

# WK MEDICAL UPDATE

WILLIS-KNIGHTON MEDICAL CENTER

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## *South Park Hospital*

### HSA project review committee approves proposal

Members of a North Louisiana Health Systems Agency project review committee have approved Willis-Knighton Medical Center's proposal to build South Park Hospital, a 66-bed satellite facility to be located on Flournoy-Lucas Road.

After no oral opposition, a motion was unanimously approved to refer the proposal to the HSA Governing Board which was scheduled to meet July 24.

In a presentation to the committee, Willis-Knighton President James K. Elrod told committee members that the medical center has considered building a satellite hospital since 1966 but wanted to wait until the project would be feasible.

"We wish to emphasize this is not a spur of the moment project," Elrod said. "We've been almost 15 years in the planning stages."

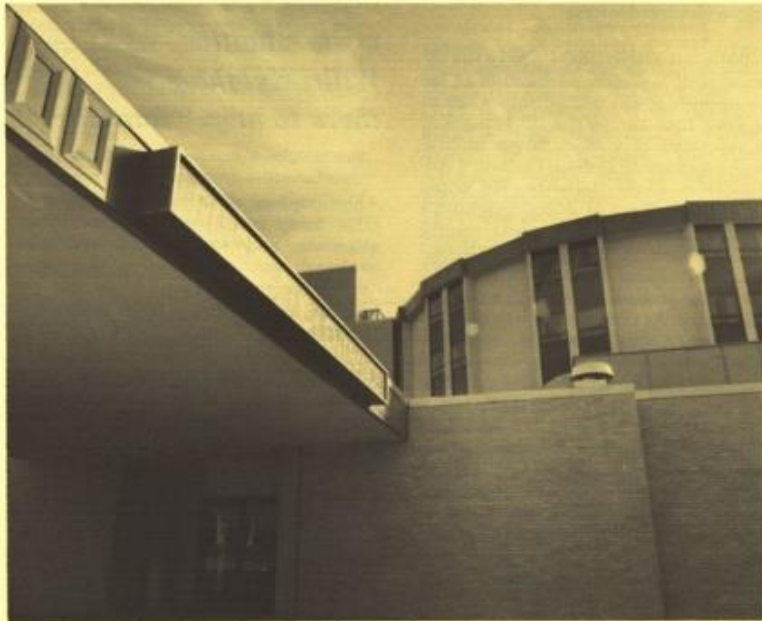
He also noted that the satellite hospital would provide accessibility for medical care to residents of Summer Grove, Southern Hills and the Keithville area affecting some 46,000 residents.

Due to the satellite status of South Park, it would be a cost effective venture as many hospital services and sophisticated equipment could be shared, Elrod said. He added that the satellite hospital would provide significant savings compared to a free standing hospital which does not share services.

Various medical center personnel and professional staff members were present

at the meeting to support this proposal. Physicians speaking out in favor of the project included chief-of-staff Ellis O. Cooper, M.D. and Andrew Jobe, M.D.

who practices in South Shreveport Medical Plaza adjacent to the site selected for construction of the proposed facility.



Expanded to accommodate 3000 patients per month, Willis-Knighton Medical Center's new Emergency Department can now accommodate up to 28 patients at one time. A part of Willis-Knighton's recent \$14 million dollar west expansion, the Emergency Department provides 24-hour emergency care and 24-hour physician care. Medical Update spotlights this department on pages 3 and 4.

## *WK president explains satellite concept*

Although the satellite concept is not a new one in health care in America, Willis-Knighton will mark a first in this region with the construction of South Park Hospital. This planned facility will operate as a subsidiary of Willis-Knighton Medical Center and will utilize shared services to the fullest for maximum cost effectiveness, according to Willis-Knighton President James K. Elrod.

"In view of cost-containment measures, the satellite concept is the preferable approach for effective health care delivery to south Shreveport as a sa-

tellite hospital does not duplicate the specialized services of the parent facility," Elrod said. However, he noted that it does share many of the services, expensive equipment and personnel of the primary facility which in turn reduces the costs passed on to the patient.

Through the advisory role of administrative staff of the parent facility, fewer highly paid management positions will be necessary at the satellite hospital. In addition, rotation of personnel between both institutions will minimize costly overages or employee shortages at either facility. Similarly, a

single medical staff organization will serve both institutions since WKMC's medical staff represents all major medical specialities. Also, greater medical coverage will be afforded the satellite facility and effective utilization of the time of the physicians through joint committee meetings is possible. Another plus is that the greater volume purchasing power of a cooperative agreement between the hospital will allow supplies to be acquired at reduced costs which in turn reduces the costs of operation for both facilities.

*(con't on page 5)*

## Radiology

Temporo-mandibular joint arthrograms, a relatively new procedure in this area, are being done in Willis-Knighton's Radiology Department by Paul Clark, D.D.S. and Bob Dean Gross, D.D.S.

Noting that this diagnostic procedure is similar to other joint arthrograms, Dr. Clark said it consists of placing a needle in the joint space and injecting radiopaque material under fluoroscopy. "This allows us to follow movement of the meniscus," he added.

According to Dr. Clark, this procedure is used for the evaluation of joints where there is loud clicking or popping associated with joint pain and also as a part of a work-up for chronic headaches. "The most valuable part of this procedure is that it documents the position of a displaced temporo-mandibular joint meniscus," he said.

# UPDATE

## Community Relations

With this issue of *Medical Update* marking the one-year anniversary of publication, the Community Relations Department would like to thank the Continuing Education Committee for their supervision and members of the Professional Staff for their cooperation in helping put together editorial content for *Update*. We hope you will continue to let us know what you like (or dislike) about the publication and welcome input from any of our readers.

If you have questions, comments or suggestions concerning editorial content or would like to note a change of address, please call the Community Relations Department at 227-4687 or 227-4727.

## Laboratory

Gamma glutamyl transferase (GGT) is an enzyme which is found in numerous organs (renal tubules, pancreas, and intestines) but is clinically most relevant in liver diseases. Increases in serum GGT is most indicative of obstructive liver disease (cholangitis, cholestasis, extrahepatic obstruction, hepatic metastasis, etc). One of the most consistent causes of elevated GGT is alcohol ingestion, which almost uniformly elevates GGT. Some elevation of GGT is noted in 90% of patients with Laennec's cirrhosis. Pancreatic diseases can cause elevated GGT from bile obstruction (pancreatic carcinoma) or from primary pancreatic disease (pancreatitis). Kidneys contain the highest concentration of GGT, yet renal diseases do not cause elevated serum GGT's. One excellent use of GGT is to ascertain if an elevated alkaline phosphatase is due to liver disease or other causes. Common situations which give an elevated alkaline phosphatase, but a normal GGT, are pregnancy, childhood and adolescence, hyperthyroidism and bone diseases.

## Newcomer welcomed



### Rajendra T. Gandhi, M.D.

Rajendra T. Gandhi, M.D., internal medicine recently joined the professional staff at Willis-Knighton Medical Center and will maintain offices in Suite D of Willis-Knighton Clinic.

A native of Bombay, India, Dr. Gandhi, began his residency training in Bombay and completed an internal medicine residency at Tulane University in New Orleans. He received his M.B.B.S. degree at Lokmanaya Tilak Municipal Medical College and completed his undergraduate work at the University of Bombay.

Prior to entering the residency program at Tulane, he was an emergency room physician at Lallie Kemp Charity Hospital in Independence, La.

Certified in both basic and advanced Cardiac Life Support, Dr. Gandhi is a member of LSMS, SMS, Southern Medical Association and an associate of the American College of Physicians.

Dr. Gandhi and his wife Vibha will reside in Shreveport.

## Satellite Concept

(con't from page 1)

Already experienced in the affiliate system, Willis-Knighton presently maintains a management contract with DeSoto General Hospital in Mansfield. "The strategic location of South Park Hospital will allow for the expansion of the present affiliate by increasing the combined purchasing power, therefore allowing procurement of supplies at an even further reduction in cost," Elrod said. In addition, he noted that standardization of supply items at the three institutions will allow for centralized, shared warehousing of materials.

"The key to the satellite operation of South Park Hospital will be the computerized hospital information system for Willis-Knighton Medical Center scheduled for completion in early 1981," Elrod said. He added that centralized computer applications for both facilities will include inventory control, equipment and service requisition, patient admissions, patient billings, revenue ac-

counting, accounts receivable, personnel and training, equipment preventive maintenance and medical records.

One of the cost-saving advantages of the satellite status of South Park will be the sharing of personnel resources and administrative resources. Examples of service areas that will share individuals between institutions are personnel, education, dietary, maintenance, engineering, physical therapy, respiratory therapy, community relations, medical records, bio-medical engineering, pharmacy, laboratory, radiology and nursing services. Also, medical specialists such as radiologists, pathologists and anesthesiologists will provide services to South Park as well as Willis-Knighton. Numerous medical services such as home care, renal dialysis, cardiology, obstetrics and neonatal intensive care will not be offered by South Park because to do so would unnecessarily duplicate the services available at the parent facility.

Still other advantages of the satellite system include providing a local entity with which the neighborhood can identify while at the same time providing shared volume and central administrative expertise.

"Although multi-units systems are not a panacea, they are an effective alternative to meeting the growing health care demands by providing economy, quality, accessibility and strength," Elrod said.