

# news THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT DALLAS

southwestern medical school - graduate school of biomedical sciences - school of allied health sciences

MAY 30, 1975

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\*\*\*\*\* *Community Cancer Program Approved  
for Dallas/Fort Worth*

DALLAS--The National Cancer Institute has approved a \$708,167 grant for development of a cooperative cancer program by The University of Texas Health Science Center and Dallas/Fort Worth area hospitals.

Goal of the program is to improve the care of the cancer patient through professional and lay education, early detection, coordinated data collection and distribution systems and establishment of multi-disciplinary cancer management procedures throughout the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

Principal investigator for the grant is Dr. George Race, associate dean for continuing education at Southwestern Medical School, who emphasized the cooperative nature of the program:

"The Cancer Center should not be considered a single entity from which influence and expertise reach out to effect the control of cancer in the community, but a joint effort by all individuals and institutions having a contribution to make."

Dr. Race noted that Baylor University Medical Center and St. Paul Hospital have actively developed clinical cancer centers; that Wadley Institute, Parkland Memorial Hospital and Children's Medical Center had programs dealing with leukemia and childhood cancers; while the Veterans Administration, Methodist and Presbyterian hospitals had other on-going programs.

"In Fort Worth, clinical oncology (tumor science) programs are developing and there is a radiation center," he said.

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"The goals of the cancer program in the Dallas/Fort Worth area would be to involve cooperating institutions in a program to include education, such as cancer grand rounds (medical lectures or demonstrations), programs involving television over the Dallas Area Hospital Television System, development of their own resources into cancer-related teaching and service activities, and developing medical oncology, surgical oncology, radiation oncology, training programs, plus an immunology program which would serve the benefits of patients, hospitals, physicians and also would be a resource for research and development," explained Dr. Race.

One of the first efforts of the Community Cancer Program will be to establish a community-wide cancer data network in the area. The data will be that information routinely collected by tumor registries in the area, plus additional information including specific details of the patient's treatment that will allow conversion of present tumor registries into convenient references for practicing physicians in determining the optimum treatment for their patients.

Today, each major hospital in Dallas operates its own tumor registry and the first objective of the project will be to determine how this information can be incorporated into a central data bank.

The National Cancer Institute award is for \$223,353 the first year, \$235,957 the second and \$248,857 the third year. Dallas is one of potentially 33 population centers in the United States to be awarded a grant for a Specialized Cancer Center.

The specialized centers are expected to accomplish certain specific programs-- such as assembling the central tumor data bank. NCI funds more comprehensive programs at institutions such as the UT System Cancer Center with the M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute at Houston.

The Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Southwestern Medical School is currently engaged in a program of rehabilitation of cancer patients under a contract of nearly \$1 million with NCI. This three-year program was begun last June and now is in the phase of delivery of rehabilitation services to patients.

The grant also provides funds for numerous internal projects related to cancer research at the UT Health Science Center, Dr. Race pointed out. These include:

--An immunoglobulin laboratory, directed by Dr. Marvin Stone. This specialized diagnostic laboratory will study abnormal proteins found in the blood of some types of cancer patients. Immunoglobulins are abnormal proteins secreted by tumor cells--cells which if normal would produce antibodies.

--A lymphobiology laboratory, supervised by Dr. Howard Tobin. This facility will study the way in which some white blood corpuscles respond to the presence of cancer in a patient. These studies, Dr. Race said, hold special promise of better diagnosis and improved treatment of cancer, by enhancing the body's natural immune responses against "foreign" malignant cells.

--A cell culture facility, directed by Dr. Roger Rosenberg. This facility will provide cancer investigators with tissue samples of various types of living human cancer cells, so that they may study these cells' responses to anti-cancer drugs, to immunologic alterations and to radiation. Thus it will make available stocks of cells to work with, making possible study of human cancer types in the laboratory, outside the human host.

--New projects. Funds have been made available to initiate promising new research leads in the basic aspects of the cancer disease process. These funds will be particularly useful, Dr. Race noted, in helping the Health Science Center attract new cancer investigators by making it possible for them to initiate their studies immediately upon their arrival.

--Animal facility support. Funds will enable the center's research animal facility, directed by Dr. Steven Pakes, to provide additional laboratory animals for use in cancer research projects.