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News

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*****Editor of best-selling pharmacology reference becomes chairman of Department of Pharmacology July 1.

DALLAS--With the arrival of Dr. Alfred G. Gilman, The University of Texas Health Science center at Dallas may well corner the international market on pharmacology editorship.

Gilman will assume chairmanship of the Department of Pharmacology here July 1. He is editor of Goodman and Gilman's "The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics," a classic reference for pharmacologists, researchers, medical students and physicians, now in its sixth edition. The first edition was written by Drs. Louis Goodman and Alfred Gilman, father of the new chairman, and still bears their names. This book is the best-selling reference book in any medical field.

Dr. Alfred G. Gilman will replace another outstanding writer and editor, Dr. Andres Goth, who has chaired the Department of Pharmacology since it was organized in 1950. Goth is author of "Medical Pharmacology," a textbook written especially for medical students, now in its 10th edition. The book has been translated into at least seven languages.

Goth has been on the faculty since 1944 and will continue his writing, research and teaching as professor of Pharmacology.

The new chairman, a molecular and biochemical pharmacologist, is one of the outstanding pharmacologists in the world, says Dr. Kern Wildenthal, dean of Southwestern Medical School, a component of UTHSCD. "We are most pleased that we have been able to attract a chairman of Dr. Gilman's reputation. His research is internationally acclaimed; he has strong administrative talents, and he is a distinguished educator."

Gilman comes to the health science center from the University of Virginia School of Medicine, where he has been on the pharmacology faculty since 1971. He has been a full professor for the last four years and for the last three years has directed the Medical Scientist Training Program.

Gilman's research has been concentrated at the molecular level: how do certain drugs and hormones get a message into a cell to cause the cell to change its activity? For example, epinephrine (adrenalin) causes the heart to beat stronger and faster. The researcher has studied three proteins in the cell membrane of heart and other cells that are involved in relaying the message from epinephrine to signal the cells to make cyclic AMP, a biochemical regulator of the cell's internal functions.

The new chairman plans to recruit new faculty in Pharmacology and to place the research emphasis on the molecular mechanisms of drug action. "I am happy to be joining such an excellent school. I see there a superb opportunity to further increase the stature of the department, which under Dr. Goth's leadership has become one of the outstanding pharmacology departments in the nation," says Gilman.

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After receiving both his M.D. and Ph.D. degrees from Case Western Reserve in 1969, Gilman served for two years with Dr. Marshall Nirenberg as pharmacology research associate in the Laboratory of Biochemical Genetics at the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute.

He is a summa cum laude graduate of Yale University in biochemistry and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and of Alpha Omega Alpha.

A member of the editorial boards of "Molecular Pharmacology," "The Journal of Cyclic Nucleotide Research," and "The Journal of Biological Chemistry," Gilman also chaired the 1974 Gordon Research Conference on Cyclic AMP. He was the recipient of the 1975 John J. Abel Award in Pharmacology given by the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics and of the 1977 Robert Bennett Bean Award for Excellence in Teaching at the University of Virginia.

He is a member of the American Society of Biological Chemists and the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics and has published close to 100 abstracts and scientific articles.

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