

what's happening

Maine Medical Center
Portland, Maine 04102

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Clinical Engineering: shop of many skills

What does it take to be a member of Maine Medical Center's clinical engineering crew? "A unique combination of skills," says Paul Labbe, who joined MMC in September 1978 as a calibration technician, and was last month named Director for Clinical Engineering.

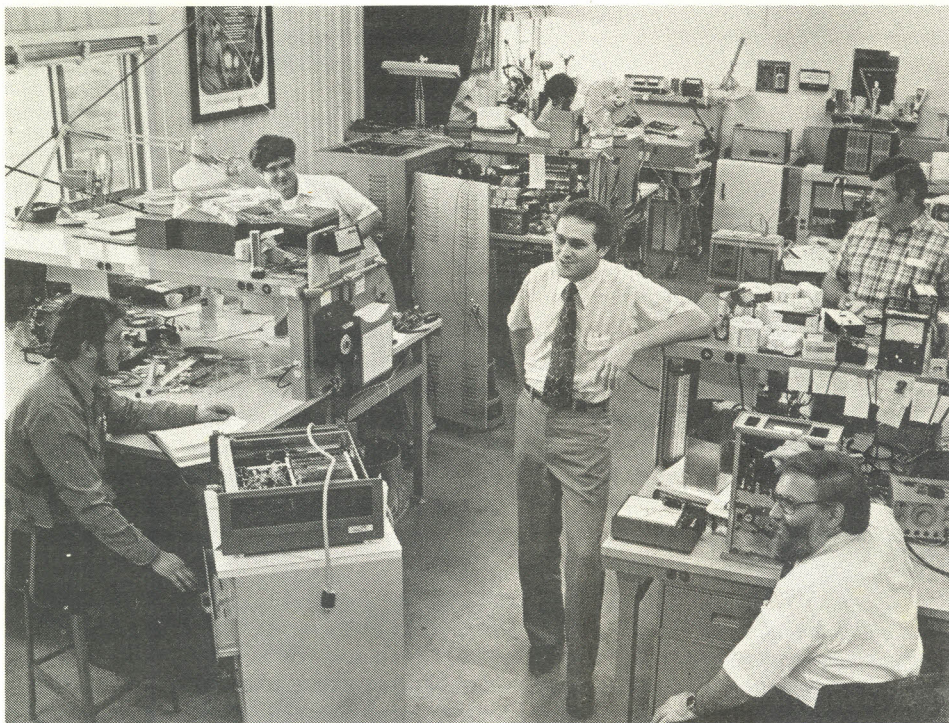
The people who work in Clinical Engineering --- a division of Engineering Services -- are responsible for the repair, maintenance and calibration of electrical clinical equipment and various patient-related equipment throughout the hospital. "In addition to the technical expertise required for that responsibility," Labbe says, "the job also demands working knowledge of anatomy and physiology and a good deal of communications skills."

"We provide the interface between some very technical equipment and the health care professionals and patients who will be using it. We provide in-service education for hospital staff who will be operating equipment. We also inspect new equipment as it comes into the hospital to be sure that it meets JCAH and MMC standards for safety."

All that falls within what Labbe calls routine work for himself and nine other members of the division. "We are also on call after shop hours and on weekends and holidays," he says. "And of course we are always ready to answer stat repair calls on the floors when equipment cannot be brought into the shop."

Other routine Clinical Engineering work includes consulting with departments who wish to add equipment to existing systems; running technical evaluations on equipment prior to purchase; making bi-annual, department-by-department checks of all electrical equipment for safety. On any given

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CLINICAL ENGINEERING Director Paul Labbe, center, and staff members, clockwise from the left, Brian Craig, David Lovejoy, David Tardy, Jim Castle and Anthony Scarpelli. (A/V Photo)

Communicating: from box to box

The Maine Medical Center Pharmacy staff put something outside their door, and hasn't seen it since. Medical Records did the same thing, and it has come and gone several times since. In the meantime, some 500 of these are traveling from one corner of the MMC complex to the other each day, bouncing down the length of a corridor or from the bottom to the top of the buildings.

These well-traveled, well-used items are inter-office envelopes. They are the mainstay of inter-departmental communications at MMC, scribbled on and handled by an amazing number of people. One envelope, which started its life on P1C, traveled to Medical Records, then up to SCU and back

again, down the Administration corridor, through the mailroom to Radiology, up and over to Dietary, down to ER, up to MIS, further up to Technicon, then all the way down and over to the Supply Room. When last seen, it was headed toward the Department of Surgery.

Another intercepted envelope started in the Pharmacy, and went through

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Thanks to you...
it works...
for ALL OF US



United Way



IT'S WORKING -- Thanks to hard work and long hours beyond regular hospital routine on the part of volunteers, the 1980 United Way campaign at MMC is off to a healthy start. It opened officially last Wednesday, and early reports from workers are good. Just a few of the many workers are pictured here: Receiving the traditional First-Pledge card from MMC President Edward C. Andrews, Jr., M.D., are, seated from left: Beverly Anderson, United Way's Executive on Loan, John Meehan and Lillian Smith, both of Housekeeping; standing: Ethel Cleaves, Anesthesiology, and John Romano, Food Services. (A/V Photo)

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Purchasing, P4D, the Storeroom, and Administration, then up to P6. It then made the long trip to Holt Hall, where it turned around and wound up in Pulmonary Medicine. It then went to Accounting, did a two-step in Surgery, and eventually landed in Purchasing. Before it wound up in Audio/Visual Resources, it made not one, but two, trips to the Development Office in the Thomas House.

A look at a handful of representative envelopes reveals the extent to which the various parts of MMC are interconnected. CICU sends material to Cardiology, of course, and Accounting does business with Purchasing. But Engineering and Staff Development have something to talk about as well, as do Electrical Maintenance and Legal Affairs, and the Print Shop and Radiology. Inter-office envelopes don't recognize departmental boundaries, and an ancient one is likely to have been more places in the hospital than most employees.

As a tool for information transfer, the inter-office envelope is a model of design efficiency. Fifty-two neatly-ruled address blocks, on both sides, should send the wayfarer to its intended destination fifty-two times. Each

sender simply crosses out his or her address, and enters the new one below. That recipient does the same, and so on.

Each used up or worn out inter-office envelope that is finally retired to the wastebasket has saved as many as 52 standard envelopes from the same fate. Since a standard envelope costs MMC about 5¢ this results in a savings of roughly \$2.40. Multiply this times the 6,000 inter-office envelopes used each year, and the savings are enormous.

No matter where an envelope's address is sending it, it goes nowhere without first going through the Mailroom. The Mailroom is the heart of MMC's mail system, taking in and pumping out several thousand pieces of both inter-office and U.S. mail each day. The inter-office variety accounts for over 500 of these letters daily, and according to the clerks, they never stop coming in, even on weekends.

The clerks, Carol Rairdon and Cindy Whitney make seven daily trips with full mail carts. To them fall the tasks of deciphering scribbled addresses, remembering where a certain Dr. has an office, and knowing that "Jane Doe" is an evening shift Unit Clerk.

Et tu, Monday?

There aren't enough things that are bad for your health; now we hear that *Mondays* are hazardous. Dr. Simon Rabkin, of the University of Manitoba, has published a study showing that of all heart attacks that occur on the job, 75% of them happen on Mondays. In a recent issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association, Dr. Rabkin reported the results of a "chronobiology" of 3,983 men who died of sudden heart failure.

The researcher attributes the findings to "reintroduction to occupational stress, activity, or pollution" after a weekend of rest and relaxation. He found that 75% of fatal heart attacks among men at work and 47% of all sudden cardiac deaths occur on Monday. One distinction was reported, however: those with a history of heart trouble were not as likely to have a fatal attack on a Monday as those men with no diagnosed heart problems.

THANKS!!!

To the 173 Maine Medical Center employees who took the time to "Fall in Line" for the blood drive September 19. Of these 173 people, **156** were able to give, including **26 first-timers**. This was the most successful blood drive at MMC since last Christmas. Thanks again, and watch for the Christmas 1980 blood drive coming up in December.

10 new volunteers are on MMC duty

Ten new and very welcome additions to MMC's corps of Volunteers began working with us late in the summer. They have completed orientation sessions and are assigned as follows:

Julie Bell of Falmouth, in the Emergency Department; Anne Myers, Yarmouth, in the Flower Box; Alex Poullos, Portland, in Food Service and Security; Louise Lavigne, South Portland, on Patient Mail.

Sherell Baker of Falmouth and Diane Wiley of Scarborough are Patient Visitors on R2; Kate Disston, Falmouth, and Gaye Gallant, Portland, are working in the Pediatric Playroom; Pamela Del Torro, Falmouth, assists in SCU; and Vicky Roberts of Peaks Island works in the Casco Bay Health Center.

Three MDs at MMC pass Emergency boards

Three attending physicians in Maine Medical Center's Emergency Division are among 242 doctors nationwide who this month became the first board certified Emergency Medicine physicians in the United States. John R. Saucier, M.D., Michael C. Robinson, M.D., and W. Phelps Carter, M.D. successfully completed their oral and written exams, and with their colleagues from around the country received the first certifications ever awarded by the American Board of Emergency Medicine.

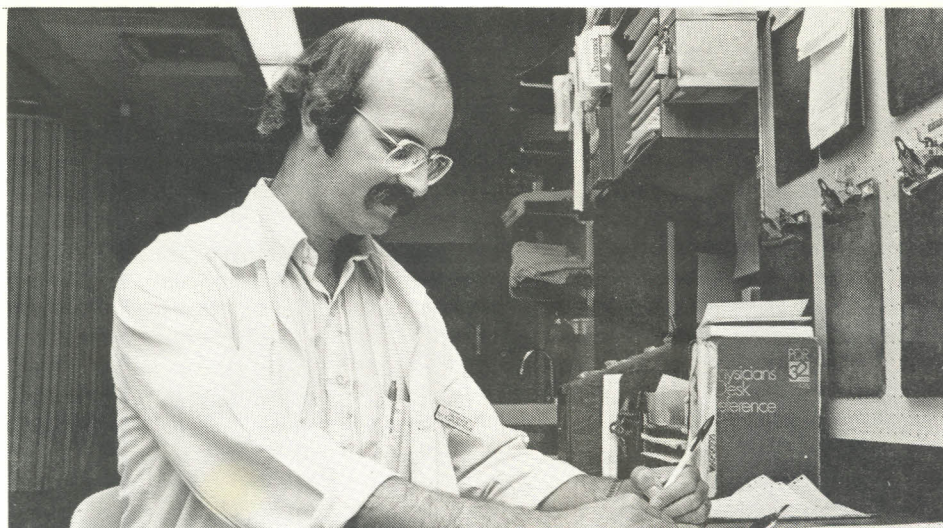
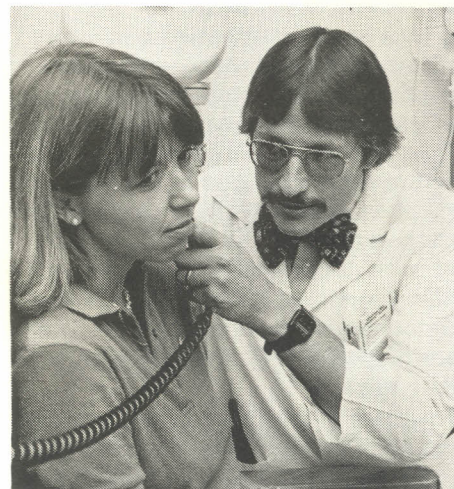
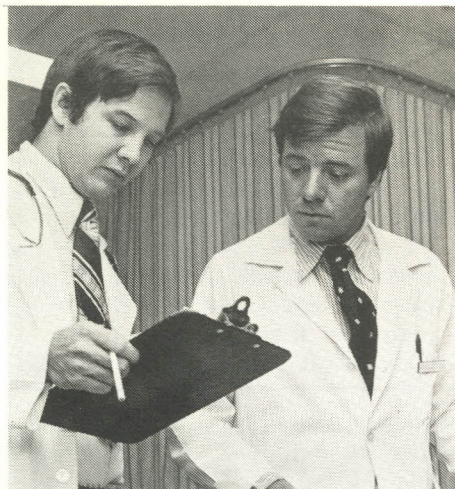
Certification is a difficult process, attested to by the fact that only 38% of the physicians beginning the process are able to finish it. Doctors Saucier, Robinson, and Carter traveled to Philadelphia this past February for the first written examination, and then to Chicago in July for a day of oral examinations.

Dr. Saucier came to MMC in 1977, after completing medical school at the University of Vermont and an Emergency Medicine residency at Washington University Hospital. Dr. Robinson attended Hahnemann Medical College, and completed an internship at Maine Medical Center and an emergency medicine residency at the Medical College of Pennsylvania before joining the attending staff at MMC in 1978. Dr. Carter, currently Assistant Chief of Emergency Medicine at MMC, graduated from Tufts University School of Medicine and did his residency in Pediatrics at Maine Medical Center before joining the Emergency staff.

Child Care Study needs more input

The Maine Medical Center Child Care Study Committee reports that of all the Child Care Survey questionnaires distributed with paychecks in August, only 117 were returned. Of these, only 69 reported a need for child care. With nearly 3,000 employees, says the committee, it is surprising so few expressed concern about this issue.

Those who did respond indicated that cost, location of day care facilities, and hours available were the primary shortcomings of their current arrangements. The majority have children under 2½ years of age and use paid sitters, but would prefer having day care centers or family day care available. Most parents require Monday



THREE OF THE FIRST 242 EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS ever certified by the American Board of Emergency Medicine are attending physicians in Maine Medical Center's Emergency Division. Left, at top, Assistant Chief of Emergency Medicine W. Phelps Carter, Jr., M.D., confers with Physician Assistant Michael Sheldon. At right, Michael C. Robinson, M.D., examines an ear in the ENT room in Emergency. Above, John R. Saucier, M.D., works on a patient's chart. (A/V Photos)

through Friday daytime services, though there was some interest in coverage for rotating days and hours.

The Child Care Study Committee is concerned that since so few questionnaires were returned, the results may not be completely accurate. The committee members want their study to be as complete as possible, and to be truly representative of the child care needs of hospital employees. If you didn't respond to the questionnaire, the committee is still eager to hear from you, and if you did respond but have further comments, they'd be happy to have them.

To contact the committee, call the Private Line (x2746) and leave a message at any time of the day or night, or contact one of the following committee members: Ms. Lynn T. Breckinridge, Personnel Specialist; Ms. Susan

Brazier, Assistant Coordinator for Planning, Planning Office; Constance Fanning, M.D.; Ms. Kaye Flanagan, Administrative Director, Holy Innocents' Homemaker Services; Ms. Nancy Hancock, Sponsored Programs Officer, Development Office; Ms. Gerri Ingalls, community representative; Dr. David Lynch, Pediatric Resident; Jack P. Mann, Jr., M.D.; Mrs. Elaine Smalley, R.N., Coordinator of Staffing Systems and Float Pool; Mr. Edward Thompson, R.N., Head Nurse, Burn Unit; Mr. Reynolds Welch, Associate Vice-President for Facilities Planning.

FOOD SERVICE EMPLOYEE OF THE WEEK

is

ANNA DiBIASE
DIETARY AIDE

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day jobs needing attention can range from repair of a stethoscope to calibration of a highly sophisticated piece of therapeutic or diagnostic equipment.

They also work at keeping up to date with the rapid changes in the field of clinical technology. "One of our biggest battles involves remaining current with technical publications, attending seminars and lectures on new developments; the state of the medical electronics art changes constantly," Labbe says.

The state of the Clinical Engineering shop itself is one of constant activity, and worktables are crowded with tools of the trade equally as sophisticated as the equipment they are designed to repair. Labbe and the staff are always eager to explain their trade to fellow employees; they are receptive to drop-in visits from passers-by who stop to stare at the array of machinery, instruments and equipment scheduled for a special brand of clinical engineering surgery.

Also reporting to the Director for Clinical Engineering is the seven-man repair team responsible for the hospital's MIS computers.

"The division is in good hands," said Ted Hollidge, Director of Engineering Services, in announcing Labbe's appointment. "During the lengthy search, Paul emerged as the best man for the job; the combination of experience, educational background, and his feelings for the challenge of the job are important." Labbe is a University of Maine graduate with a B.S. degree.

Marketplace

ROOMMATE WANTED: Preferably with apt. Under \$68/wk. Call Room 192 at Eastland Hotel.

ROOMMATE WANTED: For modern Portland apt. \$150/mo. Call 797-2160.

EAC News

The Employee Activity Committee announces the 1980 Christmas Shopping Trip to Boston! The bus will leave MMC at 8 AM on Saturday, December 13, and return at 6 PM the same day. Tickets are \$12.00 per person, and must be paid for by November 15. See Claudette Champagne or Bev Cookson in the Cafeteria for reservations.

FOR RENT: Studio apt. in residential area of Falmouth, Brook Rd., hardwood floors, refrig., gas stove, Jotul woodstove, elec. heat. Pets allowed. Private entrance. \$200/mo. plus utils. Furn. or unfurnished. Call 797-9380 and leave message.

FOR RENT: 2 furn. apts. in Ocean Park. 2 BR, \$225/mo. plus oil heat and utils., and 3 BR, \$150/mo. plus elec. heat. Year round. Thermostats in all rooms. Call 284-6996 or 934-4942 eves.

FOR RENT: Vaughan St. apt., 2nd floor, all electric. 3 BR, sunporch, sundeck, 1½ baths, 2 frpls., laundry, parking. Adults. No pets. \$495 and up. Call 774-1562.

FOR RENT: Furnished 5 room ranch in Deering area, 2 car garage, avail. Oct. 23 to June 15. \$400/mo. plus utils. Call 774-9210 from 5:30 - 8 PM.

FOR RENT: Quiet half of house in Western Prom area of Portland. 1½ floors, one BR, 1½ baths, Kitch., LR-DR with airtight woodstove, parlor w/fireplace. Laundry in basement, shared yard. No pets. \$400/mo. Thermostat kept low, but wood is free. Avail. in Oct. Call 775-0443.

FOR RENT: Newly-renovated, 1 BR apt. in Victorian home. Walking distance to MMC. \$250/mo., includes utils. Call 775-3265.

FOR SALE: Gatron T&S machine. Best offer. Call 774-8711.

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 the Editor, Public Information Office, MMC, Portland, Me., 04102. Barbara Burns, Editor.

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FOR SALE: English hunt bridle, \$25. Child's English forward seat saddle, \$140. Registered Arabian gelding, 3 yrs. old, chestnut, trained to longe line, good endurance potential. Call 443-5695 after 6 PM.

FOR SALE: Two thermopane picture windows plus frames, 41½" x 49". \$45 each. or 2 for \$85. Call 773-0066 after 6 PM.

FOR SALE: Teac 2300-S reel-to-reel tape deck including cables and tapes. \$250. Call 775-2886.

FOR SALE: 22 foot cruising sailboat, ex. cond., sleeps four, many extras. Call Jeff at 846-3789.

FOR SALE: 1968 Chevelle convertible, 327, 4 speed. 50,000 miles. Never seen snow. \$1600 or B.O. Call 846-5738 after 5 PM.

FOR SALE: 1972 VW Super Beetle, only 57,000 miles, good tires, cheap transportation, \$895 firm. Call 767-4002 from 6-10 PM.

FOR SALE: 25" 10-speed Columbia bicycle. Like new, B.O. Kenwood stereo component KR 4070 AM/FM receiver, little use, 9-month warranty left, \$180. Call 773-0066 after 6 PM.

FOR SALE: Avocado refrigerator. 1974 AMC station wagon. Call 797-9045.

ROOMMATE WANTED: Want quiet, non-smoking female by Oct. 1 for 2 story, 2 BR, apt. on Brackett St. Split \$200/mo. plus utils. No pets, on St. parking. Call 797-4894 or 775-0105.

WANTED: Ride to and from Gray, 7-3:30 shift. Will share expenses. Call 657-3841 or 657-4842.

WANTED: Lady to clean Dr.'s office in Falmouth. Call 781-3134.

WILL BABYSIT: R.N. will sit in her home in Rosemont area of Portland. Days only. Call 775-2886.

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