

Immunology may be key to puzzling ailments

By SHIRLEE IDEEN

Nearly 100 years ago, in the 1890s, a tuberculosis sanitarium was founded in the Rocky Mountains.

A century later, it has become the world's center for the treatment of chronic respiratory disease. Richard Bluestein, president of the National Jewish Hospital and Research Center (NJH/NAC) in Denver, Colorado, came to Southfield recently to report to local women who support the center.

The occasion was the 45th anniversary donor event of the Detroit League Division of NJH/NAC at the Hamilton Place in Southfield.

For the asthmatic, the arthritic, and the tubercular patient, NJH/NAC represents hope for good health. It is the country's leading and largest medical center devoted to both study and treatment of chronic respiratory diseases and immune system disorders.

The center incorporates more than a dozen buildings on two campuses and employs hundreds of physicians, biomedical scientists, behavior scientists, nurses, therapists and others.

Knowledge gained there is shared with health professionals around the world.

PATIENTS come from all around the country and abroad. They are of

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Richard Bluestein,
hospital president

all ages, races, backgrounds and religions.

"The National Asthma Center is a children's hospital," Bluestein said. "They reside in cottages and there is a hospital there. Since many children stay for very long periods, there is a school for them to help them catch up with their work."

"We do a good diagnostic job and we teach them to deal with their disease emotionally and how to handle an attack before it happens."

Bluestein said many children

there have "never taken a breath without thinking it might be their last."

Calling himself an optimist, he said there have already been breakthroughs related to immunology, the body's ability to cope with allergies and other diseases.

"I suspect some day we'll have the answers and they will be through immunology," he said.

"But we have to guard against a government who cares more about

the return of health for those already ill than for research," he said.

EDUCATED as an attorney, Bluestein has directed the Denver hospital for 19 years. He has held academic and administrative positions as well.

"NJH/NAC is unlike any other medical center or hospital anywhere," he said. "We take only long term in-patients. Less than 27 percent of our \$24.5 million budget for this year comes from patients."

"Most are medically indigent." Bluestein thanked the nearly 200 women for their support in the past saying: "People helping people is still spine of NJH/NAC."

Rose Schiller, founder of the Detroit group 45 years ago, served as luncheon chairman.

Mrs. Max Robiner is president.



RICHARD BLUESTEIN

Blood donors sought to ease shortfall

Red Cross bloodmobiles will be at Tel-Twelve Mall in Southfield from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Every 17 seconds, somewhere in the United States, someone's life depends on the availability of a blood transfusion.

In the metropolitan area, the Southeastern Michigan Red Cross Services estimates it must collect between 950 and 1,000 pints of blood each day to meet the need.

Blood supplies are already below normal levels, a Red Cross spokesman said. Average daily collections recently have been less than 950 pints.

A blood donation takes less than an hour from the time the donor registers

to the post-donation snack in the canteen.

Anyone between the ages of 17 through 65 and in good general health can be a blood donor. Seventeen year-olds must have written parental consent. Donors past their 65th birthday are required to submit permission from their personal physician.

Donations are accepted at the Oak Park Donor Center, 25900 Greenfield, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays and Fridays; 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays; and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

To donate at Tel-Twelve Mall, call 353-4111 for an appointment. The phone number at the Oak Park Center is 968-2255.

Seniors slate July 2 social

The senior adults at McDonnell Towers plan a 2 p.m. ice cream social on Wednesday, July 2.

After making their own sundaes, those attending will enjoy entertain-

ment by the "Grandmas and Grandpas" as well as dancing.

There is a \$1 charge. All seniors from the community may attend.

For reservations call 354-9362.

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