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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DALLAS -- A 10-year program for expansion of Southwestern Medical School of the University of Texas at Dallas into a University of Texas Life Sciences Center has been approved in principle by the Board of Regents of the University System.

The Preliminary Master Plan -- presented to the Regents by Dr. Charles C. Sprague, Southwestern dean -- will lead to creation of a health professions campus, offering education, research and patient care in the allied health professions and in related fields such as sociology, chemistry, physics, biology and bioengineering, as well as medicine.

"The Life Sciences Center will broaden the academic base of Southwestern to encompass physical sciences, biological sciences, social sciences and behavioral sciences, as well as medicine," Dr. Sprague said.

"With the overwhelming health needs of the people of the United States plus present and anticipated provisions of patient care costs through self-insured and federal programs, it is essential that we take a new look at medical education and our method of delivery of health care," the dean declared.

(more)

First add expansion

"It is our unquestioned obligation to understand as best we can all those environmental influences that affect, both for better and for worse, the physical and mental health of human beings. We recognize that medical education and our system of delivery of health care has reached a point where a departure from the traditional operation of each is now mandatory."

While many academic disciplines have some relationships to broad aspects of health, the dean listed 11 units that probably have closest relationships to the health sciences that will be included in Southwestern's program. These are chemistry, physics, mathematics, biology, bioengineering, information sciences, sociology, psychology, anthropology, economics and political science.

There already is considerable overlap among these disciplines as applied to health care and clear lines of distinction are disappearing, he pointed out. Mathematics, for instance, has application to all investigators. Probability, statistics, mathematical genetics and mathematical models, as well as the applied mathematics of biology, all are involved.

As another example, an application of engineering to medicine has been evident in recent years through progress in artificial organs. Other fields of study for bioengineering might include muscle dynamics, optic tracking, neurophysiology of vision, and audition. Environmental engineering studies of air and water pollution are increasingly important in the health sciences.

(more)

## Second add expansion

Anthropologists study man's way of life, such as the needs of people with different body builds, effects of climate, kinds of work, and cultural practices related to health sciences. And economics, governmental relations and organizational systems have an increasingly important relationship with the health team and how they deliver their services. Medical sociology is concerned with those features of the social structure which are a part of getting sick, of obtaining help, of treatment, and of remaining healthy, Dr. Sprague said.

The University of Texas at Dallas plans to meet these needs by Ph.D programs in mathematics, psychology, physics, medical basic sciences, chemistry, bioengineering, biology, information sciences, anthropology, medical economics and political science, and sociology.

There are, of course, many medical schools that are part of large universities with separate departments on campus offering these related disciplines. But, said Dr. Sprague, the Dallas undertaking will be unique in that it will be the first time that the related disciplines are developed around the framework of a medical school, with emphasis on the health care elements of each discipline.

Dr. Sprague and a Planning Committee comprised of faculty and administrative staff began work on the Master Plan in 1967, shortly after the dean moved to Dallas from his former post as dean of the Tulane University School of Medicine at New Orleans.

The dean stressed that details of the program will be worked out step by step. The "approval in principle" expressed the backing of the Regents for the approach.

(more)

### Third add expansion

The Plan provides for more than doubling enrollment on the Dallas campus in the next 10 years. Enrollment in the medical school Freshman class will be increased from 100 to 150. A new dental school is proposed.

Three-fold increases in both research programs and on-campus patient care facilities are anticipated.

There now are 1,170 students on the Dallas campus. These include 402 medical students; 359 interns, residents and post-doctoral fellows in clinical science; 255 nursing students, and smaller groups in medical basic sciences, social and behavioral sciences and other health sciences.

The over-all figure will increase by 1972 to 1,870 and by 1978 to 3,075. By 1978 it is projected the University will have over 500 medical students; 650 interns, residents and post-doctoral fellows in clinical science, and 310 nursing students. (The nursing school is operated by Texas Women's University.)

Substantial enlargement of the physical plant will be a part of the development program.

While approving in principle the new approach to health care teaching, the University Regents also approved a site plan for addition of several new buildings over the next four years. These will be --

- \* The Fred Florence Bioscience Information Center;
- \* The McDermott Basic Science Research Center;
- \* A new unit to house classrooms and laboratories;
- \* A graduate teaching and administrative center;
- \* An auditorium seating up to 1,000; and,
- \* An animal care facility.

(more)

#### Fourth add expansion

Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in January, 1969, on the first of the new buildings, the McDermott Basic Science Hall. Other elements of the program will be launched over the next two years. The entire new complex is scheduled for completion by 1972. Southwestern's physical quarters now include four principal buildings, plus utility structures. The building program will be financed by federal and state funds and by private contributions. Additional land will be acquired.

The dean declared that the major contribution of the University Medical School in helping solve the major social problem of health care is to provide the intellectual and academic leadership in formulating possible means of solution and in the education of the professional people who will address themselves to the problem.

"The program is based on need -- both public and institutional. While striving to improve its relative position as an academic institution of high quality, Southwestern seeks to provide practical solutions to an array of vexing problems," Dr. Sprague said.

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