by relatives and neighbors. The lowest reporting is by physicians, who make less than six percent of all reports, and clergy, who make less than two percent.

Last February, results of the research were presented at the First Annual Governor's Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect in Montgomery. Detailed results are currently being prepared for 1986 publication in the university's Institute for Social Science Research monograph series. Julia Hartman, Technical Research Assistant, is also a contributor to the manuscript.



News Briefs

Appointments, Honors, and Awards

Dr. Roland FICKEN, Associate Professor and Chief of Behavioral Science and Director of Medical Student Affairs, has been appointed Adjunct Associate Professor in the Capstone College of Nursing.

Dr. Robert GLOOR, Associate Professor of Community Medicine, has been elected to the advisory committee and named assistant leader of the local chapter of the Compassionate Friends, a self-help group for parents who have had children die.

On August 24, Dr. Moses C. JONES, Jr., Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery, was appointed to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education.

Dr. William F. SIMPSON, Associate Professor, replaced Dr. William R. SHAMBLIN, Associate Professor, as Chief of the Department of Surgery beginning October 1. Dr. Shamblin had served in the position for twelve years.

Presentations and Publications

Dr. James BINDON, Assistant Professor of Behavioral Science, presented "Infant Feeding, Health, and Growth of Children in American Samoa" at the Fourth International Congress of Auxology in Montreal on June 20.

Dr. William DRESSLER, Associate Professor of Behavioral Science, has published "Psychosomatic Symptoms, Stress, and Modernization: A Model" in Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry (1985; 9:257-86) and "The Social and Cultural Context of Coping: Action, Gender, and Symptoms in a Southern Black Community" in Social Science and Medicine (1985; 21:499-506).

Margaret GARNER, Assistant Professor and Clinical Nutritionist, Department of Family Medicine, presented "Changes in Taste Perception in the Elderly" at the Governor's Conference for Healthy Older Mississippians on September 14 in Jackson, Mississippi. Her presentation was part of a panel discussion on sensory loss that was moderated by Dr. Robert PIERONI, Professor of Internal Medicine and Family Medicine. Dr. Pieroni presented "Folk Medicine" at the same conference.

Dr. Samuel GASKINS, Associate Professor of Family Medicine and Director of the Family Practice Residency Program, and Dr. William DESHAZO, Professor of Family Medicine and Program Director of Athletic Medicine, have published "Attitudes Regarding Drug Abuse and Drug Screening for an Intercollegiate Athletic Program" in The Physician and Sportsmedicine 1985; 13(9):93-100.

Dr. David HEFELFINGER, Professor and Chief of Pediatrics, has published two articles in the Fall 1985 issue of the Alabama Pediatrician: "Poor Folks Have Poor Ways" (4:11) and "Parents Find It Hard to Tell You What's Really Bothering Them" (4:14-15). At the Third International Symposium on Infant Nutrition and Gastrointestinal Disease in Brussels, Belgium, on August

25-30, Dr. Hefelfinger presented the abstracts "Parasitic Infection in Childhood: Update on Diagnosis and Treatment" and "Infections and Day Care Centers."

Dr. Ralph JONES, formerly Professor and Chief of Psychiatry, and Dr. Richard PARLOUR, formerly Associate Professor of Psychiatry, are coeditors of Psychiatric Services for Underserved Rural Populations (Larchmont NY: Brunner/Mazel, 1985), which is the result of work done while they were at CCHS.

In August, Dr. David LEWIS, Assistant Dean for Financial Planning and Management, was the guest speaker for the graduation ceremonies for the University of Nebraska's Physician Assistant Program in Omaha, Nebraska.

Dr. Paul MOZLEY, Professor and Chairman of Obstetrics/Gynecology, and Mary Dale Mozley, Registered Art Therapist, presented "The Use of Research Data in the Treatment of Premenstrual Syndrome Patients" at the Eleventh World Congress of Gynecology and Obstetrics in West Berlin, Federal Republic of Germany, September 15-20.

Dr. Harriet MYERS, Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology, Departments of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science, and Dr. Paul Siegel, Professor and Director of Graduate Training, Department of Psychology, have published "The Motivation to Breastfeed: A 'Fit' to the Opponent or Process Theory?" in the Journal of Personality of Social Psychology (1985; 49:1988-93).

At the Fourth Annual Symposium on Geriatrics and Gerontology: Pharmacology and the Aging Individual (St. Louis, MO, September 17-19), Dr. Robert PIERONI, Professor of Internal Medicine and Family Medicine, presented "Reactions to Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAID) in the Elderly," coauthored with Dr. Nancy HOLIFIELD, a 1985 graduate of UASOM, Tuscaloosa, and "Elder Abuse Through Overmedication: Chemical Straightjacketing," coauthored with Dr. Lorin BAUMHOVER, Professor of Behavioral Science and Director of the Center for the Study of Aging. On September 28, at the Second Annual Fall Invitational Scientific Symposium in Birmingham, sponsored by the Medical Association of the State of Alabama, Dr. Pieroni and Dr. George Oetting presented

"Medical Quackery: Past and Present." Dr. Pieroni also coauthored "Pica: Its Frequent Association With Iron Deficiency Anemia in Alabamians" with Mary Jo CAGLE, senior medical student, and Kenneth Ponder, UA undergraduate; "A Severe Neurologic Manifestation of Blastomycosis" with Dr. Steve LOVELADY, third-year resident, and Jim PARKER, senior medical student; and "The Clinical Spectrum of Rhabdomyolysis" with Andreas MADDUX, senior medical student. On September 5, Dr. Pieroni presented "Unorthodox Therapies" at the Veterans Administration Medical Center.

Dr. Richard SNOW, Clinical Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, and Dr. Karen ATWOOD, a 1982 graduate of the CCHS residency program, have published "Probable Death: Perspective of the Elderly" in the Southern Medical Journal 1985; 78(7):851-53.

Grant and Contract Activities

On September 27, the Department of Family Medicine submitted a new application under the Grants for Graduate Training in Family Medicine program of the Health Resources and Services Administration. The application requests \$246,595 over three years beginning July 1, 1986. Dr. Russell ANDERSON, Associate Professor and Chief of Family Medicine, is named as the project director.

The Department of Psychiatry's contract with the Alabama Department of Mental Health has been renewed for 1985-86. The department receives \$4,000 annually to provide a continuing education series on Current Issues in Psychiatry. Dr. Deborah COGGINS, Associate Professor and Acting Chief of Psychiatry, is the project director.

A revision of the application "Impact of Exercise on the Institutionalized Elderly" has been submitted to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Dr. William WINTERNITZ, Professor and Chief of Internal Medicine, is the principal investigator; \$149,823 is requested over two years.

Meetings, Workshops, Consultations

Dr. Russell ANDERSON, Associate Professor and Chief of Family Medicine, attended a Residency Assistance Program (RAP) consult-

ants' meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, August 22-25 and consulted for RAP in Toledo, Ohio, September 10-12. With Dr. Samuel GASKINS, Associate Professor and Director of the Family Practice Residency Program, Dr. Anderson attended an Alabama Academy of Family Physicians meeting in Montgomery, Alabama, September 21. The main agenda item for the meeting was "Funding of Family Practice Residency Programs in Alabama." Dr. Anderson is serving on the Education Committee for the Alabama Academy for 1985-86. On September 17, Dr. Anderson attended the UAB Family Practice Career Day in Birmingham.

Dr. James BINDON, Assistant Professor of Behavioral Science, is serving as a consultant in nutritional anthropology to the Mobile Pregnancy Study, which is supported by the National Institutes of Health and the Southwest Alabama Chapter of the March of Dimes.

Dr. David HEFELFINGER, Professor and Chief of Pediatrics, Dr. Stephen GEHLBACH, Professor of Pediatrics and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and Dr. Robert GELLER, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, attended the annual meeting of the Alabama Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics, in Sandestin, Florida, September 26-30.

Dr. Riley LUMPKIN, Professor of Family Medicine and Assistant Dean for CME and Professional Relations, consulted for the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals in Anadarko, Oklahoma, September 19-20.

On August 11, Dr. Robert PIERONI, Professor of Internal Medicine and Family Medicine, attended the Executive Committee meeting of the Alabama Society of Internal Medicine in Montgomery, Alabama.

Lisa Rains RUSSELL, Assistant Professor and Chief Medical Librarian, is serving as a consultant to the Taylor Hardin Secure Medical Facility concerning their Staff Development Library.

Guests and Special Events

On October 18, a ceremony was held at the Capstone Medical Center dedicating examination room 1 of Family Medicine Red Suite in memory of Eloise D. Palich, who died on May 24, 1984.

Community Service

The CCHS Program in Emergency Medicine has initiated a program to provide volunteers to staff emergency treatment centers at most major events at the University of Alabama, including football games, basketball games, and concerts. Up-to-date medical equipment and all materials necessary for emergency treatment will be available at each event. The volunteers will be students in or graduates of the college's emergency medical technician training program. Services are being provided to the university and to the public free of charge.

Dr. James BINDON, Assistant Professor of Behavioral Science, is serving as a judge for the Alabama High School Science Fair. He has been participating in the annual event in this capacity since 1982.

Arrivals and Departures

Dr. Albert JACKSON, Clinical Assistant Professor, retired August 1 from his part-time position with the Department of Obstetrics/Gynecology.

The Department of Surgery has added two Clinical Assistant Professors to its faculty: Dr. Rufus C. PARTLOW, Jr., who is in practice with Drs. James E. SHOTTS, Jr., James H. WALBURN, and Max W. MCCORD, Jr., all Clinical Associate Professors in the department; and Dr. Luis R. PERNIA, who is a plastic surgeon.

Dr. Elizabeth H. RAND has joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry.

Pat ROBERTS, Circulation Assistant, has resigned from the Health Sciences Library staff to pursue a career in electronics in New Jersey. He has been replaced by Michael ACKER.

Lisa SMITH has joined the Department of Psychiatry part-time as a psychometrist at the Capstone Medical Center.

Dr. Arthur STAMLER, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, resigned effective September 16 to accept a position at the Russell Student Health Center, University of Alabama.

Dr. Richard THOMPSON has resigned from the

Department of Community Medicine to accept a position at the University of West Florida.

Valynda WATSON is the new LPN in the Blue Suite at the Capstone Medical Center.

Vital Statistics

Kathryn Jane Lewis, birthweight 8 lbs., 10 oz., was born August 18 to Thomas and MARY KATHRYN LEWIS, Medical Assistant in the Blue Suite, Capstone Medical Center.

College faculty and staff extend their sympathy to Marie SMITH, Key punch Operator, Department of Community Medicine, on the death of her father.

*College Calendar*November 1

Open house at the Capstone Medical Center from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to celebrate the opening of the newly constructed Family Medicine Red Suite and the recently renovated Obstetrics and Gynecology Suite.

Special Psychiatry Conference. "Suicide: Prevention, Intervention, and Postvention," Iris Bolton, Director of the Link Counseling Center, Atlanta, Georgia. 12:30 p.m., 101 Educational Tower, DCH Regional Medical Center.

November 13

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

November 15

Current Research at CCHS. "Research on Vaccines," Dr. Robert Pieroni, Professor of Internal Medicine and Family Medicine. 12:30 p.m., 101 Educational Tower, DCH Regional Medical Center.

Special Concentration on Diabetes

November 14

"Diabetes in Pregnancy," Dr. Gordon C. Bryars, Clinical Assistant Professor of Ob/Gyn, 12:30 p.m., 101 Educational Tower, DCH Regional Medical Center.

November 18

"Dietary Management of Diabetes Mellitus," Margaret Garner, Assistant Professor and Clinical Nutritionist, Department of Family

Medicine; Discussion, Ms. Garner and Dr. William Winternitz, Professor and Chief of Internal Medicine. 12:30 p.m., 101 Educational Tower, DCH Regional Medical Center.

November 19

Grand Rounds, 8:00 a.m., Oak Room, DCH Regional Medical Center, "New Insulins"; Noon Conference, 12:30 p.m., 101 Educational Tower, DCH Regional Medical Center, "Management of Type II Diabetes Mellitus," Dr. Alan M. Siegal, University of South Alabama.

November 20

"Diabetic Retinopathy," Dr. Michael Ursic; "Glucose Self-Monitoring," Kathy Carr, R.N., Patient Education Coordinator, DCH Regional Medical Center. 12:30 p.m., 101 Educational Tower, DCH Regional Medical Center.

November 21

"Closing the Gap: Diabetes in the U.S.A.," Dr. Robert Gloor, Associate Professor of Community Medicine. 12:30 p.m., 101 Educational Tower, DCH Regional Medical Center.

November 22

"Management of Diabetes Mellitus in Childhood," Dr. Luther Travis, Professor of Pediatrics and Director, Divisions of Nephrology and Diabetes, University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. 12:30 p.m., 101 Educational Tower, DCH Regional Medical Center.

December 6

First Friday Letters, Science, and Medicine Conference. Performance by the Capstone Wind Quintet. 12:30 p.m., 101 Educational Tower, DCH Regional Medical Center.

Special Concentration on
Adolescent Medicine

December 5

"Alcohol and Substance Abuse in Adolescents." 12:30 p.m., 101 Educational Tower, DCH Regional Medical Center.

December 9

"Sports Examinations and Evaluations." 12:30 p.m., 101 Educational Tower, DCH Regional Medical Center.

December 10

"Adolescents in the Office." 12:30 p.m., 101 Educational Tower, DCH Regional Medical Center.

December 11

General Faculty Meeting, 12 noon, Carre? Room, Capstone Medical Center.

December 13

Current Research at CCHS. "Biomedical Sciences Preparation Program," Dr. Harry Knopke, Associate Professor of Behavioral Science and Executive Assistant to the President. 12:30 p.m., 101 Educational Tower, DCH Regional Medical Center.

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