

UT News

Office of Medical Information
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas
5323 Harry Hines Boulevard Dallas, Texas 75235
214/688-3404

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CONTACT: Susan Rutherford
OFFICE: 214/688-3404
HOME: 214/349-7820

****Neurosurgeon Dr. Duke Samson honored as
initial holder of Kemp Clark Chair in
Neurological Surgery

DALLAS--Dr. Duke S. Samson, professor and chairman of the Division of Neurosurgery at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas, was recently named as the initial holder of the William Kemp Clark Chair in Neurological Surgery.

The chair was established by the UT System Board of Regents to honor Dr. Kemp Clark, professor and former chairman of the neurosurgery division.

"It is fitting that one of Dr. Clark's outstanding pupils be appointed as initial holder of the chair," says UTHSCD president Dr. Kern Wildenthal. "Dr. Samson is known for his expertise as a teacher, clinician and neurosurgeon."

Samson, a member of the Southwestern Medical School Department of Surgery faculty since 1975, is currently researching brain blood flow, acute stroke and spasm of cerebral vessels.

A native of Odessa, Texas, Samson was graduated from Stanford University in 1965. He received an M.D. degree in 1969 from Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, where he was chosen as the Outstanding Senior Student. He performed a one-year internship in surgery at Duke University Medical Center and a residency in neurosurgery at Southwestern.

During his years as a resident, 1970-75, Samson trained at the Centre Medico-Chirurgical Foch (University Hospital of Paris, France), under a fellowship from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He also trained as a visiting fellow at Katonsspital, University of Zurich, Switzerland.

In 1975 and 1976 Samson served as staff neurosurgeon at Clark Air Force Base Hospital, Republic of the Philippines. And in 1976-77 he was assistant chief of neurosurgery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C. Following his military duty, he settled into a faculty post as assistant professor at Southwestern.

Samson has written numerous articles on neurosurgical topics for professional journals, and in 1983 he received the Harriet Cunningham Award of Excellence for an article published in "Texas Medicine." He has written chapters in many books on neurosurgery and recently has completed, with Dr. Hunt Batjer, a book dealing with the technical management of intracranial aneurysms, to be published in 1987.

Dr. Kemp Clark, for whom the chair is named, has been on the Southwestern Medical School faculty since 1956. For several years he was the only neurosurgeon in the Department of Surgery, and gradually he built up the Division of Neurosurgery, recruiting faculty members and residents.

Clark has served as president of both the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and the Society of Neurological Surgeons. He is currently president of the World Federation of Neurological Societies.

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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.