

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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DALLAS--Health and government officials have been invited to attend an open house Monday, June 3, noting establishment of a Clinical Research Center by The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School at Parkland Hospital.

The new unit provides a setting where medical scientists can confront unusual or difficult ailments. Clinical application of promising drugs in integrated research and carefully controlled environment constitutes a major function of the center.

The open house will be from 2 to 4 p.m. Monday in the Parkland Memorial Hospital cafeteria with tours conducted to the research center.

Largely funded by the National Institutes of Health, the unit contains 13 beds with its own nursing, dietetics, laboratory and administrative functions.

This is one of 84 such research centers established in major medical centers throughout the United States.

The Dallas unit is under the direction of Dr. Charles Y. C. Pak, Associate Professor of Internal Medicine. Dr. Pak operated a similar research center several years ago for the National Institutes of Health at Bethesda, Maryland.

In order to conduct research with a patient in the center, the medical school physician must present his plans to a human research review committee composed of medical school faculty and laymen, plus another

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committee set up for the CRC in particular. To be approved, the protocols must show soundness of design, optimal use of the facility and safety to the patients. The exact problem for which the patients will be admitted will therefore depend of several factors including the research interests of the investigators and the protocols submitted. Many of the patients are referred to the center by their personal physician for problems which cannot be readily evaluated.

A major thrust of the center will involve investigations of the pathogenesis of disease (why disease arises), the development of new techniques for diagnosis and treatment and utilizing new drugs in some cases. The patients profit directly by often receiving evaluation or new drugs not available elsewhere. Indirectly, the patient contributes to the understanding of the condition with which they are afflicted. Hopefully others may suffer less in the future as a result of these research efforts.

The patients are told exactly why certain studies are made and must give their consent for these studies. The experiments are sometimes so vigorously controlled that precise measurements of all physiological intake and all output are made. The dietetic staff carefully weighs all food and makes sure it has a quality of sameness so as not to introduce unwanted factors in the experiment.

The basic staff of the center consists of the administrative group, 12 nurses, the dietitian, three cooks, three aides and three technicians.

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Many persons who stay in the Clinical Research Center feel a deep sense of pride in promoting medical research. They know ~~that~~ it is only in this way ^{that} physicians are able to confront unusual and frequently puzzling ailments on science's own grounds--the carefully controlled setting.

In most cases, true scientific knowledge is wrested from nature only at great effort and expense. Years of study by not only one but dozens of able minds have often been necessary to product discovery.

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