



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

NEWS

Health Sciences Center News is published by the University of Oregon Health Sciences Center to inform students, employees, faculty and friends of the institution of programs, activities and events of interest to them.

Children under five are often victims of poisoning

"Poison Control Center — may I help you?" asks secretary Chris Cottrell at the Health Sciences Center's Poison Control Center.

A frightened mother breathlessly responds, "My five-year-old just swallowed bug poison. What should I do?"

Although the HSC's Poison Control Center was designed specifically for use by physicians only, a number of emergency calls from private individuals is received each day, sometimes—as in the case above—setting into motion a race against time.

Last year, 2,336 cases of poisoning were reported to the Center from hospitals throughout Oregon. Of these, 356 were fatal. Children five years old and under represented 1,262 of the total cases.

(The Center also includes in its total of fatalities deaths attributable to chronic alcoholism and drug abuse.)

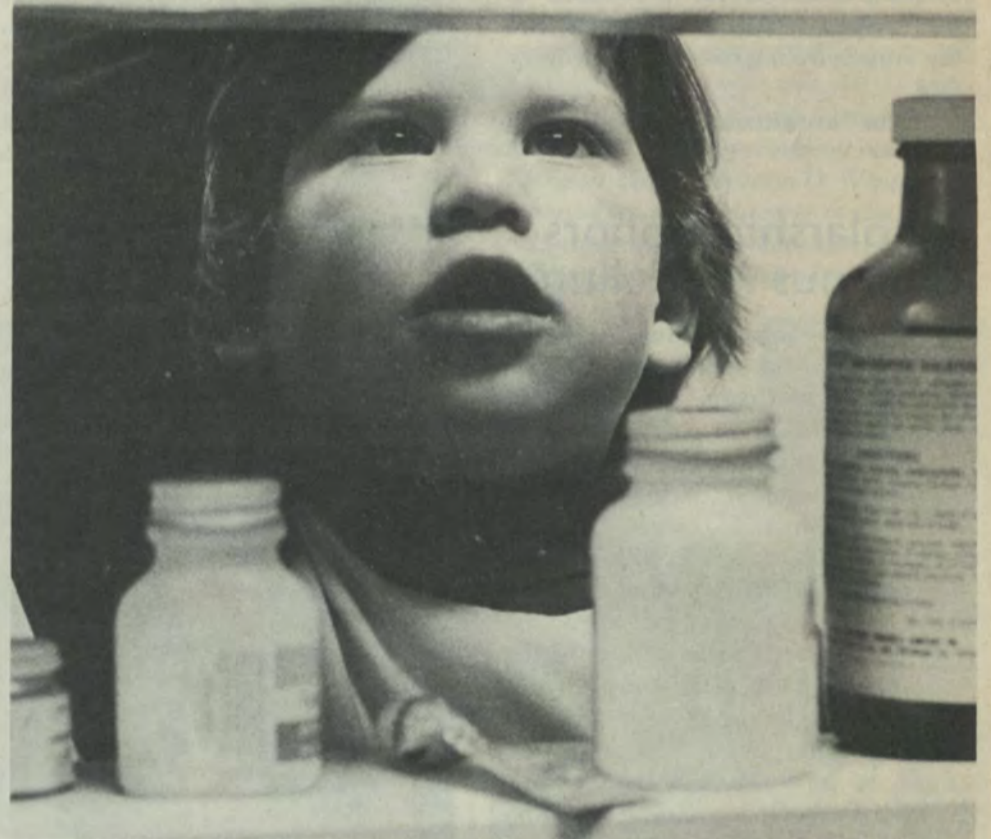
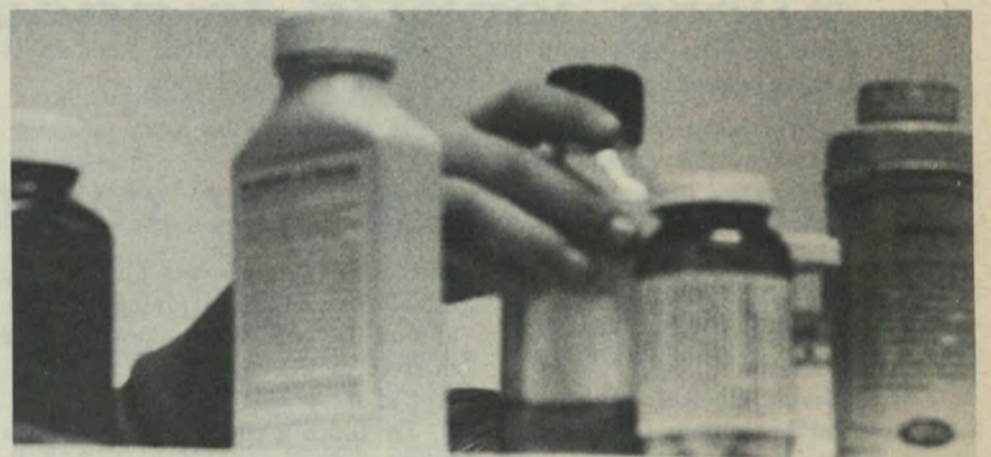
March 16 through 22 marked National Poison Prevention Week—an annual reminder that youngsters five and under must be protected against accidental poisonings.

"The fatal cases of child poisonings in Oregon each year are not necessarily the result of what we think of as 'terrible' poisons, such as lye and other caustics," explained Dr. Emily Tufts, assistant professor of pediatrics and director of the Poison Control Center.

"Medicines lead the list in poisoning cases. Most parents don't realize, for example, that their iron pills can be fatal to a child."

The physician commented that although many parents take precautions to store medicines out of a child's

(continued on page 2)



Alumni kick off drive

A kick-off dinner for the second annual alumni giving drive was held March 4.

Dr. Richard Lalli, president of the School of Medicine Alumni Association, welcomed alumni with the following remarks:

"We're here to kick off the Alumni Association's only fund raising effort. As you will remember, the Alumni Association has dropped its traditional dues program in favor of this annual solicitation for funds.

"This is the most important proj-

ect the Alumni Association has ever undertaken. It gives an opportunity to contribute directly to what Dr. Bluemle has pointed to as one of the most pressing needs of the institution—the financing of excellence."

Dr. Lalli commented that class representatives are very enthusiastic about this year's annual giving campaign and that all expect substantial increases in participation and total receipts.

Dr. Lewis W. Bluemle, president

(continued on page 2)

Bluemle says Center to appeal accreditation decision

The news, now well known to all members of the UOHSC family, that the University Hospitals lost their national accreditation was announced on the campus late Monday afternoon, March 10.

The next day, Health Sciences Center President Dr. Lewis W. Bluemle, Jr., announced the accreditation loss to the press and added that he expects to have the deficiencies cited by the team from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals corrected not later than June of this year.

A team from the Joint Commission — made up of the American College of Physicians, the American College of Surgeons, the American Hospital Association, and the

American Medical Association — made its visit just three weeks after Dr. Bluemle had become president of the Health Sciences Center. It had visited the institution in November, 1973, and at that time had made 66 recommendations and granted the hospitals "provisional" accreditation pending the correction of the problem areas noted in its recommendations.

Dr. Bluemle expressed "serious concern" not only to media representatives with whom he talked extensively March 11 and 12, but also to members of the medical staff (made up of the clinical department heads of the School of Medicine) March 12 and to the full School of Medicine faculty

Patient care not cited as deficiency

March 14.

He pointed out that the citations of the accrediting team were mostly in the area of record keeping and documentation rather than in the area of patient care.

In reporting to all HSC employees, Dr. Bluemle said that an appeal of the nonaccreditation decision has been filed with the Joint Commission, and that until the appellate process has been completed, the University Hospitals will retain the provisional accreditation status granted in November, 1973.

"We have requested the scheduling of another visit by the Joint Commission accrediting team for early summer," he added.

(continued on page 12)

Hospitals lose national accreditation

Deficiencies to be corrected by June

Commission made 66 recommendations

President met with faculty

Hospitals retain provisional accreditation

Center asks Commission to make visit this summer

Visitor's purse can spell danger for small child

(continued from page 1)

reach, "There is still grandmother's pocketbook, which is often left unguarded and may be full of medicine.

"Or perhaps a normally careful parent gets distracted," Dr. Tufts continued. "A mother giving a pill to a sick child may leave the room to answer the doorbell or telephone, and in the mean time, her child can swallow a bottle-full of medicine — especially around mealtime.

"Most of our cases occur at dinner-time. This is when the child is hungriest, and the mother is usually busiest," she added.

Most cases of accidental adult poisoning are the result of carelessness. Many are caused by ingestion of materials used in gardening and hobbies. These toxic substances are often stored in food containers, such as soda pop bottles, and may be accidentally ingested.

Dr. Tufts has also seen cases of adult poisoning caused by the toxic

vapors which are created when two common household cleaning agents—ammonia and chlorine bleach — are mixed.

The director commented that plants are a "tremendous problem" to poison control centers.

"A parent may become frantic because his child eats a rhododendron leaf. This plant does contain a toxic material, but only great quantities are harmful. There have been a few fatal cases—such as when several children made tea from rhododendron leaves. But this is rare."

"Plants occupy a position on our poisoning list which is out of proportion to their importance as toxic agents. They are an aggravation because of the difficulty in identifications and small amount of toxic alkaloids present and the high degree of public panic associated with their ingestions.

Dr. Tufts suggested several ways to reduce the chance of poisoning in the home. Household cleaning agents, which are often toxic, should not be stored under the sink in homes with children.

Medicines should be locked up or kept in a very safe place, and unused prescriptions should be discarded. Dr. Tufts commented that calling medicine "candy" is a dangerous mistake.

If accidental poisoning does occur, the parent should find out what exactly his child has ingested. Then he should call his family doctor who, in turn, may call the Poison Control Center.

The family physician may feel the case is serious enough to warrant a trip to the hospital, and if so, the parent should bring along the original container in which the poison was packaged.

In some cases the physician may recommend that the child be given syrup of ipecac to induce vomiting. Dr. Tufts said that some parents may

want to keep a bottle of syrup of ipecac at home in case of poisonings.

But she pointed out that in some cases, vomiting should not be induced. If hydrocarbons or caustic materials have been ingested, vomiting could be fatal. Parents should always call their family physician before inducing vomiting.

Dr. Tufts explained that the HSC Poison Control Center is a member of the National Clearing House for Poison Control Centers. As such, the Center maintains a Poison Registry of all reported cases from Oregon and reports all cases to the Federal Drug Administration in Washington, D.C.

The Center was established as a physicians' consultation service. Pediatric residents who handle calls to the Center have access to a large index card file of known poisons and antidotes. A reprint file of articles about various poisons and a small library of toxicology books are also located at the Center.

Alumni annual giving campaign begins

(continued from page 1)

of the Health Sciences Center, told the group, "There's a real money crunch in medical education.

"The Health Sciences Center, like other similar institutions in the country, is caught in the bind between increasing demands for production of well-trained health professionals and the same spiraling costs you face every day.

"The institution must call upon

its most loyal supporters for help. By establishing an annual giving program, alumni have and are showing their interest in the institution, their support of it."

Dr. Bluemle commented that when fund raisers from the School of Medicine request funds from private donors or foundations, they are often asked, "What are the alumni doing?"

Dr. Bluemle pointed out, "It all comes down to this. If alumni do not

take a real, visible interest in their school, then it is doubtful that foundations, corporations, and individuals who are being asked to give to the institution will do so either. We need your help."

Dr. Charles Holman, dean of the School of Medicine, expressed his gratitude for alumni support which has helped provide scholarships, library aid, and equipment for the instructional aids department.

Part of last year's support went to assist in the purchase of an electron microscope for the ophthalmology department.

Last year was the first annual alumni giving drive, and a total of \$41,303 was contributed. This year the goal has been raised to \$100,000.

Class leaders have been selected for each graduating class, and they will be sending out information and letters requesting support from their classmates within the next month.



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH for March is Marian Ankcorn, of Portland. Marian has worked for volunteer services for about a year, contributing a total of 396 hours. She provides coffee cart service to the Outpatient Clinic two days a week and is described by Marla Clark, volunteer services director, as "friendly, faithful, and dependable. She really cares about people, and takes time to become personally involved with patients."

Scholarship honors Alumnus McCallum

A new scholarship fund is being established in the Advancement Fund in memory of George C. McCallum, M.D. Dr. McCallum was a School of Medicine graduate and a respected and beloved physician practicing in Eugene for the majority of his career. This will be for the support of a medical student during his first four years of training. The Scholarship Committee of the Health Sciences Center will make the selection of the medical student determined upon financial need. Friends and colleagues of Dr. McCallum are urged to make contributions to his memorial scholarship fund by sending a check to the Advancement Fund.

The winter rains subsided for almost a week in early March, and Portland enjoyed warm, clear spring-like weather. Joyce Kohltfarber, LPN from UHN 3NW, Joyce Brown, junior nursing student, and Beverly Cox, hospital aide from UHN 3NW, took advantage of the warm weather for an afternoon break in the Jarvis Gould memorial garden overlooking the city and Mt. Hood.



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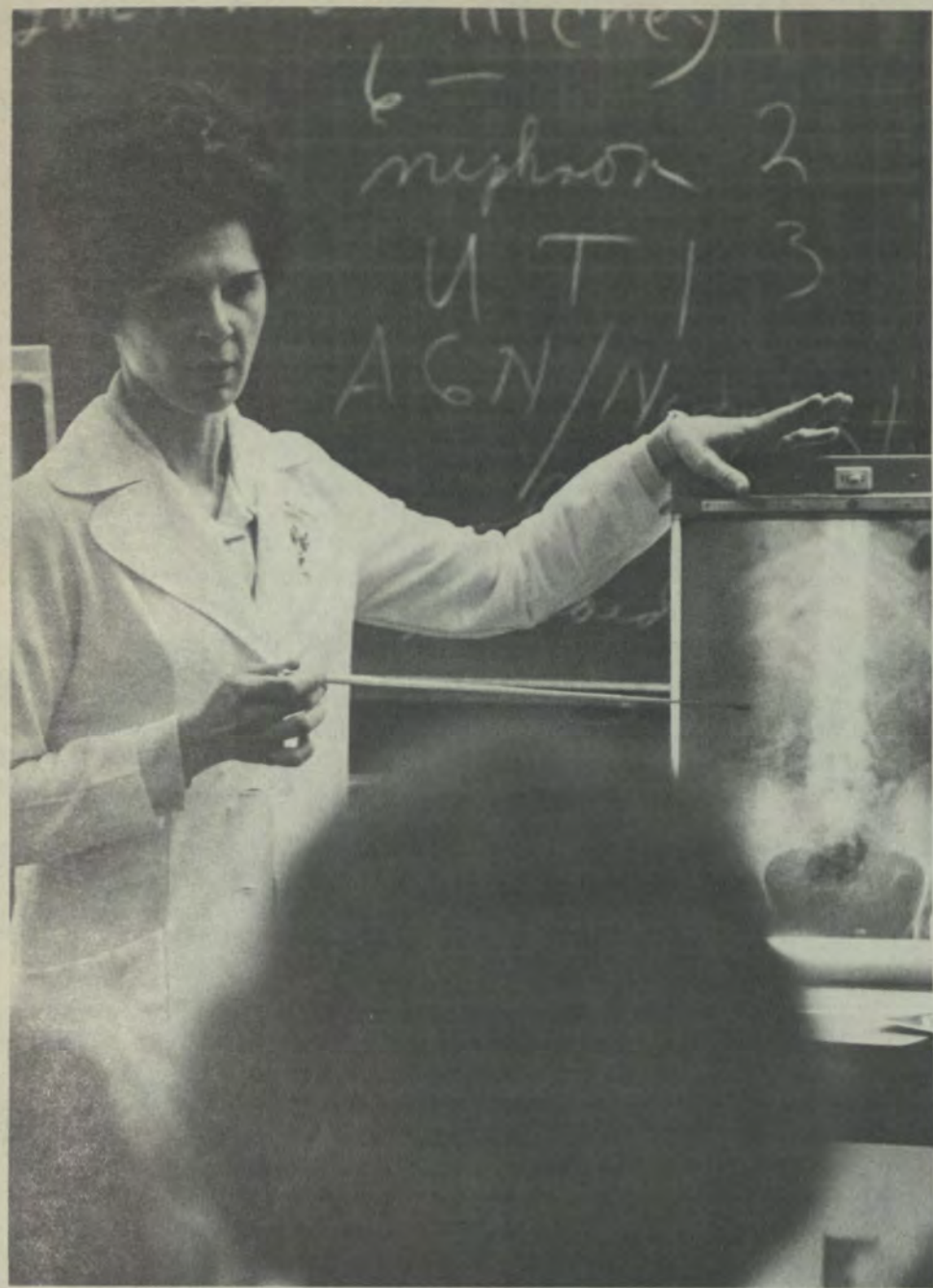
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Center's young biomedical Explorers dig for answers



They ask a lot of questions—*hard* questions. They dig until they're sure they understand. They want to know what medicine is all about because in a few years, they'll be deciding on careers.

They are the Health Sciences Center's own biomedical Explorer post, and at weekly meetings, they are a captivated audience.

The post was formed in September with Dr. Ralph Tanz, associate professor of pharmacology, as advisor.

So far, the group has had lectures, tours, and demonstrations in such

varied areas as electronmicroscopy, family practice, radiologic technology, and pharmacology.

Dr. Tanz is looking for faculty members who would be willing to invite Explorers into their labs to help out on a regular basis. "These young people really want to see, feel, and do," the Health Sciences Center physician pointed out.

The post has already chosen a sleeve patch to identify them as Explorers when working in hospitals and labs, and Dr. Tanz is trying to locate funds to pay for the patches.



Dr. Yatsu will head new department of neurology



Dr. Frank M. Yatsu has been named professor and chairman of the department of neurology of the School of Medicine.

Dr. Yatsu is currently associate professor and vice chairman of the department of neurology and chief of the service at San Francisco General Hospital at the University of California.

The 43-year-old neurologist received his undergraduate education at Brown University and his M.D. degree from Case Western Reserve in 1959.

He served his internship and residency at University Hospitals, Cleve-

land, and also at the Neurological Institute in New York.

He was a research fellow at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and chief of neurology at the U.S. Naval Hospital, Great Lakes, Illinois.

Dr. Yatsu was a John and Mary Markle Scholar in Academic Medicine and received the Kaiser Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1970 and 1971.

He has been on numerous committees at the University of California School of Medicine and is a member of regional and national societies of neurology.

Dr. Yatsu will assume his role as

chairman of the department of neurology July 1, 1975, at which time it will become a full department.

Dr. Neerhout gives Bilderback Lecture

Dr. Robert C. Neerhout, chairman-elect of the department of pediatrics of the School of Medicine, was speaker at the Joseph B. Bilderback Lecture, March 13.

Dr. Neerhout's lecture was entitled "Hemoglobinopathies — Molecular Biology in Action."

Individual employee efforts can effect HSC's safety record

Dr. Lewis W. Bluemle, president of the Health Sciences Center, recently placed renewed emphasis on the Center's safety program.

In a memo to all department and division heads, Dr. Bluemle commented that the Center's accident rate is still higher than it should be.

As a result of occupational accidents, many employee workdays are lost, and the institution must pay higher premiums in accident compensation insurance.

From July to December last year, there were 37 occupational injuries which resulted in a total of 623 lost workdays. There were an additional 138 injuries which did not result in lost workdays.

According to campus Safety Director George Johnston, educating em-

ployees about occupational hazards is the most important aspect of improving the Center's accident record.

He feels that the best way to make employees aware of safety problems is active participation in all levels of the HSC's Occupational Safety and Health Plan.

This plan, which was drawn up in 1973, divides the campus into three accident control groups. Accident Control Group I consists of William Zimmerman, vice president for administration, as chairman and a safety manager appointed for each building. This group meets monthly to discuss safety problems and policies.

Group II is made up of department heads and others. It meets monthly to resolve or discuss safety hazards and implement new policies. (The plan requires that each building have a thorough room-by-room safety inspection and an evacuation fire drill every three

months.)

Group III consists of certain appointed employees in *all* areas, thus providing a network of contact with every individual employed by the Health Sciences Center. This group conducts safety inspections, reviews accidents, corrects hazardous conditions, and alerts fellow employees to safety problems and policies.

Mr. Johnston admits that the campus-wide safety plan—though theoretically ideal—should be improved upon in practice.

Members of the three groups have tended to let down their guard, he said, since the plan went into operation.

Safety meetings and inspections should be held more regularly, Johnston commented. If an employee in one of the three groups terminates or moves to a new building, an appointee should be named to serve in his place.

Mr. Johnston, who also serves as

director of research instrument services, explained that he does not have time personally to supervise each of the several hundred persons assigned to a group in the safety system.

But he suggests that members of the three groups renew their efforts and participation and examine their responsibility for the safety of their co-workers.

He added that any employee who has not been contacted by a Group III member or whose work area or office has not had a recent safety inspection should be asking "Why?"

These employees may ask their supervisors how to get the safety plan back into operation in their department or they may call Safety Director Johnston for this information.

Mr. Johnston added that employees should make it part of their daily routine to check for and report health and safety hazards.

Center aims at regaining hospital accreditation

(continued from page 1)

Academic standing not in jeopardy

"Two factors are important to point out," the president said. "First, the quality of our patient care is not at issue here. Second, at the present time, the accreditation of the academic programs offered by the Schools of the Health Sciences Center is not in jeopardy."

Many of the citations in the accreditation report had to do with environmental safeguards, such as sprinkling systems in the Hospitals. Legislation providing funding for these necessary additions was signed by Governor Robert Straub March 21 and provided the institution just over \$2 million to begin work immediately.

By-laws were adopted after Commission visit

Other citations had to do with the adoption of by-laws for the medical staff. Dr. Bluemle pointed out that when the accrediting team visited, the medical staff by-laws were in draft form and were adopted just five weeks later (January 17).

Another deficiency had to do with the fact that these by-laws had not been approved by the Hospitals' governing body. With most hospitals, Dr. Bluemle pointed out, this is a board of trustees. However, he said, the UOHSC Hospitals do not have a governing board as such — but are an integral part of the

Citations deal with communications

Health Sciences Center and the president is the interface between the institution and the State Board of Higher Education which fills the role of the governing board in this case.

"Now, we are asking that the by-laws be approved by the Board," Dr. Bluemle said.

Many citations had to do with medical staff communication, formalized meetings, documentation of those meetings, and retrospective audits of patient care.

Specifically, the major deficiencies, the report said, were failure to correct 30 of the 66 prior recommendations; numerous medical staff deficiencies relating to meetings, surveillance minutes, reports and other criteria; no documentation of clinic department meetings monthly; lack of process in appeals mechanism of medical staff; some failures to dictate promptly clinical resumes and operative reports; and 2,100 delinquent medical records.

Records found delinquent

Dr. Bluemle pointed out that funding for adequate clerical staff in the hospitals — to meet the work load — has long been a problem.

The last deficiency cited in the report was "no documentation" of effective communication between the medical staff and the governing body. Dr. Bluemle indicated

Accreditation team misses president's files

that the survey team did not come to his office where he has a "plethora" of files containing communications between his office and the medical staff.

In making his announcements to various segments of the concerned faculty and staff and to the community, Dr. Bluemle was quick to point out that insurance claims will continue to be paid for treatment in the hospitals in spite of the Joint Commission report; that Federal funding programs are not presently in jeopardy; nor is accreditation of the varying educational programs of the schools of the HSC — including residency programs in the hospitals, which are accredited individually — unless the deficiencies are not corrected.

Insurance companies to continue their payments

Campus and community support for the institution has been widespread. In an editorial March 15, writers for the *Oregon Journal* concluded, "On initial examination, it would appear that most, if not all, of the problems could be solved by application of the Navy's 'tight ship' policy. Oregon is entitled to quality hospitals in connection with its quality medical school. Time before the next survey is short, but Dr. Bluemle gives the impression of being able to do the job."

Editorial in Journal cites Dr. Bluemle's abilities

Northwest Association grants initial accreditation

The Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges has approved the University of Oregon Health Sciences Center as a "Candidate for Accreditation."

Dr. James Bemis, executive director of the Association, notified President Lewis W. Bluemle of the action late last month following the March 3 visit of the accrediting team made up of Dr. Robert Coonrod, acting president of the

University of Idaho, and Dr. William Phillips, associate dean of the college of arts and sciences, University of Washington.

Prior to the reorganization of the Schools of Medicine, Dentistry and Nursing into the Health Sciences Center last November, authority to award degrees rested with the University of Oregon.

This new status will also allow the newly created institution to act for the Oregon State Board of Higher Educa-

tion in granting degrees to its own students.

"Candidacy for Accreditation" is the first step in the six-year process to receive full accreditation with the American Council on Education. The institution will be required to file annual reports and be visited each two years.

In announcing this recognition, Dr. Bluemle also pointed out that the Schools of Medicine, Nursing, and Dentistry are also fully accredited by

their separate professional bodies — the American Medical Association and the Association of American Medical Colleges; the National League for Nursing; and the Council on Dental Education, American Dental Association.

Additionally, he said, all residency programs in the hospitals are accredited by the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals and individually by the respective specialty boards as are the programs in the allied health professions offered by the Center.

Speakers, class reunions will highlight annual meeting



Dr. Lewis Bluemle

Health Sciences Center President Dr. Lewis W. Bluemle, Jr., will be one of the featured speakers at the School of Medicine Alumni Association's 60th annual meeting, April 16-18.

In addition to Dr. Bluemle and the Sommer Memorial Lecturers, others featured at the meeting include Drs. Clare Peterson, '43, professor of surgery; Morton Goodman, '29, assistant clinical professor of medicine; William Awe, associate clinical professor of surgery; William Galen; Andrea Cibis Tongue, assistant professor of ophthalmology; and Kenneth C. Swan, '36, professor of ophthalmology. Dr. John O'Hollaren, '47, assistant clinical professor of medicine and alumni association program chairman, reports.

Sommer Memorial Lecturers for the three-day scientific meetings include Drs. John J. Bonica, University of Washington; Alfred P. Fishman, University of Pennsylvania; and Seymour Schwartz, University of Rochester, said Dr. Arthur L. Rogers, '35,



Dr. Clare Peterson



Dr. Andrea Tongue

chairman of the Sommer Committee.

All scientific sessions will be held in the Library Auditorium on the Health Sciences Center campus.



Dr. Kenneth Swan



Dr. John J. Bonica

Class reunions are being scheduled in conjunction with the meetings by the classes of 1930, 1935, 1940, 1945, 1950, 1955 and 1960.



Dr. Alfred P. Fishman



Dr. Seymour Schwartz

President of the Alumni Association this year is Dr. Richard A. Lalli, '56, assistant clinical professor of ophthalmology.

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