

Vester Lewis received a Texas bachelor's and a Michigan master's, but chose the up and coming O.U. Medical Center for Ph.D. work in microbiology. Lewis is inoculating an egg to grow the virus he is researching.

# *A Medical School*

## *Plus . . .*

By IMOGENE PATRICK

*Transformation from a medical school to a complex and flourishing medical center.*

This is the recent history of the University of Oklahoma Medical Center, where a student may be a future physician—or he may be a youth out of high school mastering technical skills in radiology or a medical scientist pursuing postdoctoral studies in any one of two dozen fields as diverse as microbiology and psychiatry.

The School of Medicine, of course, is the hub, but teachers are likewise bent on developing the nurses, technologists, medical investigators and other workers who team up with the physician in this age of scientific medical care.

Here are classrooms that never close. For, regardless of the stature and goal of the student, his work is in some manner linked

with the patient in the wards, the patient admitted today or the patient of tomorrow.

While a junior medical student makes his first ward rounds or a freshman gets an introduction to anatomy laboratory, a home economics graduate checks out patient food trays in the kitchen of University Hospital, getting the "feel" of hospital dietetics.

In the Blood Bank, a medical technology intern is briefed on the procedure for cross-matching a patient's blood, knowledge that will mean the difference between survival and death in future emergencies. And at Children's Memorial Hospital, a physical therapy major exercises the polio-damaged muscles of a child.

More than 800 students were in training at the Center last year. A fourth of them were enrolled—not in medicine—but in re-

lated disciplines, in areas that also offer drama, an opportunity for great service and steady employment, as the supply of trained personnel in the allied professions is woefully lagging behind demand.

In addition to the School of Medicine and its rapidly growing postdoctoral programs, the Medical Center offers:

(1) Three study programs at the School of Nursing—a three-year course leading to the certificate of the graduate nurse, a bachelor of science degree curriculum (the first two years are spent on the Norman campus), and a new plan under which registered nurse graduates of the certificate program can meet requirements for a degree.

(2) Clinical training for women enrolled in the Oklahoma City Vocational School of Practical Nursing. Ninety women

schooled at the University of Oklahoma hospitals have qualified for licenses as practical nurses since the co-operative program with the Oklahoma City public schools opened in 1955.

(3) A one-year internship preparing men and women for national board examinations of the Registry of Medical Technologists. The School of Medical Technology enrolls students with a minimum of two years of college credit.

(4) A two-year course in the School of X-ray Technology which qualifies the student for registration with the American Registry of X-ray Technicians. The minimum requirement for enrolment is four years of highschool.

(5) Courses leading to a bachelor of science degree from the School of Physical Therapy, which opened at Children's Memorial Hospital in 1954. The fourth year of training is spent at the Medical Center.

(6) A one-year course in the School of Cyto-Technology, established only last year by the Regents for Higher Education. Students learn techniques of cell examination for cancer. Minimum requirements for admission—two years of college credit.

(7) A dietetic internship, one year of practical experience and classwork preparing the college graduate for careers in hospital dietetics and institutional management.

(8) Field work for second year students in the OU School of Social Work.

Just what is the University of Oklahoma Medical Center?

Geographically, it is the four-block area between Phillips and Kelley along Oklahoma City's NE 13 Street.

The physical plant includes the School of Medicine building, where basic science

courses are taught; Children's Memorial and University hospitals (the two state-supported teaching hospitals); the School of Nursing; the Oklahoma City Veterans Administration Hospital, associated with the School of Medicine for teaching purposes.

Here, too, are the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, a private foundation whose staff members also hold Medical School faculty appointments, and the University of Oklahoma Speech and Hearing Clinic, an arm of OU's Department of Speech. Graduate and undergraduate students training as speech therapists or teachers of the deaf come here for clinical experience.

The most obvious yardstick for measuring growth is physical development. Look what has happened to the Center within ten years.

In 1950, the Research Foundation building was constructed. In 1951, two wings were added to the basic science building. In 1952, outpatient wings were added to both Children's Memorial and University hospitals. The latter houses a psychiatric hospital unit which made it possible for the

Medical Center to begin producing specialists in psychiatry.

In 1953, the Veterans Administration Hospital was built. In 1957, the Speech and Hearing Clinic building opened. This year, a three-story addition to University was completed, affording new quarters for the radiology department plus laboratories for surgery, medicine and anesthesiology.

On the drawing boards now are plans for an \$800,000 research building, testimony to the Center's accelerated research activity. An addition to the Speech and Hearing Clinic is scheduled.

But physical growth does not necessarily denote strength or academic prowess or improvement of services.

There are other symptoms.

Ten years ago, the teaching hospitals had 16 intern positions approved by the National Council on Medical Education and Hospitals. Today the hospitals have 28 interns serving the year of in-hospital duty required before going into practice.

Ten years ago, there were 38 positions for residents—physicians who have completed an internship and are taking further train-



Keeping the 4-year-old a contented patient is no small task, but bubble-blowing is a help. Senior Irma Jean Lowry, Guymon, headed for a BS in nursing, tries the special therapy on attentive young Danny Morris, Lindsay.



*classrooms  
that  
never  
close*

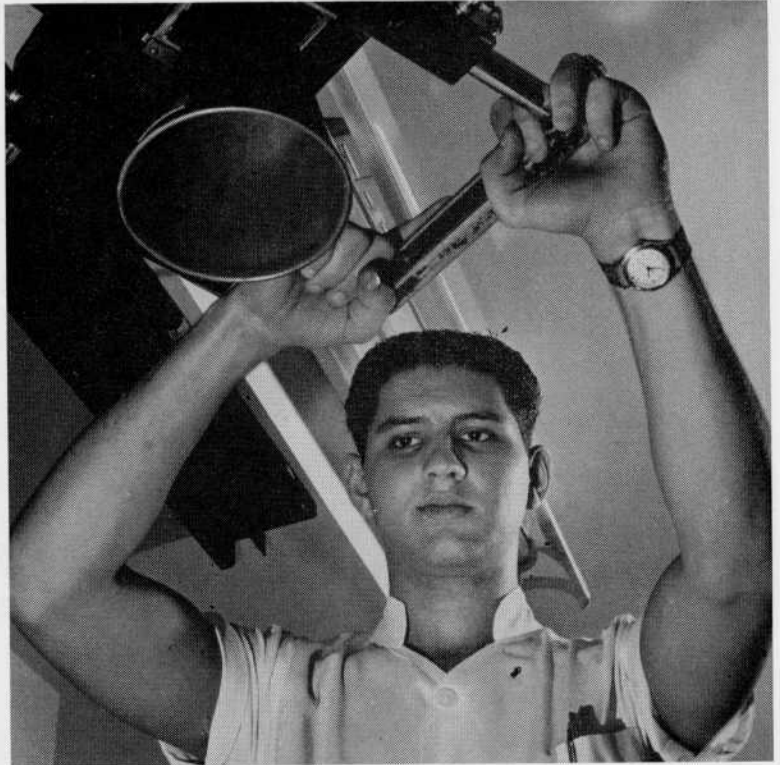
A nutrition-conscious dietetic intern, Clara McCord, '58bs, checks out food trays bound for the rooms of University Hospital patients.

*24-hour  
students*



Study didn't end with a '51bs, '55med for Dr. Thomas Lynn, left, a fourth year resident at University Hospital. He returned to the Center after interning and a year's residency at Barnes Hospital, St. Louis, two years as clinical associate at National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. Making the rounds with Dr. Lynn is Ned Burleson, third-year student, son of Dr. Ned Burleson, '31med, Prague.

Healdton X-ray technology student Billy McGee positions X-ray tube over a patient undergoing diagnostic procedures at University Hospital.



ing in a medical specialty. Each residency must be approved by the national board that certifies specialists in that particular field.

Today there are 135 residents, eight visiting fellows and a half-dozen or more trainees in research programs. Many of the residents came here from some of the nation's major medical centers.

The residency program offers physicians advanced work in anesthesiology, dermatology, general practice, medicine, neurosurgery, obstetrics-gynecology, ophthalmology, orthopedic surgery, oral surgery, otorhinolaryngology, pathology, pediatrics, preventive medicine and public health, psychiatry, radiology, surgery, thoracic surgery and urology.

In 1950, there were fewer than five students in the graduate program in the medical sciences, the program that prepares men and women for teaching and research in anatomy, biochemistry, physiology, pharmacology, microbiology and pathology.

Last year, 54 persons were working toward master of science or Ph.D. degrees.

Another tangible indication of maturation is the amount of income attracted from outside sources for medical research and training.

Faculty members during 1958-59 received \$1,294,498 in grants from federal and voluntary health agencies to support promising research and teaching ventures. This was 400 times the amount recorded 13 years earlier and is an increase of \$486,086 over the previous year.

The limit on medical school enrolment during the past decade was raised from 54 to 100 students per class.

Location of the towering, 488-bed Veter-

ans Administration Hospital at the Center was a substantial help in meeting national accreditation standards governing the number of teaching beds and thus maintaining a higher enrolment.

Under a "dean's committee" arrangement, all physicians who treat patients at Veterans Hospital are members of the Medical School faculty.

It is common practice for faculty members to fill speaking engagements at other medical centers, to serve as consultants and to report their findings at important scientific meetings, just as it is no longer "news" for physicians and scientists from other schools and other nations to come to Oklahoma for special study and consultation.

The Center is the focal point of medical education—not only of the education of future physicians, medical scientists and their aides in the paramedical fields, but of the continuing education of alumni and other state physicians.

Last school term, 1,465 state doctors came to the Medical Center for short courses planned by the Office of Postgraduate Education to help practicing physicians keep abreast of advances. Another 329 physicians from other states were attracted here by the postgraduate series.

The common goal of all Medical Center training is improved health care for a growing population. This means high standards of treatment for the 11,548 patients admitted to University hospitals and the 69,647 seen in the outpatient clinics within a year's time.

But it also means better health for the thousands reached through preventive medicine programs, the families served by physician-graduates of the Center, the beneficiaries of such Medical Center services as the Oklahoma Poison Information Center and the Oklahoma Eye Bank, and others who indirectly profit from research.

In the hospitals, research laboratory gains are translated into benefits to patients.

The first successful open heart surgery in the state was performed at Children's Memorial Hospital in January. At University, the life-saving artificial kidney was used for the first time in Oklahoma. Atomic medicine came to Oklahoma via University Hospital, where the first radioisotope laboratory was established. The principal testing of some promising new compounds for treatment of diabetes was done at University and Veterans last year.

All these are the marks of a medical center.