

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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BAYLOR UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER, UT SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER CREATE PAIN-MANAGEMENT ALLIANCE

DALLAS – Aug. 30, 1999 – UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas and Baylor University Medical Center have formed a joint pain management program to provide patients with the latest in clinical care advances.

The Baylor-UT Southwestern Collaborative Centers for Pain Management combine the expertise of the Eugene McDermott Center for Pain Management at UT Southwestern and the Baylor Center for Pain Management.

"The new alliance will offer innovative treatment approaches to pain management while recognizing that pain affects each patient in different ways," said Dr. Carl Noe, director of the Baylor Center for Pain Management and associate professor of anesthesiology and pain management at UT Southwestern. Dr. Noe will serve as director of the new alliance.

The Baylor-UT Southwestern Collaborative Centers for Pain Management will enable pain specialists at both institutions to provide better services to patients throughout North Texas, build a framework for cooperative research projects, and participate more fully in the training of young physicians to work with pain management, said Dr. Willis Maddrey, executive vice president for clinical affairs at UT Southwestern.

"We believe that once patients have been referred to one of these Collaborative Centers for Pain Management, they should feel they have come to a place that understands pain and has innovative ways to treat it," he said.

"The importance of pain management cannot be overemphasized from both a humanitarian and economic perspective. We recognize each patient's right to proper assessment and treatment of pain," said Boone Powell Jr., president and chief executive officer of Baylor Health Care System. "Baylor University Medical Center is committed to excellence in pain management, and we are pleased we can combine the talents of these two outstanding health care organizations to focus on this important area of medical care."

(MORE)

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Among the centers' treatment goals are:

- helping patients suffering from severe pain syndrome alleviate and reduce pain
- breaking or reducing medication dependence
- helping patients regain physical skills and return to the work place
- aiding pain sufferers' return to a productive life and emotional well-being

"To help patients achieve these goals, members of both institutions' staffs will share their talents and training approaches and work together to improve prevention, evaluation, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation skills," Dr. Noe said.

Besides physicians board certified in pain management, members of the treatment and referral teams include neurologists, psychologists and psychiatrists, physical medicine and rehabilitation physicians, physical and occupational therapists, and vocational rehabilitation specialists.

Other patient services considered important to the pain treatment program include functional-restoration activities such as various types of reconditioning, physical therapy, vocational planning and job simulation, aquatic therapy and exercise, said Dr. Robert Gatchel, professor of psychiatry and program director of UT Southwestern's pain center. Another important area for patients involves learning to manage the emotional components of the pain, which includes help with individual and family counseling or therapy, stress management, biofeedback training, learning relaxation techniques and building coping skills.

Patients are accepted at the two pain centers through referral from their physicians.

The UT Southwestern clinic is located at 5323 Harry Hines Blvd. in the James W. Aston Ambulatory Care Center on the medical center's South Campus.

The Baylor Centers for Pain Management locations are: Baylor University Medical Center, 3600 Gaston Ave., #380, Dallas, 75246; Baylor Medical Center, 618 Clara Barton, Suite 1, Garland, 75402; Vandergriff Professional Building, 1001 N. Waldrop, # 401, Arlington, 76012; 1302 Lane St., Suite 100, Irving, 75061.

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