

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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UT SOUTHWESTERN ESTABLISHES SURGERY CENTER TO OFFER FULL-RANGE OF LAPAROSCOPIC TREATMENTS

DALLAS – May 27, 1998 – Creating the premier comprehensive laparoscopic-surgery center in the Southwest may seem like a lofty goal, but surgeons at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas believe they have done just that with the Southwestern Center for Minimally Invasive Surgery.

Equipped with the most modern laparoscopic-surgery tools available, the center will serve as one of the nation's top educational sites for physicians interested in learning laparoscopic techniques. Faculty members will also develop and test new tools and techniques.

“Because it is affiliated with UT Southwestern, which has become one of the top clinical and basic-science institutions in the world, patients being treated at the Southwestern Center for Minimally Invasive Surgery will have unfettered access to specialists in every field of medicine and research,” said Dr. C. James Carrico, chairman of surgery and holder of the Hall and Mary Lucile Shannon Distinguished Chair in Surgery. “This access assures that the most complicated of cases can be dealt with by surgeons practicing at our “center without walls.””

Center faculty members have expertise in cardiology, colorectal surgery, comparative medicine, endocrinology, breast surgery, gastroenterology, general surgery, gynecology, neurosurgery, orthopaedics, otorhinolaryngology, pediatrics, plastic and reconstructive surgery, radiology, anesthesiology, transplant surgery, trauma, urology, and vascular surgery.

UT Southwestern surgeons form the backbone of one of the nation's foremost burn and trauma units at Parkland Memorial Hospital, which ranks among the top U.S. hospitals. Many of the center's physicians help edit and publish two of the journals that serve as the standard for surgery education in the United States, *Readings in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery* and *Readings in General Surgery*.

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States Surgical Corp., a leading U.S. medical equipment manufacturer.

"There's a void in this part of the country, and that means a large part of the country doesn't have access to state-of-the-art laparoscopy treatment," said Jim Griffin, divisional business director for U.S. Surgical. "We have partnerships with several medical centers, including Emory (University School of Medicine), Harvard (Medical School), Yale (University School of Medicine), Duke (University School of Medicine) and Washington (University School of Medicine) in St. Louis. They are prominent and important medical facilities, and UT Southwestern fits into that group."

Laparoscopy is fast becoming the preferred approach to certain major surgeries that previously involved large incisions. Laparoscopic surgery requires only "keyhole" incisions, which range between 5 and 10 millimeters in length. Using laparoscopic tools, a surgeon sees inside the body with the aid of a telescope that transmits the image to a television monitor.

"Keyhole" incisions usually mean a faster recovery for patients, with less time in the hospital and a quicker return to normal activities than with traditional surgeries, said Dr. Daniel Jones, assistant professor of surgery. He uses laparoscopic surgery to treat patients with chronic gastroesophageal reflux disease, a severe form of heartburn. Jones, who has been instrumental in establishing the Southwestern Center for Minimally Invasive Surgery, is co-author of *Laparoscopic Surgery: Principles and Procedures*, a reference and educational text.

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