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Contact: John Weeks

*\*\*\*\*\*Dr. MacDonald resigns OB-GYN chairmanship to direct Green research center at UTHSCD; Dr. Norman Gant appointed acting chairman.*

DALLAS--Dr. Paul C. MacDonald has resigned chairmanship of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School to give fulltime direction to an intensified research attack on medical problems of human reproduction.

Head of the department during seven years of expansion and accomplishment, Dr. MacDonald will continue as director of the Cecil H. and Ida Green Center for Reproductive Biology Sciences, a post he has held since its creation in 1974.

Succeeding him, as acting chairman, is Dr. Norman F. Gant, formerly associate chairman. Dr. Gant also will be acting chief of obstetrics & gynecology at Parkland Memorial Hospital, Southwestern's primary teaching hospital.

Dr. Frederick Bonte, Southwestern dean, said in announcing the appointment that a faculty search committee will seek a permanent chairman.

The Green center, made possible by a gift from the Dallas businessman-philanthropist and his wife, is a novel interdisciplinary amalgam of researchers performing a variety of studies aimed at improving maternal health and the quality of life for the newborn. Some 35 medical scientists from various departments within the parent UT Health Science Center at Dallas already are participating, and the research effort will expand into facilities in the next few months when UTHSCD opens its \$12.5 million Harry S. Moss Clinical Research Building.

Imminent expansion of the Green center was a factor in the timing of his decision to resign the chairmanship, Dr. MacDonald said.

Regarded as an authority on reproductive hormone function, Dr. MacDonald also will continue a major teaching role as holder of the Cecil H. and Ida Green Chair in Reproductive Biology. And he is program director of the Dallas Regional Perinatal Program, a county-wide effort to identify and treat high-risk pregnancies.

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Commenting on the administrative change, both Dr. Bonte and Dr. Charles C. Sprague, president of the health science center, praised MacDonald's leadership:

"Building on the firm foundation left by your distinguished predecessor, Jack Pritchard, you have carried Southwestern's Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology to the very forefront of your discipline," Dean Bonte said in a letter to Dr. MacDonald.

"Clearly, the department ranks as one of the foremost in the world," noted Dr. Sprague, who predicted continued growth by the Green center parallel to that experienced by the department under Dr. MacDonald's tutelage.

Chairman since 1970, and acting chairman for a year before that, Dr. MacDonald presided over growth of the obstetrics & gynecology faculty from 8 to 34 fulltime members, with a total current staff of more than 300. Last year the department was responsible for delivery of nearly 8,000 babies at Parklawn hospital and some 270,000 clinic visits at facilities under its supervision which include nine maternal health and family planning clinics.

During his tenure the department embarked on a markedly larger research role, and expanded teaching activity to include segments of all four years of medical schooling. Undergraduate classes grew from 105 to 200 and OB-GYN residents increased from 24 to 40.

As part of Southwestern's highly regarded program of improved obstetrical care, a high-risk pregnancy unit has been established at Parkland where such pregnancy-complicating conditions as diabetes, high blood pressure, heart and kidney disease are detected and managed. The unit received nationwide attention when a young Lewisville, Tex., mother, Mrs. Jerry Davis, gave birth to quintuplets while being cared for there.

The new acting chairman, Dr. Gant, is author of more than 40 scientific papers, with emphasis on studies of pregnancy-related hypertension. He is developer of a simple diagnostic test for predicting this condition, which involves comparisons of blood pressure with the patient lying on her back and on her side.

A 1964 graduate of Southwestern, Dr. Gant completed internship and residency at Parkland and a fellowship in reproductive physiology at the medical school. He joined the faculty in 1968 and was named professor and associate chairman of obstetrics & gynecology last year.

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Dr. Gant describes the department as "filled with very competent clinicians and investigators--an outstanding collection of unique individuals."

Dr. MacDonald, whose lengthy list of scientific writings includes contributions to nine books, sees the Green research center's interdisciplinary approach as "the wave of the future."

Biomedical research has become so complex, he says, that only diverse teams of experts communicating freely can solve problems faced in the laboratory. Its broad academic base, combining obstetrics and gynecology with such sciences as biochemistry, physiology and cell biology, gives the center this unique thrust, he said--"a place where the obstetrician can speak knowlegeably with a lipid biochemist, and vice versa."

The Green center is mounting a series of research projects, funded by both private and governmental grants. These include studies of the biochemical events initiating the onset of labor, brain and pituitary functions, the aging process with emphasis on uterine cancer and chemical factors in maturation of the fetal lung.

Currently the center is host to 12 post-doctoral research fellows, and "we look to expand this to upwards of 20 by July," MacDonald said.

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