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DR. GEORGE C. GRIFFITH, CHAIRMAN OF AREA V CARDIAC COMMITTEE, gives us this special report of Dr. Michael DeBakey's address on September 10 on The Significance of RMP's on Heart Disease, Cancer, and Stroke in the Practice of Medicine:

"Dr. DeBakey described the original concept of RMP and admitted that the Program has been very slow in moving toward its objective. He pointed out that the planning for each Region is well developed but since funding has been slowed down, there has been a great decrease in the momentum of RMP. 'I hope,' said Dr. DeBakey, 'that this slowing will not mean a cessation of activity. Our objectives as a medical profession are to make every effort to restore the cutback funds both in research and in RMP. I don't believe the public would support the rather drastic cuts now proposed in Congress if it were aware of the implications. If there is continued retrenchment, these cutbacks will ultimately have an adverse effect on our knowledge and a still more adverse effect upon the delivery of health care to all of our people.'"

In a personal talk later Dr. Griffith says, Dr. DeBakey expressed the hope that RMP would not lose its identity and that there will not be a combination of many health programs into one large conglomerate. He also urged that RMP continue upon its established road with renewed efforts in promoting further co-operative arrangements and good communications so that when the present retrenchments end, there can be a great thrust ahead on plans already established.

Michael DeBakey, M.D. headed the special Commission appointed by the President which resulted in Public Law 89-239, the legislation which created RMP.

Our appeal for tutors in high school chemistry for the Mexican American candidates for the LAC-USC Medical Center School of Nursing brought DR. GEORGE C. GRIFFITH to the rescue. Through him, an arrangement has been made with Dean Paul A. Bloland, Dean of Students at USC for a special tutorial program to assist these East Los Angeles students.

ROBERT H. PUDENZ, M.D., CHAIRMAN OF AREA V COMMITTEE ON STROKE, has been named President of the American Academy of Neurological Surgery and on September 21, will host a dinner in New York for the world meeting of the International Congress of Neurological Surgery.

Key personnel from California RMP's and from Comprehensive Health Planning met in an all-day session in San Francisco on September 11, to discuss structure, function and relationships of the two programs, with a view to developing ideas on future cooperation and coordination. WILLIAM A. MARKEY, Deputy Coordinator represented AREA V.

One item which has been occupying the time and attention of various staff members of AREA V recently is a 52-page questionnaire which is to be completed by each RMP Region (and Area). The answers will provide the principal source of information for a "national assessment effort" initiated by Dr. Stanley W. Olson, Director, RMP Service, in preparation for the upcoming extension of RMP legislation.

Plans for the Community Health Workshop to be presented by the RMP - East Los Angeles Steering Committee on Health Needs, are gaining momentum. The first session, scheduled for October 25, is intended to give the community an opportunity to react to a preliminary report of the Study on Health Needs which has been a joint project of AREA V RMP and the Los Angeles Welfare Planning Council for the past six months.

The Study on Health Needs will provide data for the study area for the years 1966, 1967 and 1968 for population, mortality and morbidity rates, incidence of tuberculosis, venereal and other diseases. Special attention has been given to the availability and utilization of the community's clinics and medical facilities and the cost of medical service. A one-month hospital discharge study for the State of California conducted by Regional Medical Programs is being analyzed to find where Mexican Americans from East Los Angeles go for service, as well as why, and a special inquiry is being initiated to establish how many Chicanos use Mexican health facilities and how much use is made by the community of the psychiatric services for children and adolescents available at LAC-USC Medical Center. The first session of the Workshop will give the community a chance to see if it "tells it like it is," to supplement the findings of the Health Study and express their views and opinions.

The second session of the Workshop, tentatively being planned for late November, will present decision-makers in the health field with some of the problems and solutions identified by the community with the objective of opening new lines of communication and negotiating for change.

C A L E N D A R

STAFF MEETINGS ARE SUBJECT TO SUDDEN CHANGES--PLEASE CHECK WITH OFFICE FOR LATEST INFORMATION
ALL MEETINGS ARE IN CONFERENCE ROOM UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED

SEPT.			
18	9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	L. A. County Health Commission Orientation to RMP	
18	2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	CCU Coordinating Committee	San Francisco
19	2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	CCRMP Categorical Committee on Stroke	San Francisco
24	8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	AREA V Social Workers Committee AREA V Staff Meeting	
25	8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.	ACT Conference (CCU)	LAC-USC Med. Center
25	12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.	AREA V Stroke Liaison Nurse Task Force	
26	11:30 a.m.	AREA V Committee Chairmen's Meeting	
- COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN'S MEETINGS -			
	October 10 24	November 7 21	December 5 19
- SPECIAL MEETINGS -			
October 18 Symposium on Early Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease October 25 RMP - East Los Angeles First Session Community Health November 5 Conference on Community Health Resources - Sportsman's Lodge			

REPORT OF AN EXPLORATORY MEETING TO DISCUSS AN INSTITUTE FOR
CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR NURSES

A summary of nearly 400 questionnaires returned from a poll of hospitals in the eleven Western states confirms a great need for continuing educational opportunities, particularly in clinical practice for RN's and LVN's in a number of specialty areas. Training in care of the acute coronary patient was rated the greatest need.

The results of this survey, recently completed by MISS EVELYN M. HAMIL, RN, Director of Nursing Services and Education at LAC-USC Medical Center (and AREA V ADVISORY MEMBER) were revealed to an interested group September 4 when Miss Hamil proposed that LAC-USC Medical Center assume a leadership role to meet this need in the Los Angeles area. The development of an institute for continuing education, under the auspices of the Medical Center and working in close collaboration with the Nursing Department of Cal State College, has the endorsement of Medical Director, Robert E. Tranquada, M.D.

It was agreed that the first step should be the employment of a qualified, full-time nurse coordinator to organize the proposed program. This position is to be created within the Department of Nursing, said Miss

Hamil, and recruitment will commence immediately.

Mrs. Joan Cobin, RN, Acting Chairman, Division of Nursing for Cal State College, offered the opinion that such an institute would be of great benefit to the community since, in her opinion, many nurses primarily interested in improving their nursing skills, are obliged to enroll in formal academic programs because no comprehensive, coordinated program of continuing education is available to them in the Southern California area.

The problems of funding and faculty were also explored and the meeting adjourned on an optimistic note, with the full cooperation of all present promised.

Attending for AREA V were WILLIAM A. MARKEY and MRS. KAY D. FULLER, RN; from USC School of Medicine--Stephen Abrahamson, Ph.D. Division of Research and James Dooley, M.D., Director of Programs for the Postgraduate Division; from LAC-USC Medical Center--FOTINE O'CONNOR, RN, Director, Nursing Services (and CHAIRMAN, AREA V NURSING COMMITTEE) Esther Rinalducci, RN, Director In-Service Education and Betsy Clark, RN.

(continued next column)