

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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GENERAL CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTER CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY

DALLAS -- March 28, 1994 -- Celebrating 20 years at the forefront of clinical research, the General Clinical Research Center (GCRC) at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas will host an open house, anniversary program and banquet April 15.

Since it opened in 1974, the GCRC has been home to pioneering research in cholesterol metabolism, diabetes, hypertension, kidney stones, liver disease, neurological disorders, osteoporosis and space medicine. It is one of the oldest federally funded clinical research centers in the nation.

Dr. Charles Y.C. Pak, principal investigator of the GCRC and director of the Robert T. Hayes Center for Mineral Metabolism Research at UT Southwestern, credits Dr. Donald Seldin, former chairman of internal medicine, for the creation of the GCRC. Seldin holds the William Buchanan Chair in Internal Medicine and is vice chairman of Southwestern Medical Foundation.

"Dr. Seldin had the foresight to create the GCRC and the confidence in me to bring me here to head it," said Pak. "I am proud to have helped establish a facility where clinical research can be conducted the way it should be -- a thorough, intensive study of the whole patient using hypothesis testing and employing state-of-the-art techniques supported by comprehensive laboratory investigation."

Two officials from the National Institutes of Health will speak during an afternoon program at UT Southwestern. Dr. Inese Beitins, director of the GCRC program in the NIH National Center for Research Resources, will talk about the NCRR commitment to clinical research and the future of the GCRC program. Dr. Philip Chen, associate director of NIH's intramural program, will discuss NIH support of clinical research.

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Other speakers will include: Pak, who also holds the Charles Pak Distinguished Chair in Mineral Metabolism and the Donald W. Seldin Professorship in Clinical Investigation at UT Southwestern; Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern; Seldin, former principal investigator of the GCRC; Dr. Ron Anderson, chief executive officer of Parkland Memorial Hospital and professor of internal medicine at UT Southwestern; and Dr. Neil Breslau, GCRC program director and professor of internal medicine.

Mary Kirby will offer her perspective as a former GCRC patient. She is director of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Library Video Project.

Perspectives from past and present faculty, staff and research fellows will be presented by Dr. Burton Combes, professor of internal medicine and chief of liver disease at UT Southwestern; Dr. James McGuire, chief of staff, Stanford University Medical Center; Dr. David Bilheimer, executive director of academic and professional affairs for Merck & Co.'s Human Health Division; Dr. Craig Brater, chairman of medicine and clinical pharmacology at Indiana University School of Medicine; and Remy Tolentino, administrator of critical-care services at Baylor University Medical Center.

UT Southwestern faculty, staff and students are invited to visit the inpatient GCRC on 7 West at Parkland Memorial Hospital and the outpatient GCRC on the sixth floor of the Charles Cameron Sprague Clinical Science Building, bridging Parkland and Zale Lipshy University Hospital. Posters presenting some of the key research conducted in the GCRC over the years will be on display during an open house from 9 a.m. to noon April 15.

The program of speakers will begin at 1:30 p.m. in D1.502, one of the classrooms below Eugene McDermott Plaza on the UT Southwestern campus. Both the open house and the afternoon program are open to the public.

There will be a banquet for invited guests at the Loews Anatole Hotel. Dr. Robert Toto, associate professor of internal medicine at UT Southwestern, will speak.

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