



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.*



**EDITH GREEN**  
former Congresswoman



**DR. PHILIP HANDLER**  
president, National Academy of Sciences



**DR. LOUIS TERKLA**  
dean, School of Dentistry



**DR. HOWARD P. LEWIS**  
emeritus professor of medicine



**SISTER MARILYN R. SCHWAB**  
nurse, Order of St. Benedict

## Commencement features citations for high achievement

To celebrate the fifth anniversary of its founding, the UOHSC last November initiated the practice of awarding presidential Citations for Distinguished Achievement. The first was granted to Dr. Roy E. Lieuallen, chancellor of the Oregon State System of Higher Education, as a representative of the many individuals whose efforts contributed to the creation of this institution.

Five additional citations will be presented at the UOHSC 1980 commencement exercises June 8 at 9 a.m. in Portland's Civic Auditorium.

"The theme of this group," said HSC

President Leonard Laster, "will be the reaffirmation of the basic principles and disciplines which underlie the Health Sciences Center. Our fundamental mission is education — the education and training of a spectrum of diverse health professionals.

"Therefore, the first citation will recognize an individual whose career at the national and local levels has been dedicated to fostering the quality of higher education — former Congresswoman Edith Green."

Dr. Laster continued, "The educational programs we provide in each of our three Schools rest on two complementary founda-

tions. One is science. The basic sciences of the biomedical fields provide the knowledge and understanding that permit us to offer care and cure to the people we serve.

"Thus, the second citation will recognize an individual whose career as an investigator, teacher, author and statesman has been devoted to, and reflective of, the highest accomplishments in biomedical science — our commencement speaker, Dr. Philip Handler, president of the National Academy of Sciences.

"The remaining three citations will acknowledge the clinical disciplines in

which our graduates serve," Dr. Laster said.

"In alphabetical order by field, the citations will be given to Dr. Louis Terkla, dean of the School of Dentistry, a clinician, a teacher, an outstanding administrator and a beloved member of this University; to Dr. Howard P. Lewis, emeritus professor of medicine in the School of Medicine, the embodiment of the finest traditions in the art and skill of clinical medicine, in its teaching and in its advancement; and to Sister Marilyn R. Schwab of the Queen of Angels Priory in

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## Emergency communications center seeks to save lives



The ringing of the alarm reverberated down the hall of University Hospital's emergency department.

Fresh from examining some patients, the emergency room staff physician responded. He hurried around the corner into the control room, sat down at the console, punched the red "Transmit" button and blurted into the microphone: "This is the University base. Go ahead!"

"We have a cardiac arrest," came the voice on the other end of the line. "Are you copying (hearing) me?"

The speaker was a paramedic whose crew had come to the aid of a man lying face down in the street and was now giving cardiopulmonary resuscitation. For the next 30 minutes, until the critically ill man was delivered to a hospital's emergency room, the emergency room physician helped talk the paramedics through the treatment.

*Handling a call at the emergency medical communications center during a drill is Dr. John Schriver, head of the division of emergency medicine. Larry Johnson, operations manager for the center, looks on.*

The scene is typical for University Hospital's new emergency medical communications center.

A vanguard in prehospital care in the Portland area, the emergency radio communications system allows paramedics in the field to seek advice from staff physicians in University Hospital's emergency room. The object: to enhance efforts to save lives.

Paramedics can communicate from the scene of an emergency via hand-held radios or telephone, and the emergency room physician can respond from the control unit or from a portable radio receiver on his belt. The physician is on hand to help as long as he's needed while the paramedics rush their patient to the nearest emergency department.

University Hospital has been designated by the Northwest Oregon Council of Hospitals as the primary base station, or resource, for communications with advanced life support units — ambulances and paramedics specially equipped to handle critical cases.

Launched on March 1, the emergency medical communications center already

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# Visiting professors enrich School of Nursing courses

The School of Nursing has found a novel way to stretch a budget dollar, the size of its faculty and the minds of its students.

It is the visiting professors program. Started last fall, the program is designed to bring more mind-sharpening diversity to the graduate program's faculty, said Dr. Carol Lindeman, School of Nursing dean. Before, the administrative major in the graduate program had been taught by only two faculty members.

"Some of the students have been disappointed because they haven't had exposure to different faculty with different expertise and different ideas," Dr. Lindeman said. "So to offset that problem, we decided not to fill one vacant position with one full-time person but to bring in visiting professors or scholars. This allows students to work with a larger variety of faculty."

She noted, "What we're trying to do is to improve the quality of the graduate program with the limited resources we have."

Dr. Lindeman expects the visiting professors program to expand into other majors in the graduate program as well as into undergraduate courses.

Fall term brought four outstanding directors of hospital nursing services to the School to teach students and talk with community nurses, Dr. Lindeman said. The winter quarter's guest was Dr. Mary Lou McAthie, chief of the health professions branch, Public Health Service, Region IX, San Francisco, who taught on institutional care in acute-care settings.

During spring term, Dr. Joy Calkin of the University of Wisconsin has been teaching a course and practicum in management of nursing departments. The assistant professor in nursing and health services administration is keenly interested in design of health systems.

Dr. Calkin has been sharing with students and faculty her ideas on "how you create hospital management structures that literally make it hard for people not to give better health care."

"We've tended to set up systems by specialties to make the best use of knowledge — nurses are specialists, dietitians are specialists, physicians are specialists — and so we've created systems that divide the patient up into parts," the clinician/academician said.

"Then we expect the staff on a nursing unit to be able to instantly coordinate all that care and make it work for the patient," she said. "Patients experience that system as cutting them up into small pieces."

If she's interested in how hospital systems affect patients, Dr. Calkin is just as concerned about how they come to bear on nurses.

*Spring quarter's visiting professor, Dr. Joy Calkin, would like to see more nursing units across the country do more experimenting.*

She's doing research on nurses' job performance and satisfaction. "I'm interested to find out whether giving nurses responsibility and authority for making a whole set of nursing care decisions about patients will cause them to be much more satisfied with their work. And whether the patients actually will get better care," she said.

One such study involved creating an outpatient clinic that was run for a few days by nurses with physician consultants.

"It was fascinating. In the clinic where the nurses had the authority to make their own patient care decisions, they really were much more satisfied," Dr. Calkin said. "Their comment was, 'If you ever start a clinic that runs like this clinic does, we'd like to come and work there!'"

According to Dr. Calkin, a key factor in the nationwide shortage of practicing nurses is that nurses too often don't feel that their expertise is valued. Surveys show

that this factor ranks well above salary.

Part of the problem with hospital systems, the educator said, is that while they're quick to incorporate new medical technology, they're quick to reject many other new ideas that may be just as valuable to patient care. This is because the systems often simply aren't well designed to evaluate and adopt new ways of doing things, she said.

Dr. Calkin pointed to a research study by Dr. Lindeman which demonstrated that certain kinds of patient teaching and preparation before surgery can shorten a patient's hospital stay. But in trying to carry out this expanded teaching function, she said, a nurse may be told, "It's more important for the patient to see the anesthesiologist or the x-ray department" or "This interferes with the doctor-patient relationship."

She added, "Nurses must assume more responsibility for implementing and evaluating such research."

The professor would like to see more nursing units across the country do more experimenting. They could try different ways of recruiting nurses, assigning nurses to patients, and using nurses in making decisions about patient care, she suggested.

Reflecting on the nurse's role in the hospital structure, Dr. Calkin said, "Nursing's patient care functions are too often undervalued compared to the cure functions, that is, the medical care of patients."

"You very rarely see a nurse fired because she didn't give a backrub or didn't hold someone who was crying or dying. I've never seen a nurse fired for not being



**DR. JOY CALKIN**

*visiting professor, School of Nursing*

supportive to a family whose child is ill ... I have seen nurses reprimanded for not giving a drug on time."

Dr. Calkin revealed that she likes to look at a hospital's organizational chart — to see where the director of nursing service, head of the largest corps of care providers, has been placed. "That tells a lot," she said, "about how an institution values nurses and how much authority nursing has to contribute to institutional goals for patients."

## Hospital returns favor for volunteers at luncheon

Eighty-eight-year-old Iva Bingenheimer has been too busy sewing up a storm for University Hospital to keep track of all the hours she's put in over the last 18 years.

Although she was one of the hospital volunteers recently honored for giving 4,000 or more hours of service, that figure is undoubtedly an understatement in Mrs. Bingenheimer's case.

The supportive seamstress received her 4,000-hour pin — plus a special award as "volunteer of the year" — at the volunteer services department's annual luncheon May 22 at the Child Development and Rehabilitation Center.

Mrs. Bingenheimer recently retired after 18 years as grand sewing chairman for Amaranth Grand Court of Oregon, a Masonic organization. During that time she and her fellow stitchers have kept University Hospital well supplied with diapers, gowns, aprons, doctors' caps, patient garment bags, outpatient bags, smocks, restraint jackets, hot water bottle covers, urinal bag covers, shoes, sheets, pillowcases, towels, placemats and luncheon sets.

"Everything that a hospital needs," summed up Mrs. Bingenheimer with a smile, "we did." She has sewn 100 quilts this year by herself.

Forty-five of the 176 regular hospital volunteers received pins and certificates at the annual luncheon. Presenting the awards were Edie Ryman, volunteer coordinator, and Dr. Donald Kassebaum, vice president for hospital affairs.

Among the volunteers honored were Ethel Morgan and Ruth Stroemple, 4,000

hours of service; Virginia Paul, 2,000 hours; Genevieve Barbur, Marcia Clark and Lois McElveny, 1,500 hours; and Susan Loomis, Marjorie MacCaskill and Florence Sweeney (a retired HSC employee), 1,000 hours.

Organizations that received special recognition for their service to University Hospital were the HSC Faculty Wives Club, Portland Women of the Elks, Sorosis Philanthropic Sewing Club, and the Alpha Sigma and Xi Alpha Beta chapters of Beta Sigma Phi.

"Volunteers are very special people," said Mrs. Ryman.

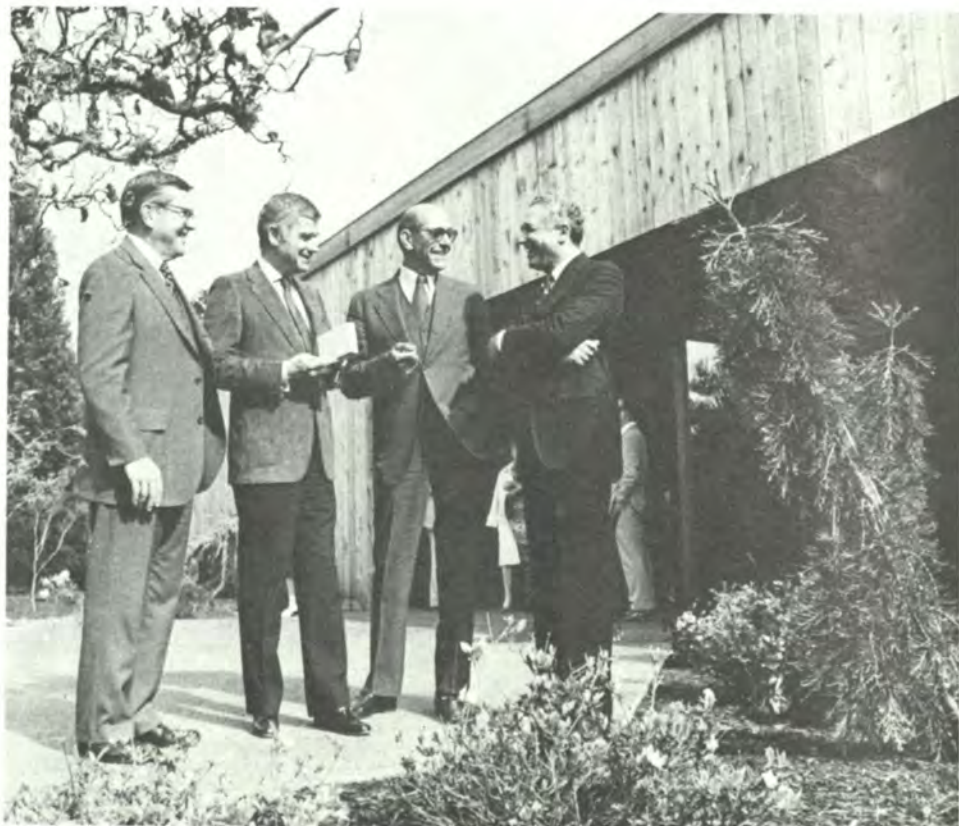
The volunteer coordinator noted, "As hospital costs increase, the need for volunteers will increase as well. The administration of most hospitals looks upon volunteers as valuable resource people and a link to community awareness. The medical staff looks upon volunteers as a supporting ally in creating a more humanizing

atmosphere in hospital care.

"We appreciate the continued support and direction that the staff provides for volunteers," Mrs. Ryman added, "because this is a critical factor in the success of any volunteer program."

Volunteers took on a number of new activities this year, Mrs. Ryman said. They include a puppetry workshop for pediatric professionals, an information service for families of surgery patients, work in the Elks Children's Eye Clinic, a baby picture program, a "baby boutique" gift shop (opening in June), escorting of newly admitted or discharged patients, assistance with charts in the nursing stations, and a tulip sale to raise money for plants for the Second Annual Annual Plant-In in May.

This past year, the hospital's regular volunteers have contributed more than 24,000 hours of service in 44 areas of University Hospital and Clinics.



*The dedication of the Oregon Regional Primate Research Center's new auditorium building attracted many guests, including UOHSC President Leonard Laster (right), principal investigator for the Primate Center's core grant. Shown with Dr. Laster at the May 16 event are (from left) Frank Nash, president of the board of trustees of the Medical Research Foundation of Oregon, which raised funds for the auditorium; Sen. Mark Hatfield of Oregon; and Dr. William Montagna, director of the Primate Center. Numerous HSC faculty people hold joint appointments at the Primate Center.*

## HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER NEWS

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# 448 degrees, certificates awarded at 1980 commencement

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Mt. Angel, Ore., a much honored nurse and sociologist whose concern for the care of the aged serves as inspiration to the generation of nurses that follows her."

Interestingly enough, Dr. Laster noted, Sister Marilyn received an MSN degree in gerontological nursing and a Distinguished Alumna Award from Duke University, the same institution at which Dr. Handler taught biochemistry before he moved to Washington, D.C.

A total of 448 degrees and certificates will be awarded to students in the Schools of Dentistry, Medicine and Nursing at the Sunday morning commencement exercises.

The awarding of degrees and certificates will be preceded by Dr. Handler's speech and the presentation of the Citations for

Distinguished Achievement.

A former member of the HSC Advisory Council, Edith Green served in Congress for 20 years as a representative of Oregon's Third District. She is credited with authorship of the Federal Higher Education Acts of 1965, 1967 and 1972 as well as the National Quality Education Act of 1972. Mrs. Green retired from Congress in 1975 and now is a member of the Oregon State Board of Higher Education.

Dr. Philip Handler, who will speak on "Science and the American Future" at commencement, has been president of the National Academy of Sciences since 1969. He has been active in scientific and public policy since 1951, when he accepted the first of a series of government advisory appointments.

Dr. Louis Terkla has been serving the

School of Dentistry ever since he was graduated from there in 1952. He joined the School's faculty in 1952 and went on to become dean in 1967. Dr. Terkla is active in numerous professional societies and has received a number of honors, including honorary fellowship in the Academy of General Dentistry and the School of Dentistry's 1975 Alumnus of the Year Award.

Internationally recognized for his work in internal medicine, Dr. Howard P. Lewis was professor and chairman of the department of medicine from 1947 until his retirement in 1972. He continues to be active in the department, caring for patients, teaching house staff and working on committees. The 1930 graduate of the School of Medicine has taught thousands of students who are now practicing medicine all

over the world.

Sister Marilyn R. Schwab has been a member of the Religious Community of Benedictine Sisters since 1955 and is now prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of Mt. Angel. She has served as a staff nurse, director of nursing, clinical specialist, in-service director and administrator at the Benedictine Nursing Center in Mt. Angel. Noted for her work in gerontology, she has served on numerous organizational committees and state and national advisory boards concerned with care for the aged and nursing.

"These five individuals reflect in their careers and achievements all that this University strives to embody and transmit," Dr. Laster said. "We honor our future by honoring them; they honor us by sharing a moment of dedication to excellence."

## CCD teacher honored for serving retarded

For his outstanding efforts in training people to work with the mentally retarded, Dr. Christopher Williams of the Crippled Children's Division has received the Educator of the Year Award from the Oregon Association for Retarded Citizens (OARC).

Dr. Williams, training director of pediatrics for CCD since 1968, received the award at OARC's annual statewide meeting May 3 in Albany. He is an associate professor of pediatrics at CCD and has a joint appointment in parent-child nursing in the School of Nursing.

"Dr. Williams is an enthusiastic, tireless teacher of child development, developmental disabilities and mental retardation," noted the CCD committee that nominated him for the award. "His enthusiasm stimulates us all not only to be more precise in our diagnoses, but also to be more sensitive in our management. He's a model highly regarded not only by his pediatric students and colleagues, but those of other disciplines."

The physician is responsible for teach-



Dr. Chris Williams

ing students and others in many disciplines about how to work with children who have developmental disabilities, including mental retardation.

Away from the "hill," Dr. Williams speaks on developmental disabilities to parent and community groups, does consulting in schools, and teaches special-education classes at Portland State University. He also serves as a pediatric consultant for Head Start in Oregon and the Northwest region.

## Hospital celebrates special week

Who put the hospitality in Hospital Week?

University Hospital did, as it celebrated National Hospital Week May 11-17 by honoring some nurses as representative of all hospital employees, hosting an open house, and giving parties (one of them at 1 o'clock in the morning) for the whole hospital staff.

In keeping with the week's theme of "We're America's Health Team!," University Hospital singled out a key member of that team, the nurse, for special recognition this year.

Ten "special nurses" at University Hospital and Clinics were selected from written nominations. They were honored and presented with \$25 gift certificates at a reception for all hospital employees on May 14.

Chosen as "special nurses" were Carolyn Kaplan, staff nurse, 5A psychiatric unit; Rachel Hayashi; staff nurse, surgery clinic; Suzanne Zimmerman, staff nurse, anticoagulant clinic; Constance Newvine, 3NW surgical nurse (night shift); Dorothy Sells, evening staff nurse, 12A medical

unit; Rae Ann Townsend, staff nurse, chemotherapy clinic; Margaret Beck, staff nurse, University Hospital (north) operating room; Patrice Chatterton, staff nurse, labor and delivery; Marylu Philips, assistant head nurse, 2NW; and Kendra Schreiner, staff nurse, neonatal intensive care center.

Nurses were in the limelight on the night of May 13, too, as more than 125 visitors gathered in the University Hospital (north) cafeteria for an open house examining the "sweeping changes of the nursing profession."

As a result of the open house, many nurses said they were interested in seeking employment at University Hospital and several inquired about the hospital's refresher course program, noted Ardys Hokeness, an assistant director of nursing service at University Hospital.

Besides the reception for hospital employees on May 14, University Hospital gave a party in the south unit cafeteria for the night staff — in the wee hours of 1 to 2 the next morning. The turnout was excellent.

## University Hospital a natural for emergency communication

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has received about 100 calls but is still in its pilot phase. The center will become official with the passage of an emergency services ordinance that's pending before the Multnomah Board of County Commissioners and the Portland City Council.

It was the foresight of The Collins Foundation that helped University Hospital enter this new frontier of emergency care, according to Dr. Donald Kassebaum, vice president for hospital affairs.

In 1977 the charitable organization awarded the UOHSC a three-year grant of over \$400,000 to set up both a program for advanced paramedic training and an emergency medical communications center. So far, 50 paramedics prepared at level IV have graduated from the training program.

With \$125,000 of the grant, University Hospital purchased the master control unit and radio transmitters and hired a

full-time operations manager.

University Hospital is a natural to offer emergency medical communications, said Dr. John Schriver, head of the division of emergency medicine.

"We are in an excellent position to provide this service, as we staff our emergency department with a faculty physician 24 hours a day and seven days a week," he said. "Availability of our house staff for patient services helps to assure that we are ready at any time to perform this function."

Dr. Schriver said, "Because the paramedic functions as a direct extension of a physician — in almost every case an emergency department physician — it's the nature of emergencies that this function be online and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

He continued, "The paramedic is well trained and needs to be able to manage

dire emergencies such as cardiopulmonary arrest without consultation. But after initial stabilization of such a patient, or in the event of continuing problems, online consultation often is necessary." For example, heart irregularity may occur, the blood pressure may drop, or more complicated drug therapy may be needed.

So far, University Hospital's emergency medical communications center has gone online with five ambulance and rescue units in the Portland area.

During the pilot phase, the paramedics are helping University Hospital as much as the hospital is helping the paramedics, pointed out Larry Johnson, operations manager for the communications center and himself a paramedic.

"What we're looking for in the pilot project is input from the paramedics themselves in order to help us develop the system," said Mr. Johnson.

The emergency medical communications center has four UHF radio channels reaching throughout Multnomah County and into parts of Washington and Clackamas counties. These channels supplement the HEAR (Hospital Emergency Administrative Radio) channel which allows paramedics only limited access to emergency room physicians.

(With the HEAR system, most paramedics must be in their vehicles to communicate, and they cannot transmit physiologic signals such as electrocardiograms.)

Besides giving paramedics a hand in direct patient care, Mr. Johnson said, the emergency medical communications center has come through in other emergencies as well. An emergency room phy-

sician was able to triage three victims of a Portland hotel fire via the control center, for instance; another doctor used the unit to communicate with physicians on a 304th Air Rescue Squadron flight as it winged into Portland with the victim of an auto accident in eastern Oregon.

What about the future of the emergency medical communications center?

That depends on the outcome of the emergency services ordinance, pointed out Dr. Schriver. Eventually, University Hospital's center may be joined by one or more systems at other hospitals, with all systems hooked up to a central dispatching area.

Of the medical control center, Dr. Schriver said, "It's working well. It demonstrates that health professionals are finding more ways to work together in the delivery of emergency care."

Dr. Kassebaum reflected that a paramount interest of The Collins Foundation in providing the funds to the UOHSC was the establishment of an emergency response system as good as the one in Seattle.

"The Collins Foundation grant has catalyzed emergency services planning, central dispatch, tiering of the response system, differentiation of primary and advanced emergency responders, and now emergency medical radio communication," Dr. Kassebaum said.

"Considering the various and sometimes discordant professional and political interests, we have come a long way in the past several years. The pieces should all fall into place with passage of the city/county ordinance this summer or fall."

*"The creation of the emergency medical communications center in the University Hospital is an excellent example of the kinds of important contributions that the UOHSC can make to the health of the people of Oregon," said HSC President Leonard Laster.*

*"The communications center serves a very practical purpose in its day-to-day activities, but the benefits it provides are enhanced by its potential role in helping other communities to develop similar programs.*

*"In all likelihood," the president said, "the center would not have come into being but for the vision and foresight of The Collins Foundation. The program is a cogent demonstration that a partnership between a private foundation and the Health Sciences Center can engender significant progress in health care and in the training of health care professionals.*

*"I hope this project with The Collins Foundation will stimulate other foundations to foster comparable efforts in other segments of our Health University. The potential for the future is virtually unbounded; it remains for all of us in government and in the private sector to join together and chart our course."*



# Researcher strives to stop leukemia before it starts

On a balmy Friday afternoon recently, Dr. Grover Bagby stood admiring the kids at the Floyd Light Middle School as they ran around the track earning pledge money for the HSC's Osgood Foundation Laboratory for Leukemia Research.

He might have wondered if his research will prove to have the inside track. When the race is against leukemia, the timer's watch is always ticking.

Dr. Bagby, who is director of the Osgood Laboratory, has been intensively studying patients with the preleukemic syndrome. This is a blood disorder that can be confused with a vitamin deficiency, but often has lethal results.

In the 80 patients with preleukemic syndrome seen at the Veterans Administration Medical Center and University Hospital — one of the largest groups studied in this country — about 65 percent will go on to develop leukemia within two to three years.

"The tough thing is that we know so many of these people will eventually die of their leukemia, and a few will die from infection or hemorrhage while still in the preleukemic state," said Dr. Bagby, assistant professor of medicine at the VA Hospital and the School of Medicine. "We would like to be able to prevent or reverse the preleukemic syndrome, or even leukemia, with new types of drug therapy. We think this is close to being a reality."

Recently Dr. Bagby, in collaboration with lab technician Brenda Wilkinson, has had some success identifying which patients will get better if given adrenal hormone therapy in the preleukemic stage.

"What we have found is that in these hormone-responsive patients, the hormone stimulates the patient's blood-forming cells in the bone marrow to produce

*In the Osgood Laboratory, Dr. Bagby examines bone marrow cells grown in culture for his study of the preleukemic syndrome.*

new mature cells more effectively," Dr. Bagby said.

Unfortunately, hormonal therapy for preleukemia works only in a small percentage of cases. Because the hormones may cause some serious side effects in patients who don't respond to these agents, the laboratory test to identify suitable patients is very important.

The laboratory test Dr. Bagby and his co-workers perform involves growing bone marrow cells in culture, then seeing whether or not they make the right response to the adrenal hormones. It appears that the people whose marrow cells respond in culture to the hormone have a much better chance of being helped by this approach.

Therefore, discovering this type of blood abnormality early, even before it is recognizable as a malignancy, is vital. The symptoms of preleukemia include low blood counts, weakness, fatigue, shortness of breath, and unusual bruising and bleeding. If vitamin B12 and folic acid deficiencies and overt leukemia can be ruled out, and if the patient is not taking anti-cancer drugs, then that person has the preleukemic syndrome.

"So, once we diagnose preleukemia, if their cultures tell us that hormones might work, we will administer them, but only if the patient's blood counts are dangerously low," Dr. Bagby said. "But if hormones aren't appropriate, or they don't work, we want to try some other way to keep preleukemia from becoming leu-



mia."

Although the answers are not yet in on this question, Dr. Bagby's group may be able to reverse preleukemia some day with other, newer types of drug therapy.

"We are a ways off yet," he said. "But I definitely think it is possible. We must find a way to make those bone marrow cells normal again, so that they can produce healthy red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets — each in the right amounts."

A very important group of people to study for reversing the preleukemic syndrome are those who have been successfully treated for cancer with drugs or radiation therapy. A small percentage of these "cured" cancer patients will later develop

preleukemia, and for them it is rapidly followed by a highly aggressive form of acute leukemia.

"Of course, these people would not be alive in the first place if they hadn't received their original treatments," Dr. Bagby pointed out, "and we must continue to treat most forms of cancer aggressively. We are now designing studies using new pharmacologic agents to attempt to prevent preleukemia and leukemia from developing in such patients with therapy-induced disease."

Toward this goal, Dr. Bagby, like the Floyd Light Middle School students, is running hard, and trying to understand the secrets of the blood-forming bone marrow.

## HSC professor helps fill holes in Venezuelan dental care

Peg Ryan recalls the huts of scrap metal and wood that have mushroomed on the hills surrounding Caracas, Venezuela.

They symbolize the tremendous influx of people into that nation's cities, and "public services simply have not been able to keep up with the population growth," said Ms. Ryan, chairman of the UOHSC School of Dentistry's department of dental hygiene.

Because one of the public services lacking in Venezuela is dental health care, Ms. Ryan had a valuable part to play when she shared her knowledge at a dental workshop May 5-9 in Caracas. Purpose of the event was to plan an institute of postgraduate studies in dentistry, aimed at upgrading private and public dental care in that country.

One of the institute's main goals will be to train dental auxiliaries — dental hygienists, dental assistants and dental laboratory technicians. Venezuela now has no educational programs at all in dental hygiene or lab technology, Ms. Ryan noted, and has only an intermittent program for training dental assistants.

The other goal of the institute will be to offer postgraduate courses for dentists who are in general practice, with emphasis on preventive care. All the while, said Ms. Ryan, the dentists will be learning how to interact with the dental auxiliaries.

"It's important to make the dentists aware of dental hygienists and the contributions they can make in both public and private dental health care," said the dental hygiene chairman.

"The role of dental hygiene in private practice is very significant. Because of the need for more extensive dental health programs, there's a major role that hygienists can play in the community, because we're really concerned with dental health education and preventive dentistry. That's the primary focus of our education."

With six dental educators from outside Venezuela invited to bring their ideas and expertise, the workshop was sponsored by the country's National Dental Foundation, a new, private foundation which is organ-

izing the institute. Ms. Ryan was among consultants coming from the United States, Sweden, Denmark and East Germany to join the three Venezuelan participants.

She presented a major paper on the education and utilization of dental auxiliaries.

Trained dental auxiliaries are badly needed to complement the care given by dentists, Ms. Ryan pointed out. Venezuela has only one dentist per 3,500 people, compared to Oregon's ratio of one per 1,400.

"There is no water fluoridation in Venezuela," Ms. Ryan said. "With the diet of the people, particularly the poor people, there obviously are caries and periodontal disease."

"The latest epidemiological studies were made in 1970, so there's a need to update them. One of the first steps that participants in the workshop identified is collection of epidemiological and demographic data to establish priorities for the institute."

Ms. Ryan's Venezuelan venture included dinner with the country's minister of

health and jaunts to the sunny Caribbean beaches.

How did the Oregon professor happen to get invited to a workshop in Venezuela?

Before coming to the Health Sciences Center in 1977, Ms. Ryan explained, she had worked extensively for the American Dental Association in developing and evaluating educational programs for dental auxiliaries. She'd provided consultation for educational institutions and had administered ADA activities in the use of dental auxiliaries.

A fringe benefit of the workshop for Ms. Ryan was the chance to learn from dental educators from Sweden and Denmark. Both countries have drastically curbed dental caries through programs of preventive care for preschool and school-age children.

As for the Venezuelans who took part in the workshop, Ms. Ryan said, "They will be seeking ongoing assistance and consultation. They'll look into sending Venezuelan people to the United States so they can go back and help develop an educational program and serve as faculty ... They're very anxious that the workshop

consultants feel a part of what they're trying to do."



Scores of volunteers dug in, dirtied their hands and beautified the campus at the Second Annual Annual Plant-In at the Health Sciences Center. Volunteers planted nearly 9,000 colorful annuals at the May 17 event. Doing their part to brighten a garden area outside Baird Hall were Sylvia and Amy McGill, wife and daughter of Dr. James McGill, new vice president for finance and administration at the HSC.

## HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER NEWS

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