

what's happening

Maine Medical Center
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Work begins on changes to accommodate 20 MeV electron beam linear accelerator

Renovations began last week to accommodate installation of a new 20-million-volt electron beam linear accelerator in the Southern Maine Radiation Therapy Institute. Work began following authorization of the move by Maine's Health Systems Agency and the Department of Human Services.

The new unit will augment the five-year-old 4 MeV accelerator, now functioning "well beyond" its recommended maximums. The S.M.R.T.I. spokesman said the new accelerator will replace the 15-year-old Cobalt 60 unit, now obsolete.

The announcement was made late last week by Dr. John F. Gibbons, MMC chief of Radiology, and Dr. J. Howard Hannemann, director of the Radiation Therapy Division. They said the new treatment machine is needed because of the increase in the numbers of new patients seen at

S.M.R.T.I. Over the past five years, they said, patient volume has increased 37 percent, and the facility now ranks second only to Massachusetts General Hospital in the list of New England institutions in volume of Radiation therapy services.

The new unit, they said, will result in continued improvement in the five-year survival rate for patients with radio-curable cancer. It will diminish the over-use of the 4 MeV accelerator, they said, and will have near-capacity utilization immediately.

An analysis of the present patient

load, they added, "suggests some 7,800 treatments might be delivered annually by the new equipment, which would provide electron beam capability for all residents of Maine since it is not now available anywhere in the state."

A Siemens linear accelerator was selected, the doctors said, after an exhaustive study of several machines and installations where representative equipment is in operation. Comparisons were made by members of the S.M.R.T.I. professional staff, and factories where two of the units are produced were visited. The Siemens, they said, was finally selected as the instrument to best meet S.M.R.T.I.'s needs.

The new unit was described by Dr. Hannemann as follows:

"It belongs to the most recent generation of high energy linear accelerators.

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Nursing career day scheduled Nov. 3

The 4th Annual Nursing Career Day sponsored by the Maine Society for Hospital Personnel Administration and the Maine Hospital Association will be held on Nov. 3 at the Ramada Inn in Portland.

The session, scheduled from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., involves some 24 hospitals. Past career days have attracted a number of persons interested in the nursing field; and it is hoped that the event will serve to help nursing recruitment in the state.

The program has been organized by Mabel Larsen, director of Personnel at Redington-Fairview General Hospital; Thomas Bosica, director of Personnel at Penobscot Bay Medical Center; and Janet Adams, recruitment specialist at Mid-Maine Medical Center.

NURSING CAREER, page 2



FOR NEW ACCELERATOR—Workers were making changes last week in preparation for the new 20 MeV electron beam linear accelerator in the Southern Maine Radiation Therapy Institute area. The new machine will augment the five-year-old 4 MeV accelerator and replace the obsolete Cobalt 60 unit. (A/V Photo)



HEALTH CAREERS FAIR—Preparations progress as Judy Barrington, A/V Resources Medical Illustrator, discusses one of the several displays for the Fair with Jane Patterson, Personnel Specialist and the overall coordinator of the Fair to be held on Oct. 27 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the NDF Classrooms. (A/V Photo)

Students invited

MMC Health Career Fair scheduled Oct. 27

MMC's annual Health Career Fair is scheduled Saturday, Oct. 27, with invitations out to students in high schools, colleges and other educational facilities throughout the state.

The event reflects last year's highly successful first appearance, with about 20 hospital and health careers represented. A professional from each will be on hand to explain and to answer questions and demonstrate equipment. The morning-long program will include slide shows, exhibits, presentations and tours of designated hospital areas.

There will be printed pieces dealing with educational requirements, professional re-certification requirements, current market manpower needs and approximate salary ranges. The pace will be fast and informal, with visitors encouraged to discuss details with the career representatives, collect literature and generally to participate in the career day give-and-take.

The 1979 edition of MMC Career Day is being planned by Jane A. Patterson, personnel specialist, and Carole A. Duncan, Audio-Visual department.

'I Quit Kit' helps four stop smoking

Eighteen of 23 MMC employees who received the self-instructional "I Quit Kit" from E. June Clark, R.N., in the Outpatient Department, were contacted last week and four of them had managed to stop smoking.

"Four out of 18 may not seem that much," said Dr. J. Michael Taylor, associate vice president for Ambulatory Services, "but it certainly is for the four who were successful. Those who have never smoked cannot really appreciate the difficulty."

Two others, he said, cut down but did not quit, and still six others felt the "I Quit" program was excellent, but felt that the time was just not right for them.

Dr. Taylor said an institution-wide committee chaired by Assistant Vice President Karen O. Fletcher will be re-examining MMC's smoking policy and looking for ways to help employees who want to stop. Meantime, he suggested that MMC people who want help might contact Miss Clark in the OPD at 2676.

NURSING CAREER, from page 1

The Maine Society for Hospital Personnel Administration says 35 percent of the nurses trained in Maine leave the State to practice. Furthermore, an informal telephone survey of 13 major hospitals in Maine in April, 1979, indicated there were 139 unfilled RN vacancies in those hospitals alone. These same 13 hospitals were projecting a need to hire 246 graduate nurses from the 1979 classes. The most recent information available indicates the Maine schools graduate about 360 RNs each year.

Traditionally, about 65 percent, or 234, remain in Maine—not enough to meet the recruiting needs of even these 13 hospitals, the MSHA says.

Medical journalist to speak Thursday

Alan Blum, M.D., Fishbine Fellow in Medical Journalism, will be the speaker at 6 Thursday evening (Oct. 11) at the monthly Scientific session of the MMC Medical Staff. His talk is entitled "D.O.C.—Doctors Ought to Care: The Activated Physician."

The monthly staff meeting, scheduled at 8 p.m. after dinner will include a discussion of the Facilities Planning Study.

Physician's Assistant conference

The Third Annual Conference on Acute Medical Problems for the Primary Care Physician's Assistant was held September 17-21, sponsored by the Maine Medical Center's Department of Emergency Medicine.

Participating in the conference as lecturers were a number of MMC residents and attending physicians of the Maine Medical Center.

Attending were the Physician's Assistant residents and Physician's Assistants registered in Maine.

The conference topics centered on acute medical/surgical problems and their management in the Emergency Department. Each day was devoted to a topic with lectures on different aspects of that topic.

LIN. ACCEL., from page 1

It is capable of treating with either electrons (up to 18 MeV) or X-rays (15 MeV) and makes full use of recent state-of-the-art advances in electronic and radiation technology. In spite of its complexity, the unit is remarkably simple to operate and incorporates special circuits to insure patient safety and prevent operation if critical components are not functioning properly.

"The unit operates in a manner similar to our present 4 MeV linear accelerator. A group of electrons is injected into a straight tube just as an electric field begins to travel down the tube. The electrons are accelerated down the tube, gaining speed and energy as they travel, much as a surfer rides the crest of a wave toward the beach. In our 4 MeV unit, the electrons strike the target at the end of the tube and X-rays are produced. No treatment with electrons is possible with the 4 MeV unit. In the new 18 MeV unit, the electrons are conducted through a thin window at the end of the tube, and are then bent and focused by magnetic fields. The focused beam of electrons can then be used directly for patient treatment, or a target may be interposed to allow production of X-rays. By varying the accelerating forces within the tube, the energy of the electron beam may be varied over a wide range. This is not possible with the present 4 MeV unit.

"The ability to provide electrons directly for treatment purposes is the major factor that sets this unit apart from earlier accelerators. By selecting the energy, the therapist can, in effect, control the depth of treatment. This can offer significant advantages in certain situations. For example, treatment of the chest wall of patients who have had mastectomies is frequently accomplished with radiation. Direct irradiation with either cobalt or 4 MeV X-rays is impossible because of damage to the underlying lung tissue. Hence it was necessary to use beams which strike the chest wall tangentially. Those are difficult to set up and frequently do not deliver a uniform dose to the chest wall. By using relatively low energy electrons—6 MeV to 9 MeV—the chest wall may be uniformly and directly irradiated without damage to the underlying lung.

In addition to the versatility provided by electrons, the higher energy (15 MeV)

of the X-ray beam in the new unit would allow improved treatment of deep-seated tumors."

thanks....

I'm sure you people in Dietary don't get many thank-you's, but I want to thank you very much for going out of your way for me. The night the dietary supervisor came up to room 419 at 8 p.m. with some food for me really touched me as you see I was unable to eat for three weeks and was really hungry. Then the next day someone went to the store for some Vienna bread when you were out. It really meant so much. Many thanks from an ex-patient and employee.

Karen Fillebrown

An R1 patient, Mrs. Theresa Dagan, was surprised recently by the nurses on her 67th birthday. They had cards, flowers and a cake.

And later, when the party was over, Mrs. Dagan wrote this note:

"To All of You:

"Miss America could not feel as thrilled and excited as I do today. This has been a beautiful birthday. One sort of expects gifts and congratulations from their friends and family, but to think that you, as my nurses, went to so much trouble, work, etc., to do all

the beautiful things you did. You make me feel very special.

"My time is limited, and to say I'm not afraid would be lying, but if I can spend my last days with you on this floor I shall die far happier.

"You have all given part of yourselves to me—listened when I had to talk about life and death and given me such good nursing care.

"Thank you, one and all, for not just this day, but for all the days I have spent here. I love you all dearly x x x."

Dr. Hull visits MMC for Nephrology talks

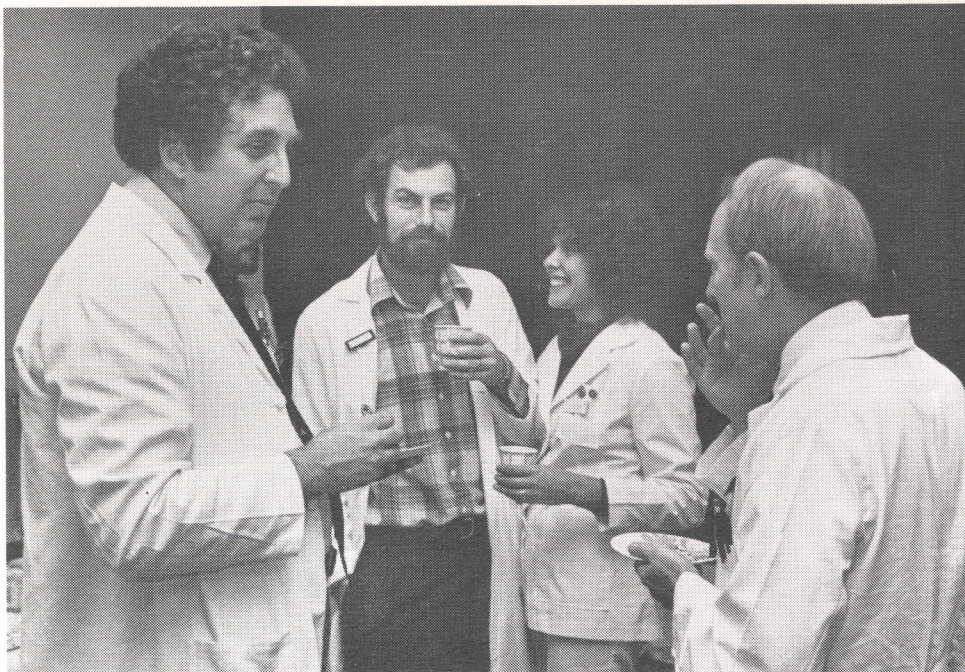
Dr. Jan Drewry, director of the MMC Division of Nephrology, has announced a series of conferences during a visit to MMC today through Friday (Oct. 10-12) by Dr. Alan Hull, professor of Internal Medicine and Director of the Clinical Nephrology and Transplant Program at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School at Dallas.

In an invitation to physicians, Dr. Drewry said the topics will cover a wide range of issues in nephrology, renal transplantation, internal medicine and urology.



MEDITATION ROOM—With offices of the Chaplaincy service moved from their emergency quarters at the rear of the chapel, the facility has returned to its former size and is now devoted entirely to use by patients, visitors and others for meditation. Dr. John Simpson, director of Pastoral services, is shown with a chapel visitor. Chaplains now use an adjoining office area formerly occupied by Medical Records.

(A/V Photo)



FAREWELL COFFEE—Associates expressed their best wishes at a coffee last week for Terry Zipper, radiation physicist, who has left MMC to assume a similar post with both Central Maine Medical Center and St. Mary's Hospital in Lewiston. Dr. Joseph Blinick, left, Jean Scott, R.T., and Dr. Russell Briggs wish Terry well. (A/V Photo)

marketplace

FOR RENT: 3 rm. apt., Western Prom. with deck overlooking water. Immediate occupancy, no pets. Sec. dep. \$325/mo. includes heat. Call 773-2520.

FOR RENT: Falmouth Foreside condo, brand new. 2 br, 2½ baths, large LR, fr, garage. Call 799-1902.

FOR RENT: Woodfords area, 6 rm. apt., new kitchen and bath, stove and refrig., parking, no pets, no children, \$250/mo. plus utils. Sec. dep. Call 775-1565 or 774-3117.

FOR RENT: House on beach at Old Orchard, 4 br., 1½ baths, new kitchen w/dishwasher and disposal, Sept. 15 - June 15, \$300/mo. plus utils. Sec. dep., refs, adults only. Call 773-5220 after 7 p.m.

FOR RENT: Cottage, Old Orchard Beach, near ocean, 2 br., LP gas heat, Sept. 15 - June 15, \$160/mo. plus utils. Sec. dep., refs. Call 773-5220 after 7 p.m.

FOR RENT: "Mini-apartment" in private home at Higgins Beach, private bath. Call 883-6894 eves.

FOR RENT: Unfurnished house in So. Portland on busline, large yard, new kitchen, bath, frpl. \$265/mo. plus utils. Call 772-5681 eves.

FOR SALE: 2 year old 2 bdrm. ranch w/vinyl siding, fenced yard, all electric. So. Portland location. \$36,900. Call owner 774-2735.

FOR SALE: 18½ foot Glaspar Cabin Cruiser w/full canvas cover, 2 bunks, built-in Coleman icebox, 65 hp Mercury motor, Holsclaw trailer w/spare and other accessories. Call 846-4916 eves.

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 Relations Dept., MMC, Portland, Me., 04102.

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FOR SALE: United airlines 50% discount coupon. Call 775-2159.

FOR SALE: '72 Super Bug, w/'74 engine, ex. cond. Best offer. Call 772-3459.

FOR SALE: 1974 GMC ½ ton plus 4x4 w/38,000 miles. Good overall cond. Never plowed. New paint. \$3,200. Call 457-1363.

FOR SALE: Eurika canister vacuum cleaner, \$35. Call 775-1713.

FOR SALE: 1969 GT Torino, 302, \$300 or best offer. Call 775-1713.

FOR SALE: 1976 Honda Accord hatchback, standard shift, 5 speed, just turning 20,000 miles. Like new. Uses reg. gas. \$4,500 firm. Call 781-4867 after 6 p.m.

FOR SALE: 1976 Mustang II Cobra, V-6, PS, 4-speed, AM/FM stereo, front disc brakes, white w/blue stripes. Must sell. \$2,300. Needs paint. Call 666-3459.

WANTED: Dependable young woman to pay minimum rent for attractive private room and bath, including kitchen privileges and garage, in my Falmouth home in exchange for another adult in house for security for 15 yr. old girl. Non-smoker. Write P.O. Box 3815, Portland, 04104.

ROOMMATE WANTED: Female roommate wanted to share spacious, sunny 2 bdrm. apt. in Westbrook. 2 family house in residential section w/off street parking. \$117/mo. plus utils. Call Janet on R3 or at 725-2555.

ROOMMATE WANTED: To share spacious Yarmouth house w/two gentlemen and one lady. Immediate occupancy. Call 846-9000 anytime.

ROOMMATE WANTED: Responsible female wanted to share home in Westbrook. Centrally located. \$45/wk. One wk. sec. dep. Call 854-9658.

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