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AREA

V

# minute news

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CALIFORNIA REGIONAL MEDICAL PROGRAMS • AREA V

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## DEVELOPMENTAL COMPONENT PROJECT FUNDED

AREA V has received approval from CCRMP for funding of \$30,050 (direct costs) for a project which proposes to develop a role model for the application of clinical pharmacy services in extended care facilities. Alan Cheung, Pharm.D., MPH, Assistant Professor of Clinical Pharmacy, USC School of Pharmacy, and principal author of the proposal describes the project as an effort to improve patient care through the promotion of safe and rational use of drugs. He states: "It is anticipated that the quality of patient care will be enhanced by reduction of the incidence of medication errors and adverse drug reactions, while improving cost-effectiveness through a decrease in cost for the treatment of drug-induced complications.

"The project will employ a clinically-oriented pharmacist full-time for one year to serve the patients of two or three 100-bed extended care facilities. His activities will include the evaluation of each patient's clinical response (or lack of response) to drug therapy, monitoring for adverse drug reactions and interactions, and the provision of drug information and education to the facility staff and patients. The pharmacist will not be involved with the supply of drugs to the facilities engaged in the project.

"Five representative extended care facilities will be selected for the project, three serving as experimental facilities and two as controls. Pharmacy services and drug management of patients in the facilities will be evaluated at the beginning and at the end of the project and the results will be analyzed by a data analyst from the Department of Research in Pharmaceutical Education and Services.

"A logical extension of the project will be the expansion of clinical pharmacy services, not only to serve more patients and more extended care facilities, but to encourage the utilization of optimal pharmacy services in other health care delivery systems."

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## AREA ADVISORY COUNCIL APPROVAL

was given three operational proposals at a special May meeting:

Adolescent Nurse Practitioner Training Program - a model training program for nurse practitioners in the delivery of primary care to adolescents, in order to provide additional health manpower to approach the unmet health needs of adolescents in L.A. County. The project would test the applicability and utility of sharing training resources with participating agencies caring for youth, with other allied health professions training projects in RMP Areas IV and V, and would explore potential usefulness for training to other social, educational and governmental agencies oriented toward youth services.

Stroke Volunteer Program - proposes to improve and extend resocialization services to the stroke victims and their families living in the West San Gabriel Valley through the establishment of three community-based volunteer activity centers. The centers will provide stroke patients with opportunities for experiences that will enable them to regain confidence and respect and to practice daily living and communication skills in a stimulating and accepting environment.

L.A. County Emergency Medical Services System Development Program - a project with the long-range goal of improving the delivery of emergency medical services in L.A. County through a planning and development process which includes broad functional and geographic participation, and by raising the baseline level of training of all ambulance and emergency rescue personnel, maintaining this level of competence, and developing a career incentive mechanism for emergency rescue personnel. The project is a cooperative effort of RMP Areas IV, V, and IX.

Lorin C. Spencer, MD, was appointed as a member-at-large, representing the geographical area of Pomona. Dr. Spencer, a graduate of the University of Minnesota, is a member of a pathology group practicing in the city of Pomona, as well as Chief of Staff at Pomona Valley Hospital.

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Comprehensive Health Planning of L.A. County has chosen for its new Executive Director Mr. Leon L. Miller, former Executive Director of Alameda County Comprehensive Health Planning. Mr. Miller is also a lecturer on public health and comprehensive health planning at the University of Berkeley, where he received his MPH. His background includes a distinguished career in the Public Health Department of Alameda County. Area Coordinator Donald W. Petit, MD, represents AREA V on the newly-named Board of Directors of COMP-LA, of which Joseph F. Boyle, MD, is President.

## REPORT ON THE ALLIED HEALTH CONFERENCE, SUN VALLEY

Robert J. Schroeder, DVM, Chairman of the Nominating Committee for AREA V Advisory Council reports: "I attempted to observe the conference from the viewpoint of the Area Advisory Council. The major things that impressed me were: The dependence placed on allied health personnel for the success of any health care delivery systems. The Area Advisory Council must do everything possible to remove unnecessary constraints in the utilization of allied health personnel, the quality of care ultimately delivered to the patient being the deciding factor: Emphasis must be placed in the future on keeping people healthy--RMP should stress this need for health maintenance and preventive medicine. AREA V programs appear to be in the vanguard in relation to most national efforts such as emergency medical programs, experimental health service delivery systems, and community involvement in health programs. While much is to be done, the staff and Advisory Council deserve credit for their efforts."

Dorothy E. Anderson, Elias Chico, and Teri Moreno, of AREA V staff concurred in this synopsis of the meeting: "The major theme revolved around allied health manpower, its role in health care delivery systems, and what RMP could do to enhance the involvement and acceptability of allied health personnel. There was general consensus among speakers that the health care delivery system needs the involvement of all health professionals and the consumer in order to be acceptable. Perhaps one of the most significant messages to come out of the Conference, was delivered by Mr. Gerald Riso, Deputy Administrator, HSMHA. Speaking on "Current HSMHA Priorities" Mr. Riso stated that governmental reorganization and decentralization will provide the Administration with resources needed to have direct line control over FDA, NIH, and HSMHA intends to increase the amount of spending in 1974 by one-third more than at present and is ready to share authority and resources in order to accommodate locally perceived requirements. In the area of health revenue sharing, Mr. Riso stated there was a definite transition towards prepaid capitation and less project support. Mr. Riso described RMP as having respectability and relevance to the provider element as a research and demonstration agency, and capable of playing a vital role as a catalyst. Conferees agreed to strive for representation of allied health on RAG's, Area Councils, task forces, and committees; to strengthen the relationship between health professionals and community and to utilize allied health personnel as consultants whenever appropriate.

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## COUNTYWIDE CONFERENCE ON EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

On June 19 and 20, an anticipated 500 individuals from throughout LA County will meet in a two-day session to consider ways of improving and providing better coordination of essential care to all residents of the county. Among the participants will be physicians, nurses, ambulance personnel, hospital administrators, fire and police personnel, county and city officials, paramedics and community representatives.

The major thrust of the Conference will come in workshops through which participants will present their recommendations on all facets of emergency medical services. These recommendations will be refined in subsequent regional and functional sub-conferences.

Important differences in the level of services provided by both public and private organizations will be a major consideration. Other areas of concern include public education, the desirability of a countywide communications system and coordination of emergency transportation, the impact of contractual arrangements on the services provided, special problems of minority communities in receiving care, classification and regulation of emergency facilities, and the level of training for emergency personnel.

The Conference was organized by a 40-member group brought together by the L. A. County Committee on Emergency Medical Care and California RMP Areas IV, V, and IX. Conference Chairman is George C. Griffith, MD.

Among other representatives on the planning body are L.A. County Heart Assn., Hospital Council of So. California, L.A. County Medical Assn., L.A. County Department of Hospitals, L.A. County & City Fire Departments, the Automobile Club of So. California, Comprehensive Health Planning of LA County, Community Television of So. California, local ambulance companies and other emergency facilities and community organizations with health delivery interests.

The Conference will be addressed by several emergency medical care specialists locally and nationally--Dr. Max Weil, Chairman of the County Committee on Emergency Medical Care; Dr. Robert Andrews, Asst. Dean of UCLA Graduate School of Business Management; Dr. Henry Clay Huntley, director of emergency medical services at HEW; Dr. Samuel Seeley, of the National Research Council, and Dr. John Farquhar, Chairman of the AMA Committee on Emergency Medical Services. Also speaking to the conferees will be Warren Dorn, Chairman of the LA County Board of Supervisors, and Supervisor Kenneth Hahn. Mrs. Carman Guzman, community liaison worker with the ELA Health Task Force and board member of COMP-LA will present the consumer point of view.

AREA V staff attending the conference will be: Donald W. Petit, MD; Leon C. Hauck; Kay D. Fuller, RN; Sonja Deaton, and Elsie M. McGuff.

## REGIONAL KIDNEY DISEASE PROGRAM

The Transplantation and Organ Procurement component of the California Kidney Disease Program has granted \$94,800 in 3-year funding to support the activities of the Renal Transplant Unit at LAC/USC Medical Center. The Transplant Unit has been functioning for three years and has performed 84 cadaver and 10 living relative donor homografts to date. According to Thomas V. Berne, MD, Head of the Transplantation Section of the Department of Surgery at the Center, the funds will be used entirely for training purposes. The addition of a second transplant surgeon and a transplant nurse specialist is expected to double the number of transplants now being performed. The Transplant Unit has the additional support of a dialysis program, a large home program, with planning under way for an ambulatory dialysis center.

The Regional Kidney Disease Program activities from June, 1970 to May, 1972 were reviewed and evaluated at a special meeting held May 30, attended by members of the Regional Kidney Disease Program Committee and Coordinators of California RMP Areas. Dr. Petit and Leon C. Hauck attended for AREA V.

## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS STAFF

An AREA V exhibit was manned by Fred D. Hubbard at the Health Fair held June 3 at Duarte High School. Sponsored by the Community Awareness Group and the Community Civic and Political Education Group of Duarte, the event featured a sickle cell clinic which screened 182 people.

Wai Chow Leong, Administrator of the Chinese Community Free Clinic, reports that the clinic is still temporarily located in the Chinese Seventh Day Adventist Church in Alhambra, pending efforts to secure a suitable location in the Los Angeles Chinatown area. Despite difficulties encountered in finding a permanent home, the clinic has been able to refer patients to appropriate health facilities and, in some cases, the necessary transportation has been provided by volunteer workers. Personnel from the clinic also participated in an annual information health screening day in Chinatown and in the Physical Fitness Program held at White Memorial Hospital in November, 1971 and in April, 1972. Gail White acts as liaison with the Chinese Free Clinic.

Reverend Emmett Sarracino, Administrator of the American Indian Free Clinic, advises that the American Indian Free Clinic is now settled and operating at full capacity in new quarters located at 329 E. Rosecrans in Compton.

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# **minute news**

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P.O. Box 1390  
1 West Bay State Street  
Alhambra, Calif. 91802  
Telephone (213) 576-1626

Editor - Elsie McGuff  
Assisted by  
Kathryn Holligan & Marjorie Crump

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