

provide local health practitioners and hospitals with advanced techniques and facilities necessary for quality health care. Over fifty people are currently serving on the staff of the operational program, including approximately thirty-five physicians, five nurses, five other allied health personnel, and nine general support personnel. About one-fourth of the staff are from community hospitals and the remaining are medical center staff who are working on the community oriented projects discussed below.

Seventeen hospitals are currently participating in the operational projects, representing broad geographic spread throughout the region. Ten of these hospitals are also represented on the Regional Advisory Group.

### Operational Projects

#### 1. *Continuing medical education—Meharry, direct cost—\$44,800*

Meharry Medical College is informing Negro physicians in the region about more effective techniques for treating heart disease, cancer, and stroke. Teams of physicians will teach two-week courses in the three areas at the Medical Center, using various audio-visual aids and, where feasible, programmed instruction. One of this plan's interesting provisions is sending a senior resident from Meharry to care for the physician's practice while he is attending the course.

#### 2. *Continuing education—Vanderbilt, direct cost—\$141,600*

Vanderbilt proposes to establish continuing education centers at community hospitals linked to a proposed Department of Continuing Education at Vanderbilt. Libraries and information centers at the local hospitals will bring Vanderbilt's information resources to the local physician. The program, though planned and coordinated by Vanderbilt, will function through the local centers and emphasize bringing information to the physician at the times he needs it.

#### 3. and 4. *Hopkinsville Education Center and Chattanooga Education Center, direct cost—\$73,700*

These are the first of the local continuing education centers specified in the Vanderbilt plan. At each hospital, a full-time Director with an appointment at Vanderbilt and an assistant director will supervise resident and physician education in their area. Their services will be available to physicians at smaller community hospitals in each area, as will the enlarged hospital library facilities. The Chattanooga and Hopkinsville locations provide the basis for looking at problems in continuing education in urban and rural settings.

#### 5. *Special training for practicing radiologists—Vanderbilt, direct cost—\$50,400*

This plan focuses on developing practicing radiologists' skills in vascular radiology, but might later be broadened to include all aspects of diagnosis and therapeutic radiology. Two post-graduate educational methods will be used. One to three month courses for technologists will be offered. In addition, eminent radiologists will preside at two-hour monthly seminars to which all radiologists in the region will be invited.

#### 6. *Cardiac nurse training program—Mid-State Baptist Hospital-Nashville, direct cost—\$49,600*

The key factor in reducing mortality from cardiac arrest is the immediate availability of a knowledgeable person to initiate resuscitation. Mid-South Baptist proposes to instruct cardiac nurses in new resuscitation techniques by holding three four-week courses. These nurses will then be available to hospitals throughout the region.

#### 7. *School of X-ray and technology—Meharry, direct cost—\$19,500*

Meharry plans to establish a two-year program for training at least ten X-ray technologists per year. The faculty will be Meharry's Radiology staff. Feasibility studies for establishing nuclear medicine and radiotherapy programs will be conducted.

#### 8. *Radiology technologist training program—Vanderbilt, direct costs—\$30,300*

Vanderbilt proposes to increase the number of X-ray technologists, improve the quality of their training, and increase their opportunities for continuing education. Three small hospital training programs in the area will be discontinued as separate entities and subsumed by a new school of X-ray technology at Vanderbilt. Practical clinical experience will be both at Vanderbilt and the smaller hospitals.