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

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\*\*\*\*\*Dr. Kenneth Altshuler named chairman of Psychiatry at Southwestern Medical School

Contact: John Weeks

DALLAS--An award-winning educator and researcher in psychiatry, Dr. Kenneth Altshuler, will become chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in June, Dean Frederick Bonte of Southwestern announced today.

Dr. Alshuler, currently professor of clinical psychiatry and director of medical education in that specialty at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City, also will become chief of psychiatric services at Parkland Memorial Hospital, Southwestern's primary teaching affiliate.

He will succeed Dr. Asa W. DeLoach, who has been serving as interim chairman. Dr. DeLoach, a professor of psychiatry, will assume fulltime teaching duties.

''We are proud to announce the appointment of one of America's leading educators in the field of psychiatry," Dean Bonte said. "Dr. Altshuler has already begun to assemble a faculty that will include some of the most notable figures in his field."

An authority in several areas of psychiatric specialization, Dr. Altshuler has written some 80 articles and books, and researched extensively in the fields of genetics, geriatrics, early total deafness, psychoanalysis, and sleep and dreams as they relate to psychiatry.

His work received the Thornton Wilson Award in Genetics and Preventive
Psychiatry in 1961, the Merit Award of the Association for Psychoanalytic
Medicine in 1963 and a Certificate of Significant Achievement for his role in developing a program of mental health services to the deaf, awarded by the American Psychiatric Association in 1976.

Dr. Altshuler also received an honorary Doctorate of Science from Gallaudet College in Washington, D.C., in 1972.

As director of undergraduate medical training in psychiatry at Columbia, Dr. Altshuler has taught medical students, residents and psychoanalytic candidates. He also is training analyst for Columbia's Psychoanalytic Clinic for Training and Research.

The 47-year-old physician was a member of the sensory study section of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare's Division of Grants for five years, during which time he judged which research requests should be awarded federal funds.

Dr. Altshuler also has been project director in federally sponsored research studies, the most recent of which was "Essential Aspects of Deafness," an international collaborative study in Yugoslavia which developed a system for delivery of new patient services there.

He is chief of the highly regarded Deafness Unit at Rockland Psychiatric Center and New York State Psychiatric Institute. The unit, devoted to research and psychiatric services for New York State residents with early, profound deafness, grew out of demonstration programs developed by Dr. Altshuler and his associates and has served as pilot for development of similar centers in other states and several foreign countries, including Great Britain, Norway and Israel.

Dr. Altshuler also serves as chief psychiatrist at New York's Isabella Geriatric Center and is engaged in private practice of psychiatry at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center. He is project director for a study of trauma and sleep physiology at Presbyterian.

A native of Paterson, N.J., Dr. Altshuler received his B.A. degree from Cornell in 1948 and his M.D. from the University of Buffalo in 1952. He was board certified in psychiatry in 1961 and was certified in psychoanalytic medicine by Columbia University in 1962.