



# THE Pulse



of University of Nebraska Medical Center

Vol. 21, No. 20

January 25, 1973

Public Information Ph. 4453

## **FIVE NEBRASKANS SELECTED FOR TRAINING AS PHYSICIANS ASSISTANTS**

Five Nebraskans have been accepted as students in the first Physicians Assistant education program, which will begin March 7.

The five all hold college degrees and each has had experience in patient care. Their average age is 25.

The students: Michael J. Grutsch, Kearney, former Air Force medical corpsman; Kathy A. Hurley, Omaha, former nurse aide and member of the Peace Corps; Sidney W. Jaeger, Imperial, former Army medical corpsman; Patricia A. Vacek, Omaha, surgical technician; Robert A. Witt, Lincoln, former emergency room technician.

The students will receive their first year of training at the U. S. Air Force School of Health Care Sciences at Sheppard Air Force Base, Wichita Falls, Texas. Their clinical year of training will be in University of Nebraska affiliated hospitals and programs.

The program leading to a bachelor of science degree was authorized by the 1972 Legislature. Two years of college work are prerequisite to entering the program. One year of basic medical science courses is required for the student in such areas as anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, pathology, pharmacology and medical microbiology. The second year will include clinical education at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and with practicing physicians in the state.

Dean Robert Kugel emphasized that the Physicians Assistant will work only under the control and supervision of the physician by whom he is employed and will not be authorized to function in an independent status.

A second class of 20 students will be admitted in July. Fifteen of these will take all of their training at Nebraska while the other five will go to Texas for the first year. Applications are still being taken for this second group. Information may be obtained from Jesse Edwards, assistant director of the program. Application forms are available from Dr. Gerard Van Leeuwen, acting director of the program.

An application is being prepared for accreditation of the Nebraska program by the American Medical Association Council on Medical Education. The Council has already approved 23 physicians assistant programs.