



SHIFTING DULLNESS

DAVISON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
DUKE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Box 2889 DUMC

April 10, 1978

Special - For Y'all

"WHO EVER HEARD OF THE 'AHM-WAH' SYNDROME?"

The American Medical Women's Association, a 60 year-old national organization by and for women physicians, has junior branches in many medical schools. In 1977-78 women medical students at Duke created the first AMWA junior branch at that institution. Duke's Davison Society supported our initiative with funding, and with Dr. Shirley Osterhout as our faculty sponsor, we were on our way.

In the fall of 1977 a series of meetings with the founding members yielded a group of concerns and interests which were ultimately divided into four topic areas. Four working committees were established to pursue these. Their actions will be described below. Study and exploration of the topics, were followed by presentation to the medical community for discussion and education. At a February 1978 branch meeting we reviewed the actions of these groups, and found that much had been accomplished during our charter year. A summary of these activities follows.

The first subgroup to be described concerned itself with the unique problems that face a woman physician in her work with other female health care providers. The group's study of these complex relationships led them to prepare an evening seminar and discussion group on the topic of Women and Authority. Professionals in psychiatry, clinical medicine and nursing, as well as anthropology presented the position of women in a male dominated professional world, and the effects of socialization on their work. Following the panel, audience and panelists joined in discussion groups to further explore this topic.

Another subgroup, interested in women's health care issues, has pursued several areas of concern within this large field. An upcoming presentation on creative alternatives in childbirth includes a film of a natural childbirth experience, with subsequent discussion by a panel of both health care consumers and providers. A seminar on rape is planned in which the legal and ethical responsibilities of the doctor will be explored. Finally, presentations on women's self-help groups, including a film and discussion may be held late this spring, following the first-year class' learning of the female pelvic exam.

An third AMWA subgroup, realizing that the M.D. curriculum excludes many areas of knowledge about medicine and healing, concerned itself with the exploration of some of these bypassed areas. During the fall and winter, a study group met several times for small-group education and discussion. This spring, due to our efforts, many speakers are presenting such alternative medical traditions, as acupuncture, chiropractice, and rural health care at the AMWA/AMSA Thursday Night Seminars.

The fourth group examined the difficulties facing those who desire to balance their professional and personal lives in a healthy, productive manner, an especially demanding task in a society that still expects women to devote most of their energies to the home. A seminar was held in November and consisted of two parts. First, several women doctors

and residents shared their personal ideas and solutions with the group. Then they and their spouses (if married) joined together to lead small rotating discussion groups in the exploration of desirable alternatives. A second session hopes to further examine this important issue.

Despite all these completed projects and the large amount of energy they represent, we realize that our organization is in its infancy, and we are continuing to develop new ideas for the future. We would like to organize regular social gatherings for women doctors, residents and medical students, so that they can meet to share and learn from each others' ideas and experiences. (The first such occasion will be in April, 1978; see below). A listing of women doctors and residents according to department would facilitate such communications. The formation of small women's support groups is a very positive occurrence, and some residents and students are already working in that context. We would like to create a special welcome for incoming women doctors, residents and students each year. Of course, we anticipate that the study and discussion groups which have been instituted this year will continue. The formation of a library of relevant articles and tapes is being considered; the national AMWA journal already is available in Dr. Shirley Osterhout's office, and in the 6th floor lounge for all to enjoy. Above all, our purpose is to serve the women physicians and physicians-in-training; we are an organization by and for the women at Duke. As such we are open to all ideas, feedback and energy. Feel welcome at our presentations, work with us on AMWA projects that interest you, or initiate your own with our backing; join the National organization. NOTE: Our primary concerns will be in those areas that impact most directly on women's lives; thus, by definition, they will affect men's lives also. Therefore, men are very welcome to attend any of our programs, and to join us in furthering our goals.

-Jo Carol Gordon,
Gilda Lorensen,
Nancy Milliken

AMWA CHAPTER MEETING

AMWA's last chapter meeting of this year will be Monday, April 17 from 8:00 PM - 9:30 PM. in the conference room near Dr. Bradford's office, green zone. Election of officers and next year's plans will be discussed. Active members especially encouraged to attend; these are big decisions. Interested persons welcome. Refreshments will be served.

SAFE ALTERNATIVES IN CHILDBIRTH

The National Association of Parents and Professionals for Safe Alternatives in Childbirth (NAPSAC) will hold a convention in Atlanta, Georgia May 19-21 this year. Parents, MD's, midwives, writers, Ph.D.'s, nurses, and other concerned individuals and groups will be represented in large numbers. Barbara Ehrenreich and Lilian Carter are notable speakers. Presentations will range from "Fetal Monitors: for better or for worse?" to "Starting a Childbearing Center in Your Community with Nurse Midwives" to "Making Hospitals More Like Home." The offerings are many and varied - it will undoubtedly be a very exciting event for those interested in American childbirth practices and possibilities.

A group of medical students is already planning to attend, and would welcome interested persons. Registration has already started, so contact us soon for the brochure and details. Gilda Lorensen, Box 2823; Nancy Milliken, Box 2832.

SCHOLARSHIP

A \$500.00 Catholic Daughters of American Graduate Scholarship is available for medical students. Deadline for receipt in Oklahoma is July 1. Dr. Shirley Osterhout, Assistant Dean, Graduate Medical Education, will sponsor applications and must have completed forms no later than June 1, 1978. Applications are available in Office of Financial Aid, 123 Davison Building.

REVIEW OF AAMC-GSA-OSR MEETING

Recently I attended the Southern Regional Meeting of the Organization of Student Representatives of the Association of American Medical Colleges. Topics discussed included: 1) medical student financial aid (the picture grows grimmer daily); 2) grading and evaluation systems; 3) health manpower proposals now before Congress; 4) bill to change National Labor Relations Act to include house officers as a bargaining group, (HR2222).

Of primary concern to all of us right now should be the Financial Aid situation and proposed changes in the Health Manpower legislation. Because of the current difficulties in obtaining bank support for the 10% annual interest rate, a proposal is now before Congress which would increase the lending rate to 12%. What this means to you is that if you borrow the maximum of \$10,000/yr. for 4 years (as students at many schools must do); and if you begin repayment after 3 years of residency, you will ultimately be repaying greater than \$180,000!! The result will be essentially conscription into the National Health Service Corps for all those not wealthy enough to pay for their own medical education. This not only restricts your freedom of choice, but seems to me counter-productive to the molding of physicians interested in the lower paying primary care areas. Now is the time to write to your Congressperson!

Next week - Part II. Rep. Rogers (D-Fla) does it again!

-Ken Trofatter,
Box 2865

seminars

CREATIVE DIMENSIONS IN CHILDBIRTH

AMWA is presenting a panel discussion by consumers and providers on Creative Dimensions in Childbirth, April 13 at 7:30 PM in the Duke Hospital Board Room. Refreshments will be served. The panel is to be preceded by a childbirth film. The film will be shown twice: at 12:10 p.m. in the medical amphitheater and at 7:00 p.m. in room 2031, 2nd floor, purple zone.

contest

CARROLL L. BIRCH MANUSCRIPT AWARD - This award consisting of \$200 and a trip to the Annual Meeting of the American Medical Women's Association at St. Petersburg Beach, Fla., in November, is presented to the woman medical student submitting the best scientific research paper. The winning paper will be published in the JOURNAL. Deadline for submitting manuscripts is July 31, 1978. See Dr. Shirley Osterhout for details.

Externships, etc.

N.C. STUDENT RURAL HEALTH COALITION

The N.C. Student Rural Health Coalition is seeking medical students to work for the summer as health screeners for health fairs to be held in several rural communities in this state. A stipend will be available. The times are flexible. For more information call Corky Piwor at 682-6568 or 286-0165.

OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE AND TOXICOLOGY

In conjunction with the Occupational Safety and Health Education Resource Center, the Department of Community and Family Medicine will offer two month preceptorships for medical students in Occupational Medicine and Clinical Toxicology this summer. Primary emphasis will be on the clinical evaluation of individuals exposed to potentially toxic

chemicals in the workplace. The fundamentals of establishing and conducting medical and environmental monitoring programs will be covered. The student will participate in one or more field evaluations of industries where worker exposure to toxic chemicals is possible.

A stipend of \$950 per two month preceptorship plus travel expenses will be provided. The faculty involved are Leonard Goldwater, M.D., ScD and Woodhall Stopford, M.D. For further information, contact Judy Goetzl, Educational Coordinator, Department of Community and Family Medicine. 684-5314.

PATHOLOGY PUZZLE

Entries to this week's contest should be placed in the ballot box in the post office by Monday, April 17 at noon to be eligible for the prize. Last week's winner was Peter Bressler with the answer OXALATE-sodium, ammonium, mixture, complexes, calcium.

Ten medical and scientific terms are listed below, with the first and alternate letters missing. Using the definition below each as a clue, replace the letters in their proper order.

1. S C O I E I Influence of mind on matter (K N Y S P S H)
2. N M N C Pertaining to memory (O I M E)
3. N U O Y O I Fungal lung disease (S S E P M M C)
4. N T A G A Pain in the jaw (I L H A G)
5. E O H B A Morbid dread of strangers (N O X P I)
6. T R A G A Pain in the heel (P E L I N)
7. D L O E E Mechanical substitute for a leech (T R E M B L)
8. T N C P A I E Genus of a flea (H E S O L D C E)
9. Y A T R X Charcoal (A H N L X)
10. N M A Pertaining to the shin (L I C E)