

# SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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## NEW ASSISTANT DEAN TO HEAD INFORMATICS AT UT SOUTHWESTERN

DALLAS – Nov. 19, 1996 – The commitment of UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas to enhance patient care by using advanced information technology has been strengthened with the appointment of **Ronald Peshock, M.D.**, to the new position of assistant dean for informatics.

Peshock, a UT Southwestern professor of radiology and internal medicine, will oversee the use of information technology – informatics – in medical care by UT Southwestern and UT Southwestern Health Systems, a managed-care contracting organization.

"We want to apply medical informatics appropriately and efficiently in the areas of clinical service, education and research," said Dr. Willis Maddrey, executive vice president for clinical affairs and the Arnold N. and Carol S. Ablon Professor in Biomedical Sciences. "Dr. Peshock's background as a clinician and his expertise in information technology will serve us well."

As chairman of the clinical repository implementation group on campus, Peshock has worked closely with other clinicians and specialists to find the best way for UT Southwestern to use information technology.

"Medicine is changing in several ways," said Peshock. "The growth of integrated delivery systems, such as we're seeing here at UT Southwestern with our affiliated hospitals, demands that we work together. An efficient flow of patient information is necessary."

UT Southwestern is establishing a computerized repository so that no matter where the physician is – at the James W. Aston Ambulatory Care Center, his or her office, or Zale Lipshy University Hospital – the patient's entire medical record can be found quickly via computer. A pilot project using the system is under way in urology, otorhinolaryngology and gastroenterology.

"This is the first step on our path toward the computerized medical record," Peshock said. "We plan to roll out the project to other clinics over the next six months to a year."

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