

what's happening

Maine Medical Center
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Dr. Lawrence named to state pesticides board

Frank H. Lawrence, M.D., Maine Medical's Chief of Emergency Medicine and Director of the Maine Poison Control Center, has been named to the State Pesticides Control Board by Governor Brennan. His nomination was approved unanimously by legislative committee, and was approved by the full state Senate on July 24.

The appointment stems from several years of effort by the Maine Poison Control Center, located in MMC's Emergency Department, to provide accurate information on the human health effect of pesticide use. Dr. Lawrence will serve as the Board's medical representative, along with representatives from the forestry and farming industries, a spray applicator, the head of a major environmental organization, an entomologist, and a private citizen.

Since the first public expression of concern about the aerial spraying of pesticides, notably Guthion on blueberry barrens and Sevin-4 Oil on spruce forests, the Poison Control Center has been actively providing information to both state officials and the general public. In May of this year, Dr. Lawrence and a panel of other specialists provided the Maine Department of Agriculture with recommendations on the use of pesticides based on the known or suspected potential for human harm.

This past January, Dr. Lawrence headed an eleven-member panel exploring the available research on Sevin-4 Oil, the carbaryl-based pesticide used against the spruce budworm. Due to its finding that there is a potential, though inconclusive, health risk associated with carbaryl, it recommended that no uninformed, unconsenting exposure to the spray be allowed. To prevent such exposure, the Maine Forest Service established a three-mile buffer zone around spray

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FRANK H. LAWRENCE, M.D., MMC Chief of Emergency Medicine and Director of the Maine Poison Control Center, is a newly-appointed member of the State Pesticides Control Board. (A/V Photo)



ON THE HOTTEST DAY last week the Food Service Department took pity on employees working in the warmer parts of the hospital, loaded a "Dog Days Cart" with iced tea and lemonade, and dispensed relief on a free-of-charge-until-the-supply-runs-out basis. Grateful "customers" included (from left) Walter B. Goldfarb, M.D., and from Medical Records: Mary Stowell, Lynn Betters and Anne Voigt. Gloria Nichols, Cafeteria Supervisor, does the honors. (A/V Photo)

LAWRENCE, from page 1 areas, and this year's spray program was one of the safest yet conducted.

The role of Dr. Lawrence and the Poison Control Center in the pesticide question has been that of consultant, searching out and reviewing data on the various agents used. The Center is well-suited to the task, since it has what may be the most comprehensive library of toxicological data in the state, and because it has access to an impressive and lengthy list of specialists across the country.

The scope and complexity of the pesticides issue is great, according to Dr. Lawrence. "In use in Maine at the present time are nearly 4,000 different pesticide formulations, containing combinations of some 900 active ingredients," he says, "and little is known about either the short or long-term effects many of these chemicals may have on human health." An unexpected recent revelation, one that complicates the entire issue, is that some of the so-called "inert" ingredients in the sprays -- buffers and emulsifiers -- may themselves be toxic.

The State Pesticides Control Board, recently re-structured by the Legislature, is charged with regulating the sale and use of pesticides in the state, including ruling on disputes concerning pesticide formulations or applications. The Board reports to the Agriculture Department.

Meanwhile, the Poison Control Center has received a \$20,000 grant from the Maine Department of Human Services, to manage many of the health aspects of the spruce budworm program. Under the grant, the Center will continue its literature search and notify hospitals and physicians in the spray area of the likely symptoms associated with accidental exposure. In addition, the Center will continue to handle calls from medical professionals and the general public regarding pesticides.

Part of the DHS grant will be used by the MMC Research Department, to conduct a literature search into the potential for accurate determination of spray exposure through the detection of certain enzymes in the blood.

**FOOD SERVICE
EMPLOYEE OF THE WEEK**

is

**WILLIAM PALMER
DIETARY AIDE**

Estate Planning Seminars offered

MMC's Deferred Giving Committee announces it will sponsor the sixth series of the well-received Estate Planning Seminars, to be presented by Terry D. Mayo on three consecutive Wednesday nights, September 10, 17 and 24. The programs are presented as a public service, without charge, but it is necessary for interested individuals to have advance reservations, which will be booked on a first-come, first-served basis.

Mr. Mayo is a development program consultant and estate planning expert who lectures widely each year, for a variety of clients, from Maine to California. His presentations are support-

ed by a special series of helpful "hand-outs," and topics covered include wills and bequests, ownership of property, implications of gift giving (personal and otherwise), federal and state taxes, gift taxes, probate, trusts, and life-time charitable remainder gifts. The programs also include material on the Tax Reform Act of 1976, the Revenue Act of 1978, and recent revisions of Maine probate law.

Letters of invitation and seminar reservation forms will be mailed at the end of July, so interested individuals are asked to write or call the Development Office, 22 Bramhall Street, Portland Maine 04102; (207) 871-2669. Recent experience with this program indicates that a full house will be booked within a week to ten days.



JUNIOR VOLUNTEER Andy Laurence spends his afternoon at Maine Medical Center helping out in the Audio/Visual Resources Department. In the Resource Library he takes on typing, filing and cataloguing chores; he will also be helping the A/V staff as they begin a project of converting their vast collection of medical photographs onto glass slides for purposes of preservation. A Deering High sophomore, Andy doubles as a counterman in the MMC Coffee Shop in the morning. (A/V Photo)

Self Defense is lecture topic

In cooperation with Mercy Hospital, MMC is making available to its employees a one-hour lecture on "self-defense for women." A nationally-known authority on the subject, Lt. Jim Bullard of the Memphis, Tennessee Police Training Academy, will bring his eleven years of experience to the Mercy Hospital auditorium on August 7.

The program will provide general

information and self-defense tips, covering such situations as obscene phone calls, exhibitionism, peeping toms, purse-snatching, prowlers, and the more extreme forms of physical attack. Actual training in self-defense techniques (i.e., karate) is not part of this program.

Two sessions are scheduled: 8-9 AM, and 2-3 PM. Space is limited, so advance sign-up is required. Call Debbie McLaughlin or Susan Williams at 2824 or 2106 for more information.

UNH offers course in Health Administration

This fall, the Health Administration and Planning Program of the University of New Hampshire will offer a course entitled "Administrative Problems in Health Organizations" at the University of Southern Maine's Portland campus. The course will examine means for improving the administrative capacity of health organizations and explore various administrative processes and techniques in a health context. The four-credit course will be offered on Thursday evenings.

For more information, contact the Program office at the School of Health Studies, University of New Hampshire at Durham, 03924 (603-862-2733), or contact the Continuing Education Division at the University of Southern Maine, 96 Falmouth St., Portland, Maine, 04103 (207-780-4040).

MMC PA helps federal agency with planning

Robert Lapham, P.A.-C., of Maine Medical Center's Emergency Department, recently worked as a consultant for a federal committee on graduate medical education. The 2-day workshop was the Emergency Medicine Delphi Panel of the Office of Graduate Medical Education of the Health Resources Administration of the Public Health Service of the Department of Health and Human Services (formerly HEW). The panel serves in a staff capacity to the Graduate Medical Education National Advisory Committee.

The panel reviewed and predicted emergency room usage and staffing needs for the year 1990, to determine the number of professionals needed at that time. Serving with Lapham, who represented Physicians Assistants, were one Registered Nurse, five Emergency Medicine physicians, and five physicians from other specialties. The preliminary findings of the panel indicate a need for 15,000 doctors trained in Emergency Medicine by the year 1990.

Lapham has been with MMC since 1975, as a PA in the Emergency Room. A graduate of the Yale University School of Medicine's Physician Assistant Program, he was the author of the grant proposal that established MMC's Postgraduate Physician's Assistant Residency Program in Emergency Medicine. He currently serves as Assistant Director of the Program.



PRESENTING A \$5,000 CONTRIBUTION to Cancer Radiation Treatment Fund chairman Rudolf T. Greep are, from left, Ruth Cram, treasurer of the Webber Hospital Association Auxiliary, and Claudette Haq, president of the Auxiliary. Dr. J. Howard Hannemann, Director of Radiation Therapy at MMC, looks on at right. (AVV Photo)

Fun in the sun must be done with care

It's probably too late for many of you, but here are some tips for avoiding the less pleasant results of summer sunbathing:

*A simple suntan lotion offers virtually no protection from the sun. A sunscreen allows gradual tanning, filtering out harmful rays. A sunblock screens out all rays, allowing neither tanning nor burning.

*The sun's rays are at their most powerful between the hours of 10 AM and 3 PM, and are capable of burning even on a hazy day.

*Some drugs and cosmetics can react unfavorably with sunlight, leading to itching, nausea, and abnormally fast burning. These include: antibiotics (such as tetracycline), sulfa drugs, medication for high blood pressure, antihistamines, tranquilizers, and oral diabetes medication. Topical creams and ointments for acne, as well as oral medication for the condition, may also cause irritation. Other products to watch are some deodorant soaps, hair products with coal tar derivatives, and lipsticks with fluorescein derivatives.

*Tanning must be a gradual process. Too much sun can cause skin cancer, which may not appear for many years. Over-tanning also has the effect of aging the skin prematurely.

SCU will miss Mrs. Stiles

Isabel Stiles, an MMC volunteer since 1958, died on Wednesday, July 9, at the age of 85. Mrs. Stiles, who worked on the Special Care Unit every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning, had 7,500 volunteer hours to her credit. "I can't do enough for this hospital," she often said, "it has given me so much." Mrs. Stiles was a truly dedicated person, and the Special Care Unit staff will miss her very much.

Donations in her memory may be made to the "MMC Special Care Unit Fund," and sent to the MMC Development Office at 22 Bramhall St., Portland, Maine 04102. Contributions will be used for equipment for patient care.

MMC Annual Fund is moving forward

Mrs. Sidney W. Wernick, Chairman of the 1980 Maine Medical Center Annual Fund, reports encouraging progress. With more donors and more gifts and pledges than the same time last year, for a total of \$67,787, she is enthusiastic about the possibility of reaching the goal of \$140,000 by December 31.

Anyone wishing to make a gift may make a check payable to the "MMC Annual Fund" and send it to the Development Office at the Thomas House.

Marketplace

FOR RENT: Apt. in MMC area. Has 2 rooms, kitchenette and bath. Furnished or unfurn. \$275/mo. Call 775-0970.

FOR RENT: Apt. w/large yard, 3 bdrms., Cumberland. Call 829-5238.

FOR RENT: 3 room apt. in Portland, sunporch, heated, parking, year lease, sec. dep., adults, no pets. \$290/mo. Call 773-6175.

FOR RENT: Elegantly restored and furnished 1795 home. 5 bdrms., 5 frpls., coal stove, 7 acres, fruit trees and garden. In Cumberland. Avail. 8/1/80 - 6/15/81. \$650/mo. plus utils., sec. dep. and lease. Call 829-5036.

FOR RENT: 6 rm. furnished duplex near USM, 48 Kenwood St. Washing machine, refrig., stove, freezer, disposal, garage. Sept. '80 thru June '81. \$300/mo. plus utils., adults, no pets, refs., sec. dep. Call 774-7304.

FOR RENT: House in Westbrook. 7 rms., 3 bdrms., 2 car garage, double lot, near bus. Avail. mid-Sept. \$325/mo. Call 856-6840.

FOR SALE: Solid oak buffet, w/beveled glass, lion claw figures, matching table w/4 chairs. \$800 complete. Call 657-2190.

FOR SALE: 1978 19 ft. O'Day Mariner. Porta-potti, sleeps 4, sink, dacron sails, all with Holselaw Trailer - \$5,000. Call 799-6520 before 9 AM and after 6 PM.

FOR SALE: 1978 Camero Lt., PS/PB, AM/FM, automatic, 6 cylinder, ex. cond. \$5,000. Call 892-5300 after 4 PM.

FOR SALE: Hide-a-bed, folds out to queen size, neutral colors, 1 yr. old. \$250. Call 892-5300 after 4 PM.

FOR SALE: Wooden magazine rack, free-standing. Perfect for Dr.'s office. Used to belong to old Portland Library. \$40. Call Shirley at 767-3133 eves.

FOR SALE: Used Fender bandmaster speaker cabinet w/two 12" Jensen speakers. Ex. for beginning or amateur musicians. \$80 or best offer. Call 892-3637 after 6 p.m.

FOR SALE: Year-round home w/direct right-of-way to Forest Lake. 5 rms., fireplace, drilled well, two lots, storage shed. \$28,900. Call 774-2429 or 657-2190.

FOR SALE: AKC Reg. Boxer pups. \$100 - \$125. Call 773-4587 evenings.

FOR SALE: 1973 Honda 750. Ex. cond., mech. sound. Call 846-5491 or 846-4504.

FOR SALE: Free standing fireplace - type woodstove. Black enamel w/glass folding doors. \$100. Call 883-5821.

FREE: 2 kittens, one black and white the other is marble. Call 799-2677 after 5 PM.

FREE: Kittens, brown and white to a good home. Call Scott at 839-2097 eves.

FREE: Cat to a good home. 2 years old spade female. Call 982-5300 after 4 PM.

ROOMMATE WANTED: Prefer female, over 25 to share large, old, sunny, comfortable apt. at Woodford's Corner. \$100/mo. plus utilities and heat. Off street parking, lots of room. Call 773-8883 between 5 and 7 PM.

Morphology

FEMO'S LAW OF AUTOMOTIVE ENGINE REPAIRING

If you drop something, it will never reach the ground.

DEAL'S LAWS OF SAILING

- 1.) *The amount of wind will vary inversely with the number and experience of the people you take on board.*
- 2.) *No matter how strong the breeze when you leave the dock, once you have reached the furthest point from port the wind will die.*

SHEDENHELM'S LAW OF BACKPACKING

All trails have more uphill sections than they have level or downhill sections.

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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