

## Willowbrook's Director Shifted to a 2d Institution

By MURRAY SCHUMACH

The director of Willowbrook, the scandal-riddled state institution for the mentally retarded, has been transferred to another state job a short distance from his present office on Staten Island.

Dr. Mioidrag Ristic will become director for the Institute for Basic Research in Mental Retardation, at 1050 Forest Hill Road. His transfer came after recent Federal Court hearings at which there were allegations of mistreatment of patients at Willowbrook.

No successor was announced yesterday. Knowledgeable sources at the State Department of Mental Hygiene said that community leaders would be consulted on the selection of a new director.

The institute to which Dr. Ristic was transferred is the state agency's major center for research into the causes, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mental retardation and other neurological disabilities. His salary will remain at about \$43,000.

The same day that Dr. Ristic made this comment, Dr. Alan D. Miller, head of the State Department of Mental Hygiene, said, through a spokesman, that he had not requested Dr. Ristic's resignation and that the director of Willowbrook had not offered it.

Strong pressure had been exerted on Dr. Miller to transfer Dr. Ristic. An important official in the department said that his transfer had been urged even prior to the hearings in Federal Court, in Brooklyn, before Judge Orrin G. Judd.

The hearing were a result of a suit to force the transfer of some 3,500 patients in Willowbrook to their families, foster homes, halfway houses or other small residential units. The hearings, which began last week, recessed last Monday.

At one of the hearings, Dr. Earl C. Butterfield, professor of pediatrics and a director of the Ralph L. Smith Center for Research in Mental Retardation and Human Development at the University of Kansas, said of Willowbrook:

"I have never seen a facility in which inadequacy was so widespread."

Dr. Ristic, who is 36 years old, came to Willowbrook in 1972 after there had been a major scandal about mistreatment of patients. After a few months as deputy clinical director, he was named director on Oct. 5, 1972. Before that he was medical director at the Cambridge (Minn.) State Hospital for three years.

### Inquiry on Abuse of Patients At Pilgrim State Widening

An inquiry into allegations of patient abuse at Pilgrim State Hospital in Brentwood, L.I., has spread to encompass "several employes and several incidents," a source in the Suffolk County District Attorney's office said yesterday.

The acting director of the hospital, Dr. Alfred P. Pinard, said that three employes had been dismissed and one fined in connection with five incidents of patient abuse since his arrival at the hospital in April.

Dr. Pinard also disclosed that departmental disciplinary procedures are continuing against those allegedly involved in the incidents, including the most recent case, which he said occurred "two or three weeks ago." Dr. Pinard refused to disclose details of the specific cases, saying the information was confidential.

He said, however, that none of the injuries inflicted on patients during the abuse were "serious."