

# SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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## UT SOUTHWESTERN OFFERS AROUND-THE-CLOCK POISONING EXPERTISE

DALLAS — August 4, 1997 — The Division of Emergency Medicine at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas has created a new section of toxicology to assist North Texas physicians treating patients who have been poisoned.

Dr. Chris Keyes, a UT Southwestern specialist in emergency and internal medicine and a board-certified toxicologist, is the chief of the section. He and the other UT Southwestern faculty members in the section work closely with the North Texas Poison Center, located at Parkland Health & Hospital System, which last year received nearly 60,000 calls about toxic exposures.

Through the poison center, they provide 24-hour consultation for clinicians requiring assistance in treating the many types of poisonings. These include intentional and accidental drug and medication overdoses; exposure to toxic gases and chemicals; and poisonous snake and spider bites.

"Emergency physicians and intensive care physicians deal with toxicology issues all the time but may not focus on the latest information about diagnosis, management, antidotes and other issues related to this special field of interest," said Keyes, assistant professor of surgery and internal medicine. "The toxicology section will provide consultation to both inpatient services and the emergency department."

Toxicology is one of medicine's newest subspecialties, with the American Board of

(MORE)

## **POISONING EXPERTISE — 2**

Medical Specialties offering the first board exam for certification in 1994.

Keyes and Dr. Kathleen Delaney, a UT Southwestern associate professor of surgery, were the first Texas physicians to receive the new board certification. Working with them in the toxicology section are Drs. Kurt Kleinschmidt, Paul Kolecki, David Morgan and Maria Rudis. They are faculty members in the Division of Emergency Medicine, which is a part of the Department of Surgery. Kleinschmidt and Morgan, assistant professors of surgery, are working toward becoming eligible for board certification in toxicology through a special track of hands-on experience. Kolecki, an assistant professor of surgery, recently completed a toxicology fellowship at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center in Phoenix. Rudis is an instructor in the Division of Emergency Medicine who earned her doctoral degree in pharmacy from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science.

In addition to advising physicians about patient treatment, the toxicology section faculty members will conduct clinical research and teach medical students and the new residents training to be emergency medicine specialists.

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