THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT DALLAS

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

Contact: Bob Fenley

DALLAS--Medical and nursing students will "rap" with junior high and high school students this fall in a new educational program designed to combat venereal disease.

Sponsored by the Student American Medical Association and the Dallas Independent School District, the effort is aimed at an age group which contributes a high percentage of V.D. cases to health statistics.

A workshop for those students who will be lecturing throughout the schools will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, September 15 in Room B-201 at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School.

Two medical school faculty members will assist with the workshop:

Dr. James Luby, assistant professor on Internal Medicine, will speak on
the treatment and diagnosis of syphilis and gonorrhea, while Barbara

Cambridge, instructor in Sociology in Obstetrics and Gynecology, will
lecture on ways of communicating with junior high and high school students.

Randy Moser, Dallas Health Department will portray the V.D. problem in Dallas.

Ellen Kramar, Southwestern Medical School student who is chairwoman of the project, said the presentations to be made to the younger

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students have been carefully designed so as to be informative and to bridge communications gaps with a maximum of taste.

The program, approved by the DISD last spring, will furnish speakers to schools on request, said Ms. Kramar. Usually these requests come from health or physical education classes.

She pointed out that Dallas, with 18,000 reported cases of gonorrhea last year, ranked ninth of all metropolitan centers in incidence of this disease. The city ranks 12th on syphillis.

Highest rate of increase in incidence of venereal disease occurs in the 20 to 24 age group, with the 15 to 20 year group being next, said Ms. Kramar.

SAMA President Mark Millard added that patterns of disease spread and the most productive ways of attacking it on a mass basis would be discussed at the workshop.