

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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NEW UT SOUTHWESTERN LASER EYE CENTER IN FORT WORTH TO TRAIN TARRANT COUNTY OPHTHALMOLOGISTS, OFFER LASER SURGERIES

DALLAS – July 19, 2001 – UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas doctors from Zale Lipshy University Hospital's Laser Center for Vision will begin performing LASIK procedures and training Tarrant County ophthalmologists with the most advanced laser on the market at the center's new Fort Worth location next month.

The open-access facility, located in Fort Worth's medical district at 1001 12th Ave., provides a setting where ophthalmologists can be specially trained to perform excimer laser keratorefractive surgery, given credentials and certified by UT Southwestern faculty to practice in the laser center. It will open on Aug. 1.

"We are very excited about expanding the vision center to Fort Worth," said Dr. James McCulley, chairman of ophthalmology at UT Southwestern and medical director of the vision centers. "The Fort Worth center will provide a cost-effective solution to the practicing community of Tarrant County, who would otherwise have to make individual arrangements with other surgeons who have lasers or make a costly investment in purchasing the equipment."

Five years ago, McCulley, who directs the Jean H. and John T. Walter Jr. Center for Research in Age-Related Macular Degeneration at UT Southwestern, helped design a blueprint for a similar center in Dallas. Today the Laser Center for Vision at Zale Lipshy is considered to be the most successful university-based, open-access center in the country.

McCulley said surgeons will be taught by UT Southwestern ophthalmologists, who were among the first in North Texas to perform photorefractive keratectomy (PRK) and LASIK procedures. UT Southwestern physicians have written more than 750 papers on ophthalmology, many of which are on keratorefractive surgery. They also use the latest technology and research-based expertise in PRK and LASIK to correct refractive error.

PRK and LASIK are types of laser-vision correction procedures. In PRK, the laser is used

(MORE)

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directly on the surface of the eye. In LASIK, which is less invasive, the laser is used under a protective flap of tissue to precisely reshape the cornea. Both procedures correct nearsightedness and farsightedness.

The 2,000-square-foot clinic will accommodate the Alcon Summitt Autonomus LADAR Vision excimer laser, a state-of-the-art laser used to correct vision in individuals who are either nearsighted or farsighted, both with and without astigmatism. This laser is currently not available in Fort Worth.

UT Southwestern faculty physicians, as well as community physicians, will treat clinic patients.

Prospective laser-correction patients may learn more about the procedure and its advantages and learn whether they are suited for such treatment at an educational seminar. Seminars are scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on the following dates: Aug. 13 and 27, Sept. 10, Oct. 8 and 22, Nov. 26 and Dec. 10. All seminars will be at the UT Southwestern Moncrief Cancer Center, located at 1450 8th Ave. in Fort Worth.

To make reservations for the seminars or to schedule an appointment, call metro 817-461-2168 or toll-free 1-888-663-2020.

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