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NEW YORK, Dec. 15 -- Two of the nation's larger philanthropic foundations, Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Commonwealth Fund, today announced support of an experimental program to prepare a wholly new type of professional practitioner in medicine: a Pediatric Associate who, working under the supervision of a physician, will be qualified to examine and immunize well children and treat the more common childhood diseases.

The purpose of the project is to demonstrate one new method of providing more and better care to our nation's burgeoning child population in spite of the national shortage of pediatricians and others who care for children. The project will be conducted by the University of Colorado School of Medicine, under the direction of Dr. Henry K. Silver, Professor of Pediatrics and chief architect of the new curriculum. Graduates of the program will receive a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Colorado.

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The two foundations are supporting the effort in approximately equal amounts, with three-year grants to the School of Medicine totaling \$450,000. The School has also received a \$73,179 grant from the Bureau of Health Manpower for the first of three year's support.

The curriculum for the Pediatric Associate was originally planned under a previous grant by Carnegie Corporation and is an out-growth of an experiment supported by Commonwealth Fund to train a new type of nurse -- the pediatric nurse practitioner.

In a joint statement announcing the grants, Alan Pifer, President of Carnegie Corporation, and Quigg Newton, President of the Commonwealth Fund, said:

"Authoritative studies of the outlook for medical care in the United States, such as the Report of the National Advisory Commission on Health Manpower, have concluded that the country will face a severe shortage of physicians for some years to come. Our two foundations agree that serious efforts must be undertaken to assist doctors make the best use of their time, knowledge, and skill.

"For this reason, we are persuaded that the experimental curriculum that has been designed by the University of Colorado School of Medicine is of considerable national importance. It

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is focused on pediatric care -- an area of medicine in which the burdens of practice are especially heavy -- and it is intended to demonstrate that, with appropriate education and certification, a new category of health professional can be qualified for employment by doctors to assist them with specific aspects of their responsibilities that are now carried out by the doctors themselves and that consume much of their time and energy.

"The Carnegie Corporation and the Commonwealth Fund are deeply impressed by the interest and support this planned experiment has received from all levels of the Colorado medical community, and we are pleased to share this endorsement of an educational innovation that could have far-reaching benefits to physicians and to the infants and children within their care."

#### The Role of the Pediatric Associate

The responsibilities envisioned for graduates of the curriculum -- who will be termed Pediatric Associates -- are based not on the nursing role but on the physician's role. Hence, the Associate will have a substantial degree of medical responsibility for the physician's patients.

The Associate will make diagnoses and decide on and carry out appropriate measures for treatment. This will include the writing of prescriptions -- exclusive of narcotic compounds -- from an approved list of drugs. Thus, the Associate will be equipped to take part in all dimensions of the physician's prac-

tice. The same wide level of responsibility will apply to Associates employed under doctors in the public-health services.

The limits of the Associate's medical-practice activities, however, will be clearly defined both legally and professionally.

With the backing of the Colorado State Medical Society, the State Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and other responsible medical bodies, legislation has been proposed setting forth the terms governing the required education and permissible scope of activities of this new health professional. The legislation will require that graduates of the Associates curriculum be examined and certified by the Colorado State Board of Medical Examiners.

In their professional role, certified Associates will function within two chief safeguards. First, each Associate will serve under the personal direction and supervision of a particular physician, who will review the Associate's work and be available for consultation at all times.

Second, the Associate will spend his time on well-child care -- scheduled physical examinations and immunizations, for instance, and routine hospital care for the newborn infant -- and on minor ailments and injuries that are a normal part of childhood. These include certain respiratory ailments, various communicable and infectious diseases, accidental injuries,

gastrointestinal disturbances, allergy problems, and mild skin disorders. The more acute illnesses will be handled directly by the physicians, and the Associate will be trained to recognize abnormal symptoms so that such cases can be detected early and placed in the physician's care.

Even within these limits, the Associate should be able to give medical care to about 80 per cent of the patients within the typical pediatrician's practice. This would provide the physician with more time to devote to seriously ill children, and to keep abreast of advances in his field.

#### Design of the Experimental Curriculum

The experimental curriculum has been designed to lead to professional qualification five years after high school, including a year of internship. It is a joint program between the University's main campus in Boulder and the School of Medicine in Denver. The University and the School have assigned leadership in the effort to the Department of Pediatrics, and an advisory committee with representation from Colorado medical societies and state and local government health agencies has been appointed to guide the Department in development of the curriculum.

Students interested in the program will spend their first two years of the five-year course at Boulder -- or other undergraduate schools of their choice -- taking liberal arts offerings and essential premedical studies, such as organic chemistry, biology,

and mathematics. Dr. Silver, director of the program, and other faculty will keep in touch with them during this period, working with the student-counseling staff of the Univeristy of Colorado and conducting seminars on broad aspects of medical practice.

Students accepted for training as Pediatric Associates will transfer to the University of Colorado Medical Center for three years of intensive professional education, which will comprise two years of academic and clinical education leading to the bachelor's degree, plus an internship year.

The first year of the professional-education phase will be devoted to a concentrated, forty-eight-week sequence of studies in the basic sciences. The emphasis here will be on the relevance of these fields to understanding both the normal and the disease states of physiological systems. For example, anatomy and physiology will be combined in the study of the cardiovascular system, and then be followed by combined studies of heart and vascular pathology and related clinical diagnoses.

The second year, also forty-eight weeks, will be devoted to fundamental clinical training and will consist of a clerkship experience similar to that provided for medical students. Along with medical students, the students in the Pediatric Associate course will gain experience in history taking, performing complete physical examinations, and in ordering, carrying out, and evaluating pertinent laboratory studies. They will also partic-

ipate with medical students in Departmental conferences, seminars, and rounds. The main difference between the Pediatric Associate clerkship and the medical-student clerkship is that the Associate's training will concentrate largely on the elements of health care as limited to children and will give particular attention to ambulatory pediatrics.

These emphases will also characterize the Associate's internship training, the final year of professional education. For this purpose a broad array of teaching settings are available -- including not only the outpatient departments and special clinics of the University's Medical Center and of the Denver Department of Health and Hospitals, but also sizable O.E.O. Neighborhood Health Centers and their satellite health stations.

In addition, during their internship, the students in the Associates course will train in the offices of pediatricians in private practice, who will serve as their preceptors.

Another chief feature of the Associate's professional education will be attention throughout the course of child development and growth, and family and community life as they affect behavioral patterns in health and illness.

#### Plans for Implementation

The University and the School of Medicine will begin the program on a limited basis in the fall of 1969 by admitting a pilot class of eight to ten students to the three-year profes-

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ional-education phase. This would mean that the first group of Pediatric Associates could be qualified for practice by the summer of 1972.

Subsequent pilot classes will not be increased much beyond the size of this starting group, until the faculty has acquired sufficient experience with the new teaching program to permit larger enrollments.

The grants from Carnegie Corporation and the Commonwealth Fund will be used primarily toward the costs of the professional and administrative staff responsible for conducting the experiment, and toward the costs of the teaching staff. The latter will be drawn from basic-science and clinical departments from throughout the School of Medicine, and will devote about a third of their total time to the experiment.

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