



WHAT'S HAPPENING...

PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT ■ MAINE MEDICAL CENTER ■ PORTLAND, MAINE 04102
January 28, 1974

A CORPORATE STRUCTURE

A re-organization of top administrative positions has been recommended by the trustees of the Maine Medical Center "to shift the institution into a more effective and viable corporate structure," the president of the hospital board said late last week.

In a letter to corporators, medical staff members, employees and other members of the MMC family, Hugh C. Saunders said the trustees believe this action will have long-ranging and beneficial effects for MMC and all associated with it--especially patients and the communities of Greater Portland and the State of Maine.

Saunders said MMC trustees are recommending that "legal steps be taken to make the head of the board the Chairman, and establish the office of President as the principal executive position. Simultaneously, Saunders added, Philip K. Reiman, now executive director of the hospital, will become vice president for operations, and Douglass W. Walker, M.D., now medical director, will become vice president for medical affairs.

Saunders said the MMC trustees will now seek a person of "the highest executive and administrative ability to become the hospital's first 'professional' president. He must be one who speaks as an understanding equal among medical men and women, and one who also represents administrators, trustees, employees and consumers. He must be dedicated to the highest standards of patient care and to Maine Medical Center's two other commitments, medical education and medical research.

"The trustees seek a person of great energy and ability who will capitalize on the best features of our already fine Medical Center and ensure its continued growth and prosperity in the difficult years immediately ahead. Our president also must be a person of integrity, devoted to Maine, attuned to its health care needs, and the impartial advocate of no particular interest or cause except the patient-consumer."

1,000 YOUNG LIVES

Father Joe Mack, the reporter-priest who writes for the Portland EVENING EXPRESS, interviewed Dr. Edward Matthews last week for a story on MMC's participation in a New England-wide information network that has saved more than 1,000 babies with congenital heart disease. MMC has been a participant in the program since its beginning, about three years ago. It serves to identify these endangered infants and get them to treatment centers like MMC, and is credited with changing a 75 percent mortality rate to a 65 percent survival rate for these children.

THE GREELY GROUP

Some 50 Greely High School freshmen who are helping Dr. Edgar Caldwell and his Pulmonary Medicine Division with a study were guests of the hospital Thursday, getting a first-hand look at what goes on in the institution. The youngsters are subjects of a blood protein investigation that will reveal their susceptibility to chronic obstructive lung disease in later life. Dr. Caldwell's study, which employs automated laboratory techniques developed by Dr. Robert F. Ritchie in the MMC Rheumatic Disease laboratory, may indicate that large population groups may be similarly tested, and that steps may be taken to prevent development of chronic obstructive lung disease in these high-risk patients. They were here Thursday for testing in Dr. Caldwell's division, and for a tour of MMC.

IMPORTANT RERUN

Incidentally, for those who missed the Maine segment of "Pulmonary Disease: The Hidden Enemy" on Maine Public Broadcasting recently, it will be repeated at 8 p.m. Feb. 4 on Channel 10. The Maine segment deals with Dr. Caldwell's alpha₁ Antitrypsin study involving the Greely freshmen.

TRIGOM GRANT RENEWED

A second-year grant of \$67,063 has been awarded the Research Institute of the Gulf of Maine for a project that involves collaboration with the MMC Research Department: adaptation of medical research techniques in the fields of cardiovascular physiology and protein chemistry to the study of pollution stress on fish. MMC and the Maine Department of Sea and Shore Fisheries are associate members of TRIGOM.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

There was a hand-lettered sign in Radiation Therapy last week reading: "No cobalt appointments Jan. 25th. Machines need an annual checkup too." Maybe there should be others in the same vein at construction spots: "Please be patient...hospital undergoing surgery."

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