

NEWS

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
(SOUTHWESTERN)
MEDICAL SCHOOL AT DALLAS



BOB FENLEY, DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION

JOHN WEEKS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

DALLAS--Expansion plans for The University of Texas (Southwestern) Medical School at Dallas have taken a giant step toward reality with the approval of a \$12.7 million grant which will provide a major portion of federal funds needed for campus construction.

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare award of \$12,725,436, announced in Washington by U.S. Rep. Jim Collins of Dallas, provides a two-thirds share of expected construction costs for a five-story Basic Sciences Teaching Building and an elevated plaza with four lecture halls beneath.

This project is the largest component of the medical school's Phase One building program designed to relieve present space shortages and enable doubling the size of annual enrolling classes by 1975.

School officials expect construction of the teaching unit and plaza to get under way early in 1971 and be finished by the fall of 1973. Total cost of the project from federal, state and local sources is expected to be \$19,200,000.

Another project, the Basic Sciences Research Building, is already under construction on the Harry Hines Blvd. campus under a \$7,300,000 contract. A federal grant of \$1,894,000 was made earlier for this building, due to be finished by spring, 1972.

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first add grant

Requests are pending with the federal government for an additional \$5.5 million to assist construction of three other buildings to complete the Phase One program. These are the Florence Bioinformation Center, costing an estimated \$7,593,000; Academic-Administration Building, due to cost \$2,014,000; auditorium and cafeteria, costing \$3,313,000.

Approval of these projects already has been indicated by HEW's National Institutes of Health. Officials of the Dallas school anticipate that fund awards for them may be made sometime after July 1.

The University of Texas System will provide additional money and a \$7.5 million development fund campaign by the Southwestern Medical Foundation on behalf of the school will provide the rest of the approximately \$40 million expansion program.

The current building program is the first phase of an overall master plan that would transform UTSMS into an interdisciplinary Life Sciences Center combining the medical school's traditional roles of medical education, research and patient care with study in related fundamental sciences such as physics, chemistry, anthropology, biology and sociology, together with training in allied health professions.

Announcement of the \$12.7 million grant was hailed by UTSMS Dean Charles C. Sprague as "marvelous news."

"It's a tremendous act of support for our efforts to initiate the first phase of our Life Sciences Center concept," Dr. Sprague said.

"Not only will the federal support enable a building program which will help us double enrollment of medical students and train more professional health workers, it paves the way for research both on fundamental medical questions and on delivery of health care to more people."

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second add grant

"This has great significance for the people of this city, this state, and this nation," the dean added.

Dr. Sprague said detailed plans for the teaching building and plaza should be finished by fall, with the project ready for bids late this year or early in 1971. Architects have been authorized to complete working drawings for the remaining Phase One projects and officials hope all the structures can be undertaken on a similar schedule.

The 325,000-square-foot teaching unit, largest of the new buildings, is based on the concept of multi-purpose, or interdisciplinary, laboratories. Under the concept, freshmen or sophomore students studying "basic sciences" such as biochemistry, microbiology and pharmacology would have the laboratory exercises brought to their individual laboratories. Each student, in fact, would occupy a cubicle in which he would conduct experiments and study.

Closely functioning with the basic sciences teaching unit will be the four lecture rooms under the interconnecting plaza. The teaching unit and lecture rooms were designed by the firm of Fisher and Spillman.

Originally, the Phase One segment of the UTSMS Life Sciences program had been mapped to provide for raising annual enrollment from the current 105 medical students to 150. But in February the school announced it was revising this goal upward to 200 new students annually. An initial expansion to 150 entering students is tentatively planned for September, 1973, with the 200 level due to be reached in September, 1975.

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third add grant

Further applications to the government for assistance in building a new clinical science building, renovating the existing Cary Basic Science Hall to house clinical departments, expansion of physical plant and animal care facilities--all necessary to accommodate the 200-student-per-year class level, will be made by the school later this year.

Of the \$40 million estimated for the Phase One program, \$10.3 million is expected to come from The University of Texas System. Southwestern Medical Foundation, the organization which launched the medical school in Dallas 25 years ago, has announced a \$7.5 million fund campaign on behalf of the institution to add to \$1.6 million it already has in hand for UTSMS expansion.

The Southwestern Medical Foundation traditionally has been the largest private sector supporter of the medical school, and for the first six years of its operation the Foundation was the sole support of the medical school. It was made a part of the University of Texas System in 1949.

The Foundation has scheduled its solicitation campaign for the school in the spring of 1971.

The plan for Phase One implementation was developed by task force committees at UTSMS in cooperation with the Office of Facilities Planning of the UT System. Architectural consultation was provided by E. Todd Wheeler and the Perkins and Will Partnership of Chicago. Local coordination is being provided by the Dallas architectural firm of Fisher and Spillman.

With the \$40 million building program at the medical school campus, and a \$25 million expansion program being undertaken by the school's primary teaching facility, Parkland Memorial Hospital, improvements at the site will total some \$65 million.

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