

# Suburban Life

Lorraine McClish editor/477-5450



(FJB)

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## Seeking a remedy

### Medical society president targets care for the poor

By Richard Leach  
staff writer

IT'S A QUICK trip by car from the suburbs to the inner city of Detroit.

But it's comparable to passing into another country as far as medical care is concerned, according to Dr. Richard Horsch of St. Mary Hospital in Livonia.

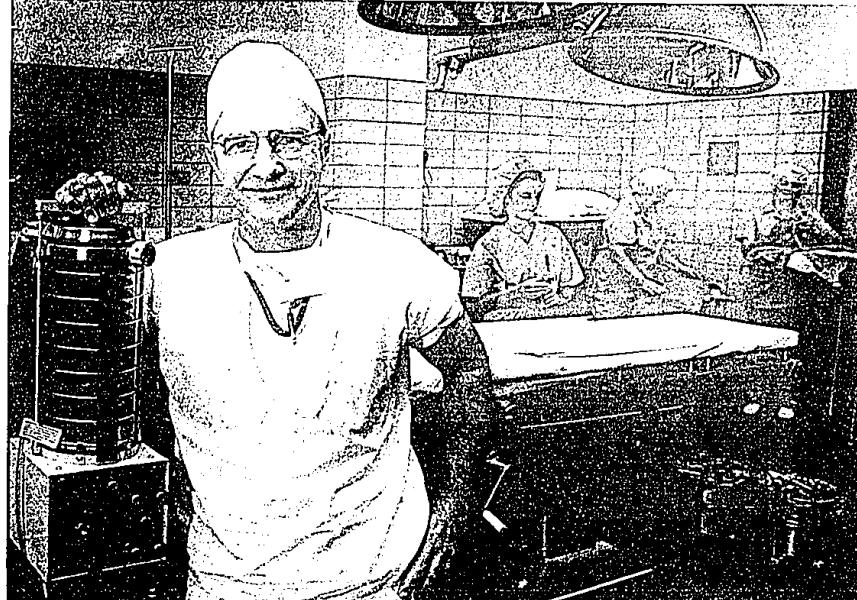
As the new president of the Wayne County Medical Society, Horsch is keenly aware of the state of medical care in the poorest sections of the county's largest city.

"As I get in my car and drive to inner Detroit where the society headquarters is, the infant mortality rate in that 15 miles goes up by a factor of five," the Farmington Hills resident said.

"The average lifespan of the citizens drops by 10 years in that 15 miles."

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— Dr. Randy Horsch  
Wayne County Medical Society president



STEVE FECHT/staff photographer

Dr. Richard Horsch, chairman of the anesthesiology department at St. Mary Hospital in Livonia, is the new president of the Wayne County Medical Society. Setting up the operating room

"The reason I am pushing this is because I have very few Medicaid patients myself," Horsch said. "This doesn't affect me at all. A person who is not affected would be the ideal person to champion it before the Legislature."

Horsch maintained that raising the payments would save the state money in the long run. Family doctors could provide more early treatment for patients, instead of waiting until the condition has become more serious and more expensive to treat.

Improving inner-city medical care is one of two main goals Horsch has set as the medical society's 1886-87 president. He was elected in balloting by the organization's 3,500 members and was installed in June.

HORSCH'S OTHER major goal might seem impractical considering his first. While Detroit's inner-city care ranks among the worst in the nation, the Detroit area ranks very high nationally in overall health care, Horsch said. His other goal is to make the public more aware of just how good the health care system in southeastern Michigan is, which seems to be a well-kept secret.

Because of this, many Detroit-area patients requiring special referral care — such as open-heart surgery — will seek treatment elsewhere, Horsch said. They end up going to places such as the Cleveland Clinic or the Mayo Clinic, and not local specialty hospitals such as Ford and Sinai. Horsch estimates the Detroit area loses \$200 million a year and 3,000-4,000 jobs because of the flight of special referral patients.

SO WHY don't more patients stay in the area for the more specialized care? Horsch said. It appears to be more a case of bad public relations than anything else.

Detroit, with its inner-city poverty and crime rates, has something of a negative image to begin with. But specialist hospitals in other states also have done a better job of dealing with the referring doctors — the family physicians who recommend their patients the hospital they should go to. They are very good at keeping the referring doctors informed about what is being done for their patients.

Detroit-area hospitals "take very good care of the patients but don't take near as good care of the physicians referring the patients," Horsch said.

The society is taking two steps to improve Detroit's reputation. One is a public relations campaign, scheduled to start this fall and designed to

point out what the Detroit system has to offer. The society has tapped public relations professionals and groups such as the Chamber of Commerce and New Detroit for the campaign.

The second step is to set up programs in the hospitals to work on improving communication with the referring doctors, Horsch said.

Horsch has been a member of the Wayne County Medical Society since 1965 and has served on many of the group's committees. A 1961 graduate of the Wayne State University Medical Society, Horsch joined St. Mary Hospital in 1965 after serving his internship at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac and his residen-

cy at St. Joseph and at Providence Hospital in Southfield.

The chairman of the St. Mary anesthesiology department, Horsch said he originally set out to be an internist. But part of his internist study was to spend a month in the anesthesiology department. He found that he liked that area of medicine so well he switched majors.

You can't be much more involved in the total care of the patient and there's more to routine care. You're right in the middle of the action all the time."

He and his wife, Carol, have four children: Brian, 21, Mark and Steven, 20, and Linda, 18, who recently graduated from Mercy High School.



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## The Friend Family marks 10 years as an association

By Lorraine McClish  
staff writer

Daniel Boone and another was the model for the Indian-head penny.

The Friend line produced an ex-

ceptional number of educators. One

prominent one today is Dr. Theodore

College, president of Swarthmore

College, Pa., Pennsylvania.

Barbara Kull is a middle school di-

rector for the Farmington School Dis-

trict.

The Kulls interest in the Friend

Family Association began at a mid-

studies picnic sponsored by the fledg-

ling group nine years ago and they

have both been active members

since.

NATIONAL headquarters for the

group is in Friendsville, Md., where

members formally dedicated a Na-

tional Friends Museum last sum-

mer. A national seminar is scheduled

every two years to bring the mem-

bers together for reports and up-

dated news of a business meeting and

socializing.

The Kulls have arranged for spe-

akers in the national seminar this

year to date old photos, take

oral histories and head up genealogi-

cal workshops.

They will also have a library available to the participants that contains information on related family lines.

The seminar is open to any non- member interested in any facet of the society's 10th anniversary.

The seminar opens Friday afternoon with an introduction of officers, information about the Friend Family Genealogical Library, a show-and-tell period and Friend line presentations.

Friday evening's program will be on the history and development of Friendsville, Md.

Saturday's agenda lists reports on Friend family lines, the Friend Family National Museum, research information and the association's biennial business meeting. There will be handles to accompany a presentation on the Migration Paths of Our Ancestors.

The Saturday night banquet is followed by guest speaker Weldon Peitz, a nationally recognized authority on Abraham Lincoln and retired principal of Flanders Elementary School

Long, Ogg, Phillips, Polling Rose,

Walters, Ward and Wilson.

"We welcome any who have been

involved with association by a friend through the years," Barbara Kull said.

Bob or Barbara Kull will answer questions or make reservations for the seminar at 471-4924.

The Saturday night banquet is fol-

lowed by guest speaker Weldon Peitz,

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