

APAP BIWEEKLY REPORT

2120 L Street, N.W., Suite 210
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AIR FORCE P.A.'S: The first group of Air Force physician assistants will be assigned to overseas duty in October, according to the Air Force Surgeon General. At present, only one P.A. is serving outside the United States--in Guam. This first group will be assigned to posts in Europe and the Pacific.

P. A. JOURNAL: Original manuscripts of a clinical nature are being requested of P.A. program faculty. As you know, the P.A. Journal is the American Academy of Physicians' Assistants' official publication and is published quarterly. Please mail your manuscripts to the National Office, Attention Ms. Marty Wilson, Managing Editor, P.A. Journal.

EXAM DATE SET: The dates for the 1975 Certifying Examination for Primary Care Physician Assistant have been set. On November 19, 20, and 21, the certifying examination will be administered at over 50 testing centers throughout the country.

HEW NEWS: Almost \$375 million has been awarded by the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to train physicians, dentists, nurses and other health personnel with emphasis on preparing practitioners for the Nation's medically underserved areas, HEW Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger announced today.

The funds were awarded in Fiscal 1975 by the Bureau of Health Manpower and HEW's Regional Offices for health manpower programs authorized by a Continuing Resolution (P.L. 94-7). The Bureau is part of the Health Resources Administration, one of the six agencies of the Public Health Service.

Priority was placed on attracting new practitioners to shortage areas, encouraging physicians to enter primary care, and expanding the force of physician extenders. Federal dollars also were obligated to maintain the stability of health training institutions, promote innovations in education and increase the enrollment of disadvantaged students in health schools.

Some \$184 million, almost half the total obligated, was awarded as capitation payments--funds based on student enrollment--to support the educational programs of participating schools. Capitation amounted to \$34.3 million for 1,050 nursing programs and \$150 million for 291 health professions schools (114 medical, \$85,817,703; 9 osteopathy, \$5,404,871; 58 dentistry, \$31,777,426; 12 optometry, \$2,015,738; 6 podiatry, \$1,219,220; 73 pharmacy, \$16,753,272; and 19 veterinary, \$7,011,770).

The output of U.S. health professions and nursing schools has almost doubled during the past decade and includes a 70 percent increase in the number of medical graduates--from 7,935 in 1966 to 13,520 in 1975.

Over \$10 million was awarded under the Health Manpower Education Initiative Awards program to promote team and primary care training, to train health professions students in underserved areas and to assist disadvantaged students in entering health careers.

The Area Health Education Center program, under which health personnel are being trained in underserved areas in 11 States, was funded for a fourth year with an additional \$12 million.

Some 527 health practitioners including 204 physicians have agreed to practice in shortage areas in return for Federal repayment of educational loans.

Physician Shortage Area scholarships are assisting about 300 students of medicine and osteopathy who have agreed to deliver primary care in a shortage area upon completion of training.

Support for the training of family physicians amounted to \$15 million. The effort to increase primary care services also was spurred by the award of more than \$10 million to train physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and expanded function dental auxiliaries.

(A List of Awards by Major Programs Attached)

POSITION AVAILABLE: The Mercy College of Detroit Physician's Assistant Program has an opening for a Clinical Educational Specialist. The main focus of this position is: development and implementation of a clinical science curriculum, writing examinations, teaching, assessing new educational materials, assisting Program Director with follow-up of former graduates. The salary is negotiable. All inquiries should be directed to: Ms. Harriett Gales, Director, Physician's Assistant Program, Mercy College of Detroit, 8200 West Outer Drive, Detroit, Mich. 48219.

OKLAHOMA PLANS SESSION AND CME WORKSHOP: The P.A. Program at the University of Oklahoma, in conjunction with the Oklahoma Academy of Physician Assistants and the Texas Academy of Physicians' Assistants has scheduled a three-day review session for the national certification exam and a series of presentations in clinical disciplines for the practicing P.A. on October 9-11 in Oklahoma City. For further information, please write: Roger G. Whittaker, Program Coordinator, O.A.P.A., 721 N.E. 14th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (73104). (405)271-5048.

HEALTH MANPOWER: Senate subcmte. manpower hearings, once set for the end of April, have been pushed back to September, following the August recess.

Where the September hearings will take the Health Subcmte. is anybody's guess at this point. Talks with Senate and House staffers, HEW officials, and representatives of prominent health assns. reveal a single central theme--right now the subcmte. and its staff have little or no idea of what kind of a health manpower bill will emerge. Staffers who last month expressed a willingness to discuss the subject once the House acted instead clammed up and declined to talk after the House passed HR 5546 by 296-58 July 11. (Blue Sheet, Vol 18, No. 30)

So far this year Kennedy has given little hint of his intentions except in a May speech at Harvard where he suggested that if the schools do not soon start doing more on their own to solve maldistribution problems he may switch to the old Roy approach of scrapping capitation and shifting to a system of almost all direct student aid tied to strict service paybacks with heavy penalties for those who fail to meet their obligation.

Recently, Kennedy manpower hints were gleaned from a three-hour hearing July 31 on rural health care problems. The senator - the key figure on health manpower legislation now that the House has passed a bill - gave strong indications he will again push hard for a serious attack on geographic and specialty maldistribution, probably by beefing up student aid tied to service. Health Resources Administration chief Endicott revealed at the same hearing that a new Administration manpower bill is being drafted. The existing Administration proposal has been rejected out of hand by almost everybody on Capitol Hill. The new plan will be almost identical to one prepared earlier this year which was shot down by the Office of Management & Budget.