

of this area. About forty operational staff members are currently serving on the program, including about seventeen physicians, three nurses, six other allied health personnel, and fourteen related health and general support personnel. About one-third of the staff is from the medical center, another third is from community hospitals and the last third is from other health and medical organizations. The entire staff is working in concert to bring up-to-date medical techniques to communities throughout the region.

Strong hospital involvement in the Washington-Alaska program is evident in the project descriptions below. Approximately 36 hospitals are currently participating in the program, almost 20 of which are directly involved in operational activities. Six of these hospitals are represented on the Regional Advisory Groups, and an additional four of these are on planning subcommittees. The remaining participating hospitals are involved in current planning activities. It is likely that these, and the many other hospitals in the region, will become increasingly involved in operational activities.

Operational Projects

1. *Central Washington—Communication system for continuing education for physicians—\$18,181 (direct cost)*

This project is designed to bring the medical resources of the University of Washington to physicians and community hospitals in Yakima, who in turn will act as consultants to surrounding smaller communities through seminars and conferences, educational TV, other audio-visual instruction; and exchange of teachers and practitioners. It will also connect internists in Central Washington to Yakima cardiologists via EKG telephone hot-line, to permit quick analysis (starting with 5 community hospitals). Three general hospitals in Yakima involved are: St. Elizabeth's, Yakima Valley Memorial, and New Valley Osteopathic. Nine other community hospitals to be reached initially are located in Ellensburg, Moses Lake, Othello, Toppenish, Prosser and Cynnsyde.

2. *Southeastern Alaska—Postgraduate education—\$27,062 (direct cost)*

This program will help improve communication between Seattle Medical Community and University to alleviate problems of the isolated physicians in southeast Alaska cities and communities: Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan (3 largest). As in Central Washington several methods will be used such as telelectures, consultant services, seminars and the EKG hot line to hospitals in Juneau, Sitka, and PHS Native Hospital at Mt. Edgecumbe and Ketchikan community hospital.

3. *Postgraduate preceptorship for physicians—Coronary care—\$17,610 (direct cost)*

A pilot project to provide opportunity for practitioners from isolated communities to spend a week or more under a preceptor at major medical centers to study advances in care of coronary heart disease. The 4 major medical centers in Seattle are Providence Hospital, Swedish Hospital, Virginia Mason Hospitals and Medical Center, and University Hospital and Medical Center; two in Spokane are Deaconess Hospital and Sacred Heart Hospital.

4. *Coronary care unit coordination—\$70,255 (direct cost)*

This activity will serve as coordinating unit for CCU related projects—their development, improvement of operations, and training activities. A mock-up coronary care unit will be used in the educational programs for nurses and physicians; audio-visual self-instruction materials will be produced and evaluated.

5. *Cardiac pulmonary technician training—\$41,554 (direct cost)*

This program will help develop a formal program for training cardio-pulmonary technicians to perform non-critical functions in coronary care units and free physicians for other duties. Four larger general hospitals in Spokane will participate with Spokane Community College. The 4 hospitals are Deaconess, Holy Family, Sacred Heart and St. Luke's Hospital.

6. *Information and education resource support unit—\$522,304 (direct cost)*

This program will help provide medical communities with the skilled assistance which will help identify their educational needs and serve as a support unit in developing programs to meet them; to establish a central production unit, to coordinate audio-visual projects and the distribution of materials, to penetrate the entire region.