

INTRODUCTION

Since the awakening of the public and the medical educational establishment to the growing deficit of appropriately trained physicians to deliver primary care in the community, attention is now turned to the provision of educational programs appropriate for such physicians at the graduate and continuing education levels.

In the past, the inability to measure outcomes of patient care systems (that is, to use the scientific method in community settings) has hampered the union of the educational system with that of patient care. Many studies now are showing that outcomes are profoundly affected by communication and compliance between physician and patient. A partnership of the expertise of the medical center with the laboratory of the practice in the community equipped to measure the process of delivery, as well as outcomes, appears essential.

Such practices are now available within the MCV-VCU Family Practice residency training system, and the 1975 Stoneburner Lectures were dedicated to bringing together consultant faculty from the medical center and the community as well as faculty from the family practice centers. High-volume problems seen by primary care physicians were discussed, and the latest scientific information concerning such problems as hypertension, asthma, sprains and strains was related to the realities of patient care in community settings.

Programs such as the Stoneburner Lectures represent only a milestone in the ongoing marriage of education and patient care. Projects linking tertiary and secondary care to primary care systems will allow the natural history of early disease to be studied and preventive measures to be evaluated.

My thanks to our faculty from all levels who participated in these lectures and to the staff of the *MCV Quarterly*.

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