

what's happening

Maine Medical Center
Portland, Maine 04102

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MMC'S CANCER REGISTRY keeps track of an average of 8,000 active files. The staff, above, is in charge of recording patient information, diagnosis, treatment, and other information on all MMC cancer patients. Also, they "track" the patients to gather survival data. From left, Andrew Perry, Lorraine Dow, Patricia Kilmartin, Alice Rose, Sandra James, and Ruth Conley. (A/V Photo)

Registry tracks all MMC cancer patients

When a cancerous tumor is diagnosed in a Maine Medical Center patient, treatment begins and the diagnosis and other information is entered into the patient's medical record as with any other problem. But with cancers, one other thing happens: a new file is opened in a highly-specialized hospital office known as the Cancer Registry.

The Registry performs a medical records function, but is interested in a single disease -- cancer. The 25,000 records accumulated over the past 25 years contain the patient's vital statistics, diagnosis, treatment, and other data, and a unique section of information called "follow-up." Survival data is extremely important in the study of cancer, and all patients are followed statistically for the rest of their lives, whether still under treatment or not.

There has been an interest in collecting this kind of information in Maine for many years, the result of the state's high cancer death rate. The Maine Department of Human Services has been authorized to investigate incidence since 1954, and a 1972 law required the establishment of a state-wide cancer registry. The money to establish that registry was provided by a duplicate law passed in 1981, and beginning in January 1983, all Maine hospitals will be required to collect and report to the state the kind of information MMC has been gathering for twenty-five years.

Of the 25,000 records in the MMC Registry, only about 8,000 are active at any given time, for various reasons. Coordinator for Cancer Care Alice Rose, who supervises the Registry, says some 1,500 new cancers are diagnosed each year at MMC, and the total discharges of cancer patients is over 3,000.

The Cancer Registry is an integral
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PAs continue their education at MMC

The fourth class in Maine Medical Center's Postgraduate Physician Assistant Residency Program in Emergency Medicine is now in the clinical rotation portion of the program. The four physician assistants recently completed three weeks of didactic training at MMC, and are now working in emergency rooms at Eastern Maine Medical Center, Kennebec Valley Medical Center, Franklin Memorial Hospital, and here at MMC.

The four participants in the program this year are Robert Klotz of Laurel, Maryland, a graduate of the PA program at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.; James Pickrell of Durham, North Carolina, a graduate of the Duke University PA program; Thomas Snyder of Bath, Pennsylvania;

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NO, IT'S NOT THE REAL THING, but a simulation designed to give the victim -- Portland Press Herald reporter Ted Cohen -- a close-up look at Southern Maine's emergency medical care system. More inside.

a graduate of the PA program at The Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital; and Robert Watson of Nenana, Alaska, a graduate of the University of Washington's PA program.

Of the eighteen PAs who have graduated from the advanced training program, fifteen are currently employed. Fourteen are working in emergency rooms, and one is employed by an undergraduate physician assistant program. Nine of those employed in clinical settings are working in Maine locations, including Portland, Caribou, Gardiner, Farmington, and Bangor.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is the largest of the country's private grantmakers supporting activities and programs to improve health care. One of its primary concerns is access to care, and the Foundation's decision to take the unusual step of extending its original funding, even at a reduced level, is testimony to the effectiveness of the MMC program in improving access to emergency care. The Foundation made 159 grants totaling \$40.13 million in 1981.

WANTED: Woman to care for children in their own home in Cape Elizabeth. 1½ year old for AM plus 4 year old for lunch and PM, Tues. & Thurs. from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Call 799-8067.

The trip is some ten and a half miles in length, and with the exception of a very short, mild, and easily portaged rapid is all flatwater. Organizers expect foliage to be near its peak. Call Joyce Decesere at 2672 for reservations. Rain date is Sunday, October 10.

Registration is open the morning of the symposium; a \$20 fee includes lunch. The symposium is recognized for six credit hours for Category 1 AMA, Category 2D AOA, and Prescribed AAFP.

Only emergency requests will be filled during the inventory. All questions should be directed to Supply Room Supervisor Ralph Ferrante at 2696 or 2697.

- Chest X-ray Interpretation, Paul Cox, M.D. (1 CEAP requested)
September 28, 1982 8:00 AM R9 Conf. Rm.

 3:30 PM R9 Conf. Rm.
- Medical Nursing Grand Rounds. "The Leukemic Patient with Sepsis: Nursing Implications." P1A Nursing Staff. (1 CEARP requested)
September 29, 1982 12:30-1:30 PM Classroom #4

For further information, please contact Staff Development at Extension 2397.

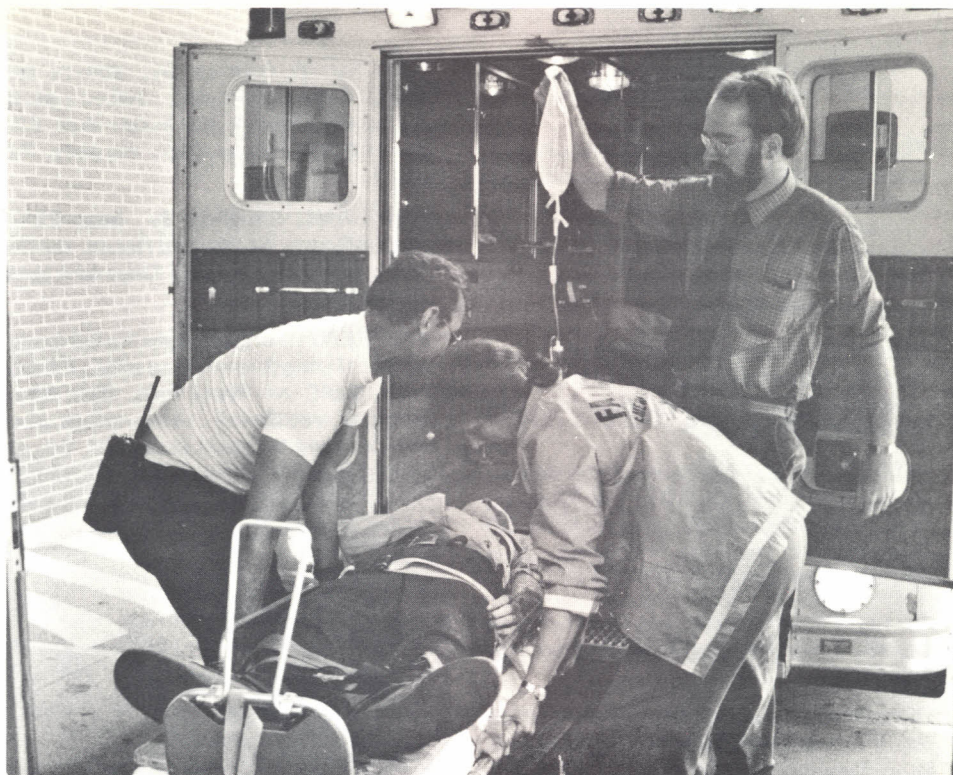
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part of the entire cancer treatment process at MMC, interacting with Medical Records, Radiology, Oncology, Pathology, Surgery, and other departments and divisions. The hospital's Cancer Committee, chaired by surgeon George F. Sager, M.D., oversees the operation of the Registry. Dr. Sager provides the medical expertise sometimes necessary to answer particular questions for the Registry staff, and in his role of liaison to the medical staff keeps the interaction working smoothly.

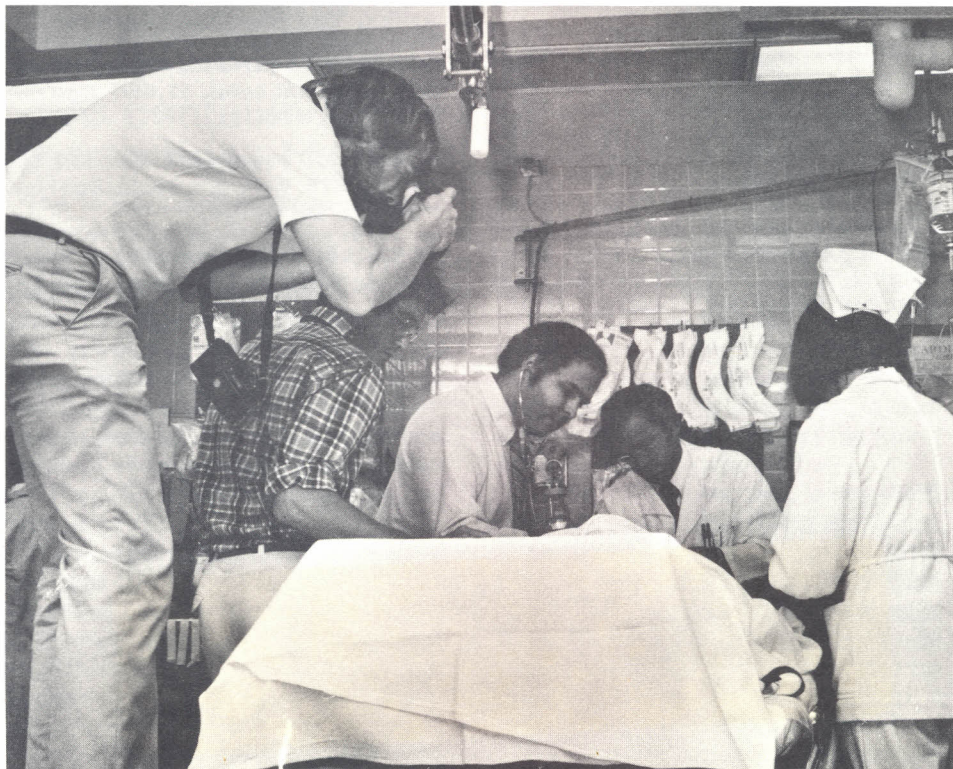
Keeping track of cancers is complicated but necessary work, because the data is used by researchers, students, and planners -- and now state authorities -- to learn about such things as patterns of incidence, correlations with occupational or environmental factors, trends, relative success of treatment methods, and likely survival times. Cancer is believed to be a disease that generally develops over a long period of time, as long as 20 years in some types, and the continuous, long-term recordkeeping of a cancer registry is invaluable to researchers. Students can find case history after case history of a particular type of cancer in the Registry's files, aiding in education and diagnosis, and physicians have at hand the amassed records of thousands of cancer treatments to help them determine which are most effective in given situations.

Almost every major cancer treatment center now has a cancer registry, and its staff people are tied by state and national organizations for cancer registrars and by organizations like the National Cancer Institute and the American Cancer Society. The American College of Surgeons is the national accrediting agency for registries, and MMC's Cancer Registry has been fully accredited. Accreditation depends largely on the quality of the records in the Registry, and their availability for educational and research purposes.

The idea of a central registry for a particular disease is unique to cancer. No other disease is presently catalogued and followed up as closely and completely, perhaps because no other ailment is as widespread, occurs in so many different parts of the body, and is understood so little, all at the same time. The information contained in the MMC and state Cancer Registries, whether used now as an aid to diagnosis and treatment, or used 20 years from now as an aid to prevention, is of major importance in high-quality cancer care.



ARRIVING AT THE MMC EMERGENCY ENTRANCE, above, is Portland Press Herald reporter Ted Cohen, made up to get a patient's-eye demonstration of emergency care. The volunteer Falmouth Emergency Medical Team responded to a simulated accident off Route 1, involving Cohen and WCSH-TV reporter Bill Green. The Regional Emergency Medical Information System routed Cohen to MMC and Green to the Osteopathic Hospital of Maine, where each victim received emergency care. Below, Cohen is tended in a MMC Trauma Room by, from right, Trauma Room Nurse Barbara Lee, RN, BS, Attending Emergency Physician George Higgins, M.D., Senior Surgical Resident Mark Aranson, M.D., and resident Conrad Marchaj, M.D. Press Herald photographer John Ewing records the event which was staged to observe National Emergency Medicine Week.



Marketplace

FOR RENT: Furnished, incl. major appliances, 2-3 BR house with lg. deck, 2-car garage and nice yard. Good location, near schools and on bus line. References, security deposit, \$500/mo. plus utilities. 773-6979 after 5:30 PM weekdays, anytime on weekends.

FOR RENT: Bramhall St., 2 RM efficiency, directly across from MMC. All util. included. \$250/mo. plus sec. dep. and references. 775-2325.

FOR RENT: On Western Promenade. Unfurnished apt. One BR, LR, kitchen, and private bath. Includes heat and all utilities and parking. \$375/mo. plus security deposit. Call 775-0970.

FOR RENT: Westbrook apt. in two-family house. 2 BR, LV, lg. KT. \$380 plus util. 856-6802.

FOR RENT: Deering Ave., unfurnished apt. 3 rooms w/bath, stove and refrigerator. \$225/mo., no pets. 772-8530.

FOR RENT: House in So. Freeport, 7 RM, contemporary, 2 BR. High on hill overlooking Casco Bay. \$600 plus utils., lease, sec. dep. Call 865-4841.

FOR RENT: Sublet at The Portland House, 2 BR luxury apt., spectacular ocean view, Oct. 1-June 1. Completely furnished, all amenities. Easy arrangements. Call 772-6117. Keep trying.

FOR RENT: Three BR ranch, Dundee Acres in So. Windham, \$400 plus utilities and sec. dep. Call Pat Allard at work 775-5861 or 892-3858 after 6 PM.

FOR RENT: Harbor view condo w/fireplace & wood stove. Large KT, family room, LR, BR, cellar & sunny patio. Elec. heat, free parking, snow removal, \$400/mo. plus util. Call 772-7686 after 7 PM and weekends.

FOR RENT: One BR, bath, lg. LR, KT w/dining area, wall-to-wall carpet. Quiet neighborhood, off-street parking, near beaches. Ready Oct. 1, call 799-8830.

FOR RENT: Gilman St., across from MMC, cozy 3-room apt., w-w carpet, tub & shower, heat & hot water incl. \$245 per month, lease, dep., no pets. 772-2522.

FOR RENT: Danforth St., near Emery, lg. 2 BR apt., hardwood floors, modern bath. \$270 plus all util. Dep. and lease. 772-2522.

FOR RENT: Federal style home built in 1834 offering 2 renovated apts., 4 blocks from MMC on West end. Oak floors, original woodwork, screened-in porch with access to good size yard. Ea. apt. has lg. bath w/shower, LR, KT, BR and closet space. Avail. Oct. 1. Apt. B-\$550; Apt. C-\$450. Heat incl. Call after 6 PM. 774-8134.

FOR SALE: Yarmouth Cape on approx. one acre w/garden. 3-4 BR, 1 bath, lg. eat-in kitchen, full basement w/Vigilant woodstove. Asking \$64,900. Very low taxes. Call 846-9665 after 6 PM.

FOR SALE: Exercycle, all chrome. Option of motor driven or manual, weight controlled, spring in seat. Brand new cond., \$395 (\$1,800 new). 775-1707.

FOR SALE: Angus Hereford beef, \$1.25 per lb. hanging weight. Call 797-5199.

FOR SALE: Vermont maple syrup. Contact Jayne Marsh at 829-5035 after 6 PM.

FOR SALE: Set of fine china, 57-piece service for 8, never used. Still in original carton. Has a delicate, narrow, light floral border. \$100, call 787-3126.

FOR SALE: 1976 VW Dasher, good cond. \$2,000. Call 865-3684 after 6 PM.

FOR SALE: 1979 Honda 400cc, low mileage, excellent cond. \$1,450. Call 865-3684 after 6 PM.

FOR SALE: Ten speed Schwinn Le Tour bicycle, \$75. Write Jon Soule, Box 1681, Portland, ME 04104.

FOR SALE: 1975 Yamaha in good condition for \$675 or best offer. Call 799-0409.

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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: RCA Selecta Vision video tape recorder. \$350. Call 773-2547.

FOR SALE: Smith-Corona typewriter, super sterling, exec. cond. \$50. Call 774-1562 evenings.

FOR SALE: Moving - Must Sell - Oak china closet, round glass front \$500; pine coffee table \$35; pine sideboard table with drawer \$175; pine blanket box \$200; white couch, two "T" cushions \$50; drop-leaf table, dark pine \$100; Sears sewing machine (portable) \$75; harvest table \$175. Please call between 3 PM and 7 PM, 781-2383.

FOR SALE: Sheep, black yearling ewes and ewe lambs. Exc. combination meat and wool breeding stock. \$80 - \$125. Ram lambs for meat - \$2.20/lb. hanging weight. Also, wool for sale. Fisherman's heather colors as well as natural browns, \$3.00 for 2 ply, 4 oz. skein. 688-4468 or 926-4611.

BABYSITTING: Will babysit in my home. Quiet dead-end street, fenced-in yard. Close to MMC. Call 773-0934.

PIANO LESSONS: Children and adults. Adult beginners welcome. Free trial lesson. Call 839-6141.

RIDE NEEDED: From MMC at 5 PM to Old English Village, M-F. Call Jeanne at 774-0888 or 775-1014 after 5 PM.

LOST: Full length, hooded, green raincoat with navy blue lining on August 5 near car on Western Prom. If found, please call Susan Benoit at 775-6346.

FREE: Free female, Sealpoint Siamese cat, 10 yrs. old, spayed, must find good home due to allergies. Call 772-1335.

WANTED: Two responsible individuals, women preferred, to house-sit luxurious 2 BR, 2 bath condo on Park St. \$275 per person plus util. Call 772-6412.

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Portland, Maine 04102

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