

Research Council for Diagnostic and Prescriptive Mathematics

by *Bill Speer*
Publications Chairperson, RCDPM
Bowling Green, Ohio

A seed of an idea was planted at the First National Conference on Remedial Mathematics held at Kent State University in 1974. The seed was carefully nurtured during 1975, and at the Third National Conference on Remedial Mathematics held at Kent State University in 1976, a new organization was conceived. Under the guidance of a steering committee, a constitution and bylaws were developed, approved, and implemented for the new organization: *Research Council for Diagnostic and Prescriptive Mathematics*. At the 1977 Maryland meeting, the new organization became a full organization with officers and over 300 members (currently) from the United States and eight other countries. The 1978 Arizona meeting heralded even further growth.

The Research Council for Diagnostic and Prescriptive Mathematics is a relatively new organization that has as its major goals the stimulation, generation, coordination and dissemination of research and development efforts in diagnostic and prescriptive techniques and other techniques which either prevent or correct learning deficiencies in mathematics instruction.

After one full year of life, the RCDPM is gaining momentum and becoming a strong professional organization in American (and perhaps international) mathematics education. A newsletter is distributed four times yearly, several ancillary publications have been issued by the organization, and a national meeting is conducted annually. (This year the annual meeting is in Tampa immediately following NCTM.)

As with any infant organization, there are many plans and decisions to be made. If you are not now a member, we hope you will give serious consideration to becoming an active member and contribute your support to research in diagnostic and prescriptive mathematics (and its dissemination).

A united front needs to be developed to organize and to avoid duplication of research in this area. Diagnostic instruments, techniques of diagnosing, and unique methods of correcting teaching need to be developed. Researchers are needed at all levels - in the clinic and in the classroom - professors, clinicians, supervisors and classroom teachers. There is room for everyone to actively participate in the Research Council for Diagnostic and Prescriptive Mathematics.

For further information, contact:

Research Council for Diagnostic and Prescriptive Mathematics
441 Beryl Drive
Kent, Ohio 44240