DIALYSIS TRAINING INSTRUCTOR TRAINING PROGRAM

The University of Utah, Division of Artificial Organs, Institute for Biomedical Engineering (Director, W. J. Kolff, M.D., PhD.) announces a one year training program for "Dialysis Training Instructors".

The objective is to prepare paramedical personnel to actively participate in the teaching of patients for home hemodialysis. It is sponsored by the Division of Allied Health Manpower, D.H.E.W. No tuition will be charged. There is no stipend or per diem.

Perhaps the extent of this involvement became obvious as I was writing this paper in the late spring: I began to dream I was dreaming about work! A paper published recently in the American Journal of Nursing described several dreams experienced by hemodialysis staff and patients. In her summary, the author said, "Perhaps the frequent and repeated exposure to a life and death procedure and the close interaction of a relatively small number of persons give cause for a high level of anxiety . . . .

The effect of the dreams varies from a great feeling of relief that it was only a dream, to a small gnawing fear that in some way some part of the dream just might come true." (13)

One of our nurses has summed up our attitude nicely in the closing paragraph of her questionnaire:

"I enjoy working in hemodialysis. The atmosphere is pleasant and relaxed, the hours are great, and the personnel are congenial and interesting. The work has challenge. It certainly gives me a feeling of accomplishment knowing I have been of help to these people in gaining an extra chance of living a fairly normal and productive life. When I see (some of our patients, such as the above mentioned doctor) walking around so healthy and happy to be alive, I am filled with a great sense of accomplishment and fulfillment and satisfaction in my work, and I thank God for the opportunity and privilege of working with other nurses and doctors to accomplish this end."

REFERENCES

1. Shakespeare, William, Hamlet, Act III, Scene 1
3. Quotations from the questionnaires are used ad lib., and without acknowledgement of individual respondents. Signatures were not required, and each reply was considered anonymous.
5. Dennis, L. B., PSYCHOLOGY OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR FOR NURSES, 2ND EDITION, W. B. Saunders Co., 1966, p. 197
8. Saunders, op. cit., p. 57
10. See, for example, ON DEATH AND DYING, New York, Macmillan Co., 1969
12. Research project under study at the Ottawa Civic Hospital, Department of Nephrology, to be published.

Minimum requirements are: graduation from high school, with courses in chemistry, physics, and biology. Additional education, or experience in hospital or laboratory work will be considered strong assets. A prime consideration will be evidence of maturity and stability.

Upon completion of the course, personnel should have an adequate background knowledge of normal and abnormal renal physiology, fluid and electrolyte balance, dialysis theory and application, and problems peculiar to maintenance dialysis patients. They will be thoroughly familiar with various types of dialysis equipment, its operation and maintenance.

It is anticipated that these individuals will be capable of acting as instructors for patients in home dialysis training programs, working closely with the supervisory nurses and physicians.

Upon satisfactory completion of the training course, appropriate certification will be issued. First enrollment date: September 1, 1971.

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