

Zale Lipshy University Hospital

At Southwestern Medical Center

News Release

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****Critical care nurse honored
as Nurse of the Year.

DALLAS -- Karen Knecht, RN, director of the Intensive Care Unit at Zale Lipshy University Hospital, has been named "Critical Care Nurse of the Year" by the American Association of Critical Care Nurses, Dallas County Chapter. She will be honored by the association and the hospital at a reception from 4:30-6:00 p.m., Friday, Aug. 3 in the main dining room at University Hospital, 5151 Harry Hines Blvd.

Zale Lipshy University Hospital is a 160-bed private teaching and research hospital for faculty at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School.

"Karen has shown remarkable ability for managing simultaneous emergencies typical of a university hospital ICU, where patients often have complicated disease," said Ronald F. Garvey, M.D., president and CEO of Zale Lipshy University Hospital. "She is also an invaluable trainer of staff on the use of our advanced patient monitoring system at University Hospital."

The new patient information system, considered state-of-the-art by experts nationwide, is part of a computerized network installed for the hospital by Perot Systems. The clinical information system can automatically gather data from patients in the ICU and compile

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clinical information with laboratory, pharmacy and admitting office data to construct a detailed picture of the patient's status. The fiber-optic communications network connecting the hospital with Southwestern Medical School will eventually enable clinical faculty at the school to call up clinical data on hospital patients.

Knecht frequently lectures to nursing and hospital information systems groups on the use of bedside terminals and has recently travelled to Virginia and Canada to explain the state-of-the-art technology.

Previously, Knecht worked seven years in Methodist Medical Center's 27-bed intensive care unit, where she cared for trauma patients, open heart surgery patients and others who were critically ill. In addition, she has worked in the area of "fixed wing" transport of critically ill patients.

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