

NEWS RELEASE

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL SCHOOL AT DALLAS



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AUSTIN--Appointment of Dr. Richard D. Burk, a nationally recognized medical educator, to be dean of the new Southwestern School of Allied Health Sciences at Dallas was approved by The University of Texas System Board of Regents meeting here Friday, March 14.

The Regents some time ago approved creation of the school, which will operate as a major branch of The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School at Dallas, to train more technical assistants to help physicians meet the spiraling public need for specialized medical services.

The new school will function as a separate entity within the parent medical school's administrative structure, and will utilize facilities and faculty of Southwestern and its affiliated hospitals. It will offer degree programs in alliance with other educational institutions in the Dallas area.

Dr. Burk has been chairman and professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Southwestern since 1966.

(More)

first add Dr. Burk

"We feel fortunate," said Dr. Charles C. Sprague, dean of Southwestern, "to have so talented and dedicated a man as Dr. Burk to lead this important educational endeavor."

Dr. Sprague said the Regents' action opens the way for "a concentrated effort to broaden the horizons of medical education in this region."

The new school, he said, will serve as a vital adjunct to the parent institution in meeting critical demands for more and better-trained support personnel in the field of health and medical care.

"We see the School of Allied Health Sciences as the nucleus for a cooperative area-wide approach to providing more specialists who can perform skilled functions often now not adequately provided, and who can relieve physicians of many routine tasks thus enabling more efficient use of their available time in the treatment of patients."

Dr. Burk said the goal of the new school is to become operational by June 1970. First course offerings are scheduled at that time leading to a degree in physical therapy. Courses leading to a degree in medical technology are planned to begin in September, 1970.

Present plans call for expanding course offerings to five or six curricula with a total enrollment of 100 to 150 for the school within five years--or hopefully sooner, Dr. Burk said, if adequate funding becomes available.

(more)

second add Dr. Burk

Initial offerings will utilize facilities at Parkland Memorial Hospital, the parent medical school's primary teaching hospital. Arrangements may be made late to use other hospitals as well, the new dean said.

Despite the necessity for a modest beginning, Dr. Burk foresees the new medical institution assuming a major role in helping overcome what he termed an acute national shortage of trained health personnel.

"The need for health personnel of all types and at all levels has been estimated at between two and one-half and three million over the next decade," he said. "We've got to meet this challenge and meet it as quickly as we can."

Dr. Burk says the unique cooperative approach combining medical school training with study at other academic institutions should yield a higher quality of preparation for many assistants often trained now on a preceptorship basis--that is, by on-the-job training tailored to one person without previous specialized schooling.

Many curriculum details remain to be worked out, Dr. Burk said, but the school expects to grant its own baccalaureate degrees and establish a feeder system with area colleges. Instruction below the baccalaureate level will be offered in a cooperative arrangement with the Dallas County Junior College. Bachelor's and master's degree programs will be arranged in collaboration with other universities, such as Southern Methodist University, The University of Texas at Arlington, North Texas State University in Denton, and other area universities.

third add Dr. Burk

Initially, Dr. burk explained, course work in the School of Allied Health Sciences will be at the fourth-year level involving students who have completed three years of schooling at other institutions. Later expansion will add the third year of curriculum and finally a complete four-year baccalaureate program in various health specialties will be offered.

A prime objective of the school is to be innovative, Dr. Burk stressed.

"Many things we will be doing are not even thought of now," he said. Among areas of great potential are respiratory cardio-vascular science, biophysics technology and specialized orthotics (brace-making).

Expansion of the school's curriculum to include the important but often neglected fields of medical art and medical photography assistants are planned, Dr. Burk said.

The allied health sciences and the medical school have a logical linkage, Dr. Burk observed.

"Historically medicine has been involved with training of those who assist physicians, and the medical school has accepted this responsibility."

"If you can combine the future doctors and their assistants early in the training process, they work together better when they begin pursuing their interdependent careers."

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fourth add Dr. Burk

Dr. Burk was on the faculty of Ohio State University for 14 years prior to joining Southwestern. During that time he was director of rehabilitation services and associate professor of physical medicine. He also taught in the university's school of social work and directed the curriculum in physical therapy.

The native Coloradoan received a bachelor's degree from Regis College, Denver, in 1943, and a doctor of medicine degree from Creighton University, Omaha, in 1951 after service during World War II as a Naval officer in command of a landing craft at Saipan, Iwo Jima and elsewhere in the Pacific theater. He also attained a master's degree from Ohio State in 1955.

Dr. Burk holds the distinction of having been named Physician of the Year in two states--in Ohio in 1963 and in Texas in 1966. Both selections were made by the State Rehabilitation Association. In 1961 he was cited as "Catholic of the Year" in Ohio.

He is chairman of the departments of physical medicine and rehabilitation at Parkland and Presbyterian hospitals, and serves as consultant for Terrell State Hospital, Denton State School and Caruth Memorial Rehabilitation Center in Dallas.

Dr. Burk and his wife, the former Mary Imogen Sullivan, have four children--Richard, 24; Danny, 22; Kathy, 21; and Kevin, 17. The family home is at 12023 Fieldwood, Dallas.

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