

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

Contact: Bridgette Rose McNeill
(214) 648-3404
or e-mail: bmcnei@mednet.swmed.edu

DR. PHALA HELM HONORED BY JUNIOR CHARITY LEAGUE FOR BURN WORK

DALLAS — March 18, 1996 - The Junior Charity League of Dallas will honor Dr. Phala Helm of UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas at its annual spring benefit March 29. The luncheon supports rehabilitative care for burn patients.

Helm recently stepped down as chairwoman of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation after leading the unit for nearly 20 years. She continues as a professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation and director of the Kimberly-Clark Center for Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

The department leads rehabilitative care for the more than 450 major burn patients admitted annually to Parkland Memorial Hospital, as well as other injuries.

In 1993, Helm was chosen to lead the North Texas Burn Rehabilitation Model System, one of three model systems for burn-injury rehabilitation in the United States. The system collects data to determine the incidence of rehabilitation complications, their impact on long-term psychosocial status and quality of life, the overall cost of burn care, and the effectiveness of specific rehabilitative treatments.

Helm will serve as "Honorary Chairman" of the 1995 Junior Charity League of Dallas Spring Benefit at The Northwood Club, 6524 Alpha Road.

"Dr. Helm has offered extraordinary care for burn patients for nearly two decades," said Janet Nylund, co-chairman of the 1995 benefit. "She has been an inspiration to the members of the Junior Charity League and we want to take this opportunity to recognize her and thank her for her service to the community."

Helm, a resident of Grapevine, graduated from Texas Christian University and

(MORE)

HELM HONORED — 2

received her medical degree from UT Southwestern. She was appointed an instructor of physical medicine and rehabilitation at UT Southwestern in 1970 and by 1975 was named the acting chairwoman. She took the post permanently two years later.

The Junior Charity League has donated more than \$500,000 to the department since 1970 to help purchase wheelchairs, prosthetics and special protective clothing for burn patients.

Nylund and Marilyn McElroy are co-chairing the luncheon, which includes, bingo, a silent auction, crafts and a raffle for a handmade quilt. For tickets contact Cindy Alexander at (214) 368-4001.

###