

# what's

Maine Medical Center  
Portland, Maine 04102

# happening

Vol. 15, No. 3

August 17, 1983

## “Phlebotomy is a *Sharp* Profession”

So says the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, which has designated today Phlebotomy Day in honor of the thirty-five men and women who form the “front-line troops” of the Maine Medical Center Laboratories.

The Phlebotomists are charged with drawing the blood and collecting the other specimens for the 2 million laboratory procedures performed each year in the Conley Labs at MMC. As the only laboratory workers who routinely have direct patient contact, they are the emissaries representing the 188 other employees in the labs.

Their work takes them throughout the hospital, wherever there are patients -- on the various inpatient units, from the Neonatal Intensive Care Center to the Special Care Unit, in the Emergency Department, in the Outpatient Depart-

ment. They are easily spotted by the familiar trays that hold their work.

In a typical month, MMC's Phlebotomists perform 18,500 venipunctures to draw blood specimens, and 1,200 “micros,” specialized procedures to draw capillary blood primarily from infants. They are responsible for labeling and distributing the specimens to the appropriate laboratories, and for the paperwork that accompanies them. Phlebotomists also perform other procedures, such as iontophoresis (“sweat test”), used in the diagnosis of cystic fibrosis.

The “day” shift, one of eight different shifts in Phlebotomy, begins at 5:00 AM. Most of the day's routine blood specimens are drawn, labeled, and distributed by 8:00 AM, but there are

**PHLEBOTOMY**, page 3

## 111th Legislature was busy with health

While the 111th Maine Legislature was in session this Spring, most health-related attention was focused on hospital cost containment legislation. However, the legislature also dealt with other bills of interest to hospitals and health care workers. Some were passed, some defeated, and some withdrawn, and most of those passed will take effect September 22, 1983.

Among the legislation of interest:

- L.D. 1183, enacted as Chapter 524, will require (effective 9/1/84) the licensing of all radiographers, nuclear medicine technologists, and radiation therapy technologists. Related legislation also passed requires periodic calibration of x-ray and similar equipment (MMC already requires technologists to be registered with a national professional organization, and calibrates its equipment regularly).

111th, page 2

## Thanks to those who covered conference

MMC Acting Vice President for Health Affairs Costas T. Lambrew, M.D., would like to thank all those MMC people who volunteered their time and effort in helping assure medical coverage for the National Governors' Conference July 31-August 2. They are:

Frank Lawrence, M.D., Chief of Emergency Medicine, who coordinated the coverage with the conference officials.

George Higgins, III, M.D., ER Attending Physician; ER Head Nurse Jean Atherton, RN, ER Staff Nurses Gail Clark, RN, Barbara Eyeran, RN, Kate Hinrichs, RN, Alexina McMahan, RN, and Kate Shevenell, RN; ER Department Secretary Sabra Sheehy; ER Administrative Assistant Kelly Jackson; and Poison Control Center/REMIS Supervisor Bruce Campbell, R.Ph.

**CONFERENCE**, page 3



**PHLEBOTOMIST Sue Nugent draws blood from a patient, blood that will be used in the Labs for tests to help diagnose and treat the patient. (A/V Photo)**





**THE GREATER PORTLAND MOTHERS OF TWINS CLUB** has been very generous to the Neonatal Intensive Care Center and the Pediatric Unit at Maine Medical Center. Each unit received a Boston rocker (marked with an appropriate plaque), and the Pediatric Unit also received some mobiles. Above: officially presenting the rocker to NICC, represented by staff nurse Nichola Pombriant, RN, at left, were (from left) club vice president Sharon Bushner, Community Services chairperson Claudia Monsell, Hospitality chairperson Bonnie Smith, and secretary Susan Keeley. Below, Pediatric Head Recreational Therapist Helen Goodrich Leddy (second from left) accepts the rocker and mobiles from (from left) Mrs. Monsell, Mrs. Bushner, Mrs. Keeley, and Mrs. Smith. The four mothers, by the way, each have a set of twins plus one other child. (A/V Photo)



**111th**, from page one \_\_\_\_\_

- L.D. 1514, as reported in *What's Happening* July 13, makes the use of child safety seats in automobiles mandatory in most cases.

- L.D. 921, enacted as Chapter 203, requires any physician, dentist, or others who write a prescription on a prescription blank of a hospital or clinic to sign his/her name and cause it to be typed, printed, or stamped on the blank.

- Several pieces of legislation dealing with smoking were introduced, including acts to prohibit smoking in nursing homes, waiting areas, food stores, and restaurants. These, along with an act to prohibit the distribution of free cigarettes as a promotional gimmick, were defeated under heavy pressure from the Tobacco Institute. Two anti-smoking bills were passed, one banning smoking in jury rooms unless all jurors agree to it, and one restricting smoking in nursing homes to designated areas.

- L.D. 1391, enacted as Chapter 176, requires hospitals to notify patients in writing that an itemized bill will be provided on request, and that the request may be made up to seven years after discharge. Hospitals have 30 days to comply with the request. As of July 1, 1985, hospitals will be required to itemize the costs of nursing services provided to each patient.

- L.D. 1605, withdrawn by its sponsors, would have required the proceedings (primarily Board meetings) of private, non-profit hospitals to be open to the public.

- L.D. 1245, also withdrawn by its sponsors in the face of opposition, would have allowed municipalities to levy "service fees" on tax-exempt property, including hospitals. Hospitals opposed the measure, which would have increased patient bills.

- L.D. 1542, enacted as Chapter 325, requires (after 1/1/84) all physicians, chiropractors, and podiatrists who treat Medicare-eligible individuals to post their policy regarding the acceptance of Medicare assignments, and also the name of the person with whom patients can discuss the policy.

- Motorcycle helmet legislation, introduced as L.D. 1072, was nearly defeated but saved by a compromise. The law as passed (Chapter 415) requires motorcycle riders who are less than 15 years old or who are operating on a learner's permit or who have had their license less than one year (and their passengers) to wear protective helmets.





**PHLEBOTOMY**, from page one.— Phlebotomists on duty and busy 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Stat orders are common at all hours, and the Phlebotomist is responsible for fast, accurate collection.

Phlebotomists must have at least a high school diploma, and they receive six months of on-the-job training. Needless to say, tact, discretion, an ability to communicate, and a passion for accuracy are also required talents for a good Phlebotomist.

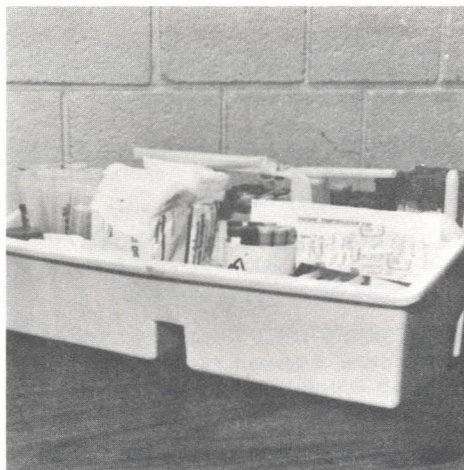
**CONFERENCE**, from page one.—

MMC Medical Staff members David Adams, M.D.; Richard Anderson, M.D.; Robert Morse, M.D.; S.T. Bigos, M.D.; Newall Augur, M.D.; Laban Leiter, M.D.; Richard Wexler, M.D.; Marjorie Boyd, M.D.; John R. Davy, M.D.; Steven Johnson, M.D.; Margaret Shepp, M.D.; Michael Bach, M.D.; William Hall, M.D.; Donald Leeber, M.D.; Walter Allen, M.D.; Richard Sullivan, M.D.; Frank Altman, M.D.; Edgar Caldwell, M.D.; Paul Cox, M.D.; Lewis Cogen, M.D.; and Paulding Phelps, M.D.

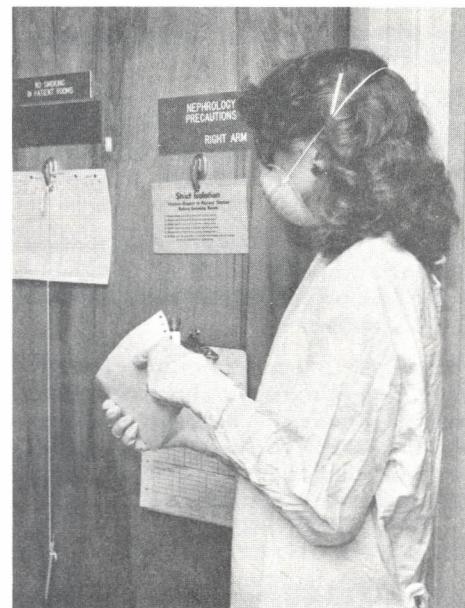
Robert Hillman, M.D., Chief of Medicine; Candace Kucharik, Department of Medicine Secretary; Betty Whited, Secretary to Dr. Lambrew.

Also, Southern Maine Emergency Medical Services Director Dan Manz; SMEMS Secretary Meg Welch; and area emergency Medical Technicians (EMT-C) Gan Boehm, Jim Farrell, Bob Kimball, Bev Morean, Steve Rhines, Linda Roberts, Ken Wagner, and Bob Wood.

And, any others that might have been missed.



**PHLEBOTOMY IS A SHARP PROFESSION.** Penny Fayen, above left, is one of MMC's thirty-five phlebotomists. The phlebotomists' trademark is the tray (above) that carries their work. Phlebotomist Kate Beatty, above right, checks her orders on the MIS. Their work carries the Phlebotomists to every part of the hospital, and as Penny Fayen shows at right, they must often gown up for collecting blood from patients under infection precautions. Some 240,000 blood samples are drawn each year by MMC's Phlebotomists. In recognition of their work, the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine has declared today "Phlebotomy Day." You can help-- just smile at a Phlebotomist.



**Rogers to head Prouts Neck campaign effort**

Andrew Y. Rogers, long-time resident of Prouts Neck in Scarborough, is chairing that community's effort to assist Maine Medical Center's capital campaign "To Meet the Need."

Vincent B. Welch, Esq., Campaign Chairman, said, "It was gratifying and encouraging that Andy Rogers agreed to lead this program for the Prouts Neck community." He said, "Prouts Neck residents have been regular users of the Medical Center and with Mr. Rogers' leadership in this special effort, we know they will reciprocate generously with their support."

Mr. and Mrs. Phineas Sprague hosted a gathering in July of friends of the Medical Center from Prouts Neck. This occasion afforded their neighbors an opportunity to hear about the hospital, its current expansion plans, and its program "To Meet the Need." Mr. Rogers will be hosting another gathering soon for those volunteers who will be participating in the Prouts Neck

campaign project.

Mr. Rogers is a retired partner of the New York law firm, Davis Polk and Wardwell. He has been a year-round resident of Prouts Neck since January of 1978. He is a Corporator of MMC, and a member of its Annual Fund Committee and Deferred Gifts Committee. Mr. Rogers is also a volunteer serving in the Leadership Gifts Division of the MMC Capital Campaign.

**Nursing Continuing Education Programs**

- *Nutritional Support for the Patient with Cancer*, Sheila Millington, RD, and Marie Turcotte, RN.  
August 24, 1983 R1 Classroom  
4:00-5:00 PM
- *BACK TO BASICS: Monitoring Intake and Output*, Rita Menard, RN.  
August 24, 1983  
7:30-8:00 AM Cafe. Conf. Rm. C  
10:30-11:00 AM Cafe. Conf. Rm. C  
1:30-2:00 PM Cafe. Conf. Rm. C  
2:30-3:00 PM Classroom 4



# Marketplace

**FOR RENT:** Condominium unit at Evergreen Valley. Kitchen facilities. Sleeps 4. Available Labor Day week (from Sept. 3 to Sept. 10). \$100. Call 774-2549 anytime.

**FOR RENT:** Unfurnished apt. Clinton Street. Second floor. LR with fireplace, DR, KT, with stove and refrig. 2 BRs, den. Sec. dep. \$450/mo + utilities. 1-car garage and parking space included. Call 799-3984.

**FOR RENT:** Apt. USM area, 1 mile from MMC. 2 BR, study, LR, DR, and large KT. Hardwood floors. \$375/mo. plus 1 mo. sec. dep. Call 774-2876 weekdays, after 6:00 PM best.

**FOR RENT:** Pleasant Ave. Sunny 1-BR apt. W-w carpeting, stove, refrig. Nice Victorian home. Heat and parking. \$400/mo. Available immediately. Call 774-2778.

**FOR RENT:** Winter rental in Old Orchard Beach. Furnished 3-BR apt. Available Sept. through June. \$250/mo + utilities. Call 934-4564.

**FOR RENT:** Unusual opportunity for right party. Year-round mobile home with truss roof, screened patio, heatilator fireplace, and full cellar. Located on 337 feet of Panther Pond frontage in Raymond. Private, small sandy beach, boat available. 27 miles to MMC. \$300/mo., sec. dep. Call 655-7160.

**FOR SALE:** 3 BR ranch in So. Portland. 10 yrs. old with full basement. \$53,900. Qualifies for Maine State Housing. Call 799-6123 after 5:00 PM.

**FOR SALE:** Various home maintenance equipment: electric bed, suction equipment, wheelchair, walker, etc. Call 799-0166.

**FOR SALE:** 9-drawer pine bureau, measures 29" high x 56" wide x 16" deep. Ex. condition, all stained and varnished. Call 774-0468.

**FOR SALE:** Boy's 24" Fuji Junior bike. Perfect condition. \$90. Call 774-7479.

**FOR SALE:** Oak desk, very good condition, large (34" x 60"), recently refinished. \$175. Call 799-5071 evenings.

**FOR SALE:** Trak 14 catamaran. Barely used. \$1,950 firm. Call days 693-3128 or 774-3242 evenings.

**FOR SALE:** 1982 Toyota Tercel, 4-dr.; FWD/5-speed; AM/FM/TAPE; 43,000 miles; \$4,850. Call 774-3232.

**FOR SALE:** 1982 Ford Escort 2-door hatchback, 4-speed, rustproofing. Only 16,000 miles, exc. condition. Asking \$5,000. Call 934-5332 after 6:00 PM.

**FOR SALE:** 1974 Audi LS100. \$350. Call 883-5821.

**FOR SALE:** Leaving the country, must sell 1977 Blue Pinto Station Wagon, good condition. \$1,300 includes C.B. radio and cassette deck. Call 773-6500.

**WANTED:** Female personal care attendant. Light housekeeping duties. Help with physical therapy. No smoking. Call 774-9006.

**WANTED:** Two females seek same to share newly remodeled home in quiet residential area of Westbrook. Parking available, near bus line. Must be non-smoker. \$150/mo. + 1/3 utilities. Call evenings 854-5841.

**WANTED:** 2 roommates needed for house. No pets. Peaks Island. Call 774-5099. Keep trying.

**WANTED:** Super roommate wanted to share a beautiful home on Peaks Island with considerate single mother. Please call to find out more. 773-3099 after 5:00 PM.

**WANTED:** Non-smoking, quiet female to share 2-BR apt. in South Portland. \$212.50/mo. Call 761-1759 after 4:30 PM; if no answer, 774-4919. Ask for Julie.

**WANTED:** Soon-to-be-licensed day-care home will accept children from 1 yr. and up. Call 773-7911.

**WANTED TO RENT:** 3-BR apt. or house in So. Portland as soon as possible. Call 767-3141.

## 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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**WANTED TO RENT:** Working couple with 3 children seek 3-BR apt. or house in Portland or So. Portland. Will pay up to \$275/mo. without heat. Up to \$375/mo. with heat. Call 772-9724.

**GOVERNESS/NANNY** position desired in Greater Portland area. U.S. and European work experience. Excellent references. Call Prudence, 774-1750.

**WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY,** deluxe or thrify. Phone Don Brown at 865-6071 evenings.

**HOUSE CLEANING:** Reliable, experienced woman. Local refs. furnished. Everything from dirty refrigerators to dusty baseboards. Will also clean offices. Call Sparkle Service AM or evenings after 8 PM. Call 773-3079. Will clean only in the Portland area.

## EAC News

The Employee Activity Committee is Faneuil Hall-bound at the end of September, and all employees are invited to come along. A \$12 ticket buys bus transportation from MMC to Boston and back on Saturday, September 24, leaving MMC at 8:00 AM and leaving Boston at 6:00 PM. Bev in the Cafeteria has a sign-up sheet.

## New Employees

**PHYSICAL THERAPY:** Camille Anastasi

**FOOD SERVICE:** Richard B. Boynton

**HOUSEKEEPING:** Fred Carroll, Jr., Anne M. Pettingill, Yvette L. St. Peter, Parker Wigton

**PHLEBOTOMY:** Loveiner Cooledge

**MED TECH SCHOOL:** Lucy Dennett, Susan Perron

what's  
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NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
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PERMIT NO. 35