

**East Carolina University
School of Medicine**

1964-1981

On August 23, 1977, the first four-year medical students at the East Carolina University School of Medicine stood on the steps of Ragsdale Hall for the now traditional entering class picture.

For North Carolina's new medical school, it was a red-letter day, one of many mileposts in the development of the school whose history dates back to 1964.

The graduation of our charter class of 28 students in 1981 is another significant entry in the School of Medicine's scrapbooks, and to recognize the event, we want to share with you in this publication a look at the school's 17-year history.

This brochure is dedicated to the people of North Carolina and to those individuals who in their own special ways made personal commitments of time and energy to the establishment of the School of Medicine at East Carolina University. The work was accomplished not just by one group of citizens in Eastern North Carolina, but through the efforts of legislators, physicians, medical educators and community leaders from across the state.

This publication also honors the 28 men and women who will throughout their careers carry the distinction of being the first physicians graduated by East Carolina University.

A review of our red-letter days also is a tribute to the physicians and staff members at the School of Medicine who, charged with the responsibility of developing and operating their individual units, have contributed their skills and resources to the goal of excellence in medical education, patient care and scientific research.



The students, faculty and staff whose pictures appear on these pages symbolize all the individuals who have been and will be a part of the East Carolina University School of Medicine.

They represent the heritage of the past and the promise of the future.

School of Medicine
East Carolina University
Greenville, N.C.



Produced by the
Office of Information
and Publications

1964

The story about the beginning of a School of Medicine at East Carolina University is now legend.

It's a history that begins with Dr. Leo W. Jenkins, president of East Carolina College, who in the early 1960's began thinking about how the growing institution could contribute to better health care for the citizens in Eastern North Carolina and across the state.

Ideas were discussed in living rooms, doctors' offices, restaurants and community buildings throughout the region. Meetings were held with health care providers, legislators, medical educators and civic leaders.

The idea that promised the healthiest future was the development of a new medical school to help cure the physician shortage in many parts of the state.

At a meeting of the Governor's Medical Center Study Commission, East Carolina officials presented a proposal for a two-year medical school that would prepare students for transferring to a four-year program for completion of their medical education.

That initial proposal later was transformed into the development of a full four-year degree granting medical school.

Seventeen years after the seed was planted, the idea grew to fruition.

1965

"The Board of Trustees at East Carolina College is hereby authorized to create a School of Medicine. . . ." So read Senate Bill 176, "An Act to Create a Two-year School of Medicine at East Carolina College."



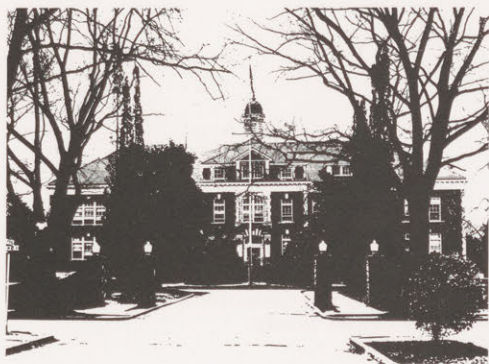
Dr. Leo W. Jenkins (right) meets in 1964 with Dr. John Truslow (left) and William F. Henderson of the Governor's Medical Center Study Commission.

It was the first bill passed by the General Assembly that provided funds for the capital improvements, faculty recruitment and planning needed to begin a medical education program at East Carolina. Introduced by Sen. Walter P. Jones, the bill carried the signatures of Sens. Robert Morgan, Ashley Futrell, J.J. Harrington, Julian Allsbrook, Dallas Alford and other eastern legislators.

However, the bill carried a proviso that the funds would not be made available for use unless the appropriate accrediting agencies approved the curriculum by January 1, 1967 — a deadline less than two years away that East Carolina officials suspected was unrealistic.

A meeting with representatives from the Association of American Medical Colleges and the American Medical Association confirmed their doubts. In a report to the State Board of Higher Education, the East Carolina administration repeated the message received from accreditation officials that the deadline was too short to accommodate appropriate planning and development.





1966

East Carolina University received a medical school consultants' report that recommended the development of an Institute of Life Sciences and Community Health.

The report said such an institute would provide the base for the development of a medical school. It also offered advice on the expansion of undergraduate science programs and the planning for a new building to house the expanded programs.

The concept behind the Institute of Life Sciences and Community Health later led to the development of the School of Allied Health and Social Professions in 1967.

Meanwhile, advocates of a two-year medical school at East Carolina continued to be invited by professional and community organizations to speak to their members about the college's plans for a medical education program.

1967

The General Assembly awarded university status to East Carolina and renewed the authorization to develop a two-year medical school.

The General Assembly also provided a small operating budget to begin planning for the ECU School of Allied Health and Social Professions and appropriated funds to construct a new building for the university's basic science programs.

1968

The East Carolina University Board of Trustees approved the development of the School of Allied Health and Social Professions as the basis for the future establishment of a medical education program at the university.

Dr. Edwin W. Monroe was appointed dean of the school and director of health affairs programs, which included nursing, medical technology, rehabilitation counseling, and speech and hearing. He also assumed responsibility for leading the university's planning effort to establish a medical school; a priority that continued for 10 years.

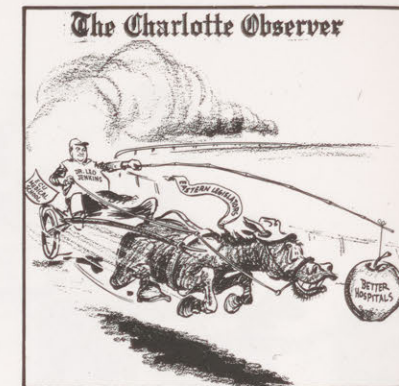
By the end of the year, the school expanded its programs to include physical therapy, occupational therapy and medical records.

1969

Following the recommendation of Gov. Robert W. Scott, the General Assembly again appropriated funds for East Carolina University to plan and implement the curriculum for the two-year School of Medicine authorized by the legislators in 1965.

The School of Allied Health and Social Professions also received funding for an operating budget and the construction of a new facility.

The nucleus of a health affairs library opened in a section of the university's Joyner Library.





Dr. Wallace R. Wooles and Dr. Edwin W. Monroe

1970

Dr. Wallace R. Wooles joined East Carolina University as dean of the medical school to assist in the planning and development of a two-year medical school. He was also to serve as head of the pharmacology department.

The nucleus of a medical school science faculty was recruited. The original eight full-time faculty members included Dr. Donald W. Barnes, Dr. Dean H. Hayek, Dr. Irvin E. Lawrence, Dr. Sam N. Pennington, Dr. S. Jerome Putnam, Dr. Michael R. Schweisthal, Dr. Robert E. Thurber and Dr. William H. Waugh. Joining the faculty within a year were Dr. Hubert W. Burden, Dr. Jack E. Brinn, Dr. G. Lynis Dohm and Dr. Evelyn McNeill.

Twenty-eight physicians in the Greenville area accepted positions as part-time clinical faculty.

Together, the faculty worked on the development of an academic and clinical curriculum for a two-year school. They also explored arrangements with other medical schools for accepting ECU medical students into their classes for the third and fourth years of training.

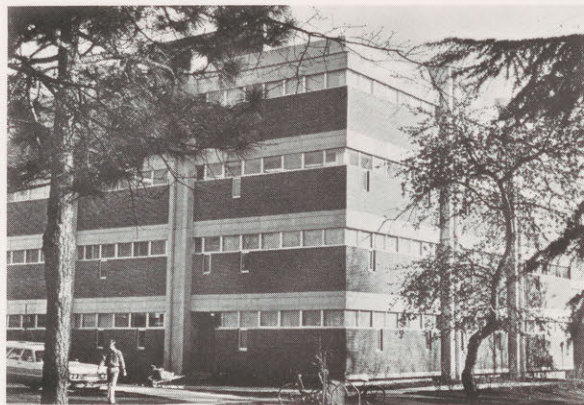
Medical school officials recognized the need to establish a channel for receiving private gifts to support the development of the school, and the ECU Medical Foundation was established to coordinate contributions to the developing medical education and health related programs.

At this time, the School of Medicine offices and laboratories were located in the new Science Complex in space borrowed from the biology department, and medical school faculty were teaching human gross anatomy and physiology to allied health students.

Community Faculty Physicians - 1971

Stephen R. Bartlett, M.D.
Andrew A. Best, M.D.
William S. Bost, Jr., M.D.
James E. Bowman, M.D.
J. Edwin Clement, M.D.
Robert G. Deyton, M.D.
E.S. Douglas, Jr., M.D.
Owen W. Doyle, M.D.
Paul N. Erckman, M.D.
Eric L. Fearington, M.D.
Alfred L. Ferguson, M.D.
William W. Fore, M.D.
Charles F. Gilbert, M.D.
Howard H. Gradis, M.D.
Herbert W. Hadley, M.D.
Ira M. Hardy, II, M.D.
Cary F. Irons, M.D.
Malene G. Irons, M.D.
Billy E. Jones, M.D.
Charles D. Jordan, M.D.
Frank H. Longino, M.D.
R. William McConnell, M.D.
A.M. Mumford, M.D.
Phillip G. Nelson, M.D.
Cecil H. Rand, Jr., M.D.
Allen Taylor, M.D.
G. Earl Trevathan, Jr., M.D.
Donald H. Tucker, M.D.
Bernard Vick, M.D.
Emmett J. Walsh, M.D.
George Alexander Weimer, M.D.
Jack H. Welch, M.D.
Robert L. West, M.D.
Steven M. White, M.D.
Jack W. Wilkerson, M.D.
John L. Wooten, M.D.
Alfred H. Yongue, M.D.

It was a hectic time for teaching and planning. The schedule called for admitting the first medical students in September 1971.



Science Complex

4

1971

A site visit by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education praised the progress made at the developing two-year School of Medicine. However, the LCME postponed granting accreditation until the program received a guaranteed operating budget from the state legislature.

Meanwhile, the State Board of Higher Education, acting upon a report issued by a panel of consultants, recommended that ECU develop a one-year medical education program in cooperation with the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Representatives from ECU and UNC-CH then began studying a proposal that would allow students successfully completing their first year at East Carolina to transfer automatically to UNC to continue their training. This arrangement also indicated that the ECU program would be accredited through the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

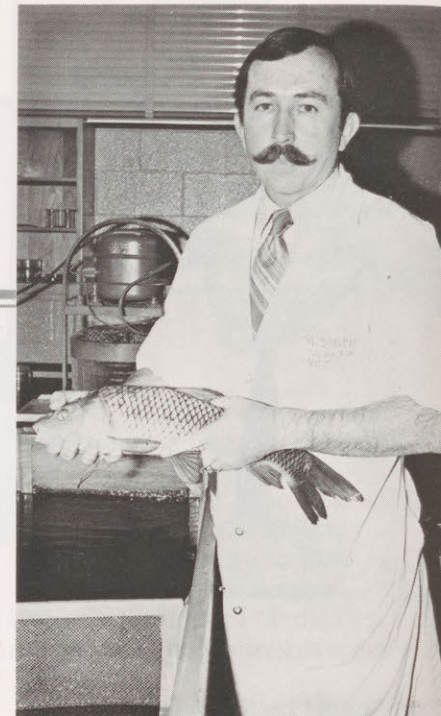
The General Assembly subsequently appropriated funds to begin the one-year medical school at East Carolina and provided funds to continue the development of a health affairs library, an important component of the medical education program.

House Bill 1207 stated, "This course of action is recognized as a significant step in a statewide plan for medical education, as well as a step in development of an expanded medical school at East Carolina University."

By October, medical school officials had received 300 applications for the 20 positions in the first class of medical students. Under development was a curriculum that would provide the students with approximately 900 hours of formal instruction through lectures, laboratory sessions and clinical exercises, including community-based experience in family medicine.

The Medical Foundation received its first grant — a three-year, \$30,000 gift from Burroughs Wellcome to support faculty recruitment and development at the School of Medicine.

Dr. A. Mason Smith



1972

The first class of one-year medical students enrolled at East Carolina University's one-year School of Medicine on September 6. All of the students were from North Carolina.

The speaker for the morning ceremony was medical school supporter Dr. Lenox Baker, secretary of the N.C. Department of Human Resources, who told the students that he also had made medical history in the state when he became the first medical student to be accepted at Duke University in 1929.

Outside of the ECU classrooms, the School of Medicine's pathology department assumed responsibility for clinical laboratory operations at Lenoir Memorial Hospital in Kinston.

East Carolina University and UNC-Chapel Hill reached an agreement to permit ECU's one-year medical students to transfer to



The first one-year students posed with Dr. Jenkins and Dr. Wooles in 1972.

UNC for the remainder of their medical education.

The Medical Foundation received its largest contribution to date — a \$100,000 gift from the Brody Family of Columbia, S.C., and Greenville and Kinston, N.C.

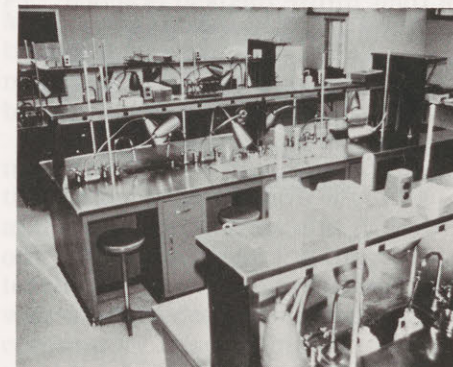
Meanwhile, North Carolina had restructured the state-supported higher education system and created the consolidated University of North Carolina system guided by the UNC Board of Governors. The School of Medicine presented a proposal to the board to add a second year of medical education, and the board decided to undertake a study of medical manpower needs in the state, including the question of developing a four-year medical school.



1973

All 20 of East Carolina University's first medical students received promotions to the second year of study at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

A second class of 20 one-year students enrolled in ECU's growing medical education program. All of the students were from North Carolina.





In addition to teaching responsibilities and curriculum development, medical school faculty members were actively involved in research funded by such agencies as the U.S. Public Health Service, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the American Cancer Society and the N.C. Heart Association. While increasing the understanding of disease, the faculty investigations offered students insight into research that would be the basis of their future medical practice.

In the first of many cooperative ventures, East Carolina University and Pitt County Memorial Hospital developed general guidelines for offering clinical experience to ECU medical students.

In the General Assembly, legislators appropriated funds to the UNC Board of Governors as a reserve fund for the development of a new four-year medical school for North Carolina, and they appointed a Legislative Study Commission on Medical Manpower.

The Board of Governors had also appointed a panel of consultants to study medical education and health needs in North Carolina. Their consultants' report recommended expanding the three established medical schools, developing more teaching programs in community hospitals, expanding primary care residency programs and strengthening ECU's one-year program in medical education.

1974

Plans for expanding the East Carolina University School of Medicine moved quickly in 1974.

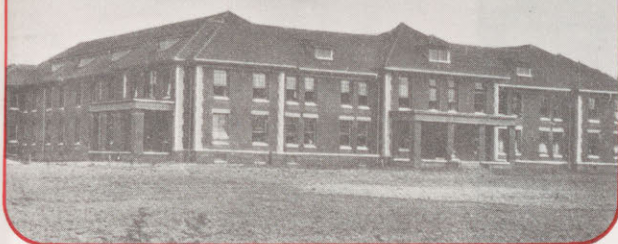
The report issued by the Legislative Study Commission on Medical Manpower called for expansion of the young medical education program, and through the leadership of Sen. Ralph Scott and Rep. Carl Stewart, co-chairmen of the Joint Appropriations Committee, the General Assembly appropriated additional funds to develop the medical school at East Carolina.

Legislators also directed the UNC Board of Governors to expand the first year of medical education at East Carolina University by adding a second year of study to the School of Medicine. They further directed the developing School of Medicine to concentrate on the training of primary care physicians and the recruitment and education of minorities.

In the meantime, the Liaison Committee on Medical Education developed new accreditation guidelines which did not permit the establishment of autonomous two-year medical schools. To retain accreditation for the ECU program, the UNC Board of Governors decided to continue the cooperative arrangement between ECU and UNC-CH for the transfer of students.

November of 1974 became a turning point in the expansion of the School of Medicine when the Board of Governors, upon the recommendation of President William C. Friday, approved the development of a four-year medical school at East Carolina University. Furthermore, the board recommended that the 1975 General Assembly appropriate construction funds and an operating budget.

Girls' Dormitory, E. C. T. S., Greenville, N. C.



Ragsdale Hall in 1923

On the ECU campus, a committee began the search for a dean for the four-year School of Medicine. Faculty members made plans to renovate Ragsdale Hall, formerly a women's dormitory, as an interim facility for the medical school.

In the fall of the year East Carolina University admitted its last class of one-year medical students. All 20 of the future physicians were from North Carolina. This was the third class of students to enroll in the medical school's one-year program that prepared 60 students for further training.

All 20 of the students in the 1973 entering class successfully completed their first year of study at ECU and transferred to the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

In December Dr. Harold C. Wiggers, then the dean of Albany Medical College, joined the School of Medicine as senior consultant to coordinate the selection of a dean for the four-year program, the development of a four-year curriculum and the recruitment of key faculty. After he retired from Albany in 1975, Dr. Wiggers became acting dean of the medical school.



Dr. Harold C. Wiggers

During this time, ECU medical school representatives were meeting with the UNC Board of Governors to discuss the expenditure of funds appropriated by the General Assembly for development, and funds were allocated for designing a medical science facility and outpatient clinics and for planning interim clinical and library facilities. The Board of Governors also approved funds for the renovation of Ragsdale Hall and the purchase of land adjacent to Pitt County Memorial Hospital for the school's medical science facility.

To guide him in the early development of the four-year School of Medicine, Chancellor Leo W. Jenkins appointed the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Medical Education, a group composed of physicians, legislators, community and business leaders, and medical educators from throughout the state.



Across town from the ECU campus in Greenville, Pitt County Memorial Hospital held a groundbreaking ceremony for a \$23 million hospital, and construction began on the 370-bed facility.

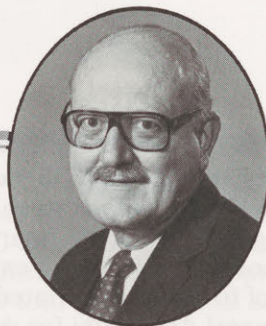
The new hospital was to play a major role in the development of the School of Medicine's education and service programs, and ECU officials began designing the teaching and clinical areas that would be needed to transform the community hospital into a teaching facility and referral center.

1975

Legislators in the General Assembly voiced their approval for the development of a four-year medical school when they appropriated funds for the school's operating budget, library development and facilities under construction at the new hospital.

The UNC Board of Governors approved a resolution that permitted ECU to suspend enrollment in the medical school during the transition from the one-year to four-year program.

In June, Dr. William E. Laupus, professor and chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at the Medical College of Virginia, became the first dean of the four-year School of Medicine at East Carolina.



Dr. William E. Laupus

By this time, the School of Medicine had 13 full-time faculty members in anatomy, biochemistry, pharmacology, physiology and microbiology. All offices and labs were in the north wing of the Science Complex.

The medical school administration and faculty met frequently to review the medical school's progress, to plan the recruitment of the core faculty needed to support the four-year school and to discuss the discipline-oriented curriculum being developed by the departments. They also began exploring ideas for the development of a family practice center adjacent to Pitt County Memorial Hospital.

The UNC Board of Governors and Pitt County Commissioners announced the development of an affiliation agreement to permit use of the new 370-bed hospital under construction as a teaching hospital. This model agreement removed the necessity of having to build a separate teaching hospital for the medical school and saved the state \$13 million.

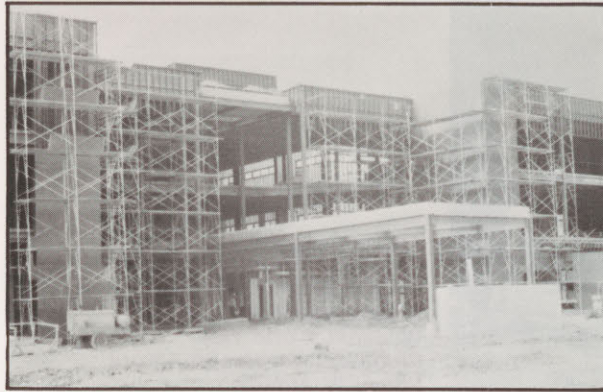
The affiliation agreement specified that 40 percent of the hospital's Board of Trustees would be representatives appointed by the Board of Governors. It also mandated that ECU clinical chairmen would serve as chiefs of their respective services at the hospital.

Medical school officials moved quickly to plan expanded support areas, offices and labs to be added to the new hospital. The Medical School Teaching Addition, a three-floor facility added to the front of

the hospital, was designed to provide offices and labs for clinical faculty, an auditorium, call rooms for students and house staff, conference areas and classrooms.

The School of Medicine also coordinated the expansion of clinical service areas at the hospital, including additions to radiology and nuclear medicine, the emergency room, surgery, psychiatry, neonatal intensive care and the ambulatory medical surgical unit.





Construction of Medical School Teaching Addition at Pitt County Memorial Hospital

Along with the expansion of the School of Medicine came the development of the Eastern Area Health Education Center, part of a statewide agency that coordinated residency training and professional education programs and supported the programs with funds for equipment and facilities.

Together with the medical, nursing and allied health schools, Eastern AHEC developed a partnership with the 15 hospitals in its 23-county service area. That partnership eventually led to the construction of educational facilities in the local hospitals, thus providing communities with the resources to participate in clinical and continuing medical education.

1976

The Liaison Committee on Medical Education made an unofficial visit to the School of Medicine to advise the administration about the development of the program. The representatives were impressed with the progress of the school and suggested that the fall of 1978 would be the earliest date for opening the four-year school.

In July the School of Medicine announced that ECU would request an official site inspection by the LCME in the spring in order to open the new four-year medical education program in the fall of 1977, a year earlier than projected by the accreditation agency.

By this time, seven of the medical school's 13 full-time department heads were recruited and the school's first admissions committee was appointed.

The Department of Family Medicine opened a family practice center in June in a temporary modular unit near the Pitt County Health Department. Two months later, faculty and friends gathered at the construction site for the new Pitt County Memorial Hospital to sponsor the first groundbreaking ceremony for a medical school facility, the Eastern Carolina Family Practice Center. Construction, funded by Eastern AHEC, began in August.



Working closely with Eastern AHEC, the School of Medicine and Pitt County Memorial Hospital received provisional accreditation for the family practice residency program to offer three years of postgraduate medical education in family practice. Appropriate to the goals of the school, it was the first residency program to be accredited.

The UNC Board of Governors approved funds for construction of an additional bed tower at Pitt County Memorial Hospital to represent the state's contribution of beds to the county facility in exchange for its use as a teaching hospital by the School of Medicine.

East Carolina University also purchased a 40-acre site adjacent to the new Pitt County Memorial Hospital for construction of a medical science building for the school.

Meanwhile, planning started on the development of doctoral programs in the basic medical sciences, and the School of Medicine moved into its first home all to itself — the renovated Ragsdale Hall. The building not only provided needed office space but also newly equipped laboratories to support faculty research on topics ranging from kidney function to cancer.



Announcing the accreditation of the School of Medicine in 1977 were Dean William E. Laupus, Chancellor Leo W. Jenkins and Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs Edwin W. Monroe.

But the impact of the future four-year medical school was not limited to the Greenville-Pitt County area. Throughout the eastern region of the state, the medical school faculty and staff acted as advocates for the development of needed health resources, advising communities about hospital and clinic development, physician recruitment and sources of revenue to support their endeavors.

In another important role, the School of Medicine — through consultation referrals and participation in continuing medical education programs — linked isolated community physicians with the expertise and technology available at the developing medical center in Greenville.

1977

The year the dream came true for supporters of the four-year medical school at East Carolina University was 1977.

In January the Liaison Committee on Medical Education made a site visit to the campus to inspect the progress of the medical education program. Their report was favorable.

In April ECU announced that the School of Medicine had received provisional accreditation and would enroll the charter class of four-year students in August. The medical school received more than 300 applications from North Carolinians for the 28 positions in the first class.

In the spring, medical school officials joined with Pitt County Memorial Hospital in celebrating the dedication and opening of the new 370-bed facility.

The highlight of the year was August 23, the day the four-year School of Medicine at East Carolina University opened. The first students and the dean posed for the now traditional class photograph on the steps of Ragsdale Hall.

The 28 students were all from North Carolina, and they all expressed an interest in primary care medicine and practicing in the state after postgraduate training. Seven of the students were women.



After a few days of orientation, students settled into classes at Ragsdale Hall and the Science Complex, but faculty offices and labs continued to be in transition as the medical school sought more space for its growing programs. Some relief came in October when the Department of Medicine became the first clinical department to move into the Medical School Teaching Addition at Pitt County Memorial Hospital.

Meanwhile, the Eastern Carolina Family Practice Center moved from their temporary quarters to the new 28,000-square-foot facility adjacent to the hospital. Designed as a model facility for patient care and physician education, the Eastern Carolina Family Practice Center has played a major role in training ECU medical students.



To fulfill the school's mission to train primary care physicians, the administration and faculty paid special attention to the development of the Department of Family Medicine. The curriculum for the medical students included a special weekly conference to introduce them to the role of primary care physicians during their first year of study.

Family Medicine became the first department to offer residency training when one second-year resident and two first-year residents joined the house staff in July.

By this time, residency programs in pediatrics, medicine, surgery and psychiatry had received accreditation. These clinical departments planned to accept their first house staffs in July 1978.

While training students and residents to deliver future medical care to the state, the School of Medicine took steps to alleviate the existing doctor shortage in the region by assisting communities in recruiting physicians. Representatives worked with local citizens to expand health resources in medically underserved areas such as Beaufort, Duplin, Greene and Jones counties.

Contacts were also being made by the medical school and Eastern AHEC with community hospitals and physicians in the region to initiate residency and medical student rotations through their health facilities. These rotations had a high priority in the development of the medical school curriculum; not only would they assist communities in the provision of health care, but they would also acquaint students and residents with the practice of medicine in a rural setting outside the walls of the medical center.

Back in Greenville, clinical faculty began accepting referrals into subspecialty clinics in pediatric oncology, endocrinology, thoracic surgery, and hematology-oncology. The Department of Psychiatry moved into the modular unit previously used for family medicine and scheduled patient visits there.

One particular health care problem in the region received the immediate attention of the School of Medicine in 1977. Studies showed that Eastern North Carolina had one of the highest rates of infant mortality in the nation, and ECU and Pitt Memorial representatives met to approve plans for the construction of a regional neonatal intensive care unit in Greenville. To symbolize yet another cooperative venture, the medical school and hospital joined together for a groundbreaking ceremony for the facility.

1978

As the charter class of 28 students moved into their second year of study, the Liaison Committee on Medical Education approved the medical school's plans to increase enrollment in the first-year class. In August, 36 students were admitted, all of them from North Carolina.



The School of Medicine's first real impact in the development of Pitt County Memorial Hospital as a medical center came in 1978 when the chairmen of the school's clinical departments became chairmen of their respective departments at the hospital, a key result of the historic affiliation agreement between the medical school and hospital.

More of the medical school's clinical departments moved into the Teaching Addition at Pitt County Memorial Hospital, and the pediatrics, medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, and surgery departments welcomed their first house staffs when 31 residents joined the postgraduate training programs. Two of the residents were in pediatrics, six in medicine, five in obstetrics and gynecology, and four in surgery. The Department of Family Medicine doubled their training program to include 14 residents.

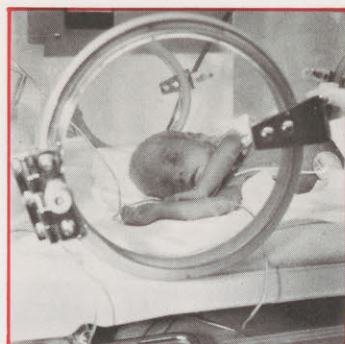


Continuing education for physicians in the region also received attention when the School of Medicine's continuing medical education program was accredited by the Liaison Committee on Continuing Medical Education. The accreditation allowed the medical school to grant credits to physicians participating in the medical school's programs in Greenville and in communities across Eastern North Carolina.

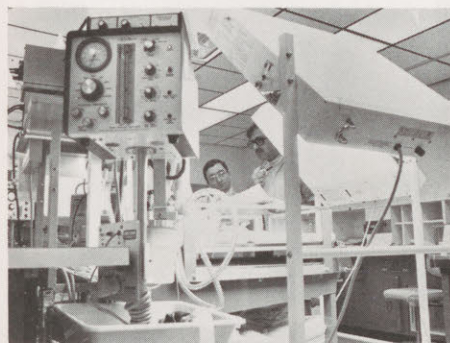
The Weyerhaeuser Foundation presented a \$110,000 gift to the ECU Medical Foundation to assist the School of Medicine in recruiting clinical faculty and expanding medical service programs. Named the Leo W. Jenkins Start-Up Fund, the gift honored the retiring chancellor for his contributions to the growth of the university and development of the medical school.

To fulfill the General Assembly's mandate to educate and recruit minorities, the medical school sponsored its first summer program for minority and disadvantaged students interested in careers in medicine and the allied health professions.





In July the neonatal intensive and intermediate care unit opened at Pitt County Memorial Hospital. Operated by the medical school's pediatrics department, the 33-bed unit was designed to care for critically ill infants from 29 Eastern North Carolina counties.



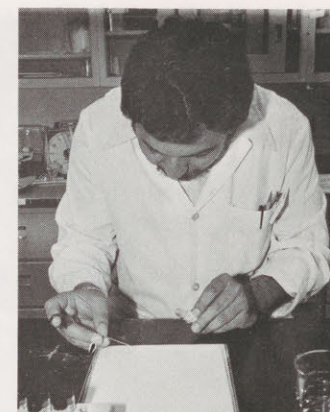
In the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the faculty developed a high-risk maternity program to provide special care for women with complicated pregnancies and to promote healthy deliveries for their babies.

At the new health science campus adjacent to Pitt Memorial, bulldozers completed the necessary grading and excavation on the 40 acres of land that would be the permanent home for the School of Medicine. The site work included the development of an impoundment lake to control excess water run-off to adjacent areas.

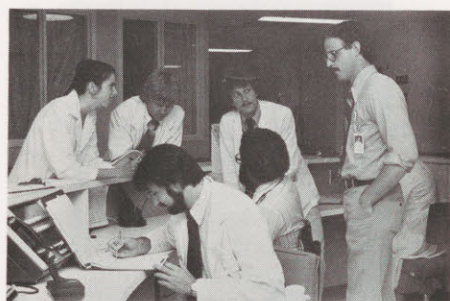
Construction started on two of the three buildings planned for the health science campus — the 15,000-square-foot animal facility, now known as the vivarium, and the utility plant. The medical school also approved the final plans for the medical science building which would be located on the site.

By the end of the year the School of Medicine had 125 faculty and staff members and opened specialty clinics in high-risk obstetrics, vascular surgery, cardiology, gastroenterology and neonatology. The N.C. Department of Human Resources designated ECU the Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment Center for the region and provided funds for the development of the Eastern Regional Perinatal Program.

In the medical school laboratories, investigators were conducting research on fetal alcohol syndrome, rheumatoid arthritis, the immune response, heart disease, otitis media, muscle and drug metabolism, prostaglandins, the pancreas, neurotransmitters and heavy metals as environmental contaminants.



Another type of research started when the Office of Health Services Research and Development opened to collect and analyze data on the health care system, including the relationship between the patient and physician. The office also began providing information on health statistics and legislation to assist the medical school, university and regional groups in planning the delivery of innovative health care programs.



1979

The charter class of medical students made the transition from classrooms and labs at Ragsdale Hall and the Science Complex to lectures and patient care at Pitt County Memorial Hospital. They were the first medical students to receive clinical training at the hospital.

East Carolina also received another first in education when the School of Medicine received approval from the Board of Governors to implement five doctoral programs in the basic medical sciences, the first Ph.D. degrees to be offered by the university. The programs included anatomy, biochemistry, microbiology, pharmacology and physiology. ECU's first three doctoral candidates enrolled in August.

That same month, 40 students were admitted to the first-year class at the School of Medicine. Once again, all of the students were from North Carolina.

More than 500 guests — including state and local government officials, legislators and area physicians — attended the School of Medicine's groundbreaking ceremony for its medical education facility. Gov. James B. Hunt Jr. said the event "dramatized the state's commitment to good



Dean William E. Laupus, Gov. James B. Hunt Jr., Chancellor Emeritus Leo W. Jenkins and Chancellor Thomas B. Brewer at the groundbreaking ceremony for the medical science building



Brody Medical Science Building

health care for all people and climaxed the dreams of the people who worked so hard for a medical school at East Carolina."

During the ceremony the medical school recognized Reps. Horton Rountree and Sam Bundy and Sens. Julian Allsbrook, Vernon White and Harold Hardison for their leadership in the legislature since 1969.

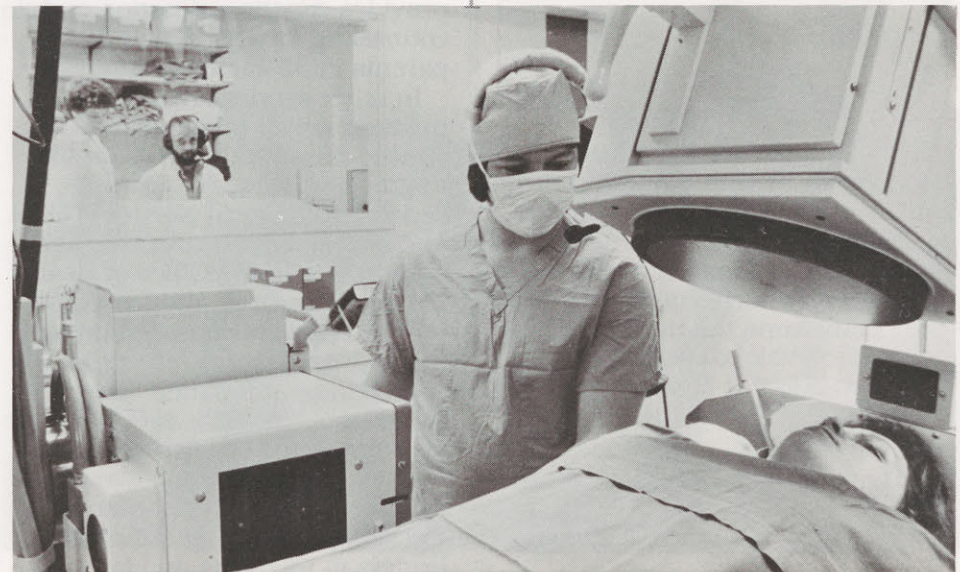
The Brody Family of Kinston and Greenville presented a \$1.5 million gift to the School of Medicine, the largest private gift ever received by the university. In recognition of the Brody Family's longstanding support for the medical school, the ECU Board of Trustees named the school's educational facility the Brody Medical Science Building. Contracts for the 451,000-square-foot facility were awarded and construction began.



In another expansion project, the medical school and Pitt Memorial received approval to add 166 beds to the hospital, a project that included expanding the psychiatric unit by 22 beds and constructing a third patient bed tower with 144 beds. The addition would fulfill the state's commitment of 200 new beds to the county-owned facility.

The role of the School of Medicine in the development of Pitt County Memorial Hospital as a regional referral center became more evident in 1979 as the medical school opened new diagnostic and patient care services. A full-body CT Scanner

began offering patients and physicians in Eastern North Carolina a fast, safe and painless procedure for obtaining detailed diagnostic information. The opening of the cardiac catheterization lab made available sophisticated diagnostic tests for heart and circulatory problems.





The faculty of the pediatrics department proudly announced the arrival of a specially equipped vehicle for transporting critically ill infants. The Eastern Carolina Regional Newborn Transport Ambulance became the transportation method for sick babies being transferred to Pitt Memorial for specialized care.

The School of Medicine also assumed responsibility for the operation of the ECU Developmental Evaluation Clinic. As one of the 19 community-based clinics in the state, the DEC offers multidisciplinary evaluation to physically and mentally handicapped children in seven counties and provides genetic evaluation and counseling for children and parents in 33 eastern counties.

In other service areas the medical school initiated an advanced life support program to upgrade emergency medical services in Eastern North Carolina and developed a health education section within the Office of Health Services Research and Development to provide consultation to health departments, physicians, rural clinics and patient groups in the region. The School of Medicine also sponsored the first Health Law Forum, an annual event that offers a review of health care legal trends and issues by outstanding leaders in medicine and law.



While expanding patient care services, the clinical departments were also involved in relocating their clinics from temporary space in the Eastern Carolina Family Practice Center to a leased wing of the old Pitt Memorial Hospital known as the "A-Wing." The East Carolina University School of Medicine Clinics opened there in the fall.

The completely renovated four-floor wing provides a spacious and well-equipped setting for general, diagnostic and subspecialty ambulatory care. Also located at the School of Medicine Clinics are offices and labs for faculty members in many of the subspecialty areas.



Because of the rapid growth of the medical school's faculty and staff, other departments and units also were relocating between Ragsdale Hall, the Science Complex and modular units on the ECU main campus and temporary quarters at Pitt Memorial, the hospital's old facility and a leased office building.

The School of Medicine also received approval to purchase an unused medical building in Bethel, a nearby Pitt County community. After renovations were made to accommodate new equipment, the Bethel Family Practice Center opened in August as a satellite unit of the medical school's Eastern Carolina Family Practice Center.

Throughout the year the students in the charter class were rotating through community physicians' offices in the region to receive experience in the real-life world of the family doctor.

The year closed with another groundbreaking ceremony, this one for the state-funded West Bed Tower addition to Pitt Memorial.



1980

The first residents to receive all their postgraduate training at East Carolina University and Pitt County Memorial Hospital were honored at a special ceremony. The four physicians were specialists in family medicine, and all chose to remain in North Carolina to practice. Also recognized at the ceremony were the first two dental residents to complete the one-year training program in general dentistry at the Eastern Carolina Family Practice Center.

The School of Medicine's postgraduate training program grew to 77 residents in July, including 32 residents in family medicine.

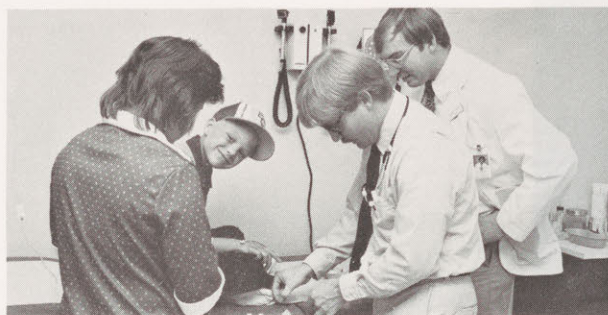
Another milestone in the development of the school came in August when 40 first-year students, selected from 1,000 applicants, enrolled in the School of

Medicine, giving ECU full enrollment in all four years of the medical education program.

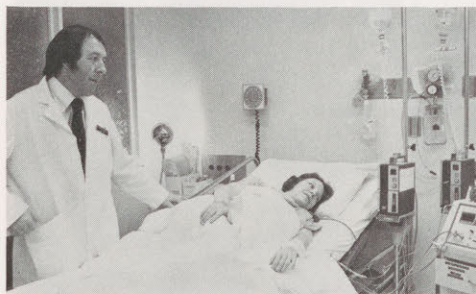
While the charter class of medical students prepared for their final year of study, four additional students entered the School of Medicine's developing doctoral programs in the basic medical sciences.



Dr. James G. Jones (far left) poses with the first residents to complete training at ECU. They were (from left) family medicine residents Jerome E. Groll, Lee R. Trent, Danny E. Huntley and George R. Everhart and dental residents Charles Burnham and C. Douglas Peeden.



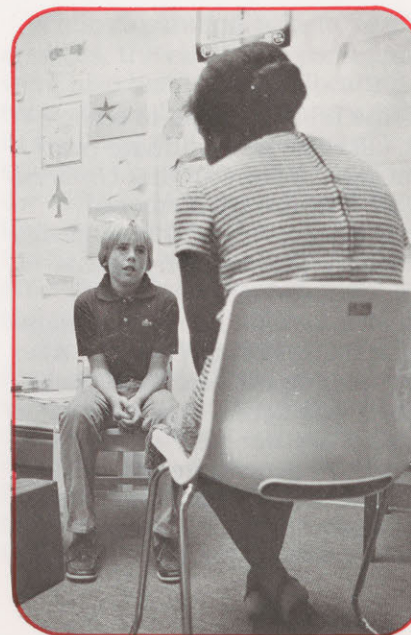
Through cooperative planning with hospital administrators and community physicians, the School of Medicine expanded clinical rotations in Eastern North Carolina. Although still under development, the clinical rotation program offers students and residents experiences at health care settings in Washington, New Bern, Jacksonville, Kinston, Mount Olive, Nags Head, Morehead City, Edenton, Goldsboro, Tarboro, Snow Hill, Sea Level, Elizabeth City, and Cherry Point and Seymour Johnson military bases.



The medical school strengthened its services to patients and physicians in the region when the faculty opened referral clinics in infectious disease, pulmonary medicine, renal medicine, reproductive disorders, pediatric allergy-immunology and hematology-oncology, adolescent and child psychiatry, obesity and sickle-cell anemia.

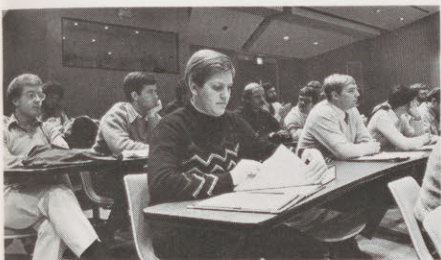
The vivarium and utility plant opened on the health science campus, and construction continued on the Brody Medical Science Building.

At Pitt County Memorial Hospital, the medical school's 22-bed addition to the psychiatric unit opened, and the old 14 beds were closed for renovation. The expansion was needed to keep pace with the demands for in-patient psychiatric care in the region.



Throughout the development of the four-year program, the School of Medicine administration and faculty worked cooperatively with the staff of the Eastern Carolina Health Systems Agency to assure orderly planning and expansion of services, facilities and equipment in the eastern region of the state. The growing expertise and continuing education opportunities at the medical school offered an added incentive for physicians to locate in Eastern North Carolina.

Medical school representatives also actively participated in the HSA's Governing Body and collaborated with the HSA staff on special projects, including physician recruitment and data collection on regional health resources and needs.



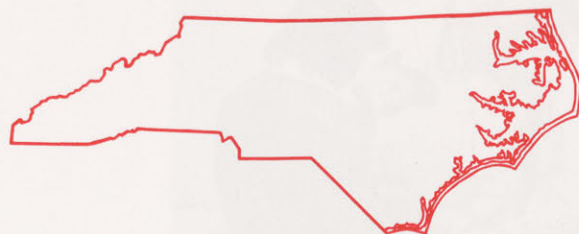
Of course, the topic frequently discussed among the medical school faculty and staff — and particularly the students — was the upcoming graduation of the charter class at the School of Medicine.



1981

The graduation of the first class of students comes only once in a medical school's history, and 1981 will stand out as a classic year in the scrapbooks of East Carolina University.

The charter class made no attempt to hide their excitement and enthusiasm, feelings that were shared by the faculty and staff over test tubes and typewriters throughout the medical school and hospital.



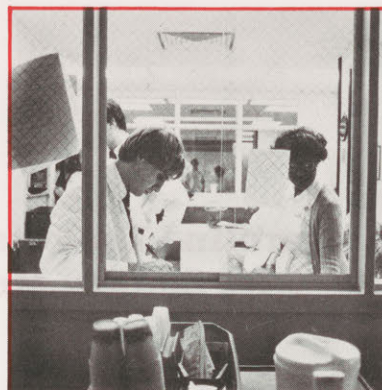
By this time the school had 117 full-time physicians and scientists on the faculty. Nearly 200 community physicians held clinical appointments and assumed part-time teaching responsibilities. Assisting the faculty were nearly 400 members of the support staff, including secretaries, nurses, research technicians and associates, allied health professionals, accountants, and administrative support staff.



New clinical programs were also taking shape. A cytogenetics lab opened in the medical school's Developmental Evaluation Clinic to supplement the genetic counseling program by performing sophisticated tests for genetic defects. Its establishment enabled the medical school to offer advanced genetic services for North Carolina's eastern 33 counties.

In the Department of Surgery, the faculty and staff in the immunological monitoring lab assisted physicians in developing individual treatment plans for renal transplant patients and conducted research on graft acceptance and rejection.





The Office of Health Services Research and Development conducted studies on factors associated with infant mortality, patient utilization patterns, facility development and recruitment of health professionals in Eastern North Carolina.

The medical school also initiated a series of health fairs in small communities throughout the region to promote wellness and preventive health.

In the medical school labs, members of the faculty concentrated on numerous enemies and frailties of the human body — coronary artery disease, allergies, infectious disease, hypertension, cancer, fertility problems and environmental pollutants. New and continued grants from federal and private sources made it possible for more medical school investigators to explore new ways of controlling and diagnosing disorders.



The faculty shared their expertise and research findings with their professional colleagues at national and international conferences, and they presented the conclusions of their studies and investigations through publications in professional journals and contributions to textbooks for tomorrow's doctors and researchers.

Health care professionals from across North Carolina participated in the School of Medicine's continuing education programs held at Pitt County Memorial Hospital, and they attended presentations made by faculty members in communities throughout the region.

As a result of the favorable progress report by a team which surveyed the school in November 1981, the Liaison Committee on Medical Education awarded full accreditation for a period of four years to the School of Medicine.

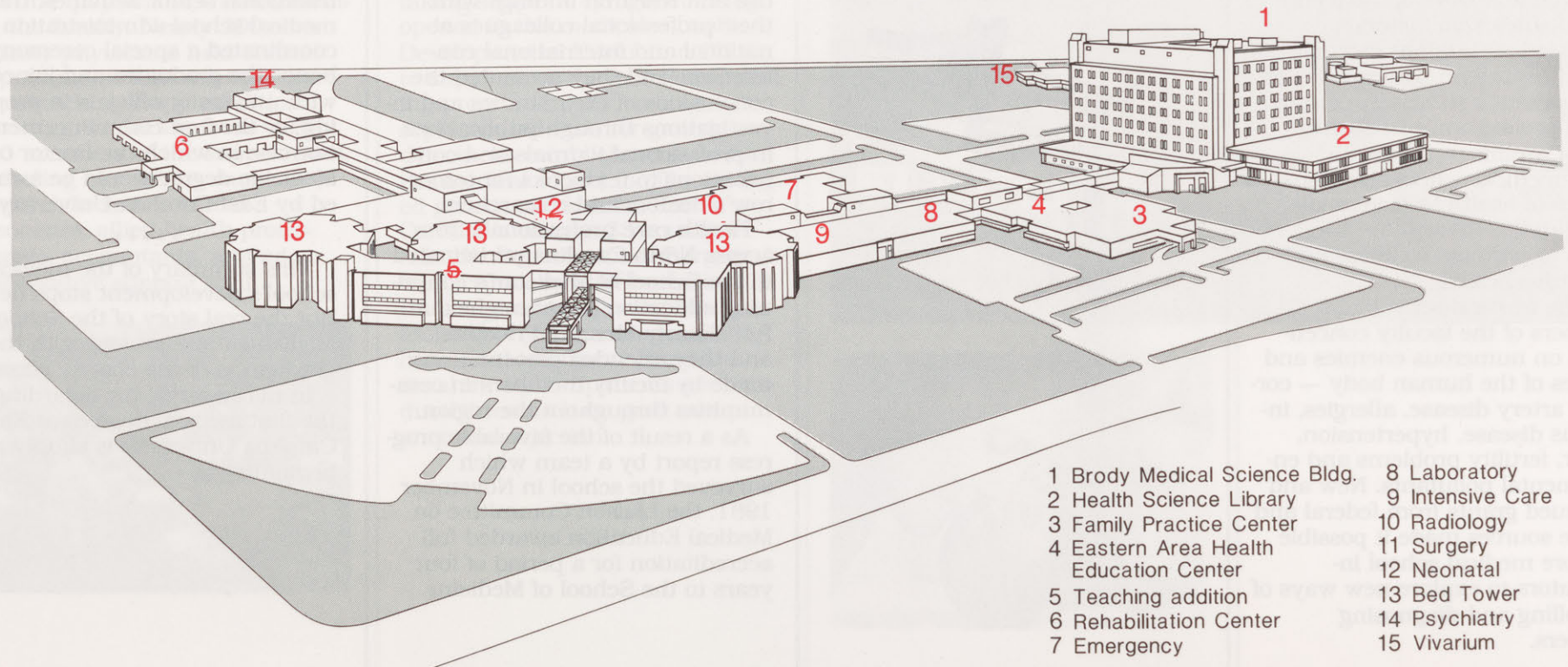
While students planned the traditional senior activities, the medical school administration coordinated a special ceremony to honor the graduates and joined with university officials in preparing for the first commencement exercise in which the Doctor of Medicine degree would be awarded by East Carolina University.

This summary of the medical school's development stops here. But the real story of the School of Medicine does not end with the graduation of the charter class.

In many ways, the awarding of the first medical degrees at East Carolina University is simply a beginning.

East Carolina University School of Medicine Pitt County Memorial Hospital

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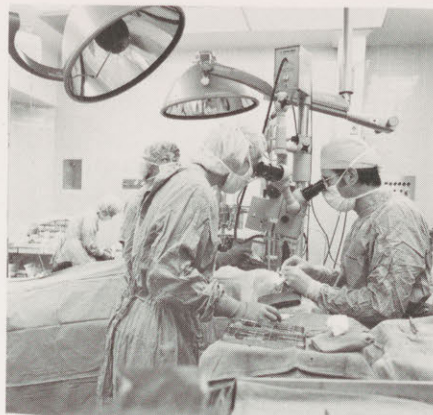
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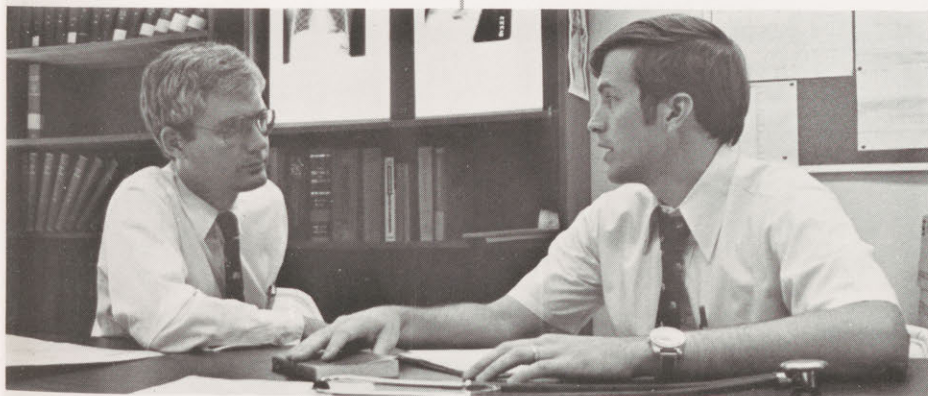
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