

DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF OHIO

AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THE COMMUNITY

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Overview

In December, 1964, the Toledo State College of Medicine, on the advice of the Ohio Board of Regents, was established by the legislature as an independent institution. The name was changed to The Medical College of Ohio at Toledo in December, 1967. Situated in Northwestern Ohio, the college is within close proximity to two developing state universities, The University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University. It is also relatively accessible to a number of small colleges of varying size, objectives, and stages of growth.

Because the college was established as an independent state college, the president, Dr. Glidden L. Brooks, saw an unique opportunity to establish effective academic interrelationships with the neighboring universities, both with different characteristics, philosophies, and operational elements.<sup>1</sup> The new medical college, unrestricted by preexisting patterns, therefore, has developed a philosophy of "giving to and taking from the university." A few examples of this type of interrelationship can be noted:

1. The graduate school faculties of all three universities are cooperating to establish pre-doctoral and doctoral programs in Medicine-related sciences.
2. A baccalaureate program in Nursing (the first in Northwestern Ohio) is anticipated for the fall of 1971.

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<sup>1</sup> Brooks, Glidden L., M.D. "A New Independent Medical College Seeks the University." Trends in Medical Schools, ed. Hans Popper, (New York: Grune & Stratton, 1967), pp. 29-33.

Students will be able to enroll in either The University of Toledo or Bowling Green where the general education portion of the curriculum will be offered. The nursing courses (including clinical laboratory experiences) will be at the medical college under the direction of Dr. Ruth Kelly, Dean of Nursing. This consortium arrangement will be an innovative approach to nursing education.

3. The college is cooperating with the area community and/or technical colleges by offering leadership in establishing associate degree programs in the health professions within the framework of technical education. The Dean for Health Technologies, Mrs. Elsa Brown, is available for consultation to all developing programs in Northwestern Ohio.
4. At the present time, the administration is in the "thinking-planning" phase of the role that the medical college should play in regard to Dentistry.

This review of progress and programs indicates the college's determination to provide innovative and challenging approaches to health science education by utilizing the existing system of higher education in Northwestern Ohio. It has been the posture of the administration since the beginning that the college could move faster from its position of independence and equality, than if the medical college would have instead become a part of a university.

#### Facilities

The college is at present housed in The William Roche Memorial Hospital, a former tuberculosis hospital. The Maumee Valley Hospital complex,

consisting of a general hospital, an extended care unit, an outpatient clinic building, and a home for the aged, will serve as the college's major teaching center. This complex will be leased for twenty years from Lucas County, after which time the buildings will belong to the College. It is anticipated that necessary arrangements will be completed between county and state, so that appropriate renovations and changes will be underway by January, 1971. In addition, combined residency programs have been developed with other general hospitals in Toledo as well as with The Toledo State Hospital for mental patients. These associated hospitals will be used to a limited extent for undergraduate medical education. The College is looking forward to its permanent campus designed to provide a comprehensive medical center for Northwestern Ohio. Ground was broken for the first building, a health science facility, in September, 1970, just four years after President Brooks arrived to take the first steps toward development of a medical college.

#### Curriculum, Students, and Faculty

In 1968, Dr. Robert G. Page moved to Toledo to join with others in developing the college. One of his first tasks was the development of a curriculum.<sup>2</sup> A three-year curriculum has been designed which is flexible enough to allow students to complete it in four years if they are unable to maintain a rather rapid academic pace. The curriculum consists of an introductory phase of cell biology, human biology and physical diagnosis and community medicine studies. Following this,

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<sup>2</sup> Page, Robert G., M. D. "The Three-Year Medical Curriculum," Journal of the American Medical Association, August 10, 1970, pp. 1012-1015.

the studies involve the various organ systems running for about sixty weeks. Finally, the third year consists of intense clinical experience. The innovations include early patient contact (the second day of medical school) and emphasis in the community studies on the social and environmental aspects of medicine. The community is used as a laboratory in which various experiences help the students develop an awareness of needs of people who will someday be their patients.

Thirty-two students were admitted in September, 1969, selected from about 400 applications. The same number were admitted in September, 1970, selected from over a thousand applications. A gradual increase in enrollment is planned as more classroom and laboratory space becomes available.

The faculty has been recruited from all over the United States, Canada, and a few other foreign countries. Volunteer faculty have been appointed from among the practicing physicians in Toledo. As of August 25, 1970, there was a total of seventy-one (71) full-time faculty and twenty-three (23) adjunct appointments from the neighborhood universities.

The College has been fortunate to be located in Toledo, where a model city project has been developing simultaneously with the college. The Medical College was asked to become the fiscal agent to help with planning for an interim neighborhood health center. After a year of planning, the center is ready to open its doors in November to serve as a focal point for health services for the community. It is designed to be the keystone of a permanent structure or center. The College and the health functional committee are looking forward to a second action year

where a complete community health system can be designed so that the neighborhood health center can be tied into the total plan. A pre-paid group insurance plan is being explored by the residents with guidelines and leadership from the project director, Dr. Robert Walden, an associate professor of psychiatry and social medicine, assigned to the project by the College. The interim center plans to offer direct patient care by two teams of health and social service personnel, and to coordinate related health services so that residents will begin to feel some continuity of care.

Other Medical College community involvements include a rather extensive continuing education program in cooperation with The Academy of Medicine of Toledo and Lucas County and the Regional Medical Program, a school for emotionally disturbed children, an adolescent unwed mothers medical and educational program in cooperation with Child and Family Service of Toledo, and participation in The Toledo Area Program on Drug Abuse.

#### Summary

This stated goal of the Medical College of Ohio at Toledo expresses its general philosophy:

"To become the epicenter of scholarly medicine (teaching and research) and progressive medical leadership in Northwestern Ohio."