

UT News

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****Dr. William Neaves appointed interim dean
of U.T. Southwestern Medical School

DALLAS -- Dr. William B. Neaves will act as interim dean of U.T. Southwestern Medical School until a new permanent dean can be appointed. He will continue as dean of U.T. Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, a position he has held since 1980. Both the medical school and the graduate school are components of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas.

In making the appointment, UTHSCD President Kern Wildenthal said, "Dr. Neaves knows the administrative policies and procedures and has proved to be a highly capable administrator who has the confidence and admiration of the faculty and chairmen. Many of the medical school and graduate school activities are integrated, and he can take over the responsibilities quickly."

In addition, both men emphasized, it is important that an interim dean not be a candidate for the permanent deanship. The new medical school dean will be a medical doctor while Neaves has a Ph.D. from Harvard in anatomy and a distinguished career in research.

In addition to his duties as graduate school dean, Neaves has recently been chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee for the Dallas Mayor's Biotechnology Task Force, which resulted in the concept for Dallas Biomedical Corporation -- a private corporation that funds commercial development of biomedical research at the health science center, bridging the gap between laboratory and marketplace. Neaves also administers a large grant from the Hartford Foundation that allows UTHSCD to participate in the profits of the corporation.

Neaves continues his research as one of the nation's top andrologists. His studies of male virility have taken him as far as Africa to study the mating habits of the impala. During the past several years he has collaborated with Drs. Charles Petty and Larry Johnson to determine how the effects of increasing age exert their influence on diminishing sperm production.

Commenting on his duties, Neaves said, "I believe I have an important long-term role to play on the administrative team of the university, one in an area I enjoy and feel comfortable in--basic research and graduate education."

Wildenthal temporarily had continued his former role as medical school dean after assuming his new responsibilities as UTHSCD president on Sept. 1, 1986. However, he anticipates that the upcoming session of the Texas Legislature will make heavy demands on his time this spring, the same period that the university's next budget must be prepared.

Neaves will oversee the budget process and carry out many of the dean's other administrative duties, in addition to representing the medical school on various committees within the community and with the university's affiliated hospitals.

Meanwhile, the search committee chaired by Dr. Joseph Warshaw, chairman of the Department of Pediatrics, will continue to interview candidates for the post of dean of Southwestern Medical School.

"The search committee is charged to find the best dean as quickly as possible, but the emphasis is on best. We think that can be accomplished before the beginning of the next school year," concluded Wildenthal.

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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.