

# shifting dullness

Issue No. 2

JANUARY 28, 1982

## HEALTH CARE FINANCING

Policymakers at all levels concerned with the rising cost of health care in the United States have searched for programs and alternative financing methods which may help reduce the upward pressure on costs. Proposed responses include development of Health Maintenance Organizations or other prepaid medical services and increasing competition among health providers. By these means, consumer choice and price competition may hold down costs. However, the teaching hospitals across the country are at a particular disadvantage in the price competition market. They have numerous responsibilities in addition to patient care which significantly affect operating costs. These include teaching of students, training residents, clinical and basic science research, and charity care. In addition, a higher percentage of patients at teaching are Medicare/Medicaid patients, the medically indigent, or have severe medical problems requiring more intense and expensive therapy.

At the request of Rep. Richard Gephardt (D.-Mo.) the Association of American Medical Colleges recently completed a study which provides a measure of two of these societal costs borne by teaching hospitals. An analysis of charity and bad debt deductions for the nation's short-stay, non-federal hospitals, which comprise 5.6% of the nation's hospitals, incurred 47% (\$601 million) of the nation's charity care and 35% (\$1.2 billion) of the bad debt deductions in 1980. Thus, at a time when the financial bases of teaching hospitals are affected by reduction in federal aid to medical schools, medical students, and research, and while reductions in Medicare/Medicaid coverage appears imminent, it seems questionable to consider placing teaching institutions in a more intense competitive position with other health providing systems. For these reasons, the AAMC is actively engaged in developing ideas which do not further endanger teaching hospitals. For information on the AAMC and its student arm, the Organization of Student Representatives, contact John Dietz, P.O. Box 2811.

-John Dietz

## FINANCIAL AID NOTICE

Financial aid application packets for the academic year 1982-83 will be available in the Financial Aid Office on Monday, February 15, 1982. Packets must be picked up in person; they are not routinely mailed to returning students.

## ANOTHER ONE

The Departments of OB/GYN and Pediatrics will sponsor a "Renewal of Systems" on February 5. Soft drinks, beer, food, and exciting conversation will be featured.

## CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP GATHERING

A DUMC-wide Christian Fellowship meeting will be held Jan. 30 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Jordan House (on Oregon Street). There will be a pot-luck dessert. This is an opportunity to meet house staff, nurses, attendings, etc! For more information, call Joe Hill at 383-4919.

## RESIDENCY INFORMATION

The Directory of Preventative Medicine Residency Programs in the U.S. and Canada is now available in the Davison Lounge.

#### SOCIAL REMINDER

Return your responses to the Social Committee's "Good Times" flyer as soon as possible. Campus mail will deliver replies to Box 3407 if they are addressed correctly.

#### DUKE SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULED

This year's Duke Symposium, entitled STEP '82 (Science, Technology, Ethnicity, Policy) will deal with the topics of population control, genetic engineering, and allocation of health resources. STEP '82 will be held from February 17 through 19. The speakers are outstanding in their fields, and the schedule of lectures should allow those interested to participate. There is no charge except the time invested and the change of intellectual atmosphere may prove to be refreshing as well as enlightening.

#### OF INTEREST TO FRESHMAN

Again this year, Burroughs Wellcome, located in Research Triangle Park, expects to have several laboratory technician summer openings. First year students interested in summer employment may apply by calling 541-9090, Ext. 4611 and requesting an application or by visiting the Personnel Department at 3030 Cornwallis Road, Research Triangle Park between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday.

All applications for summer employment must be received no later than 2/26/82.

Further information is available in Dr. Christakos' office and in Central Teaching.

#### SHORT SEMINARS OFFERED

CAPS is offering several seminars this spring which are open to medical students. These include the following:

Women in Transition- focuses on understanding oneself and learning new coping skills and strategies for change, Fridays 3-4:30 p.m. 5 sessions, starting Feb. 5.

Enriching Relationships, the Art of Communication- how to effectively communicate needs and desires with other people, Thursdays 3:30-5:30 4 sessions, starting March 4.

How to Keep Perfectionism from Ruining Your Life- Wednesdays 3:30-5:00 p.m. 5 sessions, starting March 3.

Learning How the Other Half Lives and Thinks- emphasis on breaking the ice, understanding misunderstood words and signals. Wednesday, Feb. 3 & 10, 3:30-5:00 p.m. 2 sessions.

#### CANOEING IN QUEBEC

For information about paid positions as medical counselors on a wilderness canoe trip with 12-16 year olds, check the bulletin board in the student lounge.

#### DIABETES RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTER

Information has been received regarding the Summer Student Research Program sponsored by the Diabetes Research and Training Center at Vanderbilt for the summer of 1982. The deadline for receipt of applications is 3/1/82. Application forms and more information are available in Dr. Christakos' office in the awards and contest book.

#### PUZZLE ANSWERS

The answers to last week's Hungarian scientist puzzle are as follows: Neurophysiologist-SONJEN, Puzzler-RUBIK, Obstetrician-SEMMELWEIS, Biochemist-SZENT-GYÖRGYI. The mystery word, "eminently Hungarian," was BUDAPEST.

For those who thought Budapest (last week's mystery word) was a bit far afield, we have an all-American puzzle of state nicknames this week. Beside each modified nickname, give the state's name. For example, beside Solitary Planet State<sup>A</sup>, you would write "Texas" (the lone star state). The letter at right gives the first letter of the state capital. In this case, A stands for Austin. Also, for the eight numbered nicknames, you must fill in the correct first letter of the capital in the corresponding stars at the bottom. This will spell out the 8-letter mystery capital. The entry with the most correct answers will receive a Gift Certificate to Baskin-Robbins.

Return signed answer sheets to Walter Pharr, P.O. Box 2802, DUMC. Kösenöm! (Hungarian thank-you).

DEMONSTRATE ME STATE<sup>J</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

HELLO/GOOD-BYE STATE<sup>I</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

HOLY ROMAN STATE<sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

STICKY FOOT STATE<sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

ARABLE STATE<sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

THE CRABGRASS STATE<sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

THE LATER STATE<sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

MOTHER OF POSTMASTERS<sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

THE LAST STATE<sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

BUCKTOOTH STATE<sup>C</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

LIVER OF DIXIE<sup>M</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

LAND OF GARFIELD<sup>S</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

GREEN DEPRESSION STATE<sup>M</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

AMERICA'S PIGPEN<sup>M</sup> \_\_\_\_\_



#### SANDOZ CALENDERS

The 1982 Sandoz pocket calendars are available for third and fourth year students in Dr. Christakos' office. Please see Jeanne or Sonna. The calendars will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis.

#### FOR GRADUATING STUDENTS

The North Carolina Board of Medical Examiners will give its written examination, FLEX, on June 15-17, 1982, at Jane S. McKimmon Extension Education Center, Corner of Gorman Street and Western Blvd., Raleigh, N.C. There is a sixty day requirement for completion of credentials. Dr. Christakos' office has further information.

#### PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Articles for publication in Shifting Dullness should be turned in to the Shifting Dullness tray across from Dr. Christakos' office on Thursday, one week before publication. These articles should be typed or printed and double-spaced. Please submit articles written as they should appear, in complete sentences. Kösönöm!

Due to vagaries in the printing schedule, the exact date of publication is not fixed. Therefore, Shifting Dullness will come out either on Thursday or Friday of every week.

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