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maribeth dwyer • news editor

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cochran/md
01-12-81
Great Falls Tribune Progress
Edition

RELEASE FEBRUARY 22, 1981

PROGRAM OF UM PHARMACY SCHOOL
BECOMES MORE PATIENT-ORIENTED

By Gayle Cochran
School of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences
University of Montana

MISSOULA--

The School of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences at the University of Montana has undergone a number of changes in the past five years. Addition of the allied health sciences to the school created a unit that houses not only pharmacy but also the microbiology and medical technology programs, the physical therapy program, the paramedical sciences associate degree program, and the advising program for pre-nursing.

In the School of Pharmacy itself the curriculum has become more clinical or patient-oriented. The student's five years of study in pharmacy now culminate in a final quarter of externship experience. In the Pharmacy Externship Program, students are placed in community and hospital pharmacies throughout the state to work with registered pharmacists who serve as voluntary preceptors in the program. Presently, due to the interest of Great Falls pharmacists and the requests of the students, plans are being made to establish externship sites in the Great Falls area.

(over)

"PATIENT-ORIENTED"--add one

During vacation periods and after graduation many pharmacy students are employed as pharmacy interns throughout the state. Each student must gain a total of 1500 hours of internship and externship experience in order to become licensed as registered pharmacists. Randy Kuiper of Great Falls interned at Montana Deaconess Medical Center and Kristy Farago of Great Falls interned at Snyder Drug during the summer of 1980. Internship experience is supervised by the State Board of Pharmacists under direction of Warren Amole Jr., Great Falls, executive secretary.

The school's role in the continuing education of registered pharmacists has expanded considerably in the past five years. Annually the school sponsors a number of C.E. programs throughout the state including at least one in the Great Falls area. This year, a Great Falls pharmacist employed at Columbus Hospital, Deborah Gwin, Pharm. D., has been serving as a faculty member of one of the school's programs.

The school coordinates its C.E. activities with those of state pharmacy organizations such as the Montana State Pharmaceutical Association whose executive director, Frank Davis, is in Great Falls.

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