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EVALUATION AND PLANNING FOR EXTENSION

by

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EVALUATION AND PLANNING FOR EXTENSION

"So little done and so much to do" -- this, I think, would more properly be the title for this paper. The University Center for Health Sciences in the Negev has been conceived to comprise six Schools. One -- the School of Medicine -- was described in detail in the preceding five papers. The other Schools are:

- School of Graduate Studies: All medical residents will become enrolled students of the University's School of Graduate Studies. In Israel, residency programs currently are based on five to six years' work in recognized departments without final board examinations; residents usually are attached to a single department. In the new Center, the "residency-graduate student" will rotate between different divisions under academic supervision and will follow a specially designed "supportive" curriculum.
- School for Continuing Medical Education: This School will offer learning opportunities mainly for physicians who work in non-hospital settings and especially for new immigrant physicians. The curriculum will be highly diversified and will be suitable for the many different categories of physicians working in the region and for other medical personnel as well. Inasmuch as physicians have the privilege of spending one month with full salary each year in continuing education programs, the School will design such programs for their individual needs and interests.

The right to accumulate three months of training once every three years enlarges the possibilities of varying such programs.

- School for Health Administration and Health Economics: This will be the first School of its kind in Israel and will grant a master's degree. The teaching of health care administration and medical economics has been neglected in Israel, and very few specialists in these areas are available in the country. Candidates who do not hold a university degree will be eligible for a certificate of proficiency after completing the School's program.
- Nursing School: The student body of the existing Nursing School will be doubled. The School, which trains registered and practical nurses, will offer programs in such nursing specialties as public health and community nursing, psychiatric nursing, midwifery, and operating room nursing.
- School for Allied Health Professions: Training will be provided for laboratory technicians, x-ray technicians, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, medical record librarians, and medical secretaries, among others.

All of these Schools will be part of the Faculty of Health Sciences, although each School will be administered individually and will have independent admissions and curriculum committees. However, all teachers will be members of one Faculty and all service facilities will be common to the entire Center.

For some years to come the Center will need "academic reinforcements" from the ranks of outstanding foreign and local scientists. To ensure their participation in the Center's teaching and research activities, a

special Visiting Faculty will be established. Members, from abroad or from Israel, will spend periods of six weeks or more at the Center teaching students and participating in research activities. They also will give courses in their specialties that will be open to participants from the entire country.

The importance of "consumer representation" and community involvement in the development of the Center has been recognized from the outset. A Public Committee of 50 representatives from the Negev -- including mayors and teachers and representatives of local government, women's organizations, youth groups, local industry, and kibbutzim -- will serve as the vehicle for community involvement. This Committee will work to deepen the health consciousness of the local population and will serve as the recognized channel of community demands for changes and improvements in health care delivery. If necessary, the Committee may be asked to raise funds for the Center and to organize volunteer services for the sick, the old, and the chronically ill. A special parliamentary group has undertaken the initiative for the establishment of this advisory Committee.

In the Medical School itself, there remains much to be done. Further recruitment of faculty is but one major task; preparation of community physicians for student training is another. The formation of an "*esprit de corps*" among physicians, nurses and health administrators, who have for years been working under "secular" conditions, is in itself an enormous challenge. Change is not easy, and there are undoubtedly those who entertain the cynical opinion that "the more it changes, the more it remains the same". There may also be those who have vested interests which do not necessarily correspond with the Center's objectives and goals. However, there exist

several sound and decisive factors which augur well for the success of the Center: (1) the explicit, unequivocal approach of the major partners -- the University, Kupat Holim, the Ministry of Health, and Malben -- in pursuing their commitment to establish the University Center for Health Sciences in the Negev; (2) the devotion and commitment of those medical leaders who have come to Beer-Sheva to implement the Center's ideals; (3) the enthusiasm and energy of the younger members of the faculty and many of the "old-timers" directed at putting the new experiment in Beer-Sheva "on the map"; (4) the great encouragement and assistance being rendered by several authoritative international organizations -- and particularly the World Health Organization -- and countless outstanding foreign medical leaders; and, last but not least, (5) the high expectations of the Israeli public and the younger generation of students, physicians, nurses and other health professionals who look toward the Center for implementation of necessary changes in both the health care delivery system and medical education in this country.

At the present stage, little can be said about evaluation. The fact that the Center has established a separate Evaluation Unit speaks for itself. Already much descriptive material has been collected from the various surveys underway, but objectively measurable parameters are still lacking.

While we do have some knowledgeable insight into what is wrong, drastic changes cannot be effected overnight. The consciousness of the need for change is present -- the responsibility rests upon ourselves for just how efficiently and how soon our goals will be achieved.