

News

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****UT Southwestern names
allied health sciences dean

DALLAS--The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas has drawn from its alumni ranks to name a dean for the Southwestern Allied Health Sciences School.

Dr. Gordon Green, currently director of the Dallas County Health Department and a graduate of Southwestern Medical School, will begin his new duties in January. He will replace Dr. Vernie Stembridge, former chairman of pathology at UT Southwestern, who has been interim dean of the allied health school since September 1988.

Dr. Kern Wildenthal, UT Southwestern president, said Green's extensive background in working with the many disciplines of the allied health professions was a key to his selection.

"He has a deep understanding of the allied health professions' importance, and he has a vision about their usefulness in health care," Wildenthal said. "Combined with his administrative skills, Dr. Green is the right person at the right time for this position."

Green said that he sees parallels between his seven years of public service in the health department and the challenges that await in the dean's office.

"Both positions deal directly with health-care research, education and service. Service and research are key to my position with the health department, but education of the public also is of prime concern," Green said. "Of course, the weight that those elements carry in my role as dean will be different."

Under Green's leadership at the health department, the Public Health Advisory Committee and the Dallas County Board of Health were formed to identify and address the health care needs of Dallas

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County. The department also developed a nationally recognized AIDS Demonstration Project and became a leader in training public health workers to control the spread of communicable diseases.

In his role as dean, Green is excited about the challenge of helping the allied health school attract the best and the brightest to fill the increasing demand for allied health professionals. "As the health-care field becomes more complex and specialized, the need for well-qualified allied health professionals will continue to increase. We need to explore all options of communications available to us to let people know of the opportunities available in allied health."

Green said that with the information explosion and the proliferation of computer usage, avenues must be found to incorporate computer technology into the allied health fields. "One of our goals will be to examine all of the health fields and determine how computers are in use or how they might be used. Tying computer technology to a career track can definitely increase its attractiveness."

As the medical center and its allied health school approach the 21st century, Green said the ingredients are already in place for continued excellence. "We will have to be aggressive in our approach to attract quality students and retain top flight faculty, but as the allied health school is presented to more and more people, it will be apparent that UT Southwestern has the most to offer.

"I look forward to the chance to address the needs of the allied health school and to promote it as one of the top institutions in the nation," he added.

Green, a Dallas native, and his wife have four children.

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NOTE: The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas comprises Southwestern Medical School, Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Southwestern Allied Health Sciences School.