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News

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**Emergency medicine is focus of meetings.

DALLAS--Emergency medicine is the theme of an upcoming symposium April 26-29.

Co-sponsored by the Texas Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians, the Texas Council of the Emergency Department Nurses Association and the Texas Association of Emergency Medical Technicians, the symposium will be held at the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport Hilton Executive Conference Center.

More than 60 courses, small group sessions and laboratories will be offered so that registrants can select tracks within their professional level -- EMT, nurse or physician -- that will meet their educational needs.

Faculty from The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas, such as James Atkins, M.D., co-director of Emergency Medical Services and associate professor of Internal Medicine; Charles Petty, M.D., professor of Pathology and director of the Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences, and Duke Samson, M.D., associate professor of Surgery and vice chairman of Neurosurgery, as well as paramedic and EMT instructors from UTHSCD will be presenters. Other guest speakers include Bill Roberts, former assistant chief of the City of Dallas Fire Department, and Al Somodevella, Ph.D., director of Psychological Services, Dallas Police and Fire Departments.

One of the highlights of the symposium will be the program on "Trauma: The Victim from the Emergency Scene into the Emergency Department." The Thursday seminar from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. will be directed by Ameen Ramzy, M.D., Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services (Baltimore Trauma Center).

Keynote speaker for the symposium will be Windle Turley, a practicing attorney in Dallas. Turley will speak Friday from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. on "Injury Control and the Law."

Some of the other courses designed to be of interest to paramedics include topics such as written exams, computers, helicopter use and safety, management, infectious diseases, EMS instructor liability, hazardous materials, forensics in emergency medical services and stress in emergency medical services. Topics designed primarily for nurses

include psychiatric emergencies, self defense, communicable diseases, taking the witness stand, evidence collection in rape cases, pediatric emergencies and handling the drunk in the emergency room.

Emergency medicine physicians will be able to choose from among "Management of Coma of Unknown Origin," "Risk Management," "Cardiac Drugs Update," "Neurologic Trauma and the CAT Scan" and "Consumer's View of Emergency Care Giver."

Continuing education credit is available. For more information about the program contact Debra Cason, paramedic coordinator, UTHSCD, and co-director of the conference, at 688-3131.

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