

News

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* * * Dr. A.H. Giesecke takes helm of
Anesthesiology Department.

DALLAS--Dr. A.H. Giesecke Jr., a widely-known authority on anesthesiology, is assuming leadership of The University of Texas Health Science Center's Department of Anesthesiology, one of the largest and busiest units of its kind anywhere.

Stepping down after 31 years as department chairman is Dr. M.T. (Pepper) Jenkins, one of America's top medical leaders. He will continue teaching duties as Margaret Milam McDermott Professor of Anesthesiology.

The big department, which conducts its teaching and service operations in Parkland Memorial Hospital, Children's Medical Center, Texas Scottish Rite Hospital and the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Dallas, did 25,281 procedures during this last year. Sixty residents are taught and supervised by 24 faculty members. This makes it the biggest clinical case load for any single residency program in the nation.

Dr. Giesecke, whose nickname is "Buddy," is noted for his work on intraoperative fluids, anesthesia for trauma patients and his particular research interest is aspiration pneumonitis.

Holder of the M.T. Jenkins Professorship, which was endowed by the McDermott Foundation, Dr. Giesecke has formulated a track for his leadership of the department.

"I would like to improve academic productivity and continue basic research into the phenomena related to anesthesiology and clinical research emphasizing problems of the trauma patient," Dr. Giesecke said.

He currently is working on use of antacids in the preinduction phase of anesthesia. His field of aspiration pneumonitis relates to the ever-present danger of patients literally drowning on regurgitated stomach fluid because a vital reflex is temporarily deadened by anesthesia.

Dr. Giesecke is widely published in his field and was chairman of the panel on "Anesthesia for the severely injured patient" for the Seventh World Congress of Anesthesiologists in Hamburg, Germany, last September.

The new chairman first was associated with the department when he began his residency at Parkland in 1960. He was named assistant professor in 1963 and had

attained rank of full professor in 1969. In 1973 he was named professor and director of Anesthesiology at The University of Texas Medical School at Houston and returned to Southwestern Medical School in Dallas as vice chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology in 1974.

He has been a "Fullbright Lekturer und Gastprofessor, Institut fur Anaesthesiologie," Johannes Gutenberg Universitat, Mainz, Germany, in 1970-71.

Other honors include the McLaughlin Research Fellowship, Alpha Omega Alpha and Mu Delta Honor Medical Service Society membership. He has been a member of the Board of Governors, American College of Anesthesiologists since 1978, is associate editor of "Contemporary Anesthesia Practice" and a member of the editorial board of "Clinical Anesthesia."

Dr. Giesecke has filled a large number of visiting professorships including appointments at Yale; University of Miami; University of Hiroaki, Japan; University of Melbourne, Temple; University of Saskatchewan; Gutenberg University, Germany; Mount Siani Hospital and Medical School. He was Rank Educational Foundation and Royal Society of Medicine Visiting Professor to Queen's University, Belfast; the University of Sheffield and the Royal Postgraduate School of Medicine at Hammersmith Hospital, London.

The Dallas educator has delivered 38 invited lectures in various parts of the world from 1979 to 1981.

In addition to publishing a great deal of his research in medical journals, he has written solely and collaborated with other authors on a number of books. His "Anesthesia for Surgery of Trauma" (F.A. Davis & Co., Philadelphia, 1977) has been displayed at a science and technology exhibit in China, with a Spanish translation published in Mexico in 1979.

Dr. Giesecke received his undergraduate degree at The University of Texas at Austin, his M.D. degree at the UT Medical Branch in Galveston and did internships at Beaumont Army Hospital in El Paso and Parkland.

After service with the USARMC, he was awarded the Army Commendation Medal.

Today Dr. Giesecke is a member of a large number of local, state and national organizations dealing with anesthesiology.

He and his wife reside in Irving and are parents of four children. They are active in the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas.

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