

UT News

Office of Medical Information
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas
5323 Harry Hines Boulevard Dallas, Texas 75235
214/688-3404

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CONTACT: Diane Adell
OFFICE: 214/688-3404
HOME: 214/739-0032

****Southwestern Medical School
graduates 5000th student

DALLAS -- For 44 years U.T. Southwestern Medical School has been educating medical students. This year SMS will graduate its 5000th student.

On Saturday, May 30, McDermott Plaza on the campus of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas will once again be the site of commencement exercises for U.T. Southwestern Medical School and U.T. Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. Both are components of the health science center. The medical school will award 209 medical degrees, and the graduate school will present 44 degrees.

Robert Baldwin, class president, has been chosen to represent the medical school's 5000th graduate, says Dr. Bryan Williams, associate dean of Student Affairs. Baldwin is ranked 30th out of 209 in the graduating class and has a G.P.A. of 3.82. He is an all-around student, educator and leader and enjoys snow skiing, fishing, camping, music, gourmet cooking, ceramics and gardening.

Born in New Orleans, Baldwin has lived most of his life in Texas. He attended The University of Texas at Arlington. Baldwin received a Southwestern Medical Foundation Merit Scholarship upon entering SMS and has continued to display academic excellence during his four years here.

"I have been very impressed by the faculty at Southwestern. The school has an obviously superior reputation, and the research conducted at the health science center is on the leading edge of discovery. Southwestern also cares about its students. It strives to provide the best medical education -- but not at the expense of its students' well-being," he says.

The future for Baldwin includes a pediatric residency program at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Md. Baldwin says he plans to pursue a fellowship in Adolescent Medicine after completing his residency. He hopes eventually to join the faculty of a medical school in order to remain active in teaching and administration.

The number of U.T. Southwestern Medical School graduates this year exceeds that of 1986. Furthermore, these students are graduating at a younger age. The average age has fallen by more than a year -- making the typical '87 graduate 26 years old. A little over a quarter of the class will remain in Dallas for their residencies. The majority of the students have chosen residencies in internal medicine, pediatrics, OB/Gyn and family practice.

This year SMS will graduate nine hispanic students. Although 1987 statistics for other medical schools are not available, SMS has consistently graduated one of the largest populations of Mexican-American students in the country. According to the American Association of Medical Colleges, the medical school was second only to the University of California at Irvine last year. In 1985 Southwestern was in the top five.

(More)

Southwestern Medical School will graduate its 5000th student less than a year after its first graduate retired from practice. In 1944 Dr. Ervin E. Addy Jr. was the first of 61 graduates to receive a medical degree during the school's first graduation exercises. He practiced medicine in Cisco, Texas, from 1947 to 1986, and last year he retired. Addy says, "It never occurred to me that the medical school would reach such heights. It truly has come to the forefront of attention as one of the significant medical schools in the country."

U.T. Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences will graduate 44 students from nine different disciplines. Clinical psychology, biomedical communications, biochemistry, physiology, cell biology, immunology, rehabilitation counseling and biomedical engineering will all be represented. Of the graduates, 30 are candidates for Ph.D. degrees, nine are candidates for M.A. degrees and five will receive M.S. degrees.

The ceremonies, scheduled to begin at 8:00 p.m., will feature a distinguished and respected speaker, Dr. Charles C. Sprague. Sprague, president emeritus of UTHSCD and current president of the Southwestern Medical Foundation, helped to develop a fledgling medical school into an internationally known biomedical complex.

Sprague will deliver the commencement address during the graduation ceremony. He will discuss "What is Past is Prologue." Sprague says this quote from Shakespeare's The Tempest lends itself to a discussion about the stage in life at which graduating medical students stand. Sprague will speak about the history of the medical school and its students and their future opportunities in this new era of medicine.

Following the address, the Ho Din Award will be presented to this year's outstanding medical student. Mrs. Ruth C. Sharp, vice-president and trustee of the Southwestern Medical Foundation, will confer the award on graduating senior Rick Lyons. Lyons' graduation from SMS will culminate an 11-year association with The U.T. System. He had already graduated from U.T. Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences in 1981 with a Ph.D. in biochemistry and had a postdoctoral research fellowship at The U.T. Medical Branch at Galveston before entering medical school. He will begin a residency in internal medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

The Ho Din was established in 1943 in memory of Dr. Edward H. Cary, first president of the Southwestern Medical Foundation. Ho Din is a phonetic abbreviation of the Greek words that translate as "the spirit of medical wisdom and human understanding." The Ho Din includes a cash award of \$5,000.

During commencement exercises, Dr. William Neaves, interim dean of U.T. Southwestern Medical School and dean of the U.T. Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, will present the candidates for degrees. Jack S. Blanton, member of the Board of Regents for The University of Texas System, will confer the degrees. The Physician's Oath will be administered by Dr. Maurice Herring, president of the Dallas County Medical Society. The Reverend Father James Garcia Word, C.M., of the Saint Fidelius Church in Chicago, Ill., will give both the invocation and benediction.

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NOTE: The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas comprises Southwestern Medical School, Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and the School of Allied Health Sciences.