OSU gets OK for $8 million arthritis center

By Kevin A. Kehres 3-29-84

University Hospital got the go-ahead Wednesday to build an $8 million arthritis-geriatric center, which is expected to become the state's leading arthritis research and treatment facility.

Gov. Richard F. Celeste announced that the state will give $6.5 million to University Hospital to build the center.

Plans call for the brick, two-story structure to be built south of Dodd Hall, the hospital's rehabilitation unit.

KATE CAREY, spokesman for Ohio State University President Edward Jennings, said OSU will provide $1.5 million for the facility.

The State Controlling Board is expected to release $436,000 on April 16 for planning and architectural drawings.

No timetable has been set for construction, said Jack Riddles, OSU assistant health services director. The hospital has not yet received a certificate of need from the Ohio Department of Health, which is required before construction can begin.

Riddles said the facility will have four basic areas: patient services, research laboratories, educational facilities and support services.

THE CENTER will have a 15-bed in-patient wing, but the primary emphasis will be on out-patient services, said Robert Lincoln, executive director of the Central Ohio Arthritis Foundation.

Lincoln said Celeste announced approval of the project during the foundation's annual meeting in Columbus on Wednesday night.

"This will give central Ohio and University Hospital the only comprehensive arthritis center in the state," Lincoln said. "Other places in the country might have larger units, but the collection of teaching and research space will be unique."

Lincoln said he hopes that an operating room suite can be included in the final plans.

"IF WE can add a surgical suite, it would be just about the only facility of its kind in the country," he said.

"We're looking forward to the centralization of the programs we offer.

"We can plan some model living space to train patients. This is going to be really important to us."
Gov. Richard F. Celeste announced this past month the state will go ahead with plans to build an $8 million Arthritis/Geriatric Center at Ohio State University.

Money for planning and architectural drawings is expected to be released by the State Controlling Board April 16.

The planned three-story structure will be located adjacent to the south side of Dodd Hall Rehabilitation Hospital. It will include research laboratories, patient facilities, education and support space.

The center will be designed for use by the elderly and physically impaired, and will be the only one of its kind in Ohio and surrounding states.

Approximately 16 percent, or 1.83 million Ohioans, are estimated to have one of the 110 rheumatic diseases, referred to as arthritis, according to statistics from the Health Services Institute of the National Arthritis Foundation. The foundation estimates the annual economic impact in Ohio of these diseases to be more than $500 million, including $190 million in lost wages from industrial absenteeism.

With the projected continued growth in the population of people age 65 and over, the center would research specifically the diseases, and prevention of them, that attack the elderly.

The multi-disciplinary approach of the Arthritis/Geriatric Center will give us the ability to provide medical services in an environment which meets the social, psychological and daily living needs of our elderly citizens as well as those with arthritic conditions," says Manuel Tzagournis, vice president for health services.

"Combining these services with the fine facilities and programs already existing at Dodd Hall will enable us to offer arthritic and geriatric patients a most comprehensive approach to better health."

The building will have 15 beds for patients to stay overnight, but its main function will be as an out-patient center. It is estimated the center would serve 20,000 arthritis and 5,000 geriatric out-patients each year.

Plans currently call for a building of approximately 43,000 square feet. Dan A. Carmichael is the architect.

The center’s design provides for the utilization and sharing of services between the Arthritis/Geriatric Center and the Dodd Hall Rehabilitation Hospital.

The state will contribute $6.5 million to the project and the University will contribute $1.5 million. There is no firm date for completion of the project.
Funds released for arthritis center

By Elaine McGrath
Lantern staff writer

A project to build an $8 million arthritis and geriatric center at OSU will soon get under way.

The State Controlling Board Monday approved the release of $438,061 in planning funds for the facility.

David Marsh, assistant vice president for facilities planning, said the money will be used to employ an architect to begin designs for the project.

The two-story building, which will connect with Dodd Hall, will serve patients on an outpatient basis and house research and educational facilities, according to Ginny Halloran, public information specialist at University Hospitals.

L. Lee Walker, president of the controlling board, said the board only authorized the money for release to OSU.

"It's up to the university now to submit the paperwork," she said.

Marsh said OSU should be able to get the funds without much delay.

Construction on the project will begin in six to eight months and should be completed in about two-and-a-half years, Marsh said.

No facility comparable to the planned arthritis center exists in Ohio, Halloran said.

When completed, the center will treat 20,000 arthritis and 5,000 geriatric patients a year, she said.

More than 1.5 million Ohioans suffer from some form of arthritis, according to the Arthritis Foundation. About 330,000 have rheumatoid arthritis, which primarily afflicts people between 20 and 40. About 800,000 suffer from osteopathic arthritis, which mostly affects people 65 years or older.

The board also approved the release of about $57,000 for renovation of the Student Activities Center on OSU's Lima campus.
OSU awards work on arthritis center

By Ruth Hanley
Dispatch OSU Reporter

Construction will begin this spring on the $8 million Ohio Arthritis and Geriatric Center at Ohio State University.

OSU trustees cleared the way for the bulldozers by awarding nearly $5.6 million worth of contracts yesterday to five Columbus and Cincinnati companies. The trustees met on the Newark campus.

THE CENTER will be a two-story addition to Dodd Hall at W. 9th Ave. and Cannon Dr., in the University Hospital complex. Specialized diagnosis and treatment of arthritis, as well as teaching and research space for geriatric programs, will be provided.

Trustees awarded the general contract to the Sherman R. Smoot Co. of Columbus, which submitted a low bid of $3.4 million.

Other contracts are: plumbing, $456,100, River City Mechanical, Cincinnati; fire protection, $62,639, Cincinnati Sprinkler Co.; heating, ventilating and air conditioning, $877,900, ATF Sheet Metal Inc., Columbus; and electrical, $790,000, Meisner Electric Inc., Columbus.

Estimated completion date is April 1988.

TRUSTEES heard a report on OSU's new Engineering Research Center for Net Shape Manufacturing from its director, Taylan Altan. The National Science Foundation announced March 26 that OSU will receive up to $9.7 million for the program over the next five years.

The center, one of 13 created by the foundation in the past two years, should begin operations May 1 from headquarters in the Baker Systems Engineering Building.

The aim of the center is to modernize manufacturing methods to increase U.S. ability to compete internationally, Altan said.

Among the center's areas of focus will be using computers to simulate a design's behavior, with the aim of eliminating the more costly trial-and-error method of testing parts after manufacture, Altan said.
Construction slated to start Wednesday
Contracts awarded

By David Bhaerman
Lantern staff writer

Construction is to begin Wednesday on the $8 million Ohio Arthritis and Geriatric Centers to be added to Dodd Hall.

A notice to begin construction was sent to the Sherman R. Smoot Co. of Columbus Friday afternoon, only hours after the Board of Trustees unanimously decided to award contracts for the project.

The trustees, meeting Friday at the university's regional campus in Newark, also formally approved the appointments of Gary Williams as head coach of the men's basketball team, Myles Brand as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, and Gerald Havenstein as chairperson of the Department of Poultry Science.

The Arthritis Center is to provide facilities and equipment for diagnosing arthritis patients and for research and teaching. The Geriatric Center will provide space for administration offices and teaching and research about the elderly.

The two-story addition to Dodd Hall, 472 W. 8th Ave., should be completed by April 1988, Richard Jackson, vice president for Business and Finance, told the trustees.

The Sherman R. Smoot Co., a minority-owned construction company, was tentatively awarded the contract Jan. 9 after it submitted a low bid of $3.4 million, about $20,000 lower than the estimated project cost and about $70,000 lower than the other bid received.

It is the same company that recently completed construction work on the Arps Hall Parking Garage and was contracted for two other recent university projects: The Stadium Scholarship Dormitory renovation and the 12th Avenue Parking Garage. The total of these three contracts, not including the $3.4 million for Dodd Hall, amounts to about $8.3 million, Jackson said.

Other contracts for the Arthritis and Geriatric Centers are $456,100 to River City Mechanical of Cincinnati for plumbing; $62,639 to Cincinnati Sprinkler Co. for fire protection; $577,900 to ATP Sheet Metal of Columbus for heating, ventilation and air conditioning; and $790,000 to Melsner Electric of Columbus for electrical work.

The state has legislated $7 million to fund the project, Jackson said. The additional $1 million will come from the hospital out of funds from income.

The University Campaign is also seeking private funds on endowed chairs for faculty salaries and research.

The $1 million from the hospital will probably be spent to equip the centers, Jackson said, "That will come further down the road."

Other contracts awarded by the trustees were for the $266,000 renovations at Goss Laboratory and the $36,000 road improvements on Old Dairy Road at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center in Wooster.
On a Yearly Basis

Arthritis/Geriatric Center to Serve 25,000 Patients

Groundbreaking on an $8 million Ohio State University Hospitals Arthritis/Geriatric Center south of Dodd Hall is planned for May.

Jack Riddles, assistant director of Health Services, said groundbreaking marks the culmination of five years of efforts aimed at bringing this unique medical facility to reality.

Nearly 2 million Ohioans out of 11.2 million (16 percent) are estimated to have one of the 110 rheumatic diseases, generally referred to as arthritis. These diseases touch one of every seven Ohioans and are a leading cause of industrial absenteeism.

The purpose of the arthritis center is to seek the cause, cure and prevention of arthritis and to improve the care of those who suffer from this illness.

One in 10 Americans is now over the age 65. Within 40 years, one in every five Americans will be over 65. Within the next 20 years there will be a 40% increase in the 75-84 year-old-age group, and a 60% increase in the over 85 age group.

The purpose of the geriatric center is to improve the care of the elderly by providing a system of health care services based on the total evaluation of the patient, home care needs, utilization of community services, therapy and optimal rehabilitation and research laboratories will be housed on the second floor of the two-story structure.

The building will also include education facilities, support services and patient services.
NEWS ADVISORY

In lieu of a traditional groundbreaking ceremony, Ohio State University will host a "celebration of the beginning of construction" of its Arthritis and Geriatrics Center on Thursday (5/29) at 3:30 p.m.

A major individual gift for research endowment in the center will be announced during the program in Rhodes Hall Auditorium, 450 W. 10th Ave.

Vernal G. Riffe, speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives, and Ohio State President Edward H. Jennings are among those scheduled to speak. The donor will be present.

The Arthritis and Geriatrics Center is now under construction adjacent to Dodd Hall, 472 W. 8th Ave., in the university's health sciences complex. Its construction has been funded with a $6.5 million state appropriation and $1.5 million in university funds. Private funding is being sought for research endowments.

Reporters are invited to attend the program and the reception which will follow in the auditorium lobby. University Communications will provide a multi box. For more information, contact Ruth Gerstner, editor of development communications, at 422-2711.

UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS
Wealthy contribution makes new arthritis center possible

By David Bhaerman
Lantern staff writer

President Edward H. Jennings, attending the groundbreaking ceremony for the OSU Arthritis and Geriatric Center, said the building will be named the William H. Davis Medical Research Center, in recognition of a major contribution given by Davis’ wife.

Dorothy M. Davis requested that the amount of the contribution not be made public. But, for a building to be named in honor of someone, the amount must be larger than an endowed chair, which is a gift of at least $1.5 million.

The most recent building to be named in honor of someone is the Wexner Center for the Visual Arts. Leslie Wexner, founder of the Limited Inc., donated $10 million in honor of his father.

The Geriatric Center, expected to be completed in 1988, will house research labs to treat the growing elderly population, said Manuel Tzagournis, vice president for Health Services.

Tzagournis said one in 10 Americans today is more than 65 years old. In 40 years, it is estimated one in four Americans will be older than 65.

"It is time to attack the problems of the elderly, the middle-aged and adults in general," Tzagournis said.

Davis' donation will be used to conduct research in immunology and genetics, Jennings said.

The center’s three missions are patient care, student teaching and medical research, Tzagournis said.

The center is being constructed on the lot adjacent to Dodd Hall, 472 W. 8th Ave. It is funded by a $5 million state appropriation and $1.5 million in university funds that the trustees approved at their April meeting.

The private monies, sought through the $350 million university campaign, are to support research laboratories.

William Davis, who graduated from Ohio State in 1926, was founder and owner of Davis Enterprises, a Columbus-based real estate company.

In 1976, he endowed the William H. Davis Chair in the American Free Enterprise System at Ohio State. He died in 1984.

"We are very pleased to memorialize William H. Davis in a way that surely would be especially meaningful to him," Jennings said.
Arthritis center to be named for OSU benefactor

By Ruth Hanley
Dispatch OSU Reporter

Ohio State University plans to honor the late William H. Davis for his generosity and support by giving his name to the $8 million arthritis and geriatrics center under construction on the campus.

In the name of her late husband, Dorothy M. Davis of Columbus has made what OSU officials called "a very substantial gift" to support research at the center. Mr. Davis, a 1926 graduate of OSU, was a real estate developer and leader in central Ohio.

Mrs. Davis asked that the amount of the gift not be made public. An OSU official said the amount was more than $1 million but less than last fall's $10 million gift by Leslie H. Wexner, head of The Limited stores, for the visual arts center that bears his name.

FORMAL APPROVAL for the naming of the geriatrics building must be given by OSU trustees.

At a reception yesterday in her honor, Mrs. Davis said she made the gift because of her husband's longtime interest in medical research at OSU.

Mr. Davis suffered from arthritis before his death in 1984, and she has the same affliction.

Dr. Ronald Whisler, an OSU professor of medicine who has been instrumental in the new center's development, helped care for her husband and now treats Mrs. Davis.

Mr. Davis founded Davis Enterprises, which developed apartments, residential subdivisions and shopping centers. His holdings included the Royal York and Broadwin apartments and the former Seneca Hotel.

Attorney Arthur Prendergast, a Davis family friend who spoke at the reception, described Mr. Davis as "very quietly effective in our community."

MR. DAVIS helped establish the Big Brothers program in Columbus. He also was president of the Southeast Lions Club and a major contributor to the Catholic Diocese of Columbus. He established the William H. Davis Chair in the American Free Enterprise System at OSU and a medical research program in conjunction with Drs. Larry Carey and Joseph Ryan.

Mr. Davis, his wife and his son, William C. Davis, donated a shopping center valued at $675,000 to OSU in 1977.

The 4,300-square-foot arthritis and geriatrics center will be an extension of Dodd Hall in the University Hospital complex. The center, at W. 9th Ave. and Cannon Dr., is expected to be completed in the spring of 1988.

THE CENTER is being built with a $6.5 million state appropriation and $1.5 million in OSU funds.

The Davis gift will establish an endowment to support basic research in human immunology and medical genetics. The gift was made through the OSU Campaign to raise $350 million for academic, athletic and student programs.

The campaign began last fall. As of the end of April, $118 million had been raised.
COLUMBUS, Ohio -- A very generous gift from Dorothy M. Davis of Columbus to The Ohio State University Campaign will support basic medical research in immunology and genetics at the university, President Edward H. Jennings announced May 29.

The work will be carried on in the Ohio Arthritis and Geriatrics Center, now under construction in the university's health sciences complex. In recognition of her gift, the amount of which was not announced at Mrs. Davis's request, Jennings will recommend to the university's Board of Trustees that the building be called the William H. Davis Medical Research Center.

Dorothy Davis is the widow of William H. Davis, who also was a major benefactor of the university. Mrs. Davis is a partner in Davis Enterprises and treasurer of William H. Davis & Son, central Ohio real estate development companies founded by her husband.

Income from investment of Mrs. Davis's gift will support basic research into the cause, cure and prevention of disorders common during normal aging, such as arthritis, cancer, arteriosclerosis, and immune dysfunction.

"On behalf of the university, I would like to express our deepest gratitude to Dorothy Davis for this magnificent gift. We are very pleased to memorialize William H. Davis in a way that
surely would be especially meaningful to him," Jennings said.

Mrs. Davis, who was recently elected to the Board of Directors of The Ohio State University Foundation, said she and her husband had discussed making a substantial contribution to medical research at Ohio State before his death in 1984.

"This gift carries out one of Bill's greatest wishes," she said. "He was so involved in community activities, very interested in medical research, and very supportive of Ohio State. I don't feel there is any way more appropriate to perpetuate his memory than by contributing to research on the most pressing health concerns of our times. The work being done by Ohio State immunologists and other medical researchers is very exciting, and I am happy to be able to be part of it in this way. I know Bill would be very pleased, too."

The William H. Davis Medical Research Center is to be completed in the spring of 1988. In addition to 15 research laboratories in human immunology and genetics, patient care and teaching facilities are included. The center is being constructed with a $6.5 million appropriation from the state of Ohio for a facility to conduct research related to arthritis and other diseases of the aging and $1.5 million in university funds. Vernal G. Riffe Jr., speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives, participated in the gift announcement ceremony, which also celebrated the beginning of construction.

Additional private funds for research chairs and research laboratories in the center are being sought as a part of the ongoing $350 million Ohio State University Campaign.

Contact: Thomas L. Tobin, vice president for university communications and development (614) 422-2970.
Davis gift will support research at Ohio State

By Ruth Gerstner

A major gift to the Ohio State University Campaign from Dorothy M. Davis of Columbus will support basic research in human immunology and medical genetics at Ohio State.

President Jennings announced the gift, the amount of which was not disclosed at Davis’s request, May 29 during a program to mark the beginning of construction of an arthritis and geriatric center in the health sciences complex. The center will house laboratories and research programs that will be supported by the gift.

“Mrs. Davis has made her gift in honor and memory of her late husband, William H. Davis — a distinguished alumnus of this University and a major benefactor in his own right,” Jennings said during the program in Rhodes Hall Auditorium attended by friends and associates of the Davis family.

“In recognition of his strong interest in the health sciences and of his wife’s philanthropy, I will recommend to the University Board of Trustees that this new center bear the name, “The William H. Davis Medical Research Center.””

Dorothy M. Davis, who recently was elected to the Board of Directors of the Ohio State University Foundation, is a partner in Davis Enterprises and vice president of William H. Davis & Son, Central Ohio real estate development companies founded by her husband.

Income from the Davis gift will support basic research into the cause, cure and prevention of disorders common during normal aging, such as arthritis, cancer, arteriosclerosis and immune dysfunction.

“I would like to express our deepest gratitude to Mrs. Davis for her generous support. We are very pleased to memorialize William H. Davis in a way that surely would be especially meaningful to him,” Jennings said.

Davis said she and her husband had discussed making a substantial contribution to medical research at Ohio State before his death in 1984. He had established the William H. Davis Chair in the American Free Enterprise System in the College of Business and a research fund in the the College of Medicine.

“This gift carries out one of Bill’s greatest wishes,” she said. “He was involved in many community activities. His interest in medical research and support of Ohio State were among his main projects.

“I don’t feel there is any way more appropriate to perpetuate his memory than by contributing to research on the most pressing health concerns of our times. The work being done by Ohio State immunologists and other medical researchers is very exciting, and I am happy to be able to be part of it in this way. I know Bill would be very pleased, too.”

The William H. Davis Medical Research Center is to be completed in the spring of 1988. It will be located at the corner of
Dorothy M. Davis

Photo by Kevin Fitzsimons

9th Avenue and Cannon Drive and will be attached to Dodd Hall.

In addition to 15 research laboratories in human immunology and genetics, patient care and teaching facilities are included.

The center is being constructed with a $6.5 million appropriation from the state of Ohio for a facility to conduct research related to arthritis and other diseases of the aging and $1.5 million in University funds. As part of the $350 million Ohio State University Campaign, private funds are being sought for endowed research chairs and research laboratories in the center.
OSU is seeking bids for multi-sport complex

The Board of Trustees on June 11 authorized advertising for construction bids for a Multi-Sport Practice Complex.

The new complex will be built next to the Biggs Athletic Training Facility off Olentangy River Road at a total estimated project cost of $13.6 million.

Construction will be funded entirely through gifts to the Ohio State University Campaign, an ongoing five-year program to raise $350 million in private funds for projects throughout the University.

The Multi-Sport Complex is one of several athletic projects included in the campaign. An Athletic Campaign Steering Committee is actively seeking $45 million to fund athletic projects. The volunteer committee is headed by Alex Schoenbaum of Charleston, W.Va., founder of Shoney's Inc. Schoenbaum's gift of $1 million last December was the first of several major gifts which have been committed for athletic projects.

Scheduled for completion in the fall of 1987, the complex will feature a full-size indoor synthetic turf practice field suitable for all field sports. It also will include training areas, meeting rooms, equipment storage, locker rooms and a state-of-the-art weight room.

The indoor practice field is designed to be the finest facility of its kind in college athletics. It will be regulation size, covered in artificial turf and surrounded by a 30-foot-wide perimeter for safety and observation. With a roof rising some six stories, the field will have the latest in lighting, camera and filming equipment, playing surface, ventilation and graphics.

Included in the project will be renovation of the present Biggs facility to house locker rooms, meeting areas, weight training and equipment storage for a number of women's and men's teams.

In other action, the trustees approved the naming of the University's arthritis and...
New Geriatrics Center Funded

A major gift to The Ohio State University Campaign from Dorothy M. Davis of Columbus will be used to establish an endowment to support basic research in human immunology and medical genetics.

The gift is made in honor of her late husband, William H. Davis. At Mrs. Davis' request, the amount of the gift was not disclosed.

The studies of human immunology and medical genetics are vital to conquering four major health problems that now account for the illnesses and deaths of four out of five Americans—arthritis, cancer, arteriosclerosis, and immune dysfunction.

A new facility, the Ohio Arthritis and Geriatric Center, is being constructed on the southwest portion of campus near the medical center. In recognition of the gift, it will be named the William H. Davis Medical Research Center.

The facility, funded by $8 million from the state of Ohio, will house laboratories and research programs that will be supported by Mrs. Davis' gift.

The center will be a two-story addition to the current Dodd Hall and will house a center for specialized diagnosis and treatment of arthritis patients and for clinical research and teaching related to the disease.

The $8 million building will also provide administrative, teaching, and research space for geriatric programs. The center is expected to be completed in April 1988.

Private funds are being sought through the Ohio State University Campaign to endow faculty research chairs and research laboratories at the center. Income from investments of the gifts will provide salary support, supplies, laboratory equipment, and research and grant preparation assistance.

William H. Davis, a 1926 graduate of Ohio State, was well known as a real estate developer and civic leader in central Ohio. In 1976, he established the William H. Davis Chair in the American Free Enterprise System at Ohio State. His strong interest in basic medical research led him to establish a research program in conjunction with physicians Larry Carey and Joseph Ryan.
Treatment targets back pain

By Neal Havener
Lantern staff writer

Eighty percent of all people will experience, at least once in their lives, back problems serious enough to prevent them from going to work, said Dr. Brian Bowyer, assistant professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation.

Last year, 5.5 million people saw their doctors for back problems, and there were 250,000 back surgeries, Dr. Gary Rea, assistant professor of neurosurgery and spine services at University Hospitals, said.

To better combat back and neck problems, Bowyer and Rea co-founded central Ohio's first multidisciplinary spine clinic last October.

"It's not a very exciting disease, but on the other hand, it costs society millions of dollars each year in lost productivity," Rea said.

The OSU Spine Clinic, located in the Davis Center, 480 W. Ninth Ave., is open 8 a.m. to noon every Tuesday.

Clinic patients are examined by the two doctors and physical therapist Sue Killian. The three member team then prescribes the most appropriate treatment program, Rea said.

The doctors realized they had been seeing the same patients and intermittently sending them to physical therapists. "We wanted to see them more quickly and direct their care in a more rational manner" so they created the clinic, he said.

Bowyer said although surgery is a valuable form of treatment, it is usually unnecessary.

Proper posture, body mechanics and active physical therapies, such as simple exercises and stretching, are emphasized at the clinic, Killian said.

If the problem is severe, patients are referred to the outpatient clinic in Doan Hall, Killian said. Passive therapies, such as the use of ultrasound and the application of heat or cold, may be used in those cases, she said.

According to hospital reports, some of the causes of back pain are abdominal problems, vascular disease, degenerative disease, cancer and injury; however, poor posture, lack of exercise, aging and excess weight are almost always contributing factors.

"Quite often the precipitating event is not that traumatic - like bending over to pick up a shoe," Bowyer said. "It doesn't seem very traumatic, and it isn't, but it's a cumulative kind of thing."

Getting regular exercise and using proper body mechanics, such as lifting with the knees instead of the back are the best preventive methods in avoiding back problems, Bowyer said.

As a general rule, he suggested 30 minutes of intensive exercise three times a week.

"The more active they are, in aerobic-type activities that emphasize non-traumatic activity, then they'll be good in health and their back won't suffer for it," Rea said.

Although more people are becoming health conscious, it is very difficult to modify the behavior of those who are not, Rea said.

The clinic is already booked weeks in advance, despite the fact they have done no advertising or marketing, Bowyer said.

"There's a huge need for us to take more patients, but it's limited by space and staffing," Bowyer said.

Rea said they are hopeful the clinic will be able to expand within the next few months.

Patients are now seen on a referral-only basis, but when the expansion takes place, the doctors might be able to accept walk-in patients, Bowyer said.
Arthritis sufferers participate in study

By Amy Totte
Lantern staff writer

People over 60 who suffer from rheumatoid arthritis and are taking anti-inflammatory drugs are being offered a chance to participate in an arthritis study at Ohio State.

The study is part of a national study designed to see if misoprostol, marketed under the name Cytotec, can prevent gastrointestinal side effects, which may be caused by anti-inflammatory drugs such as aspirin and ibuprofen, said Dr. Linda Gray, an assistant professor of clinical medicine in the Department of Internal Medicine.

These anti-inflammatory drugs, which are often taken to combat inflammation, often cause stomach ulcers and other gastrointestinal ailments, Gray said.

Researchers have found that out of the 2.1 million people who suffer from rheumatoid arthritis, 10 to 20 percent of them develop stomach ulcers, and there have been 200,000 cases of internal bleeding as a result of taking non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, said Steve Peterson, vice-president of creative services for the Arthritis Foundation.

Cytotec is the only drug on the market that has been proved by the Food and Drug Administration to prevent these stomach problems, said Kay Bruno, senior director of public affairs for Searle, the manufacturer of Cytotec.

"We are not used to having a drug that will prevent a problem, we are only used to having drugs that will treat problems," Bruno said.

She said the drug has been proved to prevent these side effects and was made available to the public in 1989. The national study runs from 1991 to 1993 and includes 15,000 participants and 700 centers across the United States, Bruno said.

Ohio State is one of the national centers participating in the Cytotec study looking for 20 to 30 volunteers to participate in their local study, Gray said.

Patients will visit the William H. Davis Center at Ohio State monthly for a six-month study, to get their medication and answer questions, said Joy Kiger, clinical research coordinator of rheumatology.

She said half of the patients participating in the study will be given the drug, and the other half will be given a placebo, so the results can be compared at the end of the study.

There will be no X-rays or blood work required for the study, and there will be no cost to the participants, Kiger said.

Searle is supplying the treatments, and the center will provide free parking, she said.

All of the lab work and the results will be available to the participants at the end of the study, so they can take the paperwork to their own doctors, Kiger said.

Anyone interested in participating in the arthritis study can enroll in the study anytime during the next six months and can contact Joy Kiger at 293-4948 for further information.