

UT News

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****The University of Texas Health Science
Center at Dallas gets new name

DALLAS--It's now "The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas."

The University of Texas System Board of Regents has changed the name of its academic medical center in Dallas to acknowledge the institution's origins and to facilitate greater recognition of its accomplishments.

This replaces The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas, a name designated in a 1972 reorganization of Southwestern Medical School, the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and the School of Allied Health Sciences.

The regents also designated The University of Texas Southwestern Allied Health Sciences School at Dallas as the new name for that school in order to maintain consistency.

The new name for the medical center incorporates "Southwestern" in recognition of the creation of Southwestern Medical College in 1943 by Southwestern Medical Foundation. The name of the graduate school was changed to include Southwestern several years ago.

"We believe the new name--which can be shortened to U.T. Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas--will help clear up the confusion that has been a chronic problem for a number of years," said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president.

"Most often, we have been mistaken for The University of Texas at Dallas. And in other identifications our faculty have simply been listed as being part of The University of Texas," Wildenthal noted.

The problem was magnified during announcement in 1985 that Drs. Michael Brown and Joseph Goldstein had won the Nobel Prize in Medicine. Both major wire services incorrectly identified the scientists' affiliation in first dispatches from Stockholm.

The French ambassador sent congratulations to The University of Texas at Dallas, and a Dallas automobile dealer made the same mistake on a large display. Center officials say the problem of mistaken identity has been widespread over a number of years.

While the inclusion of "Southwestern" means a slightly longer name for the medical center, it provides a distinctive aid for memory, especially in its short form, officials noted.

(More)

In the case of the allied health school, the regents designated its short form as U.T. Southwestern Allied Health Sciences School at Dallas.

Historically, it was Southwestern Medical Foundation that established Southwestern Medical College when Baylor College of Medicine moved to Houston in 1943. After becoming part of The University of Texas System in 1949, the institution's name was changed to Southwestern Medical School of The University of Texas. The third name change, making it The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, came in 1954.

In 1972, the institution was reorganized as The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas, with Southwestern Medical School, the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and the School of Allied Health Sciences as components. The graduate school was renamed Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences in 1983.

Today the medical center at the intersection of Harry Hines Boulevard and Inwood Road in Dallas has a full-time faculty of more than 800 who teach, conduct research and deliver patient care. Its budget to meet these goals is \$200 million a year.

Southwestern Medical School annually graduates approximately 200 doctors. Southwestern Graduate School and the Southwestern Allied Health Sciences School have enrollments of about 300 students each.

Scientists conduct approximately \$62 million worth of research projects a year. The center is well known for its expertise in cholesterol research, diabetes research, exercise physiology, genetics, arthritis research, heart research, reproductive biology, magnetic resonance imaging and basic biomedical research at the molecular level.

Eight of U.T. Southwestern's faculty members have been named to the National Academy of Sciences, a prestigious scientific advisory group first organized by President Abraham Lincoln. Two of these eight are Nobel Laureates Brown and Goldstein.

The 60-acre campus contains buildings of some 2.7 million square feet. A 160-bed teaching and referral hospital is being constructed for U.T. Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas by a philanthropic group, University Medical Center Inc., adjacent to Parkland Memorial Hospital on Hines Boulevard. Occupancy is expected in 1990.

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