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NEWS

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
(SOUTHWESTERN)
MEDICAL SCHOOL AT DALLAS



BOB FENLEY, DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION

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FOR SUNDAY RELEASE

DALLAS--A "home-grown product" who has earned an international reputation as a physician, research scientist and teacher was named Saturday as chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at The University of Texas (Southwestern) Medical School at Dallas.

Dr. Paul C. MacDonald, a 1955 graduate of UTSMS and member of its faculty since 1960, was selected to succeed Dr. Jack A. Pritchard, who had asked to be relieved of administrative duties after 15 years as head of the department.

The appointment is effective immediately, said UTSMS Dean Charles C. Sprague. Dr. MacDonald has been acting departmental chairman for the past year.

Dr. MacDonald is regarded as an authority on steroid hormone metabolism--the body's process for the production of and utilization of glandular secretions in reproductive function. He is author of more than 40 published reports of his research findings.

In addition to his administrative, teaching and research roles, Dr. MacDonald serves as chief of obstetrics and gynecology at Parkland Memorial Hospital, the medical school's primary teaching hospital. His 15-member departmental staff of doctor-teachers either performed or supervised delivery of most of the 6,450 babies born at Parkland last year.

Dr. Sprague praised both outgoing and incoming chairmen in announcing the administrative shift.

"This school owes a debt to Jack Pritchard, who took the department, built it from the ground up and made it into one of the really outstanding departments of obstetrics and gynecology in the country," Dr. Sprague said.

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first add dr. macdonald

"One of the department's strengths has been its training of outstanding academicians and physicians like Dr. MacDonald," he continued. "We certainly wanted a replacement of Dr. Pritchard's caliber, and our first choice for the job was Dr. MacDonald. There's no one ahead of him in his field. It's a tribute to both Dr. MacDonald and Dr. Pritchard that after a thorough nation-wide survey of prospects that Dr. MacDonald was the unanimous choice of a faculty search committee."

Dr. Pritchard continues as one of the school's busiest senior faculty members. As Gillette professor of obstetrics and gynecology, he holds one of the school's nine endowed professorships. He will serve as director of obstetrics at Parkland and continue as director of the Family Planning Project of Dallas. This federally-funded program, begun in 1969 under Dr. Pritchard's supervision, has exceeded its initial goals, providing more than 7,000 patients with contraceptives and birth control information at five centers during its first year of operation.

Dr. MacDonald, a native of McAlester, Okla., is a 1951 graduate of Southern Methodist University. After finishing medical training at UTSMS in 1955 and internship at Methodist Hospital in 1956, he served three years of residency at Parkland. From 1960 to 1962, while on leave from the medical school faculty, he studied under fellowships at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City.

He has been a full-time UTSMS faculty member since 1962, progressing from assistant professor to acting chairman by 1969. He was a medical officer in the U.S. Navy in 1956-57.

Two principal areas of research are being pursued by Dr. MacDonald and his associates. These are the definition of estrogen (female hormone) production in pregnancy, and a study of variations in the production of estrogen in victims of endometrial neoplasia, a cancerous condition of the uterine surface.

A recent result of the studies related to pregnancy has been development of a laboratory test which better enables physicians to monitor fetal well-being during certain high-risk pregnancies, such as in mothers with hypertension, diabetes, and pre-eclampsia. The procedure is being used routinely in appropriate cases at Parkland and has generated "a great deal of interest around the country," Dr. MacDonald said.

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second add dr. macdonald

Dr. MacDonald was recipient of a Career Development Award in 1969 from the U.S. Public Health Service. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and his numerous professional and scientific affiliations and responsibilities include membership in the reproductive biology study section of the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. and Mrs. MacDonald, the former Sue Cook of Wichita Falls, Tex., have three sons: Cary, 16; Rusty, 15; and Scott, 13. The family lives at 3102 Modella, in Dallas. Mrs. MacDonald, a graduate of the Methodist Hospital School of Nursing, is immediate past president of the UTSMS Faculty Wives.

SEPTEMBER 24, 1970

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