

Cancer Society launches study

Starting Sept. 1, 5,000 residents of Oakland County will have a chance to participate in medical research on cancer.

During September, volunteers of the American Cancer Society will be encouraging their friends and relatives to take part in Cancer Prevention Study II. The study will be the society's second major research endeavor to learn how lifestyle and environmental factors influence cancer and other diseases.

One of the largest epidemiologic research projects ever to be carried out in the United States, the study will involve more than one million American men and women from all racial, ethnic, and economic groups.

"With information provided by study participants in Oakland County and all over the country, we hope to identify those factors that increase a person's chance of getting cancer, those that carry little or no risk, and those that actually may help prevent cancer," said Donna Stover, CPS II Michigan volunteer coordinator. "We'll then be able to develop programs to help people follow lifestyles that minimize their cancer risk."

The first Cancer Prevention Study, conducted 1959-1972, identified many factors related to the development of cancer and other diseases. The link between cigarette smoking and lung can-

cer and heart disease was an important outcome of the study and helped to initiate the public health campaign against smoking. The study also revealed the relationship of obesity to certain cancers, the profile of women at high risk for cervical cancer, and the role of exercise in preventing heart attacks and strokes.

Though conceived along the lines of the first study, Cancer Prevention Study II will break new ground in areas of investigation.

"CPS II will be even more inclusive than CPS I and will respond directly to public anxieties and frustrations about our environment; what is carcinogenic and what is safe," said Dr. Robert V.P. Hutter, president of the American Cancer Society.

Notes Lawrence Garfinkel, vice president of epidemiology and statistics for the ACS and director of Cancer Prevention Study II. "Since our first study was conducted, changes have taken place in the way we live, the food we eat, and the products we use. We're anxious to see how such changes have affected our health risks."

Study participants will complete a confidential questionnaire about their working, living, and eating habits. Covered in the four-page questionnaire are such topics as low-tar, low-nicotine cigarettes, birth-control pills, coffee, hair dyes and saccharine. Also to be ana-

lyzed are air and water pollution, occupational exposures, and low-level radiation.

The task of enrolling the million study participants falls to more than 80,000 American Cancer Society volunteers nationally. In Oakland County, 335 volunteers will enlist the 5,000 needed subjects. Participants will be expected to complete and return questionnaires to research volunteers by the end of the second week in September.

Once every other year for the next six years these research volunteers will

keep track of the million study participants and report to ACS headquarters on their status and whereabouts. If and when study participants die, health statisticians will be able to determine how their lifestyles affected their health by referring to information in the questionnaires.

"We're very grateful for the enormous contribution the volunteer researchers will make to Cancer Prevention Study II. Without their donating time and energy, the cost of undertaking such a comprehensive study would be prohibitively expensive," said Stover.



Harry Brandt

Brandt promoted

Harry Brandt, Jr. of Farmington Hills has been promoted to assistant vice president of sales coordination for the RW Transportation Group.

Brandt joined RW in 1975 as the director of Intermodal Services. Brandt's specializations include establishment of the Intermodal programs, development of group coordination linkages and creation of new sales initiatives.



Taking care of brother or sister can be a happy or sad experience depending on how it's handled by parents. Maggie Hanson, a Farmington resident and registered nurse at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, shows Kim Przygoda (left) and Darrin Raup some of the ways to cope with the situation.

Sibling classes offered at Mercy

A program of prenatal classes for children of expectant parents is being offered at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Pontiac. St. Joseph Mercy is the only hospital in the Detroit-Metropolitan area to offer a program which prepares children for the arrival of a new brother or sister.

The classes offer parents and children tours of the maternity area, the labor and delivery rooms and the hospital nursery. The children see a movie and learn how to hold and care for a baby.

The program is designed to involve siblings in more of the activities surrounding a newborn so that they under-

stand what is going on and do not feel left out.

At the end of the session, the children receive a coloring book about baby care and a certificate announcing that they are a graduate of the "Prepared Sibling Program."

Parents and children are invited to attend this free class, which will be offered the last Sunday of every month at 4:30 p.m.

A person need not be delivering at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital to enroll in the class. For reservations, and additional information, contact Hazel Stewart, registered nurse, St. Joseph Mercy at 855-3550. Class size is limited, and early registration is advised.

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