

JT News

Office of Medical Information
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas
5323 Harry Hines Boulevard Dallas, Texas 75235
214/688-3404

September 17, 1987

CONTACT: Diane Adell
OFFICE: 214/688-3404
HOME: 214/824-7626

****Stembridge receives
pathology award

DALLAS -- Dr. Vernie A. Stembridge, chairman of pathology at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, is the recipient of the 1987 Distinguished Service Award of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists and the College of American Pathologists. He will receive this award at the Joint Fall National Meeting of the two organizations in New Orleans on Oct. 25.

Stembridge, who has been with The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas since 1959, has been instrumental in the development of national accreditation and certification standards in pathology.

Dr. Joseph C. Sherrick, president of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists says, "Dr. Stembridge has made outstanding contributions to pathology and the field of laboratory medicine. His dedication and service are apparent by the many significant leadership positions he has held in numerous medical societies."

Stembridge was president of the American Society of Clinical Pathology in 1977. He was vice-chairman for the council of government relations for the College of American Pathologists from 1976-79. He was president of the American Board of Pathology, Association of Pathology Chairmen, Texas Society of Pathologists and Dallas County Medical Society. In addition, he has held other positions in a number of different societies and associations.

Stembridge played an important role in refining accreditation standards in pathology. In the early '70s, when the number of pathology residency programs was skyrocketing, Stembridge was chairman and member of a residency review committee whose goal was to provide standards for accreditation of pathology programs. He helped raise the standards and, therefore, lower the number of approved programs.

Stembridge also helped establish the criteria for evaluating the scholastic competency of entry-level pathologists and medical technologists. He and others

(More)

Stembridge -- 2

developed competency standards in use today for certification of these two professions.

Another first for pathology under Stembridge's leadership was the establishment of a bona fide medical examiner's system in Dallas. Stembridge and others suggested the medical examiner's office be located on a medical campus and staffed by doctors who met the criteria of the medical school faculty. This is now the prototype for many national and international forensic centers.

When Stembridge joined the faculty of SWMS in 1959, he became the first full-time director of surgical pathology at Parkland Memorial Hospital. He also has served as director of the tumor clinic at Parkland for 16 years. He has been chairman of the Department of Pathology at Southwestern Medical School since 1967.

SWMS has the largest pathology residency training program in the state, Stembridge says, with a current group of 25 residents.

XXX

Distribution: AM,SC,SL

Note: The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas comprises Southwestern Medical School, Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and the School of Allied Health Sciences.