

news THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT DALLAS

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

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*****Heart researcher appointed
dean of graduate School.

DALLAS-- Dr. Kern Wildenthal, a well-known heart researcher, has been appointed dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas.

The graduate school is one of three components of the Dallas health science center and currently has enrolled more than 260 students in its 13 advanced degree programs.

Health Science Center President Dr. Charles C. Sprague made the appointment Monday, Dec. 13, effective immediately. Dr. Wildenthal had been serving as acting dean of the graduate school since Oct. 15, 1976.

He replaced former Graduate School Dean Ronald Estabrook, who resigned to devote full time to his position as chairman of the Department of Biochemistry and his research and teaching activities.

Dr. Wildenthal, who holds both M.D. and Ph.D. degrees, recently returned from a year as Guggenheim Fellow and Visiting Scientist at the University of Cambridge, England.

A professor with appointments in the departments of Physiology and Internal Medicine, Dr. Wildenthal has developed new methods of heart culture and preservation. As associate director of the Weinberger Laboratory for Cardiopulmonary Research at Southwestern Medical School, he was part of a team which successfully used the little-known "diving reflex" to aid in control of a runaway heart condition known as paroxysmal atrial tachycardia (PAT).

His current research interests include investigating the control mechanisms for growth of the heart in both normal and diseased states. He also is investigating mechanisms that control the strength and rate of heart beat during exercise and other stresses, and how these can be used to control abnormal heart functioning such as PAT.

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Dr. Wildenthal is the recipient of the 1976 Sybil Thorndike Research Award and was named as one of the outstanding teachers for 1975 by the Southwestern Medical School student body.

He has received three research fellowships and a career development award from the U.S. Public Health Service as well as a number of other fellowships and scholarships.

Dr. Wildenthal received a bachelors degree in English literature and premedical sciences from Sul Ross College where he was named outstanding student of the year for 1960. He received his M.D. degree from Southwestern Medical School and his Ph.D. from Cambridge.

After internship at Bellevue Hospital in New York and residency at Parkland Memorial Hospital, he was a guest scientist at the National Heart Institute and a special research fellow at Strangeways Research Laboratory, Cambridge.

Dr. Wildenthal has published more than 70 papers on cardiac physiology and metabolism, lysosomal function and myocardial organ culture. He is a member of more than a dozen societies dedicated to heart research and other disciplines.

He has received research support from the Dallas County Chapter of the American Heart Association, the National Institutes of Health, the Harry S. Moss Trust for the Prevention and Cure of Heart Disease, and through the health science center's Pauline and Adolph Weinberger Laboratory for Cardiopulmonary Research.

Dr. Wildenthal, in addition to his new duties as dean, will continue his research and teaching activities.

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