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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL SCHOOL

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Vol. I, No. 4

Sanders W. Davis, Editor  
Judith C. Turner, Feature Editor

February 1965

All students will be excused from class and ward work the morning of Feb. 10 to attend SWMS 3rd Annual Student Research Forum, sponsored by SAMA. The forum will be held in the first floor lecture room of the Basic Science Building, with closed-circuit TV available in the second floor lecture room.

The schedule for the event begins with the Student Research Presentations from 8:30 to 11:00 am, with the Guest Lecture following at 11:00 am. From 12:30 to 1:30 pm, a banquet for the participants will be held, where the awards will be made.

Guest Lecturer for the Forum will be Dr. DeWitt Stetten, Jr., Dean of Rutgers Medical School; the title of his talk is "About Gout".

- Students presenting papers will be:  
Ken Farrimond (OB-GYN),  
Dave Werner (Path),  
Harvey McBrayer (Microbiology),  
John Lanus (Surg & Path),  
Steve Barnett (Physiol & Med),  
Forest Brown (Anat),  
Rex Repass (Physiol),  
Jack Kinney and Nick Soter (Med),  
Charles Fox (Pharm),  
Josiah Taylor (Med),  
Joe Goldstein (Med).

FINALLY

Construction has begun on the long-awaited Student Center. Dean Gill announced that excavation is under way on the hill outside the front door of the Basic Science Building.

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ALL-SCHOOL DANCE

The Phi Beta Pi Formal will be held Saturday night, Feb. 13, at the Marriott Motel. Dinner for members will begin at 7:30 pm and the all-school dance will begin at 9:30 pm. Charge at the door will be \$3.50 per couple.

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SWMS SAMA has now established liaison with the Texas Medical Association and the Dallas County Medical Society. Instrumental in developing this liaison were John Chaffield, who made the initial contacts, and Randy Bailey and Doug Jones, who attended the TMA meeting in Austin, Jan. 16 and 17. Although SAMA is not affiliated with the AMA or any state or local medical association, it is hoped that the development of these liaisons will be of benefit in helping students learn more about the practice of medicine.

## THE "FAT CHEMIST"

In a quiet, efficient laboratory on the third floor of the Basic Science Building, a current investigation of the metabolism of dietary lipid is a continuation of an interest by the investigator for over 30 years. Although some of his colleagues in other departments are unaware of his contributions to biochemical knowledge, Dr. Herbert C. Tidwell has and continues to receive national and international recognition for his patient and painstaking research.

Dr. Tidwell enjoys the fact that he is occasionally referred to as a "fat chemist", whereas we all realize how little the problem of excess weight is for him.

Dr. Tidwell is a native of Mexia and has been a teacher throughout his entire career. He is a Baylor alumnus and taught all phases of science in a Fort Worth High School for several years before joining the Chemistry Department at Texas A & M. Some time later he reaffirmed an earlier decision to continue graduate work in biochemistry and chose Johns Hopkins University as the place for study. It was there that his life-long investigation of lipids was initiated with a study of the effect of dietary fats on the new born.

Subsequent academic experience was gained on the faculties of Carnegie Institute of Technology, Johns Hopkins University, Duke University, and Wake Forest College of Medicine. Finally in 1938 Dr. Tidwell was invited to return to his home state to become Professor of Biochemistry and Chairman of the Department at Baylor University College of Medicine in Dallas. He has faithfully served in that capacity throughout administrative changes leading to Southwestern Medical College and ultimately the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School.

Dr. Tidwell has always championed the student, and his door has always been open in order that he provide whatever assistance was possible. He has steadily encouraged and supported his staff in a desire to present the most

effective teaching program to medical students. His interest in graduate education of professional biochemists has also been evidenced by the gradual development of a program at SMS in close cooperation with the Chemistry Department at Austin. Thus both the M.A. and the Ph.D. degree in Biochemistry have now been conferred by his department.

The loss of one of his well conditioned reflexes has been the result of modern technology. In the "shacks", as the Oak Lawn Campus is affectionately called in reminiscence, his office (as was the whole school) was located in rather close proximity to the animal quarters. These quarters left much to be desired, especially in the control of flies. Most faculty offices were at least well enough equipped to contain a handy fly swatter. The story goes that Dr. Tidwell was a master with this unique item of laboratory equipment. While seated at his desk in the course of conversation, he could spot an invader through the corner of his eye, and effectively deliver an overhand or backhand shot to the intruder without dropping a word in the conversation. This experience is said to have been especially unnerving to prospective medical students during the course of an interview.

Since September 1963, Dr. Tidwell has enjoyed a special status - and loving it. The University of Texas deems it wise not to inflict additional administrative worries on a faculty member as he approaches the retirement age. Instead, the select person is permitted more opportunity for investigative research. Thus for somewhat over a year, Dr. Tidwell has accelerated his efforts in several fields of lipid metabolism, much to his own personal pleasure, without the concerns of the responsibilities of the departmental chairmanship. He will continue to serve as Professor of Biochemistry.

With the current faculty numbering approximately 150 it is hard to realize the extensive responsibilities which

## THE DEPARTMENT OF ANATOMY

By Dr. Wm. Willis

In many medical schools, the first department with which the incoming freshman medical student has major contact is the Department of Anatomy. This is certainly true at Southwestern Medical School. The freshman student spends 300 hours in gross anatomy, 200 hours in microanatomy, and 125 hours in neuroanatomy and neurophysiology during his first five months of medical school here. This amounts to about half of the first year's work. And yet seldom does the student know very much about the activities of the members of the Department of Anatomy when they are not occupied with giving lectures or supervising laboratories. Presumably a few students are aware of the research interests of some of the faculty from remarks made during the courses, and many are aware that among their fellow sufferers are occasional graduate students, but by and large the goings on in the department during the spring and summer are a closed book to most medical students.

On the other hand, there are a few students each year who work in the department upon research projects and who enter fully into the life of the department. Because of time limitations in a crowded medical curriculum, such students generally restrict their research activities to summer months and occasional free periods during the school year. Some of these students enter the graduate school in the hopes of earning a Master's degree by their research efforts. It is expected that in the future an occasional student will drop out of medical school for, say, a year to complete an advanced degree.

The research interests within the Department of Anatomy cover a rather broad spectrum. Work is being done in fields classically identified with anatomical sciences, and work is also being done in fields and using techniques generally thought to belong in other than anatomical disciplines. Medical research these days often requires an interdisciplinary approach.

A number of problems are being attacked using various types of microscopy, both at

the light microscope level and at the electron microscope level. For instance, Dr. Eleanor Siperstein has been studying the cell type in the anterior lobe of the pituitary gland responsible for the secretion of the adrenocorticotrophic hormone. She was able to identify the cell type by the use of autoradiography, and now she and Mrs. Allison are studying the ultrastructure of the cell with the electron microscope.

Last summer, two medical students worked on problems requiring the use of the electron microscope. Mr. Forest Brown studied the origin of mitochondria, and Mr. William Neal worked on the technique of applying autoradiography to electron microscopy.

A new member of the department, Dr. Curtis Hoskins, is planning to continue work begun in Stockholm on the ultrastructure of chromosomes. He is planning to develop a tissue culture laboratory in the Danciger Building. The tissue culture material will be used for cytological studies of various kinds. There will be facilities for microsurgery of single cells and for cinemicrography.

Many of the other members of the Department of Anatomy have been doing research on more functional than structural lines. Dr. Weathersby has been studying the patterns of contraction of various muscles during particular movements, using electromyography.

Dr. Virginia Doggett is interested in reproductive endocrinology. She has been developing a method for determining circulating testosterone levels, using chromatographic techniques.

Drs. Harrison and Willis are concerned with problems in neurophysiology. Dr. Harrison is interested chiefly in the autonomic nervous system, especially in its neuropharmacology. Dr. Willis is working on synaptic connections in the spinal cord. Two medical students, Mr. Robert Ashworth and Mr. George Tate, worked with him last summer on the synaptology of the cervical spinal cord.

Obviously, many things are going on in

the Department of Anatomy in addition to the teaching of the anatomy courses. There are now two graduate students in the department working on Ph.D. degrees, and there will be several more within the next year. New faculty will probably join the department before next September. As the department expands into its space in the Danciger Building, the research activities will increase. And, hopefully, this will mean the participation of more medical students in the activities of the Department of Anatomy.

A weekly seminar is held in the Department of Anatomy on topics of interest to the staff and students in the graduate program. Medical students are not only welcome but encouraged to attend any of the seminars.

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### A NIGHT IN MADRID

Carla Klein, head of the Student-Faculty Dance Committee of Big Wives, has announced that tickets for the Dinner Dance will go on sale Feb. 1. Married students can get tickets from members of Big Wives, and single students from their SAMA class representatives. Faculty members should call one of the numbers listed on their invitations. Ticket sales will be closed after 500 tickets have been sold; or in any case, by March 1.

The theme for the evening will be "A Night in Madrid". Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm in the Conquistador Room of the Marriott Motel, Saturday night, March 20. It will be followed by skits and dancing to the music of Hyman Charmisky's Band. Marion Galerstein, noted local folk singer, has donated her talents and will sing during intermissions between class skits.

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A comprehensive national health program headed by the controversial medicare plan has been laid before Congress by President Johnson.

Congressional supporters of medicare are convinced they have the votes in the 89th Congress, especially since the Ways and Means Committee has been revamped to set the lineup at 17 Democrats and only 8 Republicans, virtually assuring a pro-medicare majority for the first time.

In a sweeping set of recommendations, the President urged, among many other proposals:

A program of health services for impoverished children and youths through legislation.

Scholarships for medical and dental students needing aid to remain in school.

A \$175 million fund to extend the Education Assistance Act of 1963 which provides grants for construction of "health profession" schools and loans to students.

A five-year program of project grants to develop multi-purpose regional medical complexes that would be affiliated with medical schools, teaching hospitals or medical centers.

In the next issue, Robert Ring, chairman of SAMA's Medical Legislation Committee, will outline the salient points of the Eldercare program proposed by the AMA as an alternative to medicare.

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### The "Fat Chemist"

were once shouldered by each of 20 or 25 full time faculty. Dr. Tidwell's efforts and contributions throughout the infancy and adolescence of this medical school have greatly contributed to the position which the school now occupies in medical education and research. Mere words are inadequate to properly express appreciation. Nevertheless, Dr. Tidwell, "Thank you for a job well done" from students, colleagues on this and many other faculties, and friends.