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THE
OREGON HEALTH
SCIENCES UNIVERSITY
NEWS

The Oregon Health Sciences University News is published to inform students, employees, faculty, and friends of the institution's programs, activities and events.

Van Hassel named new dean of School of Dentistry

Henry Van Hassel, D.D.S., Ph.D., has been named dean of the OHSU's School of Dentistry, one of the oldest dental schools in the West and one of only two in the Pacific Northwest.

Van Hassel, professor and chairman of endodontics at the University of Maryland Dental School, will assume the position Nov. 1. He becomes the third dean to lead the School of Dentistry since it became part of the Oregon State System of Higher Education in 1945.

OHSU President Leonard Laster announced the selection Sept. 4 following a national, year-long search and review process to replace former Dean Louis Terkla, who is retiring to pursue research at the OHSU.

Laster said he is "confident that Dr. Van Hassel will prove a worthy successor to Dean Terkla, who has guided the dental school with great wisdom, skill and creativity for 17 productive years.

"Dr. Van Hassel will be a leader for the School of Dentistry — superbly qualified to meet the massive challenges of the coming years," said Laster. "He comes to the OHSU with excellent credentials as a clinician, teacher, dental scientist and administrator of dental health care."

"The challenge," said Dr. Van Hassel, "is to wed the tradition with the vision. That's what I came to do."

During his career at the University of Maryland, Van Hassel was responsible for completely revising the graduate course offerings, reorganizing the graduate curriculum, and establishing new courses in endodontics (diagnosis and treatment of diseases and injuries of the dental pulp). He was rated outstanding instructor and highest-ranked lecturer by his students, led efforts leading to three new departmental research grants since January 1983, and negotiated contracts with several agencies for graduate student clinical work experience.

In addition to his post at the University of Maryland, Van Hassel served as chief of Dental Service for the Wyman Park Health System, a private hospital affiliated with the university. He organized and developed the service, which provides low-cost health care to disadvantaged patients and clinical experience to dental school students.

Van Hassel cites three reasons for his decision to join the OHSU: vision, tradition and challenge. "The vision for the university that Dr. Laster brought to Oregon is a vision that something really great and exciting is going on here," he said. "The tradition is a tradition of excellence. The dental school of this state is known throughout the country as one of the leading clinical schools in America. The challenge is to wed the tradition with the vision. That's what I came here to do."

Challenges in preparing students for futures in dentistry involve increasingly complicated technology and complex dental needs of older populations, said Van Hassel.

Dentistry is becoming much more complicated. We don't do the simple sorts of things people used to do to fill holes in teeth — that's not dentistry anymore. Today, we're dealing with complex periodontal (gum) disease and adult orthodontics (correction of teeth to promote proper placement). Many people today are maintaining their teeth longer in life. As teeth become older, just as we become older, they become more difficult to treat and the kinds of caries older teeth have are more challenging to restore. Doing a root canal on older teeth is much more difficult because you are working in a more restricted area."

"The challenge of dental education today, then, is to prepare students for a much more demanding profession in the very short period of time they are in dental school."

Van Hassel's research includes pioneering work on the neurophysiology of pain (how pain is organized in the central nervous system) and the physiological control of blood circulation to the teeth. He is internationally recognized for his ability to interpret basic science research findings for clinical application by the dental profession.

He recently was named the sixth recipient of the Grossman Award by the American Association of Endodontics, honoring his career of outstanding contributions to clinical endodontics, teaching of endodontics, and organized dentistry. He also was the first recipient of the Carl A. Schlack Award for outstanding contributions to dental teaching and research awarded by the U.S. Association of Military Surgeons.

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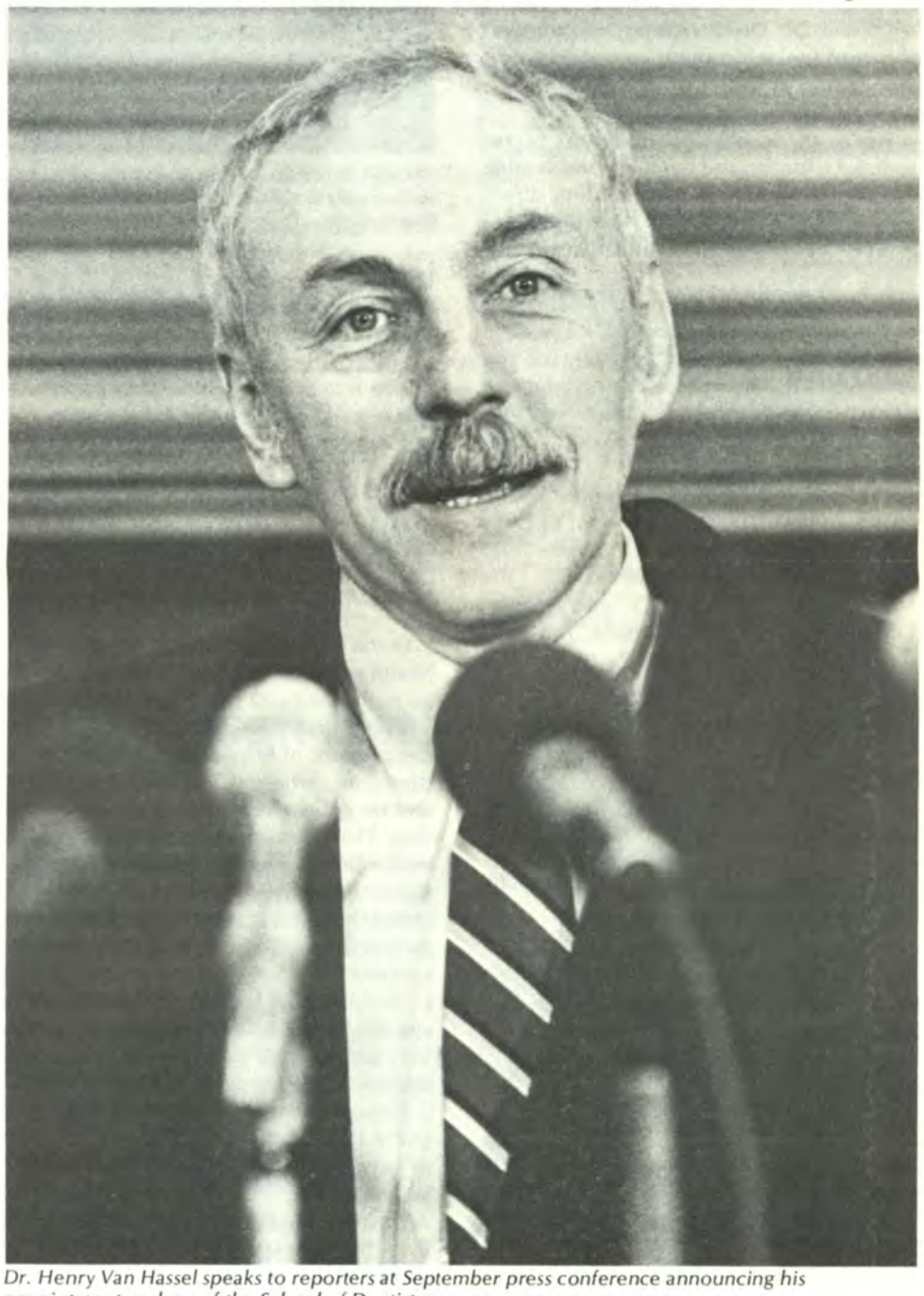

Dr. Henry Van Hassel speaks to reporters at September press conference announcing his appointment as dean of the School of Dentistry.

Convocation showcases health care research

The laboratory is a unique place to work.

To a visitor, labs appear to be in a continual state of disarray, their shelves and counters cluttered with bottles and flasks, strange-looking equipment and computers. There are invariably several white-coated scientists huddled around one piece of equipment, watching, recording and quietly discussing its movements.

The those scientists, the lab is a place of discovery filled with the potential of answering the infinite number of questions posed by each phase of research.

"The best thing about research is not the new things we are able to find, but the process of questioning our own beliefs," said Dr. James Metcalfe, professor of medicine and head of cardiology research at the OHSU. "The nature of research implies that there is something not right about what we know. It takes an inquiring mind."

The OHSU is home for hundreds of scientists working to unravel the mysteries of human disease. On Thursday, Nov. 8, from noon to 5 p.m. in the OHSU Library, many of them will come together for the Third Annual Research Convocation to discuss their work and its implications for future health.

The convocation is designed to give the public an opportunity to learn about OHSU research and to meet the scientists who have dedicated their lives to the search for cures, prevention and treatment of human disease. Each of the more than 80 researchers and their associates involved in the convocation has prepared an exhibit explaining his or her work and its ramifications, and will be on hand to answer questions from noon to 4 p.m.

The exhibits will be grouped around major topics that include the following: Alcohol and drug dependency, arthritis and connective tissue disorders, cancer, diabetes, blood disorders, family relations and child care, hearing and vision deficiencies, heart disease and hypertension, infections and toxic reactions, lung diseases, nervous system disorders and reproductive system abnormalities. A brief description of several of the research projects can be found on page 3.

"The convocation gives people the opportunity to ask researchers directly about certain specific topics that affect them,

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Van Hassel hopes to join tradition, vision

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The new dean has served as president of the American Association of Endodontics and has been a member of its Board of Directors for 11 years. He has served on the editorial boards of several dental journals and is currently on the Scientific Review Board of the *Journal of Endodontics.*

The editor of two dental books, Van Hassel has published more than 75 scientific papers and has made presentations before dozens of university, governmental, and professional groups.

Van Hassel received his doctor of dental science degree from the University of Maryland in 1963. He then earned a masters degree in endodontics in 1967 and a Ph.D. in physiology and biophysics in 1969 from the University of Washington while working with the Public Health Service in Seattle. At that time, he was one of a very few people in the world with both a dental degree and a doctorate in neurophysiology.

"Dr. Van Hassel is eminently qualified in all areas relevant to the science of dentistry," said Dr. David Mahler, chairman of the dean's search committee and professor and chairman of the dental materials science department at the OHSU.

He is an accomplished dentist, a respected scientist, and has had considerable administrative experience as a clinic director, department chairman, scientific conference organizer, and officer in professional societies."

In addition to scientific achievements, the search committee looked for a dean who would "continue to maintain the level of clinical expertise of our graduating dental students as well as preserve close ties to the dental professionals in Oregon," Mahler said.

The new dean will join a school with a long tradition. The OHSU School of Dentistry traces its beginnings to the 1900 merger of two private institutions, the North Pacific College of Oregon and the Oregon College of Dentistry. The new school was called the North Pacific College of Oregon, and three deans led it from 1900 until it became a member of the Oregon State System of Higher Education in 1945.

Van Hassel succeeds Dr. Louis Terkla, who is resigning as dean after 17 years. Terkla will assume a faculty position in the school's dental materials science department and return to research activities he left some years ago.

The new dean said he shares with Terkla a committment to communication.

"I would like to be characterized as someone who will always be willing to listen, and as someone who will always be willing to tell it exactly as it is — I think that's what most people say about Lou (Terkla)."

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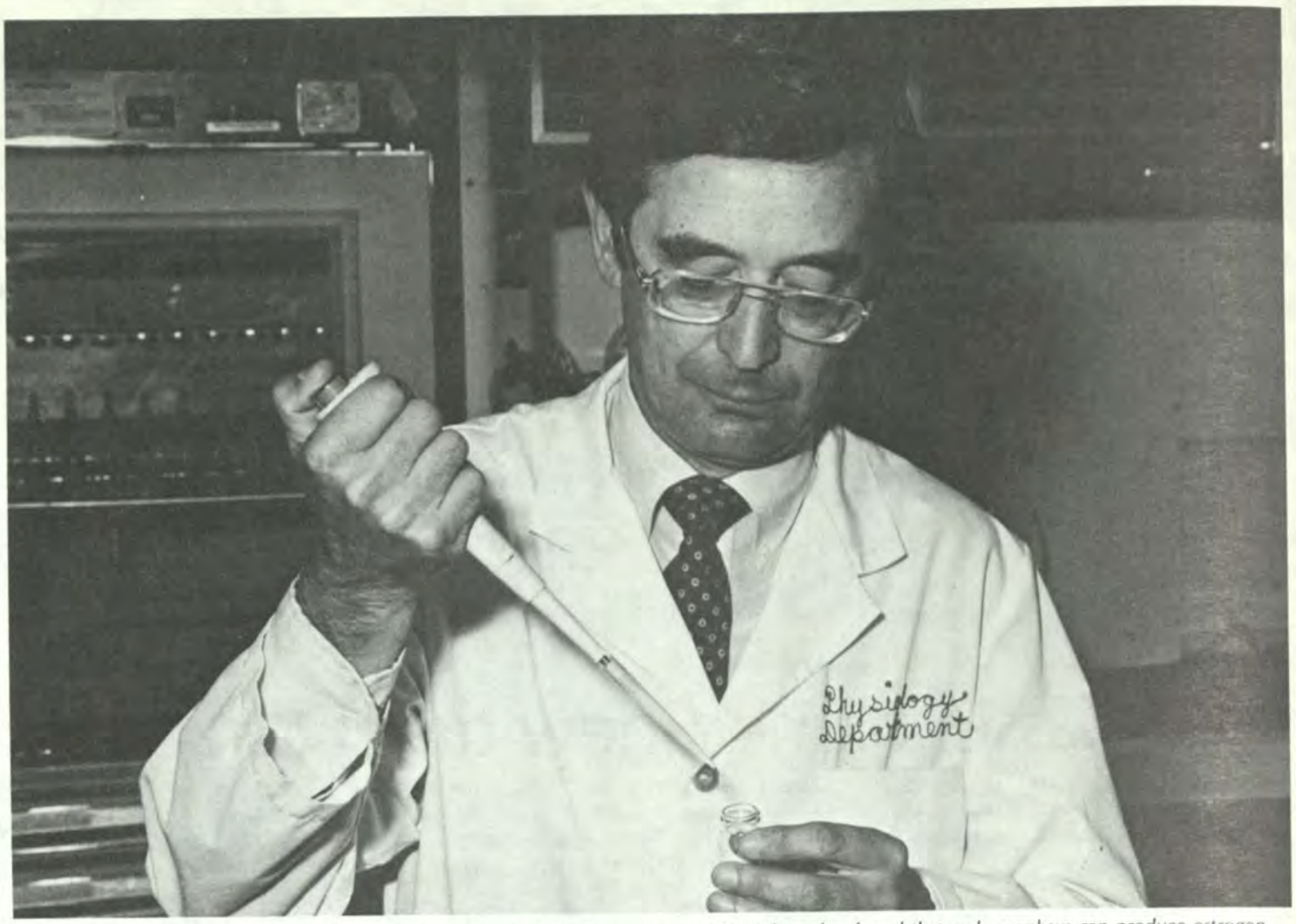

Through his laboratory research, Dr. John Resko, chairman of the Department of Physiology, has found that male monkeys can produce estrogen, traditionally considered a "female" hormone. Resko is one of more than 80 OHSU scientists whose work will be featured at the Nov. 8 Research Convocation.

Physiologists reflect "a new spirit"

The following is but one example of the depth and breadth of research being done by faculty scientists at the OHSU.

In the highly competitive world of basic health research, the limited funds can only go to the best and the brightest.

These qualities can be found in the Department of Physiology at the School of Medicine, where Chairman John Resko and his colleagues last year received more than $1 million in research funding. Next to the Department of Medicine, whose 10 divisions received more than $3 million in research funds, it was the largest amount awarded to any single department at the university.

"I think the funding indicates a new spirit," Resko said. "The department has very good people, and many of our faculty are working in important areas."

Resko's recent work in his area of specialty, reproductive biology, and the work of several of his departmental colleagues will be among those displayed at the Third Annual OHSU Research Convocation Nov. 8 in the Library. (See related story on page 1.)

Resko's study, done in conjunction with Dr. Charles Roselli at the Oregon Regional Primate Research Center, investigated hormone conversions in male monkeys. Resko and Roselli discovered that the brains of male monkeys can form estrogen, traditionally considered to be a "female" sex hormone, through a process called aromatization.

Their findings may prove to be important in redefining the long-standing roles of the "female" hormone, estrogen, and the "male" hormone, androgen, and in explaining their cellular actions.

"It no longer appears that 'female hormones' are only important to females," Resko said. "In our ongoing studies we will be investigating the areas of the brain involved in the aromatization process and the control and function of these conversions."

Resko came to the OHSU in 1981 after conducting research at the Primate Center for more than 16 years. He holds a joint appointment at the two institutions, and much of his research is conducted in cooperation with the Primate Center.

The Health Sciences University is one of seven universities in the country paired with and administratively responsible for a National Institutes of Health primate center. The OHSU serves as the host institution and academic link to the Oregon Regional Primate Research Center, one of seven federally funded facilities devoted to the advancement of biomedical knowledge through research with nonhuman primates.

Located on a 250-acre tract 10 miles west of Portland, the Primate Center offers unusual opportunities to train qualified research personnel and enables investigators to study primates in depth throughout their life cycle and correlate the efforts of many scientific disciplines.

"The Primate Center is very important to my work," Resko said. "The work we do on nonhuman primates is much more significant for human biology than similar research conducted on lower animal forms. The female monkey, for example, has hormonal characteristics similar to a human female. The monkey provides a good model for investigations in which human tissues are not available, such as brain tissues."

Resko and his colleagues have helped build the program at the OHSU and Primate Center into one of the nation's most respected reproductive biology programs. Young scientists from throughout the country come to Oregon to be trained in the program, which receives national support from a number of training grants.

"The students can study reproductive biology in a multi-disciplinary format, incorporating fields such as physiology, biochemistry and cell biology," Resko said. "People come here because the training is good, and they know they will be dealing with problems that are at the forefront of reproductive biology."

Resko is quick to add, however, that his department colleagues also are conducting important research in other areas of physiology, several of which will be featured at the Research Convocation.

• Dr. Kent Thornburg, associate professor of physiology, recently has conducted a study that investigates the adaptability of the fetal heart. By taking a number of measurements and making rubber casts of the two heart chambers in lamb fetuses, Thornburg and his research team determined that the fetal right ventricle is actually larger than the left (they were commonly thought to be the same size), and the right ventricle could adjust its wall thickness accordingly when faced with a higher blood pressure. The project will help scientists understand the developing human heart and may eventually lead to the treatment of human heart defects before birth.

• Dr. Martin Kelly, assistant professor of physiology, has been studying how the brain can exert control over female reproduction and fertility. In studies using the brain cells of guinea pigs, Kelly and his research team found that the brain's chemical messenger, norephinephrine, and the sex hormone, estrogen, can act on the neurons found in the part of the brain called the hypothalamus.

• Another of Resko's colleagues, Dr. J. Job Faber, heads a team of cardiovascular physiologists who are studying sheep to gain better understanding of hydrops fetalis, a disease found mostly in newborn infants with severe cases of edema (an accumulation of excessive fluid in cells or tissues).

The cause of the disease is still unknown, and Faber and his colleagues hope to find some answers by looking closely at what mechanism regulates how much water is transferred from mother to fetus.

• Dr. Sonia Buist, professor of physiology and medicine, has been concentrating her research in the area of lung function, and for the past several years has been studying people who were affected by the volcanic ash from Mount St. Helens. Buist has received a grant of more than $3 million for a seven-year study on smoking and lung disease.

Although all members of the Department of Physiology have helped make significant advances in their respective fields, Resko said their primary commitment remains to the students in their classrooms.

"We work hard at being successful, certainly in our research but especially in our teaching," Resko said. "My goal is to build a very strong academic department here, and I'm optimistic. We may be a small department, but that doesn't mean we can't excel."

Exhibits highlight wide array of research projects

See first-hand what is being done in areas of research important to your health on Nov. 8.

Can the deadly poison that causes botulism be used to treat victims of a rare eye disease? Does the infant formula you feed your baby contain taurine, an amino acid important to the normal development of sight? Does your work environment render you more susceptible to certain kinds of cancer? Did you know that some antibiotics vital in fighting infection can cause a hearing loss and that OHSU researchers are working on ways to minimize or eliminate this risk?

The answers to these questions are under investigation by researchers at the Oregon Health Sciences University. More than 80 exhibits summarizing vital research in the areas of vision and hearing, heart disease, family relations and child care, common disorders of the nervous system, infertility, alcoholism, cancer and much more will be on display during this year's Research Convocation.

A sampling of topics to be covered during the convocation include the following:

• *Alcoholism:* Are certain individuals more prone to develop it? Research on mice may some day lead to a method of predicting whether certain people are genetically susceptible to the disease.

• *Occupation-related cancer:* A unique study by the Division of Environmental Medicine has found that certain occupations place workers at higher risk for certain types of cancer. Construction workers, for example, are at higher risk for developing lung, pancreatic and gall bladder cancer, and non-lymphatic leukemia. Female school teachers have a higher incidence of breast, pancreatic and endometrial cancer, lymphatic leukemia, and non-Hodgkins lymphoma. Findings from this study can be used to help researchers find causes and monitor control efforts.

• *Parenthood and child care:* The father's role during pregnancy and early childhood, factors influencing breast feeding and a couple's transition to parenthood are among the several areas of research on family relationships being conducted by the OHSU School of Nursing. Investigators are also examining the effect the death of a child has on a family, especially siblings.

• *Hearing loss caused by antibiotics:* Antibiotics are widely prescribed to treat bacterial infections, but they can cause deafness. More than 4 million Americans are at risk each year for a hearing loss (ototoxicity) from treatment with aminoglycosides, a group of antibiotic drugs that include streptomycin, tobramycin and gentamicin. Scientists at the OHSU are studying the aminoglycosides and other antibiotics to determine how they cause ototoxicity and ways to minimize or to eliminate this danger.

• *Congenital heart defects:* Heart specialists at the university are world leaders in the diagnosis, treatment and care of heart defects, and are especially well known for their surgical repair of two of the commonest defects: tetralogy of Fallot and ventricular septal defect. Their exhibit describes results and long-term follow-up of these children.

• *Lifestyle factors and heart disease:* A major five-year family heart study involving 474 adults and 268 families in Northeast Portland is being conducted by OHSU scientists. Participants agreed to change their eating habits as one way to prevent coronary artery disease. The researchers are interested in a number of things, including the impact lifestyle factors, such as smoking, alcohol consumption, drug use, exercise, diet and stress, have on heart disease. One of the findings from the study is that women who display a "Type A" personality and had a great number of negative life events, such as a death in the family, were at higher risk for developing heart disease.

• *Reproduction:* Scientists at the OHSU and the Oregon Regional Primate Research Center are making important contributions to our knowledge of human reproduction. Chorionic villi sampling is a new method to diagnose certain genetic defects during the early weeks of pregnancy and is being investigated as an alternative to the widely used amniocentesis. OHSU scientists also are doing research that may be important to understanding infertility, cervical cancer and control of cervical dilation during labor, and risk factors during pregnancy.

• *Dental injections:* People have long eschewed dentists because of the pain associated with the injection or "shot." Researchers in the School of Dentistry investigated a new dental syringe that its manufacturers claimed was less painful and which is being used by community dentists. The study examined the safety of the new technique, which involves a high pressure syringe that injects local anesthetic through the space between the tooth and gum directly into the bone.

• *Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis and jet lag:* When the wires in the complex circuitry of our brain become crossed, the results can range from "jet lag" to dementia and total physical disability. Investigators are working on improved drug therapies for patients with Parkinson's disease, brain tumors and brain abscesses; animal models that might explain the cause of multiple sclerosis; mechanisms involved in the secretion of growth hormone; and hormonal regulation of the reproductive cycle.

• *Blindness and visual impairment:* The OHSU Department of Ophthalmology is a nationally-prominent center for the diagnosis, treatment and care of eye disorders. Researchers in this department, in collaboration with other scientists at the university and in the community, are investigating retinitis pigmentosa, a group of hereditary eye diseases characterized by night blindness and tunnel vision; the prevention of blindness in premature infants; the dietary need for taurine (absent in most infant formulas) in the development of normal vision; and radial keratotomy, a simple operation that improves vision in nearsighted individuals.

Convocation features youth program

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such as diabetes," said Metcalfe, who is this year's convocation chairman.

Metcalfe said the gathering also benefits the researchers, who work in such specialized fields that they rarely have the chance to exchange information with their colleagues.

"It also does scientists good to have to explain their research to colleagues and to the general public," Metcalfe said. "It makes them think about their work, and questions that may seem naive are actually quite valuable to a good researcher."

Nobel Prize winner Dr. David Baltimore will discuss "The Genetic Basis of Cancer."

In addition to the individual exhibits, the Research Convocation will feature the second annual Mark O. Hatfield Biomedical Research Lecture, which is made possible by an endowment from three Portland citizens.

This year's speaker is Dr. David Baltimore, the 1975 Nobel Prize winner in physiology/medicine. Together with two other researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Cancer Research Center, Baltimore is credited with helping scientists take a long step in better understanding the nature of hundreds of diseases that doctors lump under the single word, cancer. Baltimore will speak at 4 p.m. on the genetic basis of cancer.

"I think research is partly a habit of the mind," Baltimore told an interviewer after receiving the Nobel Prize. "It involves a lot of obsessiveness. Unless you are obsessed with scientific questions, you are not going to get anywhere with them."

A new addition to this year's convocation is a special session designed particularly for high school students from 10 a.m. to noon. The program will feature short talks by scientists representing the OHSU's three professional schools (dentistry, medicine and nursing) and will allow students to preview the exhibits.

Speaking from the School of Medicine will be Dr. Walter McDonald, professor and vice chairman of medicine; and Dr. Lesley Hallick, assistant professor of microbiology and immunology. The School of Dentistry will be represented by Dr. Arthur Brown, professor and chairman of physiology and biophysics. Speaking from the School of Nursing will be Dr. Carol Lindeman, dean of the school. OHSU President Leonard Laster will introduce the speakers and give closing remarks.

"We designed the high school program because we want to influence attitudes of people toward health and research," Metcalfe said. "The best time to do it is when they're young. We want young people to come up here and see how much attention, money and facilities are invested in health."

The Research Convocation is free and open to the public, and parking is available at various campus locations. There also will be park-and-ride lots located at the corner of S.W. Dosch Road and Sunset Boulevard, and at Neveh Shalom synagogue at the corner of S.W. Dosch Road and Peaceful Lane. A free shuttle bus will run every 20 minutes from the OHSU to each off-campus lot.

For more information about the Research Convocation, call the OHSU at (503)225-8231.

School of Nursing crosses new threshold in graduate education

When the School of Nursing opened its doors in September, it crossed the threshold of a new era in nursing education.

After 17 years of planning, the 65-year-old school realized a major expansion in graduate nursing education. Included in the new framework for OHSU graduate studies are revision of the master's degrees from M.N. to M.S. and opening of the application period to Oregon's first doctor of philosophy in nursing program. In addition, the school has appointed its first associate dean for graduate nursing studies, Dr. Sheryl Boyd, to organize and oversee the quality of the two graduate components.

Oregon nurses will, for the first time, be able to attain Ph.D. degrees without leaving the state.

The changes bring new options for Oregon nurses, patients and health care providers. Oregon nurses will be able to attain Ph.D. degrees without leaving the state. Nursing students interested in master's degree courses will be able to complete their degrees within a shorter period of time. Nurses will be better trained to take leadership roles and conduct research. And, ultimately, Oregon health care is expected to improve in quality and cost-effectiveness due to advanced-level nursing education and research.

"I am convinced by data and by personal experience that there is a serious need in Oregon and in this country for enhancing leadership in nursing," said OHSU President Leonard Laster. "The School of Nursing's Ph.D. program will help provide that leadership."

Plans for the graduate program were initiated in 1977 by Dr. Carol Lindeman, Ph.D., dean of the School of Nursing. The program gained approval from the Oregon State Board of Higher Education in June 1983. Nursing faculty will begin reviewing applicants this fall, and will open its first Ph.D. classes in September 1985.

Lindeman said that patient care will ultimately benefit from advanced education among nurses. Nurses trained in graduate level courses "make better judgments in hospital care," she said. "Nursing research has resulted in shorter hospital stays and has taught patients how to prevent illness."

Ph.D. nurses may find career opportunities in teaching and nursing management as well as research positions in hospitals, health agencies and universities.

The doctoral program focuses on developing candidates' expertise in theory building and research aimed at improvements in health care practice.

The program includes four specialty areas focusing on the study of: behavior that promotes health or prevents the onset and progression of illness ("Health Protective Behavior"); nursing care and health policies ("Nursing and Health Care Delivery"); the relationship between health and personal transitions such as birth, marriage, and retirement ("Human Response to Developmental Transition"); and acute or chronic illness and the promotion of a high quality of life ("Human Responses to Illness").

Some of the content in courses previously required for the master of nursing degree has been shifted to the doctoral level. The former M.N. degree required between 55 and 72 credit hours; the M.S. degree now requires 45 credit hours. The reduction in required hours has allowed the school to shift its faculty to accommodate the new Ph.D. program requirements; no new faculty members have been added.

Nurses who complete master's level studies conduct research, teach, and assume more advanced roles in nursing care.

The shift from M.N. to M.S. was prompted by a gradual change in American nursing, said Boyd, associate dean of graduate studies in charge of both master's and doctoral studies.

"Nursing has truly become a nursing science and a profession," she said. "It is a discipline based on scientific knowledge with much more research and theory development in progress. To meet our full potential as a school of nursing, we need a graduate program with both master's and doctoral components."

Joyce Colling, associate professor of community health care systems, discusses course work with students during a graduate class on nursing theory, practice and research.

The OHSU master of nursing degree began in 1956; students now enrolled in the program will finish their courses with M.N. degrees. New students entering the Health Sciences University will complete the shorter requirements for an M.S. degree.

The master's program now includes four major areas of study: adult health and illness, family nursing, mental health nursing and community health care systems.

Boyd, who completed her M.S. in Massachusetts and her Ph.D. in Texas, said Oregon nurses traditionally have had to leave the state to complete doctoral degrees. "Now we have a Ph.D. program right here in our own state that Oregon nurses can attend," said Boyd. "That's very important when you are talking about a profession that is primarily a woman's profession. It is difficult for many women to make satisfactory arrangements concerning their families and either move or commute to another state. Now Oregon provides a more realistic option for nurses seeking a doctoral degree."

MRF provides valuable support for education and research

Although the Medical Research Foundation of Oregon is an integral part of research support at the OHSU, it is perhaps best known for its support of younger scientists just beginning their careers.

Of the more than $1.5 million MRF donated to the university last year, nearly $325,000 went toward special grants to be used as "seed money" to allow younger researchers to begin their projects.

"Once they have the money to actually start up their labs, they can use their results to begin competing for larger grants from places like the NIH (National Institutes of Health)," said MRF Executive Vice-President Forest Amsden.

"One example of how successful this program can be is seen in Dr. Daniel Casey, who won a $12,000 fellowship from MRF four years ago to study the skin disease tardive dyskinesia. On the basis of his initial research data, he has since raised $600,000 in NIH grants."

A total of 27 MRF fellowships were given to OHSU researchers last year to begin studies in health care fields ranging from microbiology to cardiology.

In addition to the fellowships, MRF also awards a yearly scholarship to an entering medical student who plans a career in teaching and research. The six-year scholarship provides tuition and fees plus an annual stipend for this special program, which leads to both the M.D. and Ph.D. degrees.

This year's MRF scholarship winner is David Daikh, a graduate of the University of Oregon. Prior to entering medical school, Daikh had served as a research assistant at the University of Washington Diabetes Research Center.

"This is the third year of the research foundation scholarship program, which is designed to address the very serious shortfall of medical school graduates who go on to teaching and research as opposed to private practice," Amsden said.

"The program was really the brainchild of Dr. Richard Jones (professor and chairman of biochemistry, School of Medicine) and Dr. Robert Koler (professor and chairman of medical genetics, School of Medicine)."

Although the Health Sciences University is a major beneficiary of MRF support, the foundation also provides funding to researchers at other institutions of higher education in Oregon and several Portland area hospitals.

The Third Annual Research Convocation (see page 1) is sponsored by the Medical Research Foundation and the Oregon Health Sciences University Board of Overseers.

Construction starts on Institute for Advanced Biomedical Research

Visitors to the OHSU campus this fall may be greeted by the rumble of heavy machinery instead of the usual calm found on a university campus.

The noise will signal that construction has begun on the Institute for Advanced Biomedical Research, which is expected to be completed in 1986. When completed, the five-floor, 85,000-square-foot research facility will bring some of the finest scientists in the world to the OHSU.

The general emphasis of study at IABR will be on molecular biology and brain research, said Dr. Edward Herbert, IABR director. More specific areas of research will be developed by scientists recruited to the institute.

Since being named director last year, Herbert has worked to recruit outstanding researchers to the IABR, as well as help decide the important structural elements of the institute. He will, however, remain in his current position as associate member of the Institute of Molecular Biology at the University of Oregon until early next year.

Bids for constructing the facility were opened in September, and site preparation is beginning.

September also marked the arrival of Dr. Judson Pond, who has been named assistant director of the IABR. Pond, who formerly served as administrative officer for the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh, will help oversee construction of the IABR, as well as assist Herbert in faculty recruiting and equipment purchase.

"He has precisely the experience we felt would be necessary in building the new institute," Herbert said of Pond. "He has not only a science background, but has vast experience in administration and finance."

The institute will be located between the Basic Science and the Research buildings, and is being designed by the architectural firm of Zimmer, Gunsul, and Frasca. The design includes plans for a courtyard that will connect the three buildings and replace the parking lot between Mackenzie Hall and the Research Building.

The courtyard, according to architect Bob Frasca, will provide "a congenial environment for the three research buildings," as well as "connect the Mackenzie Hall cafeteria and provide an outdoor space for dining, concerts and a variety of activities that will be shared by the entire Health Sciences University."

The OHSU Board of Overseers is coordinating the support of the $900,000 courtyard project through private donations.

Funding for the IABR comes from a $20 million construction grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and a $5 million donation from a Portland couple who wish to remain anonymous.

Memorial cancer fund aids in search for answers

Dying was never part of J. Gibson Pleasants' scenario. After 36 years with Proctor and Gamble, Pleasants and his wife, Margaret, were just settling into a peaceful retirement on their idea of heaven, a secluded stretch of the Rogue River in Grants Pass. A little fishing, a little gardening, a little "front-porch meditating," a lot of living; that was the scenario.

But cancer changed the script, and Margaret Pleasants wanted to know why.

Her desire for an answer spawned a relationship with the OHSU which for more than a decade has significantly aided the efforts of cancer researchers.

In 1972, the year her husband died of cancer of the prostate, Mrs. Pleasants pledged her support to the OHSU. Her benevolence resulted in the creation of the J. Gibson Pleasants Memorial Cancer Research Fund to support OHSU research on prostatic and breast cancers.

J. Gibson Pleasants was born in Laurel, Miss. He was a bright boy, "precocious" to those who weren't quite sure what to make of someone who entered high school at age 10 and graduated at 14. Margaret Pleasants relates these facts with some trepidation, envisioning the reaction of a modest husband upon hearing some of these details revealed. "He'd be hitting me on the head if he could hear this," she says before continuing.

Pleasants enrolled at the University of Southern California and earned his way to a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering by playing jazz piano with the Jack Farrell Orchestra. He received master's and doctoral degrees from the California Institute of Technology.

> Mrs. Pleasants' desire for an answer spawned a relationship with the OHSU which for more than a decade has significantly aided prostate and breast cancer research.

In 1933, Pleasants joined Proctor and Gamble's Long Beach plant as a foreman-in-training. A year later he transferred to Cincinnati. He was superintendent of the Port Ivory Soap plant by 1938; superintendent of the Baltimore plant in 1939. The next year, Pleasants returned to Cincinnati as superintendent of the Western Manufacturing Division. He spent the rest of his career in Cincinnati, finally retiring in 1969 as vice president, in charge of research and development.

Gibson and Margaret were married in 1954. The future Mrs. Pleasants was taken by his intelligence, his manners, his good looks. "He was a very nice, down-to-earth man," she says. She recalls that although he left the South when he was a young boy, there were parts of it he just couldn't leave entirely behind. "When he would talk to his mother's friends, all of a sudden he would become the Southern gentleman; he'd start speaking with this accent," Mrs. Pleasants says. "I'd just howl."

For some seven years before he retired, Oregon was the place where Pleasants would take his wife to unwind. He was a true fisherman, and someone once told him about the generous waters of the Northwest. The Pleasants rented a car and toured the state for two weeks in August 1962. Two months later they had purchased their vacation home on the Rogue. It became their permanent home when Pleasants retired. But Gibson's enjoyment of it was short. He was stricken with prostatic cancer, and he died January 21, 1972.

"When he died, I thought, 'What am I going to do, just sit here until I die?' " Margaret says. In September of the year of her husband's death, Margaret visited the Oregon Health Sciences University, where research was being conducted on prostatic and many other cancers in the Division of Urology.

"I wanted to know why my husband had to die," Margaret says. "They asked me if I wanted to support treatment and care. I said 'No. I want to know why.' "

Mrs. Pleasants once had spent 12 years as a medical secretary. "I didn't just type words," she says. "I had to know what they meant. With my experience as a medical secretary and having lived with the vice president of research and development for Proctor and Gamble, I feel I have a lot of insight into research."

She understands, she says, that research is a long and arduous process, and that the answers don't come overnight. "I know that research is not a fast-growing thing," she says. "But anything they find is going to help people with prostatic cancer and with breast cancer, too. And as my husband would say, 'That's the purpose of the exercise.'

"My husband really was such a nice man. I thought he was quite remarkable. And anything that comes out of my support of the research at the OHSU means that maybe he didn't die in vain."

Grant goes to Movement Disorders Clinic to start new Parkinson's center at OHSU

Former President Harry Truman is said to have had it. Congressman Morris Udall is believed to be suffering from it, and Muhammad Ali's doctors tell him his symptoms are like it. Drug addicts in California are developing it after injecting synthetic demerol-like drugs that kill brain cells. *It*, of course, is Parkinson's disease, affecting 1.5 million Americans.

Except in the case of the drug addicts, its cause is unknown. But some physicians believe it may be tied to the aging process and, in the famous boxer's case, may have been triggered by head injuries. Parkinson's disease is a chronic and progressive disorder of the central nervous system characterized by trembling, a short, shuffling stride and impaired speech.

Neurologists at the OHSU who specialize in Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders recently received a grant from the American Parkinson Disease Association to start an information and referral center for patients with the disease.

The APDA Medical Advisory Board awarded Drs. John Hammerstad and John Nutt, co-directors of the OHSU Movement Disorders Clinic, a $25,000 annual grant to start and operate the center.

It will serve as a clearinghouse for information about Oregon and southwest Washington resources available to patients, their families, doctors and other health care professionals. It also will monitor research efforts aimed at finding better ways to manage the disease and perhaps someday to cure it.

Julie Carter, adult nurse practitioner, and Judy Bell, research assistant, are members of the Movement Disorders Clinic team who will help administer services provided by the center. They will inform patients about existing community groups that offer social and psychological support and provide general information about neurologists and other health professionals who can help them. To keep health professionals abreast of the latest developments in managing the disease, they will organize an annual Parkinson's Disease Symposium.

Dopamine, a substance found in the brain, is deficient in patients with Parkinson's disease. But, when researchers tried to relieve patients' symptoms by administering dopamine, they found it ineffective — presumably because it was unable to cross the blood-brain barrier. The barrier is the body's way of protecting the brain's delicate chemical balance from potentially harmful substances in the blood. Many drugs are unable to cross this barrier. Scientists found that levodopa, the metabolic precursor of dopamine, does cross the BBB and is converted to dopamine in the brain.

Levodopa, when it became available in 1967, was a powerful new tool for symptomatic relief. However, time has shown that after 10 years on levodopa, half of the patients treated with the drug experience fluctuations in their response to the medication, or the "on-off" phenomenon. In the "off" state, the patient is stiff, shakey and often chair-bound. When "on," the patient is independent and ambulatory. The condition is so debilitating that patients often say they feel like two separate people. Worse yet, they never know when the "off" condition is going to strike, which understandably makes some patients reluctant to drive or venture into public.

Neurologists Hammerstad and Nutt are part of an international community of scientists conducting clinical research on Parkinson's disease. A recent study by Nutt, Hammerstad and colleagues shows that meals, especially high protein foods, may interfere both with the absorption of levodopa and delivery of the medication across the barrier to the brain. Results of the study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* (Feb. 23, 1984) indicate the importance of timing drug administration with meals and protein intake, as well as maintaining constant blood, or more importantly, brain concentration of levodopa to produce a smooth, consistent response to the drug. A drug company is developing new long-acting preparations of L-DOPA to reduce these fluctuations and Nutt and Hammerstad soon will be conducting clinical trials with this experimental preparation.

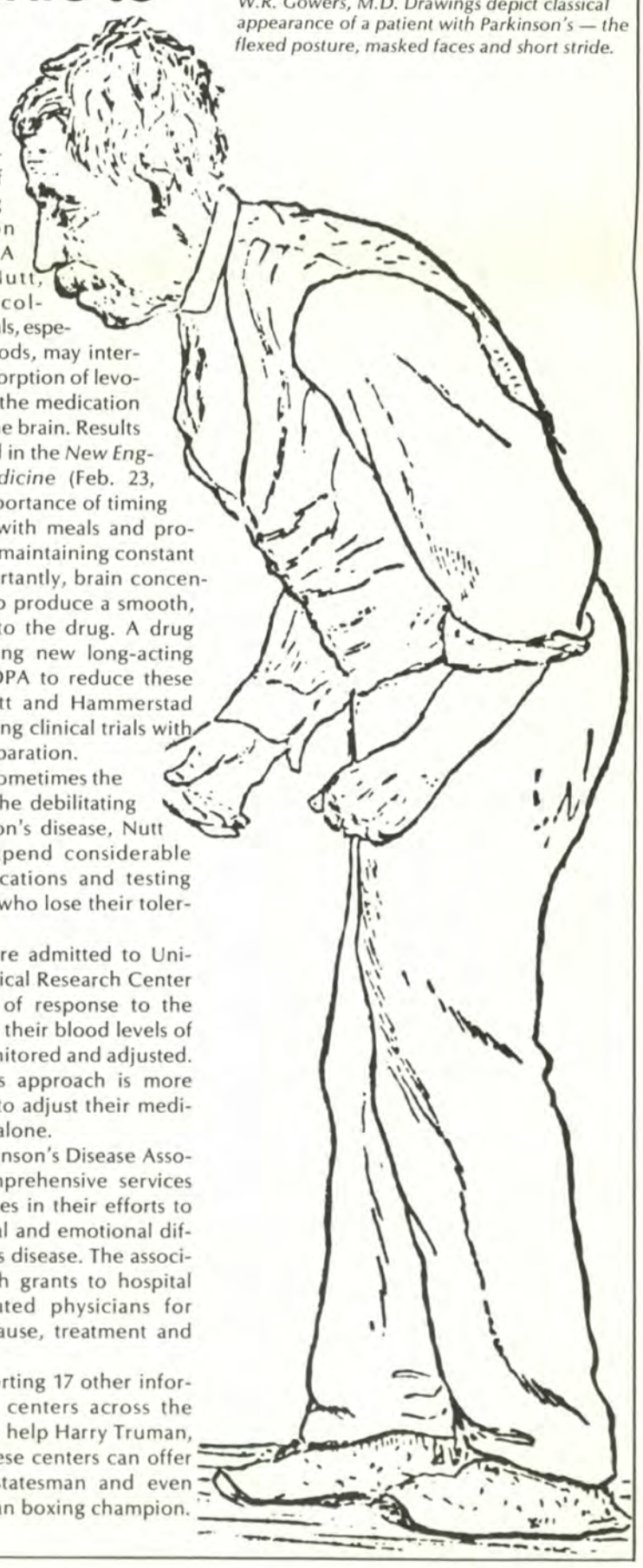
Because drugs are sometimes the only way to control the debilitating symptoms of Parkinson's disease, Nutt and Hammerstad expend considerable time adjusting medications and testing new ones in patients who lose their tolerance for levodopa.

Affected patients are admitted to University Hospital's Clinical Research Center where their pattern of response to the medication, as well as their blood levels of levodopa, can be monitored and adjusted. The doctors feel this approach is more effective than trying to adjust their medication from a history alone.

The American Parkinson's Disease Association provides comprehensive services to patients and families in their efforts to cope with the physical and emotional difficulties of Parkinson's disease. The association awards research grants to hospital and university-affiliated physicians for their work on the cause, treatment and cure of the disease.

The APDA is supporting 17 other information and referral centers across the nation. It's too late to help Harry Truman, but maybe one of these centers can offer hope to a famous statesman and even more famous American boxing champion.

The drawings below are from an 1893 textbook, A Manual of Disease of the Nervous System, by W.R. Gowers, M.D. Drawings depict classical appearance of a patient with Parkinson's — the flexed posture, masked faces and short stride.



New to the Health Sciences University are (clockwise from top left) Stephen Bauer, Dr. Steven Harrison, Dr. J.S. "Dutch" Reinschmidt, Dr. Bruce Magun, James Walker, Timothy Goldfarb, Dr. Shirley Hanson, Dr. Sheryl Boyd, Dr. Byron Backlar.

Appointments fill vacant, new positions on the Hill

Several new faces have joined the OHSU in recent months.

President Leonard Laster has announced the appointments of Stephen Bauer as executive assistant to the president and Dr. Steven Harrison as the university's director of development.

Stephen Bauer is the first executive assistant for campus liaison, institutional planning and government relations.

"The university is fortunate to have an individual of Bauer's skill and talent join its management team," said Laster. "The institution's evolution is in a creative and stimulating period of profound change, and Mr. Bauer will help steer an effective course during the days to come."

Bauer will report directly to the president and coordinate special projects in these areas:

- Campus planning — Bauer coordinates projects in the president's office related to students, faculty and staff. He represents the president's office to faculty and other campus groups, and acts as liaison between the president's office and the campus community.
- Institutional planning — Bauer reviews ideas and priorities for the future growth of the university. He already has begun to help plan the future direction of clinical care at the OHSU by staffing three task forces created by the president.
- Government relations — Bauer is charged with developing and enhancing the university's relationship with the state legislature as well as local and federal agencies.

Bauer's background has prepared him for the diversity of his current position. He has been a pre-medical student, a health insurance trust administrator, and has directed an intergovernmental association of 242 Oregon cities.

Prior to coming to the OHSU, Bauer worked for the League of Oregon Cities, where he served as executive director since 1977. He also has served as the secretary-treasurer of the Oregon Mayors' Association and the state section of the International City Managers' Association. While there, he served as administrator of the Employee Benefits Insurance Trust, serving approximately 10,000 city employees and dependents in 190 insured groups.

Bauer has served as a member of the Salem Planning Commission, the National League of Cities, the State Municipal League Directors' Planning Group and is listed in Who's Who in the West.

Bauer studied pre-medicine at Columbia University, where he was editor of a national pre-medical journal. He received a bachelor of arts degree in government in 1967. He received a master's degree in public administration from the University of California at Berkeley in 1968. "I've had a long-term interest in medicine and health care starting in junior high school," Bauer said. "Coming to the OHSU is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me to be involved in health care. The issue of health care and how to pay for it is one of the biggest issues of the next decade. That's why I'm here."

Dr. Steven Harrison, director of development, is the first full-time director of the university's fund-raising office since 1978. He is responsible for promoting current and proposed fund-raising plans for the three schools (dentistry, medicine and nursing), University Hospital, the Crippled Children's Division, and the Dental Clinics.

"The primary goal of this position is to enhance the ability of the operating components of the university to do their job well and creatively," said President Leonard Laster. "Dr. Harrison's efforts in these activities are expected to accelerate the growth toward greater achievement for the institution."

Harrison comes to the OHSU from the University of Nevada at Reno where he served as director of development and executive director of the university's foundation. He previously served as director of current giving and development services at the University of California at Davis, and director of development and college relations for Rocky Mountain College in Billings, Mont.

"The OHSU is an outstanding institution," Harrison said. "That's not to say there aren't challenges in raising funds, but it's exciting to be here from a development perspective because we have such a potentially strong impact on the community."

Among Harrison's goals are to increase the amount of private donations to the university, develop an annual giving program and expand the 13,000-member alumni associations' current giving programs. He would eventually like to create a corporate/foundation relations program and to involve Portland's business community in the OHSU.

Harrison pursued pre-medical coursework and received a bachelor of science degree in zoology from the University of Idaho in 1967. He received a master of business administration degree from California State University in 1969 and a doctorate in higher education administration from Arizona State University in 1974.

School of Medicine

Two new associate deans and a department chairman have been appointed in the School of Medicine.

Dr. J.S. "Dutch" Reinschmidt, a highly respected physician on the OHSU campus and among fellow physicians in Oregon, has been appointed associate dean for academic affairs.

He has held the interim position since February 1983, when a nationwide search was launched to fill the position.

As associate dean, Reinschmidt will be responsible for special projects requested by the dean and will advise the School of Medicine's curriculum committee. He also will chair the committee on committees, which oversees the many operating committees in the school.

Reinschmidt will continue to work with Oregon's community physicians as director of the Division of Continuing Medical Education, a position he has held since 1976.

"We are exceptionally fortunate to have a faculty member of Dr. Reinschmidt's caliber as associate dean. His experience in medical education and practice throughout the state provides our university and the state with a depth and breadth of understanding rarely available to a dean's staff," said Dr. John Kendall, dean of the School of Medicine.

Reinschmidt was recruited to the university in 1970 to direct the federally supported Oregon Regional Medical Program. He joined the faculty as professor of preventive medicine in the Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine.

The new associate dean earned his doctor of medicine degree in 1953 from Vanderbuilt University in Nashville, Tenn., and had postgraduate training in surgery at the University of Colorado Medical Center in Denver, Colo.

He is president-elect of the Society of Continuing Medical Education, Association of American Medical Colleges, and is a representative to the American Medical Association's Section on Medical Schools. He represents the OHSU on the Rural Health Coordinating Council, a statewide advisory council to the Office of Rural Health. He is among the leadership of the Multnomah County Medical Society and the Oregon Medical Association.

Dr. Byron Backlar is the new associate dean for administration. He replaces Marshall Rotstein, who has served as acting associate dean since 1983.

The new associate dean is responsible for the fiscal and administrative aspects of the dean's office related to the OHSU's central administration and University Hospital administration. He also handles budgeting matters with department heads, oversees management information systems and negotiates contracts for the School of Medicine, said Dean Kendall.

Backlar joined the OHSU Oct. 1 from the University of California at Los Angeles, where he was assistant dean for administration in the School of Medicine. Prior to becoming assistant dean, Backlar was director of the office responsible for contract and grant administration at University of California.

An attorney, Backlar is a member of Sigma Xi, the national science honorary society, and Phi Beta Phi, a legal society. He has served on the Board of Directors of the California Division of the American Cancer Society since 1981 and was honored as Volunteer of the Year for 1982 by the Los Angeles Costal Cities Unit of the American Cancer Society.

Backlar received a bachelor's degree from Washington University in St. Louis, a master's degree from the University of Chicago, and a doctor of jurisprudence from Washington University.

The Department of Anatomy has received a new name and a new chairman. **Dr. Bruce Magun** is the new chairman of the Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy. He succeeds Dr. Vaughn Critchlow, who left the OHSU to become director of Oregon Regional Primate Research Center.

Magun joined the OHSU from the University of Arizona, where he taught anatomy since 1976 and served as chairman of the university's biosafety committee since 1980. Prior to joining the University of Arizona, Magun was an assistant professor of anatomy for six years at the University of Tennessee School of Medicine. In 1982, he was named Fogarty International Fellow.

"Dr. Magun is an outstanding scientist with terrific drive, an excellent awareness of faculty development and a vision of the future," said Dean Kendall. "To me, that is what makes a good department chairman. Also, Dr. Magun appreciates the balance between education and research at both the graduate and medical student levels."

(continued on page 7)

Appointments

(continued from page 6)

Magun also conducts research in the department and teaches as professor of anatomy. He intends to emphasize investigating the frontiers of cellular biology. "I came here because the OHSU appears to be on the threshold of becoming a first class research institution while maintaining its excellent reputation in teaching," he said.

Magun recently was awarded funding from the National Cancer Institute for two projects; a $720,000, six-year grant to study some of the mechanisms involved in carcinogenesis (the production of cancer) and a $362,400, three-year grant to study cellular actions of cancer cells.

Magun received a bachelor of science degree in biology in 1965 and a doctor of philosophy degree in anatomy in 1969, both from Tufts University in Medford, Mass. He is a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and several national professional organizations concerned with anatomy, cancer research and biology.

School of Nursing

The School of Nursing has welcomed an associate dean for graduate studies and a department chairman.

Dr. Sheryl Boyd has been appointed associate dean of graduate studies for the School of Nursing. Boyd has served as acting associate dean of the program since 1982. She is the first associate dean to be appointed specifically to head graduate studies in nursing.

"We are fortunate to have someone with Dr. Boyd's ability and commitment in the associate dean position," said Dr. Carol Lindeman, dean of the School of Nursing. "Dr. Boyd is a role model for nurses interested in graduate education. She has a doctoral degree in nursing, is a productive scholar and an excellent teacher. Her enthusiasm for the profession of nursing is highly contagious."

Since her appointment July 1, Boyd has been responsible for developing standards and maintaining quality of the graduate programs in nursing, including the school's new master of science and doctor of philosophy in nursing components. (See related story on page 4.)

As a leader in the relatively young field of nursing research, Boyd plans to help Oregon nurses meet growing demands for advanced nursing skills.

"Nursing has changed in the last two decades, and we have developed our curriculum to go along with what is happening in the discipline," said Boyd. "Nursing has truly become nursing science. It's a discipline that demands a scientific knowledge base with much more research and theory development."

Working with Dean Lindeman and other faculty members, Boyd has helped reshape the school's graduate offerings. Starting this fall, the OHSU's M.N. degree program will be replaced by an M.S. curriculum, and the school will begin accepting applications to its Ph.D. program scheduled to begin in 1985.

Boyd received her own B.S. in nursing degree from the OHSU School of Nursing in 1971, followed by an M.S. in maternal child nursing at Boston University in 1973. She completed her Ph.D. in nursing at Texas Woman's University in 1980.

She worked as a public health nurse in San Antonio, Texas; and an instructor at Salem State College in Salem, Mass., the University of Portland, and University of Arlington in Texas. Boyd joined the OHSU in 1979 as assistant professor of parent-child nursing.

She is the only nurse in the West certified to provide training for the Brazleton Neonatal Assessment Scale, which was developed by Dr. T. Berry Brazleton of Harvard Medical School as a way to gauge development and behavior traits of newborn babies.

Her ongoing research focuses on examining how a family adapts to the birth of a new baby, and the father's involvement in infant care. Boyd has presented a number of papers, both regionally and nationally, on research about parents and infants.

Dr. Shirley Hanson has been appointed chair of family nursing in the School of Nursing. She joined the university Aug. 1, and succeeds Dr. JoAnne Hall, who is now a faculty member in the department.

Since 1981, Hanson has been an associate professor at the Intercollegiate Center for Nursing Education in Spokane. She also has held several positions in nursing education and nursing service including staff and consultant positions at Children's Orthopedic Hospital in Seattle.

Family nursing is one of four academic departments within the School of Nursing. The department's programs focus on the family as "client" as well as context for care. Family nurses work with patients and their families.

"The family is as important as the person who is ill," said Dr. Carol Lindeman, dean of the School of Nursing. She said family nursing is an area of study that is increasing in importance.

"Shirley Hanson is one of the few nurses in the United States with the background required to chair a family nursing department," said Lindeman. "Her combined experience in nursing service and education will provide excellent leadership for the department." In addition to her administrative responsibilities, Hanson will be teaching and continuing her research activities.

The new chairman is a member of Sigma Theta Tau, the nursing honorary society. She will become a fellow in the Academy of Nursing in December. Hanson received her bachelor of science degree in nursing from Pacific Lutheran University and her master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Washington.

University Hospital

Two new members have joined the University Hospital administrative staff.

James Walker has been named director of fiscal services for University Hospital. Walker came to the OHSU from the University of New Mexico Hospital, where he was director of business and finance, controller, accounting manager and financial analyst.

Walker oversees the hospital's budgets and rates, general and patient accounting, reimbursement, admitting and outpatient registration.

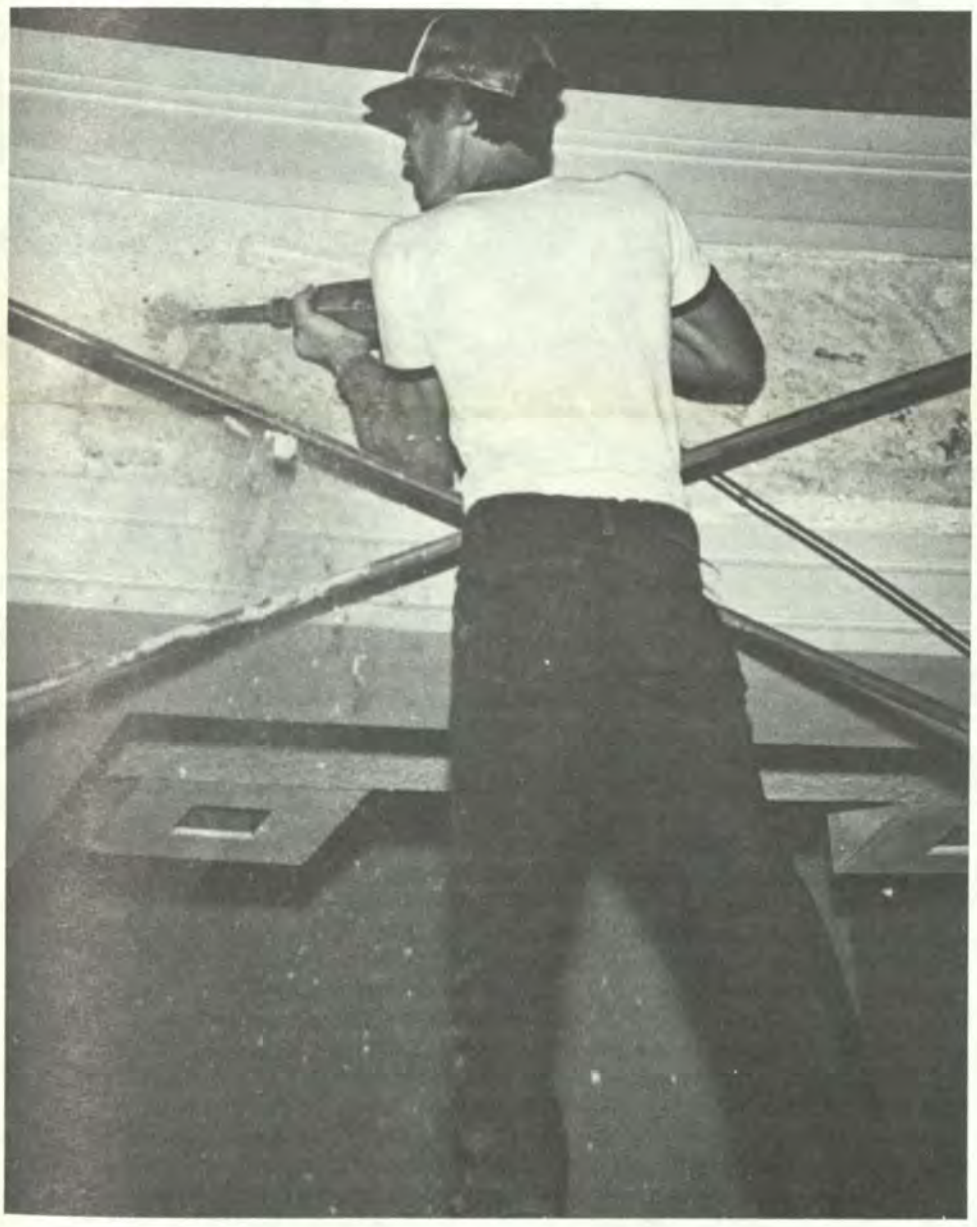
He received a bachelor of science degree in business administration from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, Calif.

Timothy Goldfarb is now associate director of professional services for University Hospital.

He came to the OHSU from University Hospital at Arizona Health Sciences Center in Tucson, where he served as associate administrator since 1982. While at the health sciences center, Goldfarb managed 16 departments and directed a staff totaling 710 fulltime employees.

Goldfarb oversees the departments of anatomical pathology, cardiology, electroencephalography, end stage renal disease, gastroenterology, pharmacy, pulmonary bronchoscopy, radiology, respiratory therapy and surgical services.

Goldfarb received a bachelor of science degree in economics in 1975 and a master of science degree in health services administration in 1978, both from Arizona State University.



Newly remodeled auditorium to be unveiled in November

The Third Annual Research Convocation to be held in the OHSU Library Nov. 8 will do more than showcase the depth and variety of health care research conducted by OHSU scientists.

It also will mark the debut of the newly remodeled Library auditorium. The six-month renovation project was made possible by a major gift from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous and the School of Medicine Alumni Association.

The renovation not only increases the aesthetic value of the auditorium, it helps make presentations easier to hear and to see.

The new sound system, which includes aids for the hearing impaired, greatly enhances the auditorium's acoustics. The stage has been lowered and enlarged to create a closer relationship between the speaker and the audience. An enclosed projection booth has been installed, and wheelchair access both in and outside the auditorium has been improved.

The comfort of the audience will be enhanced through newly installed padded seats on the main floor and renovated seating in the balcony. The completely refurbished foyer features a dropped ceiling, wood paneling and new carpeting. A new roof and exit doors complete the project, which began last June.

Research office aids, encourages faculty

Before investigators can begin the research that may someday lead to life-saving results, they must gain financial support through meticulous proposals documenting their ideas.

Applying for research funds is an arduous process, however, sometimes taking a year or more. OHSU Research Services Director Erlinda Gayamat makes the task a little easier by helping faculty researchers locate and secure project funding.

Gayamat and her staff begin by identifying the individual areas of interest for each faculty researcher. Faculty members are then notified when funding in that area becomes available and they are offered help in organizing project proposals and budgets.

"Since we've started working more closely with the faculty and encouraging them, they realize that applying for research funds is not as hard as they think it is," Gayamat said.

Results have been seen in other ways as well. In the two years since Gayamat has been at the OHSU, the number of proposals submitted has more than doubled, and in the past year alone the total amount of research funding to the OHSU has risen by $3 million, from $15.9 million to $18.9 million.

Although teaching remains the primary emphasis of the OHSU, the university far exceeds the national average in the percentage of projects approved for funding. While about 40 percent of research proposals nationwide received funding last year, 56 percent of those submitted by OHSU scientists were awarded funds. Leading the way were the departments of medicine and physiology, whose total awards last year were more than $3 million and $1 million, respectively. (See related story, page 2).

"I think we do better than the national average because we have some very good people here," Gayamat said. "Physiology is an important research field throughout the country because its research provides the groundwork for all other areas."

And while this fiscal year has just begun, OHSU researchers already have received research funding totalling more than $6 million. One of the largest individual grants ever received by the university (more than $3 million) was awarded this year to Dr. Sonia Buist, professor of physiology, for a seven-year study on the effects of smoking on lung function.

Although the OHSU receives nearly 70 percent of its research funding from the National Institutes of Health, Gayamat also helps scientists discover a wide range of alternate sources. The university's national reputation in ophthalmology, for example, helped earn a $315,000, three-year grant from the National Retinitis Pigmentosa Foundation. The grant resulted in the establishment of the Pacific Northwest's first research center to study this major cause of untreatable blindness.

Despite the work already accomplished by OHSU scientists, Gayamat believes her office can do more to assist and encourage faculty research.

"I'm most proud, though, of all we've been able to do thus far, and the assistance we've given the faculty," she said.

Lecture series focuses on important health topics

The Marquam Hill Society Lecture Series began its fourth year at the OHSU this fall, offering the public a chance to hear outstanding faculty members discuss timely and important issues concerning human health.

The series opened Oct. 4 with Dr. E. Michael Van Buskirk, professor of ophthalmology, discussing glaucoma, one of the most common eye diseases of Americans over 40. Glaucoma occurs when excess fluid accumulates in the eye, exerting pressure on the optic nerve and causing irreversible loss of vision without warning. Van Buskirk described glaucoma, the importance of its early detection and methods of treatment.

• The lecture series continues Nov. 1 with Dr. Donald Adams, professor and chairman of periodontology, talking about periodontal (gum) disease. The disease is responsible for 70 percent of tooth loss in those over 40. It is the most common dental disease, affecting nearly nine of every 10 American adults. Adams' lecture will focus on the prevalence, causes and treatments of periodontitis and his research to learn more about it.

• Dr. Eric Orwoll, assistant professor of medicine at the OHSU and director of the Endocrinology and Metabolic Clinic at the Veterans Administration Medical Center, will discuss osteoporosis, a disease that affects an estimated 15 million Americans, particularly — but not only — older women, with a decrease in bone tissue. This Dec. 6 lecture will describe how the aging process affects bone mass causing it to become thinner and more fragile, how osteoporosis is diagnosed and current research projects involving both women and men.

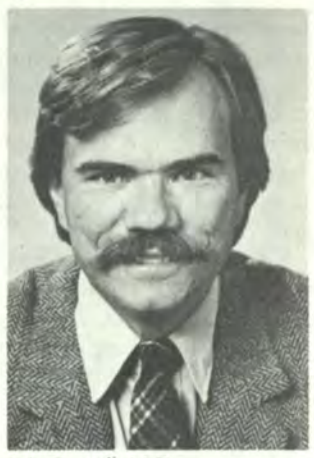
• Feb. 7, Dr. Neil Buist, professor of pediatrics and medical genetics and director of the OHSU Pediatric Metabolic Laboratory and the Oregon Birth Defects Center, will discuss the interaction between body chemistry and food, what happens when human metabolism is disturbed and how diet can help control metabolic defects or diseases such as diabetes, hypoglycemia and some types of mental retardation.

• A national authority on drug-related kidney problems, Dr. William Bennett, professor of medicine and pharmacology and head of nephrology, has found that chronic use of over-the-counter pain relievers such as aspirin and acetaminophen can lead to kidney damage. During his March 7 lecture, Bennett will describe drug side effects on the kidneys, the drug evaluation process in the United States and his research on how other drugs, including antibiotics, can harm the kidneys.

• The series concludes April 7 with Dr. Linn Goldberg, assistant professor of medicine and director of the OHSU Medical Practice Group and Human Performance Laboratory. He has spent the last four years studying the relationship between exercise and cardiovascular health and has found that exercise appears to result in favorable change in cholesterol levels in previously sedentary men and women. In his talk, Goldberg will focus on various types of exercise, fitness, cardiovascular risk factors and his current research with joggers and weight lifters.


E. Michael Van Buskirk, M.D.


Donald Adams, D.D.S.


Eric Orwoll, M.D.


Neil Buist, M.D.


William Bennett, M.D.


Linn Goldberg, M.D.

The six lectures begin at 8 p.m. and are free to the public. The Nov. 1 lecture is scheduled in Room 4320 of the Basic Science Building and the remainder will be held in the newly remodeled and refurbished Library auditorium. For more information, call (503) 225-8231.

Steering Committee selects new chair


Helen Bledsoe

The Steering Committee of the Oregon Health Sciences University Marquam Hill Society has selected Helen Bledsoe as its new chair.

Bledsoe, who succeeds Betty Gray as committee chair, is a founding member of the steering committee. She also sits on the OHSU Board of Overseers, and has served as president of the Reed College Women's Committee, the Vassar Club of Oregon and the Robert Gray PTA.

"The Marquam Hill Society's two chief focuses for the next year will be to increase membership and to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the university as an academic health center in ways which will make people more aware of the importance of the OHSU," said Bledsoe.

The Marquam Hill Society is a group of citizens committed to broadening understanding of the OHSU and to fostering its continued growth toward excellence. To help meet that commitment, the society has organized several programs including an annual series of lectures featuring outstanding faculty members, an OHSU tour program for the public, financial support for the annual Student Research Forum and a fund to help support faculty travel to professional meetings and conferences.

The society, an offshoot of the Board of Overseers, the major citizen support group of the OHSU, also is currently working to help equip the remodeled and refurbished OHSU Library auditorium with devices for the hearing impaired.

Members of the Steering Committee are Bledsoe, Gray, Anne Ballin, Judy Carter, Elizabeth Hirsch, Ruth Ann Laster, Joanne McAdam, Jeanne Radow, Claire Rives, Joan Shipley and Marianne Vetto.

The OHSU is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution.

Scholarships give students a boost

Money can buy college courses, books and stethescopes, but it is the people involved in education who make learning happen. In many cases, scholarship donors form a crucial "human to human bridge" between a student's commitment to learning and his or her vision of a medical education.

Citing the importance of that bridge, OHSU President Leonard Laster recently thanked donors of three $3,000 scholarships at an informal luncheon. Laster met with Patricia Arden, Dennis Freeman and Dr. Raymond McKeown, of the American Professional Practice Association of New York. The representatives presented checks to three first-year medical students: Annette Kenney, Frank Lamp and Steven Foutz.

"To know donors of scholarship funds is a special opportunity to establish a lifelong partnership," said Laster. "The donors, by being here, are converting a generous act into a very human one."

Arden, widow of the association's founder, George Arden, congratulated each winner as checks were presented in memory of her husband and the late Dr. Leland Powers, and in honor of McKeown, North Bend physician.

The organization has funded OHSU scholarships in McKeown's honor since 1970. A student in the School of Medicine from 1924 to 1926, McKeown served as secretary-treasurer of the American Medical Association from 1957 to 1966.


Patricia Arden congratulates scholarship winner Frank Lamp.

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