

# L.I. School to Teach '21st Century' Medicine

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STONY BROOK, L. I., Aug. 9 — A new public medical school that promises a revolutionary approach to teaching—the first to be started from scratch in New York State — welcomed its first class of 24 students today.

What will eventually be a \$250-million complex known as the State University of New York at Stony Brook Health Sciences Center was today just a framework of steel girders.

But Dr. Edmund F. Pellegrino, the school's vice president for health sciences, promised his first students a "medical education for the 21st century."

## New Approaches Planned

Among the new approaches Dr. Pellegrino and his initial faculty of 65 professors are planning are the following:

¶—A compression of the traditional 12 years of training (from college through post-graduate work) to nine years.

¶—Involvement of students with patients from the first week when students will begin work in local cooperating hospitals.

¶—Elimination of large areas of the traditional medical curriculum and encouragement of specialization at the start of the third year of medical school.

¶—A coordinated study of the humanities and social sciences, with professors in these areas as members of the health sciences faculty.

## Deans Introduced

As the entering class relaxed in easy chairs scattered about the still bare Health Sciences Library this morning, Dr. Pellegrino introduced the deans and part of the faculty. He told the students that "we want to tackle old problems of the medical profession in new ways."

"Medicine," he said, "deals with much more than just treating people, it means treating the entire community."

The students in the medical school will be part of a six-school complex that is intended to become what Dr. Pellegrino described as "the largest of its type in the world."

Five of the six schools—nursing, allied health professions, basic health sciences, social welfare and the medical school—are already functioning in temporary buildings on Stony Brook's south campus. The school of dentistry is planned for 1973.

The first stage of the new physical plant for the complex will include lecture halls, administrative offices, laboratories and part of a hospital. That stage is planned for completion by 1973. The hospital, which will be completed by 1976, will eventually contain 400 beds.

The establishment of the school has not come without controversy. The Muir Commission, a study group established by Governor Rockefeller in the early sixties to



Prof. Madeline Fusco and Prof. Maynard M. Dewey, chairman of the anatomy department, prepare anatomy laboratory for opening day of the new medical school at the State University at Stony Brook, L.I. Students assist, far right.

assess the needs of medical education in New York State, recommended that a new school with new ways be established.

Two sites were proposed. The first was Stony Brook. The second was Meadowbrook Hospital in Nassau County, where a large medical center already exists.

High officials in the medical schools said that they preferred the Meadowbrook site—that "the future of medical education lies where the patients are."

Instead, it was finally decided that putting the school where a university facility existed in an established "academic atmosphere" was more desirable. As a result, a hospital will be built at Stony Brook.

"It was a very thin line we had been walking on the hospital," said Dr. Peter Rogatz, the hospital director. "We don't want to compete with any existing hospital in the community, yet we don't want to accept simply patients who will be good teaching examples."

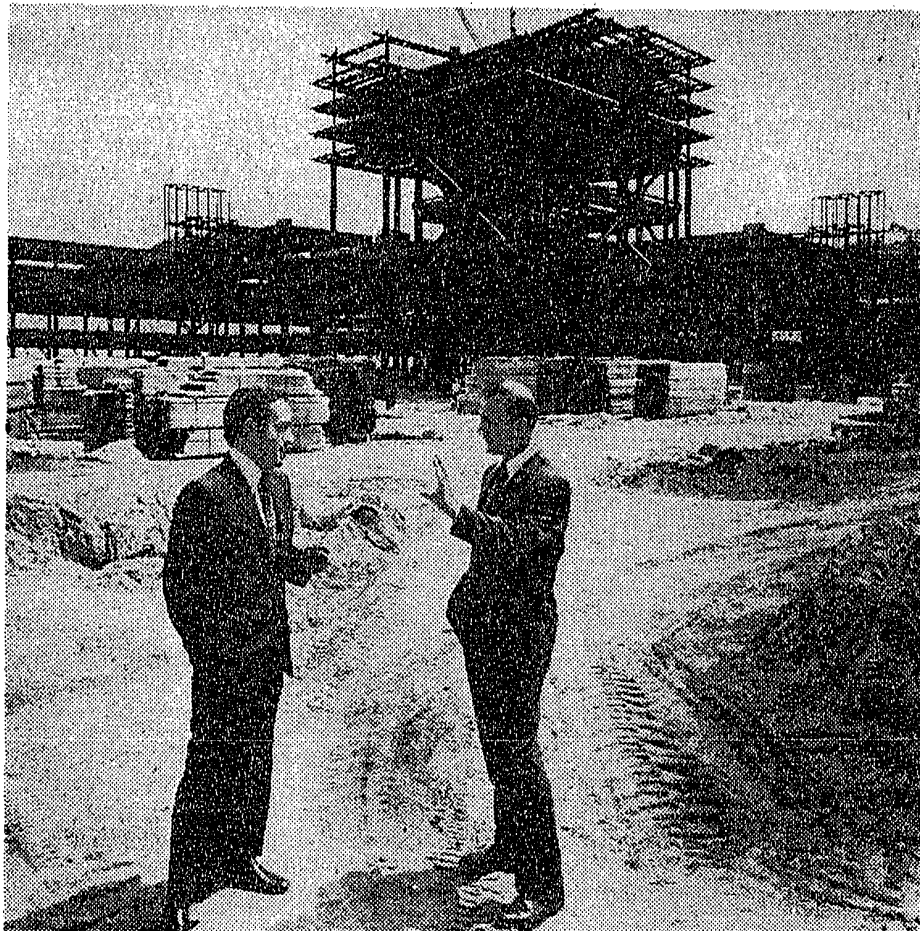
Dr. Rogatz was referring to the fears of local hospital administrators that the university hospital would simply siphon off "interesting and unusual cases" from area hospitals, while failing to relieve the overcrowding that plagues many facilities on Long Island.

## To Relieve Overcrowding

"We can't help but relieve the overcrowding," Dr. Rogatz said, "simply by having an additional 400 beds and by accepting long-term cases, thereby freeing beds in local facilities."

Originally, a second hospital unit, a Veterans Administration hospital, was also planned for the campus. But Federal officials decided that the existing Northport Veterans Hospital was sufficient to handle the patient-care load.

The Stony Brook medical



Dr. Peter Rogatz, left, the hospital director, and Dr. Edmund F. Pellegrino, school's vice president for health sciences, stand at site of new medical center and hospital.

center will be affiliated with the Northport facility as well as with Meadowbrook, Long Island Jewish-Queens Hospital Center, and Brookhaven National Laboratories Hospitals.

School officials have already mapped out the first-year curriculum in detail for the entering class and sketched out the programs for the remaining years.

The entering class of 24 was chosen from more than 2,800 applicants and includes

the holder of a Ph.D. degree in sociology, an English midwife and a former priest.

Eventually, 3,500 students will be enrolled in the various schools of health sciences center. There will be a total of 600 full-time faculty members.

After the opening session, the students gathered in the library and compared notes. Anne Hunter, a 26-year-old Pembroke College graduate who spent the last five years doing research in electron

microscopy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said she decided to attend the medical school because, "I wanted more contact with people than you get in a laboratory."

"It's difficult to do anything new when you're a woman and when you're over 25 years old," she continued. "but Stony Brook accepted me and I think it should be a wonderful experience."

Mrs. Mary Shipman, 35, who introduced herself to fellow students as having "the dubious distinction of being the oldest student in the class," said that she was "looking forward to beginning a new career despite the fact that I have a husband and two children."

After an initial two days of orientation this week, the school's first class will be dispatched to local medical facilities throughout Long Island for three weeks of field work, interviewing patients and observing "the flow of the sick through the medical care system." Formal classroom instruction will begin the first week of September.

During their first two years of instruction, students will spend five months in direct patient contact. In a traditional medical education program, the student does not have such contact until his third or fourth year.

## Seek New Approach

The traditional 600 hours of anatomy instruction will be compressed to a bare minimum. Gone will be the "head to toe dissection of the human body." That will be replaced with "some core instruction" in anatomy and a return to the anatomy of specific areas of the body when the student decides on his specialty.

"Most students never remember what they learned in these basic courses after they've been practicing for years," Dr. Pellegrino said. "You can't devise a medical education system for the 'what if' functions."

"Students are looking for a new approach to medical education — for relevancy," he said. "The graduates of this school will reach the apex of their career in the 21st century. That's what we are looking toward."

At that time, Dr. Pellegrino forecasts, physicians will become increasingly a part of a team and more specialized in their knowledge.

He foresees the eventual abandonment of the internship. The university hospital itself will provide no internship year. Instead, it will compress the four-year post-graduate term to three years of residency.