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News

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UT Southwestern Receives
Burn Contract.

DALLAS--The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School has received a contract for one and one-half to two million dollars to provide emergency medical consultation and teaching programs as a Regional Burn Center for a large area of Texas.

Emergency Services Administration of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare has contracted with the school and five Texas Emergency Medical Services--Trinity Valley (Fort Worth), Permian Basin (Odessa), West Central Texas (Abilene), Panhandle (Amarillo) and Dallas.

In addition to consulting and teaching, physicians and other health personnel will collect information on number and severity of burns, types of treatment and rehabilitation. They will then plan and implement programs for burn care according to area needs.

This three-year contract is one of six for Regional Burn Demonstration Programs across the country. Other contracting regions are New England, New York, northern Nevada, Alabama and San Diego. All have been designated Regional Burn Centers. The Parkland Burn Unit (with burn specialists from the school) is already designated a burn center by American Burn Association (ABA) guidelines, according to Dr. Charles Baxter, professor of surgery at Southwestern and project director. Dr. Baxter, past president of the ABA, is an internationally known expert on burns.

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first add burn center

Co-medical directors of the program, which begins November 1, are Drs. Baxter and Phala Helm, associate professor and chairman of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

Assistant medical director is Dr. John Hunt, assistant professor of surgery. Emergency medical system director is Dr. James Finney of Fort Worth, director of the Trinity Valley EMS area.

Mary Gordon, R.N., M.S., is program director while Cornelia Kenner, R.N., M.S., will serve as nurse consultant. Other staff members of the program are Dr. Fred Cromes, assistant professor, Dr. Jeanne Achterberg-Lawlis, assistant professor, and Maureen O'Brien, instructor, all in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Acting as consultants are Parkland employes Margey Head, physical therapist, and Gerry Pullium, occupational therapist.

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MKT: "Hot lines" to doctors will open early in November.

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