

shifting dullness

Vol. XV Issue No. 7

March 29, 1985

FLEX Examinations in North Carolina

On this date (5 March 1985) I had a telephone conversation with Mr. Bryant Paris, Executive Secretary of the North Carolina Board of Medical Examiners. We discussed the upcoming FLEX Examination on June 11, 12, and 13 and the candidacy of our graduating seniors for that examination. Mr. Paris informed me that all credentials except for the Dean's Certification of Graduation must be in the Examiners Office by March 25. As soon after graduation as possible, my letter of certification is to be sent to them so that they can place our graduates in the applicant pool but there is still the possibility that they will not be allowed to sit for the examination for the following reason:

There is legislation being prepared for the North Carolina State Legislature requiring eleven months of postgraduate training before one is eligible to sit for the exam. If the legislation becomes law, it will go into effect at that time thereby precluding any of our present seniors from that examination this June. Any fees paid will be refunded or will be to the examination of June of 1986.

Tentative dates for Mr. Paris to address the seniors re licensure and prescribing laws have been set as April 16 or 17 at noon.

Dr. Christakos

As we are all aware, most of our medical education focuses on the scientific basic for clinical practice. But so many important issues which affect the environment and way in which we practice are not strictly scientific, nor are they addressed often enough. Consider the impact of skyrocketing health care costs, the difficulty in deciding when to forego heroic treatment, the spectre of medical malpractice, and the dehumanization of the physician-patient relationship. To try to generate some thinking and discussion of these problems, the Alpha Omega Alpha Society would like to publish students' articles on these and other similar concerns. If you are interested in contributing a short essay about one of these subjects please drop me a note or give me a call at home, 493-2714. These problems require creative solutions and the fresh perspectives that medical students can provide.

Glenn Dranoff
Box 2735
DUMC

North Carolina Student Rural Health Coalition

NCSRHC is a multidisciplinary group of students interested in helping rural North Carolina communities identify and address their health-related needs, whether they are economic, environmental, or more strictly medical. NCSRHC has been working with rural people for the past seven years.

Coalition, cont.

At the invitation of interested communities, NCSRHC holds during the summer a "health fair," a 10-day session of free physical examinations, conducted by medical and nursing students and precepted by licensed physicians from N.C. universities and the local area. More than the provision of basic screening physicals and primary health care education to many people who might otherwise be without access to these services, the health fair serves to draw attention to area health needs and to initiate or strengthen community health councils which can act to improve local health-related problems. The dates of the fairs are: 1st Fair: June 26-July 6; 2nd Fair: July 10-July 20. You will be paid \$250 for each health fair, plus reimbursement for in-state travelling expenses and you will be housed in community homes free of charge.

If you are interested in working with us, please fill out the attached form and send it as soon as possible to Bob Lyon at Box 2819 DUMC. We will be setting up interviews towards the end of March. For more information, call Bob Lyon 688-5133, Anthony Chen 682-6851, or the office 684-2722.

MS I Voice

Reagans proposed cuts and restrictions on the GSL program are sure to have a detrimental affect on a number of medical students. If anyone is interested in helping to design and circulate a petition to protest these changes, please contact Jill Foster.

AOA Original Studies Symposium

The 1984-85 annual AOA original studies symposium will be held Tuesday, April 2, 1985. The poster session will be held from 11:30-1:00 and the platform presentations from 2-4. The keynote address will follow.

Student-Faculty Show

MUSICIANS are still needed for this year's Student-Faculty Show. It's a fun way to show off your musical talent. A drummer (or someone who can donate a drum set) and an electric guitarist are still needed in particular, but any instrument is welcome. If you didn't make it to the meeting, or have just decided that you'd like to join us, call: Steve--684-6052 or Brett--383-8906.

Medical Student Stroke Research Fellowships

Looking for a Summer research fellowship?

The Duke Stroke Center will award three student fellowships for three months in the Summer or Fall of 1985. Fellows carry out a research project under the supervision of one of the Stroke Center faculty and attend stroke registry rounds and the weekly stroke conference.

Fellowships pay a stipend of between \$500 and \$1500 (sponsored by the American Heart Association and the Stroke Center). All medical students at Duke are eligible to apply. Most fellows in past years have been students at the end of their first year or entering the fourth year.

For further information call Dr. James N. Davis at the VA Hospital (286-0411, ext. 6427 or 6596). Applications are due by April 1st and fellowships will be awarded by April 15th.

AAMC

As Duke University's representative to the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC), I recently received a letter from the AAMC president John Cooper which I'd like to share with all of you.

David Spach
AAMC School Representative

"President Reagan's recently submitted Budget request for the 1986 Fiscal Year (FY), which begins October 1, proposed a number of changes to current student financial assistance programs that, if enacted, would sharply reduce the amount of Federal aid available for medical students. Mr. Reagan has proposed cuts in, or the elimination of, most of the student assistance programs contained in the Title IV of the Higher Education Act (HEA) and the Title VII of the Public Health Service Act (P.H.S.A.)--commonly referred to as the "manpower" programs--as well as other areas. I urge you personally to write to your representatives and Senators immediately to express your opposition to these cuts and also to encourage medical students to write, selecting those issues that are especially germane to your situation or institution. Student input on these issues may prove critical as the Congress assesses which programs will "sink or swim."

For all students interested in writing letters, further information is available at the Financial Aid Office at 126 Davison Building. This information includes sample letters, detailed descriptions of budget cuts and addresses for Senators, Representatives, etc. I encourage all medical students to consider the impact of these massive cuts on their fellow students--even if they will not be personally affected. Prompt action is needed.

Sincerely,

David Spach
Clas of '86

David Spach
Box 2847
Phone # 286-3458
Lab # 684-8760

Attention 3rd Year Medical Students

Paid Externship in Oncology

The Department of Medicine is offering a two month paid externship (\$2000) in Oncology to 4th year medical students. For further information, please contact Ralph Corey, M.D. at 681-2458.

Editorial

Recently, medical students received a note from a fellow student encouraging support for two potential candidates for the Golden Apple Award. It is obvious that the communication was motivated by sincere and benevolent intent; the expression perse is not unacceptable, however the precedents are dangerous. Firstly, the Golden Apple, in my experience, has always gone to deserving physicians. I feel nomination and balloting is meant to represent students' experience with outstanding individuals. This process is not a campaign, and those who have no exposure to nominees should not vote for them, diluting the meaning of votes cast by students familiar with nominees; in the end, the meaning of the award itself would suffer. Secondly, public support of nominees (who eventually win the award) may instigate more widespread and accelerating public campaigning. The inevitable result is ill-feeling arising from both students and nominees. Therefore, I believe it best to realize the long-term consequences and please refrain from such notes.

Don Frush

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