

# 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: Ann Harrell  
OFFICE: 214/688-3404  
HOME: 214/520-7509

\*\*\*\*Korman to head new combined effort  
in psychology and rehabilitation

DALLAS -- Dr. Maurice Korman has been appointed chairman of the Department of Rehabilitation Science in the School of Allied Health Science and the Rehabilitation Counseling program in the Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. Both schools are components of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas. Korman, who will assume his new duties Sept. 1, will continue as chairman of the Division of Psychology, Department of Psychiatry, and as chairman of the graduate program in psychology.

"This new plan tying psychology in the Department of Psychiatry closely to both the graduate school and the allied health school will offer a unique academic program geared to research and clinical services at the health science center," said Dr. William Gonyea, dean of the School of Allied Health Sciences and acting chairman of the Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy. "Our psychology division is considered one of the best in the country. It is well known for its broad-based research interest in pain and other areas of behavioral medicine, its graduate student involvement in research and its overall quality."

The new three-school, three-program integrated approach will broaden the scope of clinical services at the health science center dramatically as well as provide the opportunity for outstanding in-depth programs at the upper-division undergraduate, master's and doctoral level programs, he said.

Korman said that this will be the first program on campus in which there will be true integration of the medical school, the graduate school and the allied health school in the training of health professionals. "Of course, this will take time," said Korman. "There will have to be reorganization and changes in the curriculum."

"However, July 1 marks my 30th year at the health science center. I can't think of a better way to celebrate than by taking on new duties with such exciting potential."

The psychology chairman said that all along he has had the backing of Dr. Kenneth Altshuler, chairman of the Department of Psychiatry, of which psychology is a division. "Dr. Altshuler has taken a major role in the plan. He's very supportive, and he has always been in favor of the kind of integration this new plan represents. In fact, it extends an idea relevant in the department for many years. We have always had a large amount of involvement between the medical and graduate programs -- now we are stretching outward to include allied health. Never before has this happened on the campus."

Korman pointed out that major reorganizations to enhance academic programs are usually very costly. However, this one will cost nothing extra. Faculty for rehabilitation science, an upper-division undergraduate program that grants a Bachelor of Science degree, and rehabilitation counseling, which awards an Master of Science degree, are in place, as is the psychology faculty in the clinical psychology doctoral program. The psychologist gives credit to Gonyea for the idea to integrate the three different programs. "When Dr. Gonyea approached me in the early spring with this idea, I must admit I was taken aback. But after mulling it over, I began to see the real possibilities it offers."

"A lot of things can be done at little or no cost that will enhance all these programs." These include cost-sharing, the opportunity for admitting students into one program with the possibility of later being admitted to more advanced programs, sharing certain core classes and offering more psychology courses for bachelor's and master's level students. The new approach is also expected to help in the recruitment of outstanding students by offering them an opportunity not usually available in these related fields. "Of course, all of this has to be worked out."

Gonyea said he agrees with the direction Korman's plans for the integrated program are progressing. "The way to train a health-care team is to train them together," Gonyea said.

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Korman believes that both the students and the faculty will profit from the new effort. He said he has always had a good working relationship with the rehabilitation programs, and faculty members from these areas have always served on some of his graduate committees. Also, "rehabilitation has a hard-working, talented faculty. Many have been doing work in behavioral medicine, as have many faculty members in psychology. This cooperative effort will be greatly enhanced by the new relationship."

There has been speculation that the rehabilitation programs would have to be dropped because of state budget cuts expected this year. However, Gonyea said that he intends to go ahead with the plans even though the legislature has to convene for a special session June 22 to consider the budget. "I'm keeping the faith that it will go through," he said.

"Crisis provides the opportunity for reorganization, for the community to let us know what they need," Gonyea said. "Already the health science center has been receiving feedback from the community on the proposed cutbacks from hospital districts, physicians in the area and physicians that rely on our graduates to work for them, as well as former patients and their families who have been touched by our graduates. And it's growing."

Gonyea said he hopes the budget will allow all the current allied health programs to continue although some will need to be reorganized. "Training health personnel for Texas is a real and important goal in this state. And if we don't, we will have no one to replace the current ones with." Gonyea pointed out that there is a high drop-out in the allied health professions, especially those at the bachelor's degree level.

Gonyea, who is the chairman of the Formula Funding Committee for Allied Health for the Texas Coordinating Board, said he believes that the state -- and society as a whole -- should look at the problem of providing health care closely. "Of course, this will take much study," he said. "We need to gain a much better understanding of supply and demand."

Right now Dallas itself is in a crisis situation because there are not enough medical technologists, physical therapists and respiratory therapists (trained in Dallas at El Centro). Rural areas often go begging for allied health personnel to help the few -- if any -- physicians in those communities, and now there is a demand for physicians' assistants in city hospitals as well as in the country.

Korman also said that one of the strengths of the program for students interested in psychiatric-related work will be the ability to work out training slots with the Department of Psychiatry in psychiatric situations.

"From my point of view the situation has no negatives, only positives," he said.

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Distribution: AA,AB,AC,AM,SC,SL

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.