

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

Contact: Kris Mullen
(214) 648-3404
or e-mail: kmulle@mednet.swmed.edu

EMERGENCY MEDICINE PROGRAM TO OFFER PREMIER TRAINING

DALLAS – Nov. 5, 1996 – The Division of Emergency Medicine at UT Southwestern has been granted approval to establish a residency program, an acknowledgement that the division's faculty has become one of the nation's strongest academically and clinically.

The approval from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education's Residency Review Committee caps a joint effort by UT Southwestern, Parkland Health and Hospital System and Children's Medical Center of Dallas to win accreditation to train medical school graduates in the specialty of emergency medicine.

The program will begin in July 1997 with 12 to 16 residents, making it the only emergency medicine residency program in Dallas and the largest of the five programs in Texas.

"Emergency medicine is one of the most popular specialties in medicine today," said Dr. James Hayes, division chairman. "We expect we will attract top candidates, who quickly will realize we offer one of the best training programs anywhere."

Until 1988 physicians could take a practice-eligibility track to certification in emergency medicine by completing five years of full-time practice plus continuing education requirements. Because the track no longer is available, a three-year residency must be completed in this specialty.

The competition is stiff among medical-school seniors who want to pursue specialty training in the field. More than 100 U.S. hospitals offer residency training programs in emergency medicine. But the National Resident Matching Program – the route through which almost all U.S. medical-school seniors secure residency positions –

(MORE)

EMERGENCY RESIDENCY – 2

reports only 862 first-year residency positions were offered for emergency medicine this year.

"We anticipate we will have 500 or more applicants a year," said Dr. Frank Lavoie, an associate professor of emergency medicine who will be the residency program director. "Few residency programs offer the combination of a large academic medical center like UT Southwestern with hospitals that offer the experiences and challenges the residents are certain to encounter at Parkland and Children's."

UT Southwestern emergency medicine faculty members oversee patient care in Parkland's emergency department, where more than 160,000 people are treated annually, making it one of the busiest in the country. The residents will spend much of their time in Parkland's emergency department, and they also will train under UT Southwestern orthopaedic surgeons, trauma surgeons and other specialists whose expertise is pertinent to the practice of emergency medicine. Their training in the emergency department at Children's will be guided by Dr. Robert Wiebe, professor of pediatrics at UT Southwestern.

"Few programs in the country offer residents the opportunity to have a high level of responsibility for so many patients with such acuity of illness and injury," Hayes said. "And they will have the opportunity to train under an expert faculty that understands the important role research plays in residency training."

Since becoming chairman in November 1992, Hayes has led the division, which is part of the Department of Surgery, through tremendous growth that strengthened UT Southwestern's efforts to receive accreditation for the residency program.

The efforts were supported by Dr. Ron Anderson, Parkland's president and chief executive officer and professor of internal medicine at UT Southwestern. The hospital's administration agreed to help with faculty funding that enabled Hayes to increase the

(MORE)

EMERGENCY RESIDENCY – 3

size of the faculty from three to 18 physicians, all board-certified or residency-trained in emergency medicine.

The division was enhanced this year when Dr. Leonard Riggs, chairman and chief executive officer of EmCare Holdings and a Southwestern Medical School graduate, endowed a chair through Southwestern Medical Foundation to support emergency medicine. His \$250,000 gift, matched by the foundation and an anonymous donor, established the Riggs Family Chair in Emergency Medicine.

Hayes, the holder of the chair, plans to use interest from the endowment to help support emergency medicine residents' academic pursuits.

"It has taken a cooperative effort to establish a residency program," Hayes said. "And it will be a cooperative effort that makes it a success."

Dr. C. James Carrico, chairman of surgery, said Hayes and Lavoie deserve special praise for the outstanding job they have done in preparing for the residency program.

"This promises to be one of the best emergency medicine residencies in the country," said Carrico, holder of the Hall and Mary Lucile Shannon Distinguished Chair in Surgery. "The depth and breadth of the resources available on this campus will allow the residents to prepare for outstanding careers in all aspects of emergency medicine and to be the academic leaders of the future."

###