

Brain Diseases Target of Expanded Neurocritical Care Unit

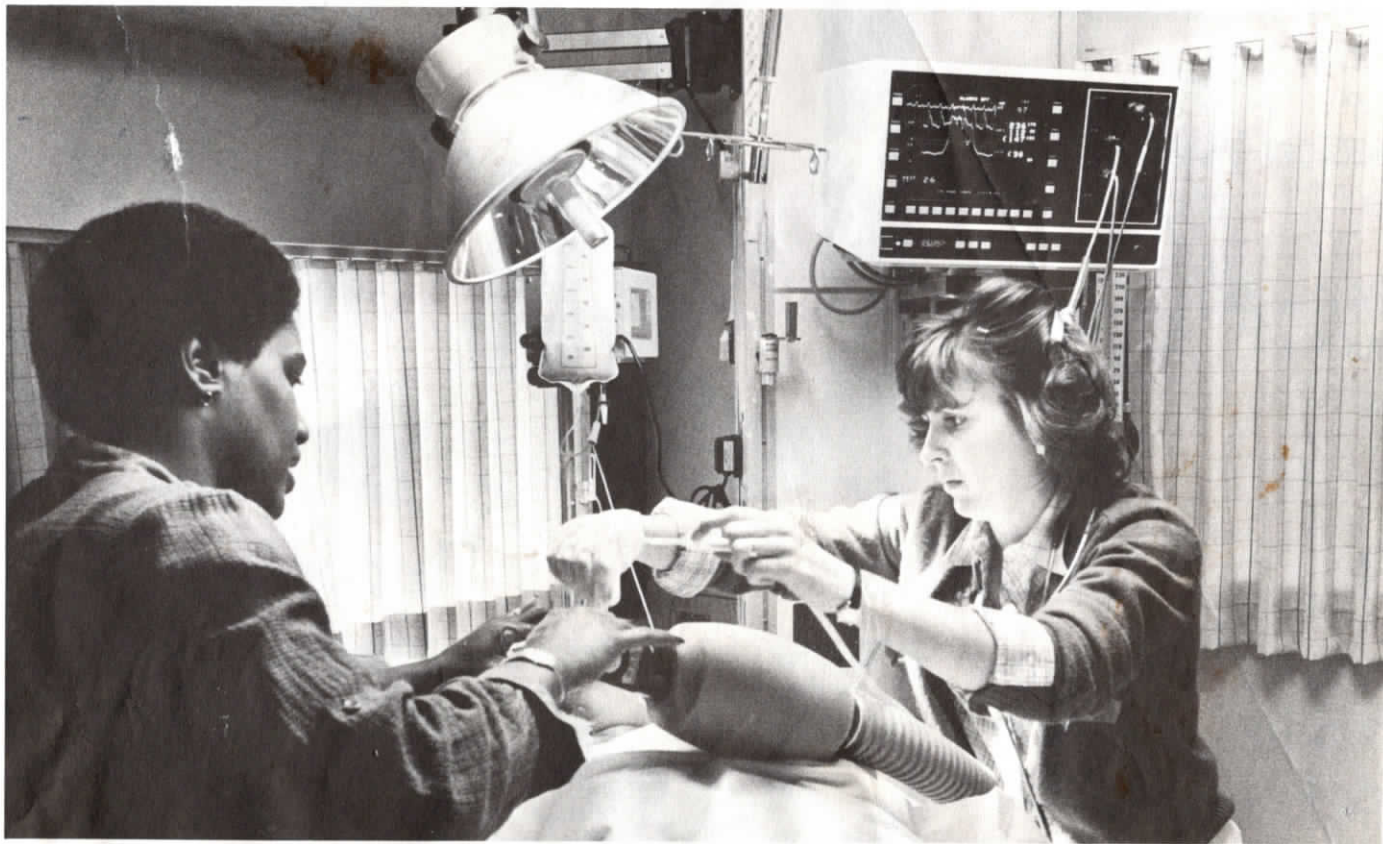
The Hospital has moved and expanded its Neurosciences Critical Care Unit for patients with life-threatening brain diseases or damage. Each of the eight beds is equipped with sophisticated monitoring equipment specially designed to help detect changes in neurological and heart function as well as breathing.

The unit is one of the first of its kind, allowing neurologists, neurosurgeons, anesthesiologists and nationally certified neuroscience nurses to work together in a single dedicated unit with state-of-the-art equipment.

Directed by neurologist **Daniel F. Hanley, M.D.**, anesthesiologist **Cecil O. Borel III, M.D.**, and head nurse **Judith "Ski" Lower**, the unit is expected eventually to be one of the heaviest users of magnetic resonance imaging technology.

The unit is 25 feet from the operating room on the seventh floor of the Meyer Building.

Because highly skilled nursing training is critical, each of the 22 nurses on staff takes annual competency tests. More than half of the nurses are nationally certified in neuroscience or critical care nursing, according to Lower, and there's a waiting list of nurses who want to join the staff. □



IV therapist Sylvia Johnson helps critical care nurse Julie McArthur clear the breathing passages and give oxygen to a patient with a brain aneurysm.