

news

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT DALLAS

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

Fact Sheet

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT DALLAS

Consists Of:

1. Southwestern Medical School, a four-year institution whose faculty currently teaches 471 medical students, treats patients and supervises 581 interns and residents in Parkland Hospital and 17 other health institutions, in addition to conducting research on heart disease, cancer, arthritis, diabetes and a number of other ailments.
2. Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, a former part of the medical school which trains health scientists. Approximately 90 graduate students are now at work on Ph.D.'s or Masters' degrees in fields such as Microbiology, Physiology, Pharmacology, etc.
3. School of Allied Health Sciences, a newly-created institution training health specialists such as Physicians' Assistants, Dietitians, Physical Therapists, etc. Current enrollment is 123.

Both the Medical School and the Graduate School are located at 5323 Harry Hines Blvd. on the north side of Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas. The School of Allied Health Sciences is temporarily quartered at Methodist Hospital Annex in Dallas.

Principal Officers:

- Dr. Charles C. Sprague, president, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas
Julius Weeks, vice-president, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas
Dr. Douglas Lawrason, acting dean, Southwestern Medical School
Dr. Parkhurst Shore, acting dean, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
Dr. John W. Schermerhorn, dean, School of Allied Health Sciences

CURRENT ACTIVITIES:

The Dallas Health Science Center is embarked on a \$40 million construction program which will enable it to accommodate 800 medical students, 190 graduate students and 550 allied health students.

This building program includes:

1. Basic Sciences Teaching Unit (with four lecture halls)
2. Academic and Administration Building
3. Bioinformation Center
4. Auditorium-Cafeteria

When completed, the program will essentially double the size of Southwestern Medical School. This is tantamount to creation of a new full-sized medical school.

PROFILE OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

In the past more than five years, students have entered Southwestern with Medical College Admissions Test scores ranking about average nationally.

But, in that same period, students graduating from Southwestern have ranked from highest in the nation to fifth among all medical school graduates.

This is, in large part, due to a faculty which has held presidencies of 20 national medical professional societies in the past seven years, has chaired at least 30 significant national medical committees and has served as editors or sat on editorial boards of 13 medical journals.

While leading in academic accomplishments, the Health Science Center is, nevertheless, involved in bringing health care to the people of Texas and the rest of the nation:

1. Southwestern has launched a new Family Medicine Program with the cooperation of John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth. Young doctors who can treat and prevent a variety of illnesses at the family level will be trained here.
2. Under its Children and Youth Program, Southwestern provides three model clinics which administer to the needs of the children of a population of 50,000 persons in West Dallas.

3. The medical school maintains a Trauma Research Center at Parkland Hospital for investigation of ways to aid injury and its side effects. One of eight in the nation, the Trauma Research Center already has aided in important studies into the nature of shock. The research, under direction of Dr. Tom Shires, has resulted in the saving of lives in Viet Nam.
4. A new Burn Center operated at Parkland Hospital by the medical school has quickly grown to one of the largest--if not the largest--in the nation. Now treating more than 400 patients a year, the Burn Center has tallied a survival rate of 83 per cent. New techniques, including use of pigskin have accounted for this record. The unit is under direction of Dr. Charles Baxter.
5. UTSWMS has one of the foremost arthritis research centers in the United States. Led by Dr. Morris Ziff, the center has produced a wealth of knowledge about this most perplexing disease.
6. The Weinberger Laboratories for Cardiovascular Research are internationally recognized for studies of the effects of exercise and heart capability. Under direction of Dr. Jere Mitchell, the basic geometry of the heart and what it does when it suffers an attack all are being computerized for better understanding.
7. Babies with heart defects who before never had a chance for life are being given operations by Dr. Winfred Sugg and associates at Children's Medical Center. Using a combination of deeply cooling the body and a new heart-lung machine called a membrane oxygenator, UTSWMS physicians are able to operate on tiny infants who would previously have been given up as lost.
8. Through the medical school's Family Planning Program, more than 3,000 clients are seen each month in five areas of Dallas County.
9. One of the most successful kidney transplant programs in the nation has been carried out by Southwestern faculty. Since October, 1969, a total of 77 transplants have been performed. Fifty of them were from living related donors with better than an 80 per cent success rate and 27 were from deceased unrelated donors with a success rate of more than 70 per cent. UTSWMS is the center for a study of tissue typing in relation to kidney transplants.

10. In anticipation that major advances are possible in the next decade in the fields of immunology and genetics, Southwestern has embarked on a major program of research and teaching in these disciplines. Some answers to cancer and to the success of organ transplantation may be forthcoming. Already the school has established a genetic counselling service designed to aid families in understanding and coping with inherited diseases and birth defects.
11. The School of Allied Health Sciences is attempting to meet new health demands by training Physicians' Assistants. One of seven programs at the school, the PA program aims at relieving the physician of routine duties which could well be performed by a qualified assistant.
12. With cooperation of the Dallas Independent School District, the medical school operates a model Learning Disabilities program, seeking out, evaluating and training children who, while otherwise bright, have difficulty reading or processing other symbols or sounds.