

News

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****Baxter chair announced

DALLAS -- Dr. Charles R. Baxter will be the first holder of the Golden Charity Guild Charles R. Baxter, M.D., Chair at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. The chair, named in Baxter's honor, is a gift from the Golden Charity Guild, Inc. The organization is made up of women from the North Dallas area who are dedicated to better care for burn victims and furthering the programs of tissue transplantation in the school's Transplant Resources and Services Center.

Baxter has long been recognized as a pioneer in the care of the severely injured burn patient and the clinical development of tissue transplantation. The professor of surgery was instrumental in founding the first skin bank in the country capable of furnishing enough tissue to enable survival of patients with serious thermal injuries covering 90 percent or more of the body. The first of these patients to survive -- a nine-year-old Dallas girl named Sherry White -- became a national celebrity 14 years ago. Baxter's work in this field has continued, and so have his honors. In 1984 he was named the first recipient of the prestigious G. Whitaker International Burns prize.

About the chair for tissue transplant, Baxter said, "It was established so that we can advance the science of transplantation. The goal of all of us who work in this field to serve the patients and clinicians and to advance research and technology in transplantations of skin, corneas, bone and connective tissue."

Ellen Heck, administrative director of the transplant center, said that the chair will make possible major advances in work going on there. "We're very fortunate to have this chair to advance these transplant programs and thrilled that Dr. Baxter, who has pioneered so many innovative transplant programs in the past, will be its first holder," she commented.

Baxter also said that the chair will assure that work in tissue transplant by scientists in the future will be continued at this institution. "There simply aren't words enough to praise the guild members for what their efforts have already accomplished, much less for the ongoing advances in transplant research their philanthropy has made and will make possible," he stressed.

(More)

Originally funds raised by the guild went to the then-new burn center in Parkland Memorial Hospital where Baxter was director of research until its completion in August 1985. At that time, guild efforts began to support work going on in UT Southwestern's transplant center.

A graduate of The University of Texas at Austin, Baxter got his M.D. degree from Southwestern, which was then called the UT Medical School at Dallas in 1954. He did his internship and residency at Parkland and served as a captain in the surgical research unit at Fort Sam Houston, where his interest in burns began.

In 1961 Baxter became director of the Parkland Burn Center and later became its research director. In 1972 he was appointed medical director of the Skin Transplant Center for Burns, a position he still holds. Baxter also carries the academic title of Frank H. Kidd, Jr., Professor of Surgery at Southwestern.

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