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BURLINGTON NORTHERN LECTURESHIP TO RAISE TRAUMA AWARENESS

DALLAS--Accidents and injuries kill more Americans each year than pneumonia, chronic lung disease or stroke. Traumatic injuries annually kill three times the number of Americans killed in the entire Vietnam War and are the leading cause of death in people under age 45.

But some trauma could be prevented or its impact lessened if more people knew more about it. Soon they will, thanks to a new visiting lectureship in trauma to be held annually at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. Funded by a \$50,000 endowment from the Burlington Northern Foundation, representing the Burlington Northern Railroad Co., the lectureship was established by the UT System Board of Regents.

The endowment will bring outstanding trauma experts to UT Southwestern to address a wide range of topics such as injury prevention, the effects of trauma on the body, medical treatment and rehabilitation. The kickoff lecture, focusing on trauma prevention, will take place during the coming year.

"Injury is a major public health problem, and we need to make people aware of that," said Dr. James Carrico, chairman of surgery at UT Southwestern and holder of the Hall and Mary Lucile Shannon Distinguished Chair in Surgery and the Dr. Lee Hudson-Robert R. Penn Chair in Surgery. "A useful analogy is polio. Trauma, like polio, can suddenly bring death or terrible disability to otherwise healthy

(More)

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young people. And, like polio, it is preventable. Where the analogy to polio breaks down is that there's no nice little sugar pill to prevent trauma."

It is important to educate medical professionals in treatment and rehabilitation methods to help prevent death or disability from trauma, Carrico said. It is also vital to educate the public in ways to prevent the mishaps that cause trauma and to prevent injury when mishaps do occur.

"This lectureship is an important first step in educating ourselves in the medical community and the public about this very real epidemic," he said.

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NOTE: The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas comprises Southwestern Medical School, Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Southwestern Allied Health Sciences School, affiliated teaching hospitals and outpatient clinics.