HEART PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

LEO M. TARAN, M.D.

An important new center for the all-purpose treatment and study of heart diseases will be opened this winter at New York Medical College, Flower and Fifth Avenue Hospitals, Dr. Ralph E. Snyder, Dean, announced on July 5th. Dr. Leo M. Taran, internationally known cardiac consultant, has been appointed Director. The program will coordinate all services available to the heart patient in every department, with surgical, medical, and psychiatric teams working as one. It will be known as the Cardiopulmonary Program.

"The program will make available in New York City the machinery and personnel which will rank with that found only in a few other major cities in the country today," Dr. Snyder said. "Many patients now leave the city of New York seeking such special technical facilities in this field."

A new operating room will be constructed. It will include a control room for a team consisting of cardiologist, physiologist, electronic engineer, and anesthesiologist who will be able to offer guidance to the surgeon throughout an operation. They can report to him what is going on inside the patient such as flow of blood, heart beat, and other factors which determine successful procedure. The operating table will be equipped with electronically controlled audio-visual devices to pick up and record all vital processes. The surgeon guided by specialists in the control room, can also glance at a wall screen which will give facts on the patient's condition.

"Electronic apparatus will relay the entire operation to a lecture room for training of heart surgeons, who can listen with head phones while watching procedures on a large closed-circuit television screen," Dr. Snyder announced.

"In addition a permanent recording will be made for teaching purposes in other parts of the world. This will help provide mass training for badly needed heart specialists. Such training has been limited in the past by the fact that it must be largely done on an individual basis within the operating room itself," the Dean stated.

The program will coordinate the skills of every department at New York Medical College that can contribute to the care of heart patients. A medical-surgical conference committee with representatives from each department will discuss every case in advance to plan the total care, whether the case is surgical, strictly medical, or psychiatric. In case of emergency the Director will make the decision for immediate action without the preliminary meeting of the committee. Post-operative care and rehabilitation will also be decided by the medical-surgical team. The program is expected to contribute facts for further research in cardiovascular diseases.

Dr. Taran, who will serve as Coordinator and Director, is internationally known for his work as founder of the St. Francis Sanatorium for Cardiac Children in Roslyn, New York, which he headed until he resigned in 1955. He is a graduate of Harvard Medical School, and has had postgraduate training in Berlin and Wiesbaden. He is known throughout South America, Europe, and the Middle East where he has conducted lecture courses in cardiology in various leading cities. Dr. Taran is the author of 60 articles published in scientific journals.

"The intricate and complex care made possible by this new program will naturally be quite expensive, and the average person will not be able to pay its full cost," Dr. Snyder stated in making the announcement. "However, plans are being made for any heart patient regardless of the financial status to receive benefits of the Cardiopulmonary Program at New York Medical College."