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NEWS RELEASE - SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL SCHOOL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

In order to better prepare the students for the transition from the medical school to the private practice of medicine, Southwestern Medical School of The University of Texas will offer a course in "Medical Economics and Ethics" to its seniors. The course will be presented during the final six months of the senior year and will emphasize economic problems related to medical practice. From experienced physicians the students will learn about the advantages and disadvantages of individual or solo practice as compared with group practice of medicine. The satisfactions and problems of the general physician, both in the small town and in the large city, will be described. The opportunity and challenge presented to the family physician will be portrayed by physicians active in this important phase of medical practice. Specialists in certain fields of medicine which are now understaffed will have an opportunity to tell the students in detail of such fields as anesthesia, pathology, radiology, and psychiatry. Advice on selecting a location in which to practice will be offered. Such factors as hospital and laboratory facilities, number of physicians in the community, educational and cultural factors in the area, will be emphasized. Schedules of fees for professional services and collection of fees, together with advice on estate and investment planning, will be discussed by specially trained individuals. Considerable emphasis will be placed on the relationship of the practicing physician to the other physicians in his own community and in distant communities and to the role of the physician in county, state, and national medical societies. The contribution of the societies to the physician will, in turn, be stressed.

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