

# what's happening

Maine Medical Center  
Portland, Maine 04102

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February 22, 1984

## Oncology Pharmacist: MMC has one of a few

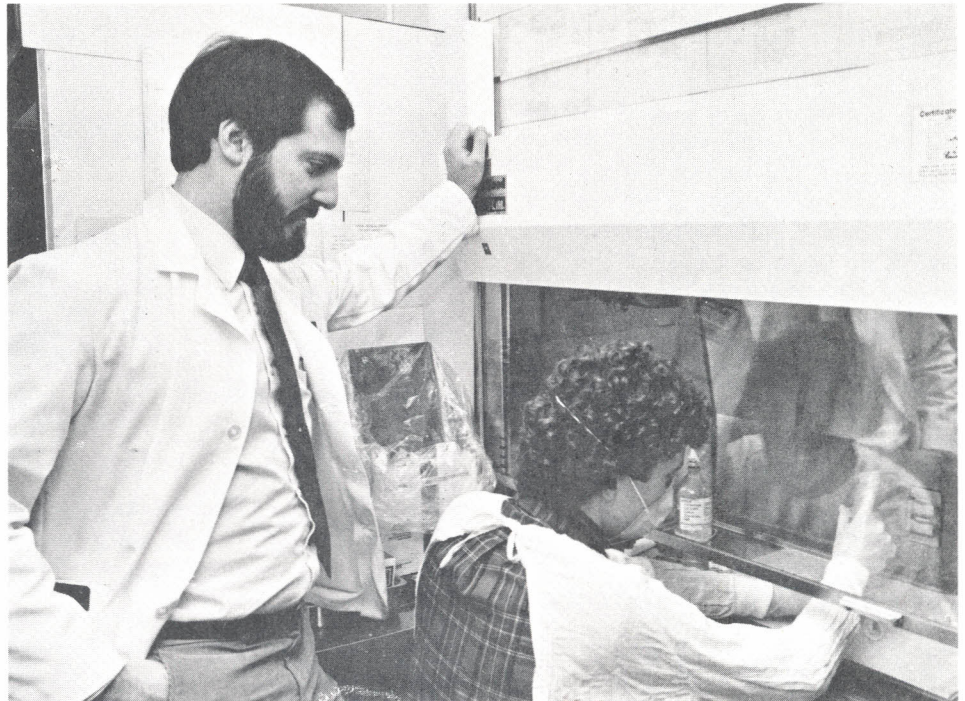
Maine Medical Center is the only hospital in the State, and one of just a few in New England to have the services of a full-time Oncology Pharmacist. He's Steve D'Amato, a Staff Pharmacist here for five years, who did some extensive travelling and intensive training over the past year to earn his specialty.

Six months ago he joined the team--attending physician, medical and surgical oncologists, nurse oncologist, radiation oncologist, immunologist, diagnostic radiologist, rehabilitation therapist, social worker -- which is intensely involved in delivering the most effective interdisciplinary approach to the diagnosis, treatment and continuing care of cancer patients.

As the components that go into providing cancer care increase in numbers and effectiveness, there is progress on all fronts in the assault against the disease. Biological and clinical research, screening and prevention, detection and diagnosis, treatment and continuing care, have come together as an organized effort, primarily due to the passage of the National Cancer Act in 1971 and through the efforts of the National Cancer Institute. MMC is a part of the effort and our staff draws upon and contributes to a growing network of information in the planning and delivering of cancer care.

Drug protocols are increasing and multiplying in pace with the overall explosion of information and progress, and medical centers providing the latest of such protocols have a real need for a specialist like Steve D'Amato, according to Robert S. Hillman, M.D., Chief of the Department of Medicine.

"Introducing him into the program proved immediately successful," Dr. Hillman says. "He has been of tremendous help to the nursing and medical staffs and to our patients and their



**STEVE D'AMATO** (standing) is the only Oncology Pharmacist in the state, and a full-time member of MMC's interdisciplinary cancer care team. Here, he oversees the work of Joe Murphy, one of two Unit Dose Technicians he has trained in the specialty of preparing and labelling cancer drugs.

families.

"He's an effective educator to those who encounter difficulties as new procedures and protocols need to be integrated; his presence as a full-time, dedicated Oncology Pharmacist is invaluable," Dr. Hillman says. "It's important to the staff to know there's a specialist to talk to when questions arise."

As Oncology Pharmacist, D'Amato's responsibilities are vast, and his days are varied. He is responsible for the preparation or supervision of the preparation of all cancer medications. He has trained two Unit Dose Technicians in the preparation and labelling of drugs and oversees their scheduling to assure maximum coverage in the Pharmacy.

Delivery of medication to the units is

**ONCOLOGY**, page 2

## Community Division joins Campaign team

Vincent B. Welch, Esq., Maine Medical Center Capital Campaign Chairman, has announced the recent activation of another campaign division, the Community Gifts Division, under the capable chairmanship of Mrs. Herbert S. Holmes, Jr. of Falmouth Foreside. "This is one of the largest divisions of the campaign, and the enthusiasm which Mrs. Holmes has generated in her team volunteers has the campaign moving forward at a successful pace," he said.

He noted that for each dollar raised today, the Trustees of Maine Medical Center will not have to raise patient rates in the future another \$3.58 to repay bonding principal and interest

**COMMUNITY**, page 3



**ONCOLOGY**, from page one — his responsibility, as is providing specific information (therapy, possible side effects, interaction with other drugs) on each medication to each unit. He presents in-service programs for the Department of Nursing on all aspects of cancer drug therapy.

D'Amato must establish and oversee all pharmacy policies relating to the handling and disposal of agents comprising chemotherapy treatment, and he updates and distributes medication lists, drug compatibility charts, oncology resource information, and pertinent new drug literature.

He monitors all cancer patients who are undergoing drug therapy in the hospital, checking their lab values daily, and keeping the rest of the staff informed of the progress of the therapy.

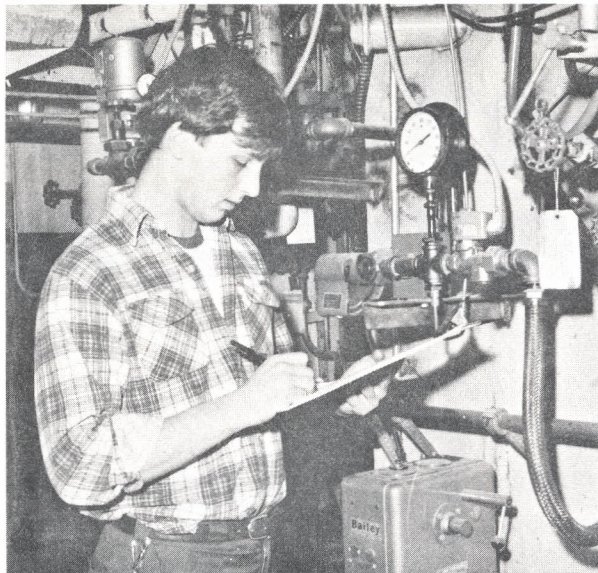
Contact with patients and their families is an important part of the Oncology Pharmacist's mission, and D'Amato is available to them 24 hours a day. He will explain drug therapy, possible side effects and drug interactions; he will be on hand when cancer patients are placed on infusion pumps and will continue to monitor them closely. To patients being discharged and planning to use the Cormed ambulatory pump, he teaches loading and troubleshooting techniques -- and he makes very sure those patients and their families know that he is on call for them at any time, day, night or weekend.

"The days fly by, there's so much to be done," D'Amato says of his job. "And every day is a mix; you never know what it will present. It's gratifying, and it's quite a privilege, having the opportunity to specialize." He gained the necessary expertise primarily during an intensive two-week clinical session at the University of Washington in Seattle, arranged by Dr. Hillman and sponsored by MMC. He also attended conferences in Houston, Detroit and New York.

D'Amato first joined MMC's Pharmacy in 1974, working part-time while he was still a student. Following his 1977 graduation from the Massachusetts School of Pharmacy, he joined the staff.

## New Employees

**FOOD SERVICE:** Tina M. Karahalios  
**ACCOUNTING:** Kenneth A. Capron  
**PHLEBOTOMY:** Kevin F. Griffin  
**HOUSEKEEPING:** Maureen King



## Please Note

The Center for Community Dental Health, which operates the dental clinic at Maine Medical Center, is conducting research on the effects of prenatal fluoride supplements on the decay rate of children's primary teeth. With the support of local physicians and statewide medical groups, CCDH is recruiting women who are early in pregnancy to participate in this seven-year study. The benefits of participation will include 5 years of free fluoride supplements and 2 free dental exams to children born of prenatal participants. For more information, contact Grace Moynihan, at 761-5942.

## TSA program offers higher interest now

The Northern New England Hospital Association's Tax Sheltered Annuity program, one of three available to MMC employees, allows separate IRA contributions to a TSA account. The contributions are subject to all the rules and regulations of any other IRA, but the program is currently guaranteeing 11.5% interest for one year on all IRA deposits.

More information on the program is available at meetings scheduled for 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, and 4:00 PM Friday, February 24, in Classrooms 3&4.

## Nursing Continuing Education Program

● *Critical Care Seminar: Malignant Hyperthermia*, R. Flowerdew, M.D. Sponsored by Recovery Room.  
 Thursday, March 1, 1984 8-9 AM and repeated 2-3 PM Conference Room R9  
 (1 CERP requested)



## EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION WEEK

Once each year, we set aside one week in which to pay a formal "thank you" to the people who keep MMC running fifty-two weeks a year. At left, just a few of the people whose jobs keep them out of sight of most of us, but are essential nonetheless. Clockwise from far left top: Food Services Assistant Production Manager Verle Hutchison (right) and Storekeeper Paul Saucier, preparing Romano's Revenge Pizza as part of the week's Cafeteria specials (Romano's Revenge, incidentally, is that he doesn't have to make the pizza); Boiler Operator Rick Grassi, whose job it is to keep constant watch over the hospital's boilers; Computer Operators Bruce Curran (front) and Blaine Scott, running the payroll through the computer; Medical Transcriptionist Barbara Parker (the bouquet by the word processor is one of many distributed throughout the hospital by the Medical Staff on Valentine's Day, which fell during Employee Appreciation Week this year); Operating Room Booking Secretary Betty Brown, entering an OR assignment in The Book; Blood Bank Research Assistant Jackie Shields, MT (ASCP) BB.

**COMMUNITY**, from page one.— charges. "Because of this," Mr. Welch said, "it is imperative that the Capital Campaign continue to seek maximum community support until all such sources have been given the opportunity to participate.

"That is why it is great to have Bettsanne Holmes at the helm of the Community Gifts Division. This is a big division, but she has met the challenge well," he said, "with the enlistment of over 120 volunteers."

Mrs. Holmes is a long-time affiliate of Maine Medical Center as a trustee, volunteer, and an active member of its auxiliaries. She has organized the largest division of the campaign with the enlistment of many, many volunteers to solicit some 600 businesses and individuals. These volunteers will be seeking pledges and gifts at the \$2,500 level, payable over three, four, or five years.

Volunteers who will be assisting Mrs.

Holmes as Vice Chairmen of the Division are: Mrs. Margo Foley, Cape Elizabeth; Dr. Beth Holmes, Falmouth; Malcolm F. Poole, Yarmouth; and Bradley W. Smith and Colonel Roger Willock, both of Cumberland Foreside.

Her team Captains are: Mrs. Adrian L. Asherman, Yarmouth; Mrs. Robert A. Bell, Cape Elizabeth; Mrs. Lyle C. Clevenger, Cape Elizabeth; Mrs. John W. Deering, Falmouth; Mrs. Raymond D. Hale, Cape Elizabeth; Mrs. William L. Hale, Portland; Mrs. Rae Hutchinson, Cape Elizabeth; Mrs. Scott F. Hutchinson, Cumberland Foreside; Ernest N. Jackson, Cumberland; John E. King, Falmouth; Mrs. Robert Kruger, Cape Elizabeth; Preston Mavor, Cape Elizabeth; Mrs. Molly McDuffie, Cumberland Foreside; Brian Mullany, Yarmouth; Bruce T. Myers, Yarmouth; Mrs. Richard Pew, Yarmouth; Miss Alice Mary Pierce, Portland; Donald L. Philbrick, Esq., Portland; Christopher Pinkham, South Freeport; Joseph Redman,

Portland; Mrs. John Shattuck, Cumberland Foreside; Mrs. Bradley T. Shaw, Portland; Charles P. Soule, Falmouth Foreside; David Swardlick, Yarmouth; and Mrs. James Vamvakias, Portland.

More than 100 volunteer Team Members complete the Community Gifts Division.

## Discount program is going downhill again

A new addition to the Employee Activity Committee's Employee Discount Program offers daily Mt. Abrams lift tickets for \$8.00 weekdays (regular price \$10.00) and \$12 weekends (regularly \$15).

A special Monday-Friday offer at Mt. Abrams, for beginners only, is a free rental/lesson/lift ticket package. Skiers-to-be must be at the mountain by 9:30 AM, and the lesson begins at 10:00 AM. The offer is for beginners only, ages 15 and up.



# Marketplace

**FOR RENT:** Excellent location and building near hospital suitable for 1 or 2 adults. Non-smoker preferred. 1 BR plus ceramic tile bath. \$125/week with heat and hot water. Parking avail. For appt. to see call 998-2373.

**FOR RENT:** 1 BR apt. 4 blocks from MMC. \$450/mo. heated. Call 774-1834.

**FOR SALE OR RENT:** 2 BR house in quiet residential area on Limington/Cornish line. 29 easy commuting miles from MMC. Recently completely reconditioned. Elec. heat with woodstove hook-up. Full basement with washer/dryer hook-up. Rental: \$275/mo. plus util. Sec. dep. and refs. req. Call for purchase price and more information at 1-625-3903.

**FOR SALE:** House on Meeting House Hill in So. Portland. Convenient location near shopping, ocean, and MMC. 3 BRs, 1½ baths, KT with dishwasher, disposal, stove, refrig. included, LR, finished family room in basement. 2 frpls. with woodstoves. Private, attractive, enclosed backyard with sundeck with southern exposure. Call Ann or Peter Carter at 779-5951.

**FOR SALE:** Land in Cumberland. A lovely 1.5+ acre building lot located in quiet residential area with single entrance is now available. This nicely wooded site offers privacy yet is ideal for either an active or passive solar home. \$19,500. Call 829-3648.

**ROOMMATE WANTED:** Female to share Congress St. apt. Rent \$155/mo. plus utils. Avail. March 1. Call 774-5490.

**ROOMMATE WANTED:** For large apt. near MMC. ½ of \$350/mo. includes heat. Call 761-4546 after 6 PM.

**ROOMMATE WANTED:** Professional person seeking same to share apt. in MMC area. Must see to appreciate. \$275/mo. plus util. Call 772-9002 between 8 AM and 5 PM.

**FOR SALE:** 1967 VW Fastback, clean southern car, 80,000 odometer, 10,000 on rebuilt motor, 4 new radial plus 2 mounted radial snows, AM/FM, many new parts. \$750 firm. Call 688-4003 after 6 PM.

**FOR SALE:** 1976 Toyota Celica ST. Good cond. Call 799-6058.

**FOR SALE:** Queen-size bedspread, green and blue in excellent cond., \$25. Bike rack (Raleigh), \$20. Aqua raincoat in exc. cond., size 12, \$15. White double-breasted spring coat in exc. cond. (Ward Bros.), \$25. Black fur borganza, long, winter coat in exc. cond., \$25. Call 772-5103.

**FOR SALE:** 29" American Tourister suitcase, blue, used once, \$50. Blue Pendleton wool suit, size 14, never worn, \$150. Call 773-7416 after 5 PM only.

**FOR SALE:** All like new: 4 piece set of Corelle dishes (Fieldflowers). Valued at \$59, will sell for \$25. 53 piece set of Rose steel flatware, \$15. 8 Chivalry and 4 glass desserts, \$10. \$45 for all. Negotiable. Call 799-6340.

**FOR SALE:** Pa's firewood, guaranteed all hardwood, good measure; written receipts, references, cut, split, delivered. 20 miles radius from woodlot. 16", 22" and 24", \$80 per cord and 4', \$60 per cord. Call 892-6351 or 665-7745.

**FOR SALE:** Oak twin-size bed with pad, \$35. Call 774-5490 after 5 PM.

**FOR SALE:** Strawberry Shortcake roller skates, size 12, \$10. 9 Strawberry Shortcake dolls, \$5 each. Strawberry Shortcake doll container, \$7. If purchased all together, \$50. Call 773-5844.

**FOR SALE:** Pioneer SX-1280 AM/FM stereo receiver. 185 watts per channel. Continuous power output at 8 ohms. Capable peakage of 370 watts per channel. Used very little. \$300. Call 774-0606 after 6:30 PM.

**FOR SALE:** 17 cubic ft. frost-free Frigidaire refrigerator. Asking \$200. Call 775-0851 after 5:15 PM.

## what's happening

WHAT'S HAPPENING is published every Wednesday at Maine Medical Center, Portland, Maine for members of the Hospital community and for friends of the institution throughout Maine and northern New England. Comments, questions and suggestions may be addressed to Public Information Office, MMC, Portland, ME 04102. Barbara Burns, Editor.

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**FOR SALE:** Minolta XGM body, manual/auto, 1½ yrs. old. Used occasionally. Asking \$175 or best offer. Call Kate at 772-8881.

**WANTED:** Baby furniture in good cond. Call 775-3064.

**WANTED:** Woman in Portland area to care for 3 month old, 5 days a week, beginning March 26. Refs. req. Call 892-3469.

**WANTED:** Rider from Biddeford/Saco area to MMC Mon.-Fri., 8 AM - 4:30 PM. For more information Call x2730.

**METICULOUS Painting and Maintenance.** The complete service for your home or business, interior and exterior, free estimates. Call 774-8612.

**PAINTING AND WALLPAPERING:** Free estimates, references. Call Joe at 773-0934.

## Please Note

Diabetic classes at MMC will not be held Wednesday, February 29 or Wednesday, March 14.

## Morphology

### AN EXPERT IS:

*Someone who doesn't know more than most people but has it better organized and runs a slide show.*

### JOHN'S COLLATERAL COROLLARY

*In order to get a loan, you must first prove you don't need it.*

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