Containing medical care costs

Columnist George Will opens conference with lecture Feb. 16

The sharply rising cost of medical care is raising many difficult questions for both individuals and society. Participants in a conference to be held on campus Feb. 16-18 will address these urgent questions and the practical, political and moral issues involved in them.

Titled “Cost Containment and the Quality of Care,” the conference will open at 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, in Graham Chapel with an address by George Will, Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist and a frequent speaker on health care issues.

His lecture, which is free and open to the public, is part of the Assembly Series. The lecture is titled “Public Affairs, Public Policy and American Society.” University staff, faculty and students will be given seating preference at this lecture. There will be limited seating for others.

The conference is sponsored by the Department of Philosophy, the John M. Olin School of Business and the School of Medicine. The registration fee is $30.

The conference will draw together academics, health care professionals and corporate program administrators interested in resource allocation. The conference is structured to encourage discussion and debate.

“Many of our most painful political and moral problems arise from the very success of medicine in modern society, for example the prolonging of human life,” says Carl P. Graham, professor emeritus of the philosophy department at 889-6670.

“Is it true that an affluent society such as ours can no longer afford the medical care the elderly so desperately need?” asks Wellman. “Would limits on Medicare benefits, as some have suggested, be discrimination? Would any denial of legal entitlements to medical care be a violation of the most fundamental human right to necessary medical care?”

Jumps in the cost of medical care have far outpaced increases in the cost of living. Experts attribute this discrepancy to several factors, including rising expectations for good health, increased ability to prolong life, expensive new drugs, equipment and treatments, and the labor-intensive nature of the business of medicine.

Among the practical and urgent issues to be addressed at the conference are: 1) the role that private insurance companies have acquired by refusing to cover the most expensive medical treatments; 2) the conflict of interest between employers intent on less expensive health insurance and employees insisting on better medical care; and 3) the federal government’s control of what doctors charge by limiting reimbursements.

Besides Will, others presenting key lectures include Baruch A. Brody, director of the Center for Ethics, Medicine and Public Issues at Baylor College of Medicine, who is internationally known in the emerging field of biomedical ethics; Allen Bochman, an authority in the field of social and political philosophy who served as staff philosopher for a presidential commission on biomedical ethics; Daniel Callahan, author of the controversial book Setting Limits and director of the Hastings Center, a research and educational institute concerned with issues of medicine, biology and the professions; and Mark Pauly, a nationally recognized authority on the economics of medical care and medical insurance.

Discussion from the floor will follow the lectures and panel discussions.

Keynote speaker Will won the Pulitzer Prize for commentary in 1977. His column, syndicated by the Washington Post since 1974, appears in more than 460 newspapers. Will also has been a regular contributing editor to Newsweek magazine since 1977, providing the back page essay twice a week.


Peck’s leadership in diagnosing and dealing with osteoporosis are widely recognized. He has been president of the National Osteoporosis Foundation since 1985, a past president (1983-84) of the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research, and has been editor of the Bone and Mineral Research Annals since 1981.

In 1987 the National Institute on Aging presented Peck a $5 million grant to head a five-year study on the causes and prevention of hip fractures in the elderly. Eighty percent of all hip fractures are related to osteoporosis, because the disease causes bones to lose density and therefore are more likely to break. The grant was the largest ever in the field of hip fracture research.

Peck is the author of more than 100 papers in medical and scientific journals.
Japanese puppetry comes to life when Tears of Joy takes stage

Edison Theatre will present the Tears of Joy Puppet Theatre at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18. The performance is part of Edison's "ovational for young people series."

Tears of Joy, which was founded in 1971, is recognized as one of the nation's finest puppet theatres. The troupe uses an adaptation of an 18th-century Japanese form of puppetry called "banraku." In banraku, each character is manipulated by three puppeteers who are dressed in black and appear on stage with the large rod puppets.

The troupe has had two major performance tours to Japan and will perform in the Singapore Arts Festival and appear on stage with the large rod puppets.

"Baba Yaga," a story set in ancient Russia, will be performed at 1 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 23, at the Little Theatre of the Deaf. The performance is sponsored by the University's George Warren Brown School of Social Work.

"Tears of Joy" is a division of the National Endowment for the Arts. The troupe is based in New York City.

Child Welfare League director to lecture

The executive director of the Child Welfare League of America, Washington, D.C., will discuss his organization's proposals for improving the quality of life for children. These proposals were recently submitted to President Bush and the Congress.

David S. Liederman will give a lecture titled "The First Hundred Days: A Children's Initiative" at 1:10 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, in Brown Hall lounge. The lecture is sponsored by the University's George Warren Brown School of Social Work.

The talk, which is free and open to the public, is part of the social work school's spring lecture series.

"The First Hundred Days: A Children's Initiative" is the title of a document that the child welfare league recently presented to the president and Congress. The document offers programs and services for abused and neglected children that the league would like the new administration to act on. The "first hundred days" refers to the common practice of presenting issues in the early days of a new administration, with the intention of making them priorities.

Included in the document is a child care bill, titled ACR (Action for Better Child Care). "The document is our instructions to President Bush and the Congress to do the kinds of things we think will make a real difference in children's lives," says Liederman. "It's a list of what we ought to be doing to improve the quality of life for our children."

Among the area's of concern are health care, child care, housing and nutrition.

In his lecture at the social work school, Liederman says he will explain why his organization believes that "children should be a priority and why we believe that what others have said, there are resources available to solve some of these problems. We don't believe it when people say we can't do anything because we have been told that by the Congress.

Liederman, a former chief of staff for Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis, served two terms in the Massachusetts State Office for Children, the only legislatively created state agency in the United States set up to coordinate and regulate children's services.

As chief executive officer of the Child Welfare League, Liederman heads the oldest, and what is considered the most important, voluntary organization in North America concerned with developing and improving services to abused, neglected and delinquent children and their families.

Liederman was appointed the first director of the Massachusetts State Office for Children, and he joined the United States set up to coordinate and regulate children's services.

For more information on Tears of Joy, call 889-6600.
Johnston, Colgate) are the editors of a volume of more than 1,000 pages on 'Elena Malvezzi's Keyboard Manuscripts: A New Sixteenth-century Source on the making, the opera deals with the love entanglements and intrigue among four families in representing one of the classical temperaments. Blumenfeld’s 1979 one-acter, “Fritzi,” one of the classical temperaments.

Surgeon general’s report on smoking includes chapter co-authored by Fisher

Nationally known smoking behavior expert Edwin B. Fisher, Ph.D., co-authored a chapter of the Surgeon General’s Report on the health risks of cigarette smoking. Fisher is an associate professor of psychology and director of the Center for Health Behavior Research at the University of Texas.

The report, released Jan. 11 by Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, marked the 25th anniversary since the federal government first issued warnings about smoking in 1964.

Fisher, who serves as president of the American Lung Association of Eastern Tennessee, emphasizes the report was released in response to recent smoking.

In their chapter, Fisher and his co-authors examined how knowledge about the determinants of smoking has changed over the past 25 years. In 1964, smoking was thought to be a habit, not an addiction, and thought to be mutually exclusive. According to current thinking, Fisher says, smoking is both an addiction and a habit influenced by a number of factors. These range from the addictive nature of nicotine, to the $3 billion spent on cigarette advertising, to the influences of peers.

The chapter cites studies suggesting that teen-agers become more addicted to smoking than was previously believed; that smoking is more prevalent among the poor, minorities, people with emotional problems and others who are “marginalizing in our culture; and that cigarette marketing seems to target teen-agers “despite the cigarette companies’ reported policy efforts to restrict such advertising.”

The report is the first in a series of updates on the health risks of cigarette smoking, including chapter co-authored by Sutherland. The report is the first in a series of updates on the health risks of cigarette smoking.

In 1987, Fisher was awarded the prestigious Clinician-Scientist Award by the American Academy of Neurology for work in the area of research using positron emission tomography (PET) to establish a basis for early diagnosis of diseases. Fisher has been awarded the prestigious Clinician-Scientist Award by the American Heart Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Barry A. Siegel, M.D., professor of radiology and medicine and director of Nuclear Medicine at Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology, received a one-year grant in 1990 from the Edward Mallinckrodt Jr. Foundation for research using positron emission tomography (PET) to establish a basis for early diagnosis of diseases.

In his new role at Washington, Peck will be the first person to serve both as chief resident and medical director of the National Institutes of Health.

Six members of the House of Representatives took key roles in the conference, which was held to formulate legislative and policy recommendations for the new Congress and administration.

William Peck

140 articles, abstracts and other publications, particularly on osseous tumors. In 1988 he co-authored, with Louis V. Avasthi, D.D.S., and Stella H. Shenkerberg Professor of Medicine at the University, The Silent Thief: A book on the national tragedy of osteoporosis. Peck has lectured throughout the nation and the world on osteoporosis, and was an invited speaker in 1987 at a congressional breakfast on how research can prevent this major national health problem.

Peck earned his undergraduate degree cum laude from Harvard in 1955 and received his medical degree with honors from the University of Rochester School of Medicine in 1960. After serving his internship and residency at Barnes Hospital, he was named a fellow in medicine (1962-63) at Washington’s School of Medicine. Then he served with the National Institutes of Health until 1965, when he joined the University of Rochester as a chief resident and medical director.

By 1973 Peck was named a full professor of medicine, he is also the head of the endocrine and metabolism, as well as head of the endocrine unit at Rochester. Three years later he returned to Washington to serve as chief resident and medical director of the new endocrine and metabolism, as well as head of the endocrine unit at Rochester.

Peck is a diplomat of both the National Board of Medical Examiners (1962) and the American Board of Internal Medicine (1968). He is listed in Who's Who in America and Who's Who in the World. In 1984 he was inducted to Clinical Teacher of the Year at the School of Medicine.

A member of numerous professional societies and associations, he is...
LEcTURES

Thursday, Feb. 9
11 a.m. Dept. of Medicine Seminar, "Carbohydrate Malabsorption," Michael Levitt, U. of Arizona. 408 Boelter Hall.
4 p.m. Dept. of Pathology Special Seminar, "Regulation of Hepatic Carbohydrate Malabsorption: Recent Advances in Nucleic Acid and Protein Recognition in Alzheimer's Disease," Demir D. Arslan, chair, Dept. of Neurologic Diseases, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School. 3rd floor Aud., Children's Hospital.

Friday, Feb. 10
3 p.m. Dept. of Cell Biology and Physiology Seminar, "Factors Affecting Neurons in Cultures Derived from Human Embryonic Stem Cells," Jonathan Howard, Conf., Dept. of Cell Biology and Physiology, 4914 S. Bldg.
4 p.m. Assembly Senate Lecture, "Public Affairs, Public Policy and American Society," RWU, syndicated columnist, Graham Chapel. For more info., call 889-5285.
Friday, Feb. 10
Noon: LECTURES.
Noon-1 p.m. Dept. of Cell Biology and Physiology Seminar, "CoA Receptors Capping Occurrence Without Nontargeted Species," Michael F. Horton, Conf., Dept. of Cell Biology and Physiology, 4914 S. Bldg., WU. For more info., call 889-6606.
3 p.m. Dept. of Pathology Special Seminar, "Regulation of Hepatic Carbohydrate Malabsorption: Recent Advances in Nucleic Acid and Protein Recognition in Alzheimer's Disease," Demir D. Arslan, chair, Dept. of Neurologic Diseases, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School. 3rd floor Aud., Children's Hospital.

MISCELLANEOUS

Saturday, Feb. 11
9 a.m. noon University College Transition Cost Containment "Getting to Yes," panel discussion covering interest and negotiating strategies and using professional contacts, and using campus resources. Sponsored by the Career Center and the Student Alumni Relations Committee. Woman's Club Lounge, for more info., call 889-5950.
4:30 p.m. Real World 101 Series, "Let's Do Lunch," panel discussion covering internships, opportunities for part-time and full-time employment, and using professional contacts, and using campus resources. Sponsored by the Career Center and the Student Alumni Relations Committee. Woman's Club Lounge, for more info., call 889-5950.

Tuesday, Feb. 14
6-8 p.m. Student Alumni Relations Committee Short Course, "The Old China Within the New." Four Wednesdays, Feb. 14-21. $60. For info., call 889-6788.

Wednesday, Feb. 15
1-2 a.m. Concordia College Short Course, "The Old China Within the New." Four Wednesdays, Feb. 14-21. $60. For info., call 889-6788.

Thursday, Feb. 16
9 a.m.-2 p.m. Student Alumni Relations Committee Short Course, "The Old China Within the New." Four Wednesdays, Feb. 14-21. $60. For info., call 889-6788.