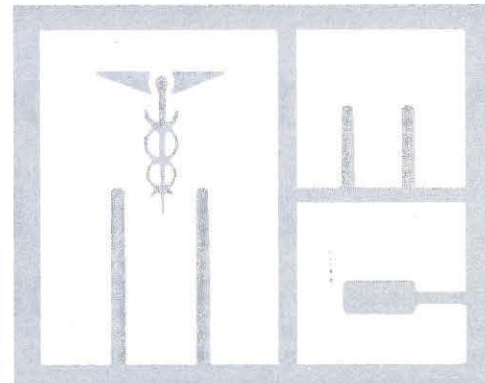


PULSE



MUHLENBERG MEDICAL CENTER BETHLEHEM, PA.

DECEMBER

1983

Nuclear Medicine and Ultrasound Vital Medical Tools at MMC

An explosion of technological advances and research in Nuclear Medicine and Ultrasound imaging has enabled physicians and technologists to study the human body in detail that was impossible only a few years ago. Continuing expansion of knowledge in these areas holds even brighter promise for the future.

At Muhlenberg Medical Center these modalities are combined in the Department of Nuclear Medicine and Ultrasound. This arrangement improves patient care by permitting close correlation of data obtained from each technique. Operationally, this combination cuts costs and improves service by permitting cross-training and coverage of each modality by the technical staff.

Since it began in the early 1920's, Nuclear Medicine has blossomed to become a vital medical tool. Today most organs and their function can be examined by "emission scanning"—the most common nuclear technique.

The patient is given a slightly radioactive compound (the "radio-pharmaceutical") which is either injected into the bloodstream, swallowed or inhaled. The drug localizes in the body within an organ, and gives off "gamma rays"—invisible radiation which is detected by a "gamma camera" which records the location of the radiation on film.



Cathie Sweigert, RDMS, reviews Ultrasound videotapes.



Mary Schneck, B.S., CNMT, uses Nuclear Medicine Computer to collect a lung scan image.

Continuing expansion of knowledge in these areas holds even brighter promise for future.

The images are then interpreted by physicians specially trained in Nuclear Medicine. These scans show the organ "in action," providing information about how well it is functioning, often providing invaluable diagnostic clues.

Other techniques ("radio-immunoassay" or RIA) involve adding radioactive tracer chemicals to samples of body fluids, to detect minute concentrations of hormones or drugs. RIA does not directly involve the patient and is performed in specially equipped laboratories.

Ultrasound uses sound waves

Ultrasound involves sending high-frequency sound waves into the body and recording the echoes as dots on film. Pictures of the interior of the body are built up by moving the ultrasound "transducer" (which both emits the sound and receives the echoes) over the area being studied, in contact with the skin.


wide variety of studies, including nuclear imaging of the brain, lungs, liver and spleen, and skeletal system; and ultrasound imaging of the abdomen, pelvis, thyroid and kidneys. All procedures are performed under the supervision of physicians, under the direction of Dr. Donald Morel. The studies are performed by specially trained technologists, supervised by Eileen Houck, chief technologist.

Making patients less apprehensive about their tests is an important technologist's function, notes Eileen. Part of the reassurance involves explaining that Nuclear Medicine tests are reliable, painless and low-risk.

Safety always important

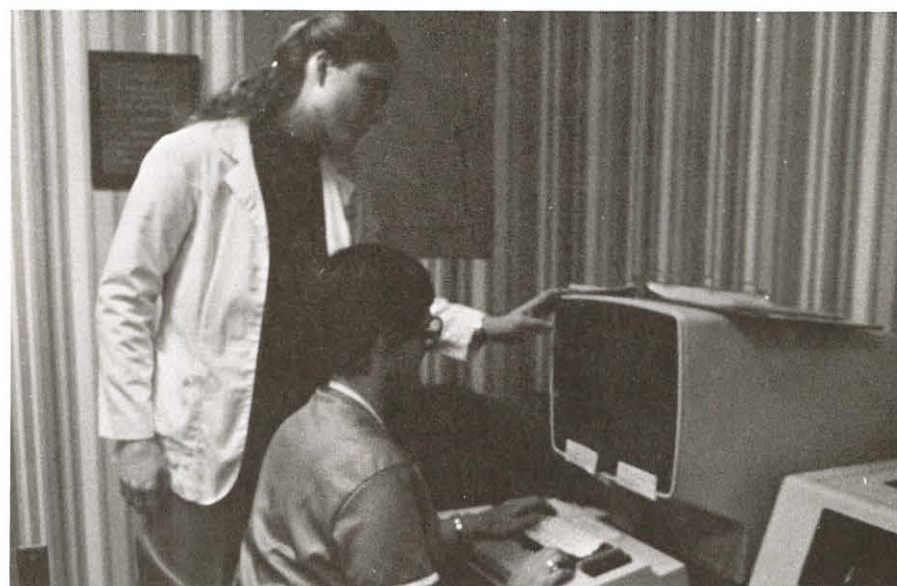
"Regarding safety," she states, "every precaution is taken. The exposure to radiation is low and brief, as the drugs lose most of the radioactivity in a few hours by decay. Female patients are carefully screened for possible pregnancy. The environment is carefully controlled, with equipment and materials meeting strict safety standards."

Nuclear Medicine and Ultrasound tests are vital to the diagnosis of many kinds of conditions and can very easily be done on an out-patient basis, if appropriate, so that patients are spared an overnight stay.

What better way to help patients? 

Ultrasound involves no radiation, and is therefore safe enough to be used to study pregnant women and children.

The Department of Nuclear Medicine and Ultrasound at Muhlenberg Medical Center is equipped and staffed to perform a



Nuclear Medicine / Ultrasound were the first ancillary departments to go on computerized order entry. Working at the computer terminal are chief technologist Eileen Houck (left) and Helene Boyle.

In Memoriam Dr. Geo. L. Donaghue


Dr. Donaghue's association with Muhlenberg Medical Center goes back to 1979 when he was named medical director. In the ensuing years, he was dedicated to advancing the good of the medical center through his vibrant and unique presence, and he has left behind a remarkable legacy.

Dr. Donaghue was instrumental in bringing about many significant changes in Muhlenberg Medical Center's history: the development of the eight Chiefs of Services within the Medical Staff, the development and implementation of the Quality Assurance Department and process, as well as assistance in the re-design of the medical staff structure. In addition, his efforts also greatly assisted the renovation and expansion of the intensive and coronary care unit.



His objective in all of these endeavors was a simple one: To ensure the highest quality care to the patients we serve, now and in the future.

Everyone who was privileged to know and work with Dr. Donaghue saw the integrity, the strength and the humor underlying his dynamic personality. He set the highest standards, then met them without compromise or equivocation. In the words of his long-time friend, Monsignor Francis X. Barrett, Dr. Donaghue devoted his life in total commitment to three things: God, his family and the medical profession.

Muhlenberg Medical Center is a better place because of his efforts. As a friend and fine physician, his ideals will endure. 

Special Procedures— fully equipped for minor surgery

Maintaining the highest standards of care while keeping the price of care affordable is a major concern at Muhlenberg Medical Center. And the new Special Procedures Unit is designed to do just that.


Special Procedures, relocated and newly renovated, is a fully equipped minor surgical unit offering a variety of services to both inpatients and outpatients. In its new location, the unit's features enhance patient privacy, comfort and convenience while offering a setting where total patient care is the norm.

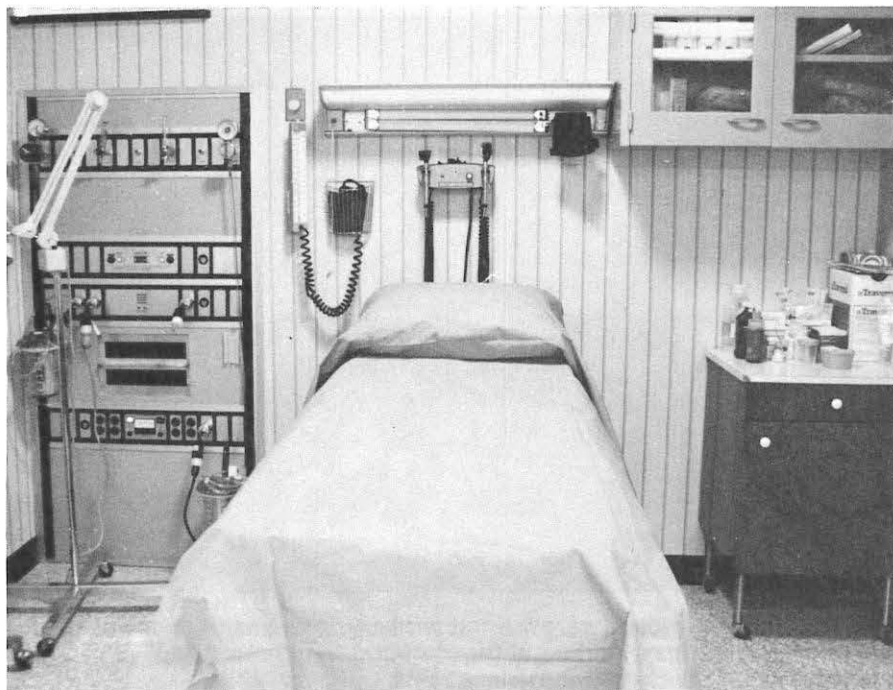
Moving the unit to its present location adjacent to the surgical suite was strategic. Special Procedures is now convenient to the nursing floors for easy transportation of hospitalized patients and close to outpatient

registration as well. The new quarters also include a waiting room for the convenience of patients and their families.

Separated by walls in-between, the four bays are private, curtained areas equipped with specialized tables and instruments.

The new facility accommodates a variety of diagnostic and minor operative procedures, many of which utilize a relatively new technique. Among its many applications, fiber optics uses a "scope" to look for ulcer disease, tumors and polyps, as well as check pancreas and bile ducts.

In addition to these procedures, the unit provides an ideal setting for minor surgery such as local excisions of moles and lesions. 



Special Procedures unit offers a variety of services.

Newsbriefs

- Muhlenberg Medical Center Summer Festival Committee is already busily making plans for next year's Summer Festival. And it's no wonder! The 1983 Summer Festival saw record-breaking crowds and record-setting profits. Proceeds totaling \$65,000 were given to the hospital and earmarked for new equipment in the Radiology Department. This figure represents the greatest profits that the Festival has seen in its 22-year history.

Enthusiasm is high for next year's event which is scheduled for August 17, 18 and 19. "Our American Heritage" will be the theme. See you there!

- The hospital's Board of Trustees has approved a feasibility study and a Certificate of Need application for the acquisition of a new radiographic/fluoroscopic and digital angiography room. It is anticipated that, if approved, this radiologic equipment would be purchased next fall.


- The Radiology Department last month joined ten other areas of the hospital which are on direct order entry. In this system, when a physician orders a diagnostic or therapeutic procedure for a patient, this request is entered into the computer and immediately transmitted to the clinical area which will perform the procedure. Computerization speeds the flow of information from one area of the hospital to another, thereby enhancing patient care by ensuring prompt testing and results reporting. The system also organizes and stores accurate and complete patient data.

The other areas of the hospital already on order entry are Nuclear Medicine/Ultrasound, Dietary, Echocardiography, Electrocardiography, Electroencephalography, Non-invasive Peripheral Vascular Lab, Pulmonary Function, Respiratory Therapy and Stress Testing.

- Muhlenberg Medical Center's Blood Bank, a part of the Clinical Laboratory, has been granted renewal of accreditation by the American Association of Blood Banks. More than a certificate to hang on the wall, accreditation recognizes the Blood Bank's excellence in the provision of high quality blood, blood components and other services to the medical center's patients.

While it is not legally necessary for a blood bank to be accredited, Muhlenberg Medical Center sought accreditation because it represents a level of professional and medical expertise that meets and exceeds government regulations. Indeed, the standards of the American Association of Blood Banks are rigorous and demand a high level of medical, technical and administrative performance.

- Marc Abo, M.D., and George Tyler, M.D., have been named Fellows of the American College of Surgeons. Both general surgeons, they are members of the Muhlenberg Medical Center Department of Surgery.

- Marc Allen Granson, M.D., has been granted privileges by the Board of Trustees. A graduate of Temple University School of Medicine, he served a residency in general surgery at Los Angeles County Southern California Medical Center. He was also granted a fellowship in vascular surgery by the University of Pennsylvania. 

People in the News People in the News People in the News


Hospital Board elects new Trustees

The Chairman of the Board of Service Tire Truck Center and the Vice President and General Manager of the Coca-Cola Bottling Company of the Lehigh Valley have been elected to the hospital's Board of Trustees.

Walter Dealtrey, of Service Tire Truck Center, and Richard Strain, of Coca-Cola Bottling Co., were named to three-year terms at the annual meeting in October. Long-time businessmen in the area, their community involvements are many and varied.

Mr. Dealtrey is President of the Bethlehem Economic Development Corporation, Vice President of the Lehigh Valley Industrial Park and a member of the Board of Directors at First Valley Bank. He is also active at the First Presbyterian Church in Bethlehem where he is an Elder.

He is past Chairman of the Board of Lehigh Valley Blue Cross and past President of the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce and the Bethlehem Jaycees. Mr. Dealtrey was active in city government when he served on the City Council of Bethlehem from 1968 to 1972.

Richard Strain currently serves as President of the Rotary Club of Bethlehem. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Lehigh Valley Industrial Park and District Chairman of the South Mountain District Boy Scouts of America. He is also active in the Pennsylvania Soft Drink Association, serving as the Association's treasurer. 



Walter Dealtrey



Richard Strain

New Medical Records Director appointed

Ask Frances Champion, the new Director of Medical Records at Muhlenberg Medical Center, about the role of medical records and specifically her department, and she'll talk for ages. That's how enthusiastic she is.

"Medical Records is not a little department in the dark and out of the way. It's right in the 'fold' of hospital business and future direction. Medical Records holds vital information . . . and has enormous responsibilities in assuring the accuracy and timeliness of that information."


Ask Fran how she got into the field, and she'll answer, "Accidentally." She was hired by the University of Chicago Hospitals and Clinics and placed in the medical records area. Steadily promoted, she became chief record analyst and, during the years she was there, gained certification as accredited record technician.

Her career milestones from then on indicate steady determination to gain greater knowledge and expertise: Assistant Director of the Medical Record Department at St. Francis Hospital in Evanston, Illinois and instructor in an Illinois community college's medical record technology program. In the intervening years, she completed work on a bachelor of science degree in Medical Record Administration and certified as a Registered Record Administrator while working as transcriptionist and medical record analyst at University of Illinois Hospital.



Before coming to Muhlenberg Medical Center Fran managed the Medical Record Department of Danbury Hospital, a 445-bed facility in Connecticut.

Ask Fran if there is another element in her life to which she devotes such energy, and she'll reply, "My family." She and her husband have a daughter Susan, 15 years old, and a son Andrew, 6 years old. They are also expecting a child at the end of January.


In the meantime, she's enjoying what she calls the "comfortable size" of Muhlenberg Medical Center—"It's good to know so many people in other departments. Each department is becoming more and more reliant on other departments to adequately perform their own functions, so good communication among all of us is vital." 

Holly Fair always a success

What consumes 121 pounds of turkey barbecue, over 63 pounds of chicken salad, 75 pounds of potatoes, 68 pies, 8 cakes and several gallons of pudding?

The answer (of course) is the throngs of people who attended the Holly Fair in November.

For 21 years, the Catasauqua-Northampton-Whitehall Area of the Auxiliary has produced the Holly Fair, a pre-holiday attraction noted for good food, home-baked items, a Country Store, Attic Treasures, handmade crafts and, of course, Christmas items. St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Catasauqua has been the home of the Fair for the past 20 years.

The hard work leading up to and on the day of the Holly Fair reaps benefits for Muhlenberg Medical Center. Last year's proceeds totaled \$6,000 which was generously donated to the hospital. The final tally is not yet in on this year's event, but the ladies are optimistic of meeting their goal. 

Awareness makes for safe holiday

Holiday time brings to mind visions of bright, shiny objects covering trees and adorning doors and windows, parties with food and drink, and wide-eyed children. . . . A time of fragrant branches, sweet smelling candles and a crackling fire in the hearth.

The combination of children in a state of frenzied excitement along with busy, hurried parents may change a normally safe home into a prime site for childhood poisoning. There are more things for children to investigate. So, while enjoying the holidays, please be aware of potential hazards.

"Pretty Poisons"

The bright foliage of holiday plants can present a considerable poison hazard for children left unattended during the excitement of holiday activities. Fortunately, the Poinsettia plant has been given a "clean bill of health."

The **Jerusalem Cherry** with its bright orange berries is a popular Christmas plant. All parts are toxic.

The **Mistletoe** is popular because of the custom of kissing beneath its branches. However, ingestion of any part of the plant requires treatment.

The bright red berries of the **Holly** plant contain ilicin and may produce poisoning. The onset of symptoms is rapid and requires treatment.

The leaves and twigs of the **Boxwood** plant are toxic.

Alcohol

Alcohol, in a number of forms, is especially prevalent at holiday time. Found in liquor, beer and wines, alcohol is more likely to be left within a child's reach at this time of the year. Perfumes, colognes and after-shave lotions are popular gift items, and are also a prime source of alcohol ingestion for children.

Ingestion of even moderate amounts of alcohol by a child is potentially serious. Alcohol used in cooking or baking is not a problem to children. Due to its volatile nature, it is largely vaporized when subjected to heat, leaving the flavor with the food.

Decorations

Angel hair consists of spun glass and may cause injury to the eyes, skin and gastrointestinal tract.

All aerosol sprays, including snow spray and evergreen scents, can be harmful due to inhalation of the propellant.

As with all holiday decorations, including tree ornaments, lights and candles, use, display and store them with reasonable, sensible care.


Toys

Parents and others concerned with toy safety may contact the Consumer Product Safety Commission. A toll free number is provided:

1-800-638-2772

If you have questions about any holiday product or plant, or about any substance you feel might be harmful, don't hesitate to call the Poison Center at **(215) 433-2311**. This is a 24-hour hot line.

A safe holiday is surely a happier holiday.

This message has been brought to you from the Lehigh Valley Poison Center and Muhlenberg Medical Center's Emergency Room. Muhlenberg Medical Center is a member treatment hospital. 



We light the candle of fellowship this holiday season. The experiences of unity are more compelling than fears and prejudices which divide.

*We light the candle of hope this holiday season
... Hope is the mood of the season.*

Though the world outside be chill, may the world within us resound with gleeful songs, and our hearts be warm with hope and love,

And may many an evening's merriment, beside the hearthstone's cheerful glow, make sweet the passing of time.

We light candles of fellowship and hope this season to burn all year long.

*Wishing you and those you love,
the hopes of a joyous New Year.*



PULSE

is published every other month by

Muhlenberg Medical Center
Bethlehem, PA 18017

Editor: **Karla Morales**
Director of Public Relations

We are thankful to the volunteers
who contributed their time
in preparing PULSE for mailing.

Address Correction Requested

MUHLENBERG MEDICAL CENTER
Schoenersville Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID
BETHLEHEM, PA
Permit No. 375