

news THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT DALLAS

southwestern medical school ■ graduate school of biomedical sciences ■ school of allied health sciences

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DALLAS--A new health education network linking the medical school and five hospitals with closed-circuit television will begin regular programming Monday, March 5.

The Dallas Area Hospital Television System (DAHTS) will originate programs in the studios of The University of Texas Health Science Center and distribute them to Baylor, Methodist, Presbyterian, St. Paul and Veterans Administration hospitals.

Broadcasting will be through facilities of TAGER (The Association for Graduate Education and Research), an already-established educational television network in North Texas, which enables nine regional colleges and universities to interchange live credit courses and programs. The TAGER staff installed the hospital television system and is responsible for its technical operation and maintenance.

Continuing medical education for physicians, nursing demonstrations, presentations for health workers and programs in a number of service areas are planned on a wide-ranging schedule. Each hospital has from one to four rooms designated as DAHTS network classrooms, each equipped for instantaneous "talk-back" with faculty of the Health Science Center as live programs are originated.

"We're expecting the new network to serve as an integrating influence to bring together all the medical installations within the community so that the expertise and knowledge of the personnel in each of these institutions can be optimally utilized to serve all the medical community," observed Dr. Charles C. Sprague, president of the UT Health Science Center.

He added that while the medical school would serve to lead and coordinate the educational presentations, emphasis would be placed on the contributions of the hospital members. "They must be active participants in originating the programs to make it a success." Dr. Sprague said.

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While initial major areas of content will be in the medical, nursing and service areas, said Coordinator Jay McKiernan, development is under way on presentations of laboratory techniques, hospital house-keeping, engineering and supervisory management training.

Each hospital has an in-house coordinator for all programs except those for continuing education of physicians. For the latter, each institution is represented by a staff physician. An example of programming in the health service area is a scheduled show on body mechanics which teaches best ways to lift or move patients. There will be some shows designed for patients themselves.

At the present, DAHTS network planners have scheduled an average of two hours of programs daily, with the expectations of expanding to at least four hours daily.

While a number of other Dallas hospitals are not presently participating members of the network, they often send representatives to monitor DAHTS board meetings.

The UT Health Science Center already has been originating programs on the TAGER network which links colleges and industries in the North Texas area. With completion of a new Bioinformation Center as part of an overall \$40 million expansion program, the UTHSC will have additional studios and facilities available.

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