

WillowBrook Prosthetics & Orthotics



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Alumni Album: Brooks Jackson

continued from page 61

involved with patients and residents and see how things are working administratively," he says. Through it all, he projects tranquillity.

Today, Jackson is on the move with nevirapine. He wants to test its power to prevent HIV transmission among IV-drug users in China. There will be concern that widespread use of nevirapine will create a resistant virus and that the drug will be toxic, particularly to liver function, if used over a long period. (The long-term effects of nevirapine are still unknown.) But the chief criticism will be that if the drug is proven effective, people may think they're protected from HIV and will continue risky behaviors like IV-drug use. Participants will receive intense counseling when they enroll, but some may say that is not sufficient. NIAID, the study's sponsor, recently suggested that Jackson's subjects in China should have access to a full array of established treatment programs, just like those in America.

Now, as the cumbersome review process—plus new, controversial international doc-

trines about human subjects research—threaten to cripple his clinical investigation, Jackson again is exasperated. "American-style treatment programs are impractical at this point in China," he protests. "It's unrealistic—even unethical—to think that we could provide Western standards of care to everyone in the world." He is currently mulling alternative venues, funding sources, and subjects, even as he continues to negotiate with the NIH. For Brooks Jackson, dealing with the United Mine Workers is starting to look easy after all.

The World Health Organization, meanwhile, has recommended that all HIV-infected pregnant women be offered nevirapine as an option. Thanks to the landmark 012 study, the drug's manufacturer, Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, now provides it free for five years to governments that request it. "It was high risk, but it was also high return," says Jackson, as he looks back at that trial. "For me, it's personally been very satisfying. But you know, we were just so lucky. We struck gold with nevirapine." ■

Between the Front . . .

continued from page 55

June 1943, began: "Herewith, the 'Hitchcock Highlights' makes its modest bow before a surprised and pleased (we hope) audience." Readers also got an idea what life back in Hanover was like when—with an affectionate personification of the Hospital—they were informed that "Mary has been having a very active time of it and has been bulging at all her seams like an overstuffed dowager, the problem being to squeeze into our 164 beds the 200 or so patients who are clamoring for admission most of the time."

Those in the service loved the news from home. Dwight Parkinson enthused from Oregon: "'Hitchcock Highlights' is extremely interesting to me out here, as I imagine it is to all the others who are scattered around at various out-of-the-way locations." Housestaff alumnus Madison "Joe" Brown wrote in June 1944, "I have enjoyed the 'Hitchcock Highlights' very much and want to thank you folks for keeping me on the mailing list!" Another former resident, Renwick Caldwell, reported in February of that year that the "latest issue of the 'Highlights' arrived last Saturday, and I sat down after supper and read it from start to finish." And from England, DMS grad Walter Chase pleaded in May 1944, "Do not forget me when the next issue of 'Highlights' is printed."

Given the intensity of the work at Hitchcock, and the long hours that the stretched-thin staff had to work, Bowler's efforts to stay in touch were quite amazing. In January 1944, John Feltner poignantly summed up, as well as anyone could have, the impact Bowler had on the spirits of those in the service: "Your welcome Christmas card was very appreciated. To be frank, I do receive a definite boost of morale and an incentive to do my best professionally from contacts with and attention of men whom I have admired for their professional standards. . . .

"January in Africa," he went on, "[has] many clear days—comfortable when the sun is out. Still, I've a great nostalgia for snow and ice and would like to glide about Occom Pond on skates or see Hanover chimneys smoking peacefully in the winter air from the high slopes of Balch Hill. Thank you again for your Christmas note—and please give my sincerest regards to all those who are carrying on the heavier home front burdens." ■