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southwestern medical school - graduate school of biomedical sciences - school of allied health sciences

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CONTACT: Bob Fenley

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******Professorship created and recipient
announced by Southwestern Medical
School.*

DALLAS--Two professors at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School here have been accorded high academic honors, it was announced Thursday (Dec. 4) at the Southwestern Gynecologic Assembly.

In honor of a widely-known specialist in obstetrics and gynecology who has been a teacher at the medical school 20 years, the Jack A. Pritchard Professorship is being established, according to Dr. Charles C. Sprague, president of the UT Health Science Center at Dallas.

First recipient of the professorship will be Dr. Peggy Whalley, also a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the school.

The Pritchard Professorship was established by the faculty of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the medical school. Additional contributions to the professorship were presented Thursday by the Southwestern Gynecologic Assembly and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Methodist Hospital of Dallas.

Dr. Pritchard is known not only for teaching and administrative work, but for basic research in the management of high blood pressure in pregnancy, in the alteration of clotting mechanisms of pregnancy, and particularly, in investigations of iron-handling mechanisms in women.

Aside from guiding the growth of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the medical school as chairman for 15 years, Dr. Pritchard developed what is regarded as one of the most successful family planning programs in the United States.

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During his tenure, more than 20 per cent of the graduating residents entered academic medicine, and students placed in the upper 10 per cent in national examinations. Seven members of his department were elected to the Society for Gynecologic Investigation. Dr. Pritchard has served as president and council member of this society, as well as holding office and membership in a great number of other professional societies.

Dr. Pritchard is co-author of the popular textbook of obstetrics, "Williams Obstetrics." He has been a member of five advisory groups to the National Institutes of Health and is senior consultant to the Air Force.

Holder of the Gillette Professorship of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Dr. Pritchard came to Southwestern in 1955. A native of Ohio, he received a B.S. degree from Ohio Northern University and a M.D. degree from Case Western Reserve University.

Dr. Whalley is a Dallasite who received her bachelor's degree from North Texas State University and her M.D. from Southwestern in 1956. She is the only woman to have successfully completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Parkland Memorial Hospital in the past 25 years. (There are six in the current program.)

Dr. Whalley joined the faculty at Southwestern in 1961 with research interests in kidney function. She is a member of the Society for Gynecological Investigation and the American Society of Nephrology.

"Dr. Whalley is recognized not only as a talented teacher but also as an innovative and creative investigator," remarked Dr. Paul MacDonald, chairman of Southwestern's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

"In recent years she has made a signal contribution to this community and, indeed, to medicine and to women throughout the world. Under her initiative, planning and supervision, there was developed within the Dallas County Hospital District a unique facility that provides specialized care to those pregnant women whose unborn child is at exceptional risk."

From an initial five beds, the high-risk pregnancy unit has grown under Dr. Whalley to 28 beds at Parkland. Prior to development of the unit, the perinatal mortality rate for babies in high-risk cases was 180 per 1,000 liveborn deliveries. In 1974, the perinatal loss from Dr. Whalley's unit was reduced to only 19 per 1,000-- a ten-fold reduction.

Today, said Dr. MacDonald, Dr. Whalley "stands at the forefront of the practice of perinatology and is recognized as one of the outstanding practitioners of this art in the world today."

In fact, Dr. Pritchard, Dr. Whalley and the entire medical school obstetrics and gynecology department collaborated earlier this year in the perinatal care and delivery of the Davis quintuplets.

Dr. Whalley is a member of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the maternal mortality committee of the Texas Medical Association and a number of other organizations.

Announcement of the professorship and its first holder was made during the first day of a three-day meeting of the Southwestern Gynecologic Assembly at the Sheraton-Dallas Hotel.

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