

news THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT DALLAS

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

APRIL 7, 1975

Contact: John Weeks

******Dr. Wilson of the UT Health Science Center named to chair for Study of Human Growth and Development.*

DALLAS--Dr. Jean D. Wilson, a recognized expert on glandular function, has been appointed to the Eugene McDermott Chair for Study of Human Growth and Development at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas.

Dr. Wilson, professor of internal medicine at Southwestern Medical School, a component of the Health Science Center, also will serve as director of the Eugene McDermott Center for the Study of Human Growth and Development, which will become operational this summer.

His appointment was ratified by The University of Texas System Board of Regents on March 14.

The new center was made possible by gifts from the late Mr. McDermott, well known philanthropist and benefactor of the university who was co-founder of Texas Instruments, Inc. The Health Science Center's new McDermott Academic Administration Building, part of a \$40 million expansion project being dedicated on April 27, also is named for the noted scientist-engineer.

Commenting on Dr. Wilson's appointment, UTHSCD President Charles C. Sprague described him as "clearly a world authority in his field."

Dr. Wilson said the center and the associated Cecil H. and Ida Green Center for Reproductive Biology Sciences will be devoted to a broad spectrum of research in development and reproduction and will encompass "a multifaceted approach to growth including molecular, cellular and physiological aspects of the problem."

The two new centers ultimately will be housed in the new Moss Clinical Science Building, now under construction on the UTHSCD campus.

-- more --

Director of the Green center is Dr. Paul MacDonald, chairman of Southwestern's Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, who also holds the Green Chair in Reproductive Biology.

Dr. Wilson said one major aspect of the new human growth and development study program will be directed to the endocrinological, genetic and developmental control mechanisms by which sexual differentiation occurs in mammals, with special emphasis on clinical disorders of sexual development.

"Thus," he said, "it is envisioned that these two centers should span a broad area including molecular physiology on the one hand and the disease state on the other."

A number of additional faculty members will be appointed to the new center, giving it an interdisciplinary character and bringing together medical scientists from a variety of specialized fields.

Dr. Wilson received the Ernst Oppenheimer Memorial Award of the Endocrine Society in 1972 for meritorious accomplishment in endocrinology. He has published more than 70 scientific papers, many dealing with two principal research areas: mechanisms of cholesterol absorption and sex steroid hormone action.

He is editor of the Journal of Clinical Investigation, a prestigious national research publication which has its offices on the UTHSCD campus.

An honor graduate in chemistry from The University of Texas at Austin, Dr. Wilson received his M.D. from Southwestern in 1955. He has been on the faculty since 1960, and has been professor of internal medicine since 1968. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine and has been an Established Investigator of the American Heart Association. He holds memberships in numerous scientific and academic societies and has served on editorial boards of several major scientific journals.