

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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UT SOUTHWESTERN NAMES NEW HEAD OF UROLOGY

DALLAS — January 13, 1994 — Dr. John McConnell became chairman of urology at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas on Jan. 1. McConnell is director of the George M. O'Brien Urology Research Center and the Prostate Disease Center at UT Southwestern.

Dr. Paul C. Peters, who chaired UT Southwestern's urology division since 1971, will continue seeing patients and performing surgery.

"Dr. Peters is a scholar and mentor who has recruited and developed a faculty that includes some of the brightest leaders in academic urology," said Dr. William Neaves, dean of Southwestern Medical School. "It is gratifying to see his successor come from the ranks of his talented proteges here at UT Southwestern. Dr. McConnell is well prepared and superbly qualified to lead urology at UT Southwestern to national pre-eminence."

McConnell said his goal is "a program of balanced excellence in patient care, education and research."

UT Southwestern's urology program is relatively young, established after World War II, the new chairman noted. He praised its first head, Dr. Harry Spence, for achieving the primary mission of superb clinical training and Peters for leading the program to academic excellence by adding the elements of clinical research and academic subspecialties.

"What Dr. Spence and Dr. Peters did over the years puts us in a position to become the best-balanced program in the nation," McConnell said. "My goal is to help make that happen."

McConnell said he intends to emphasize collaborative efforts in clinical and basic research, based on the model of the Prostate Disease Center he helped establish in 1992. Urology researchers at UT Southwestern already are involved

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in numerous collaborative projects with endocrinologists, molecular biologists and mineral metabolism researchers, he pointed out.

In addition to his new duties, McConnell will continue to see patients, perform surgery, teach and do research.

Peters, who holds the E.E. and Greer Garson Fogelson Distinguished Chair in Urology and the Dr. Paul Peters Chair in Urology in Memory of Rumsey and Louis Strickland, trained at Indiana University. He joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 1963 after serving as chief of urology at Carswell Air Force Base Hospital. He has been secretary and president of the American Urological Association (AUA) and is currently president of the Clinical Society of Genitourinary Surgeons. He is a regent of the American College of Surgeons and recently received the Ramon Guiteras Award, the highest award given by the AUA.

McConnell has won numerous awards, including the New York Academy of Medicine Edwin Beer Award for Urologic Research, the Lita Annenberg Hazen Fellowship Award for Excellence in Clinical Research and the American Urological Association Gold Cystoscope Award for the most outstanding contribution to American urology within 10 years of residency. He has served as chairman of the Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH) Guidelines Panel of the federal Agency for Health Care Policy and Research. He also chaired the hormonal therapy committee of the World Health Organization's International Consensus on BPH.

McConnell earned his medical degree with honors from Loyola University of Chicago Stritch School of Medicine. He has been at UT Southwestern since doing a surgical internship at Parkland Memorial Hospital in 1978 and joined the faculty in 1984.

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