

News

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****Dr. Daniel Foster honored
as outstanding teacher

DALLAS -- Dr. Daniel Foster, the Jan and Henri Bromberg Professor of Internal Medicine, is the recipient of the 1987-88 Southwestern Medical School Outstanding Teacher Award presented by the school's alumni association and the Faculty Senate. Foster was selected for having significant influence on the lives of those he has worked with and taught.

He will be honored at the Alumni Association's reunion in May and will speak at the scientific session held during that time.

Foster holds credentials as a physician, a teacher, a working scientist, an editor of scientific journals, a member of government advisory boards, a book author, a religious leader and a television personality.

Medical students regard Foster as a role model who encourages and inspires. He teaches both medical students and residents at Parkland Memorial Hospital, where he is senior attending physician.

Among his peers, he is known as an authority on diabetes and its complications. He currently holds the posts of associate director of the Center for Diabetes Research at the medical center and head of the metabolism section in the Department of Internal Medicine.

With his colleague Dr. Denis McGarry, Foster is responsible for discovering the biochemical mechanisms by which diabetic ketoacidosis develops. In recognition of his research efforts, he received the Banting Medal, the highest award in the field of diabetes research.

With his longtime friend and fellow faculty member Dr. Jean Wilson, he edits the Williams Textbook of Endocrinology. He is also a contributing author of Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine, along with other books and monographs. He was editor-in-chief of the journal Diabetes and has served as associate editor of other scientific and medical journals.

Many people across the nation remember Foster as host of "Daniel Foster, M.D." television program, broadcast on the Public Broadcasting System in the 1970s.

(More)

During the show's six seasons on the air, Foster appeared on more than 200 television stations in the United States, Great Britain and Europe. Each week he would feature a medical expert speaking in lay terms on a specific illness.

Others came to know him through his popular book, A Layman's Guide to Modern Medicine. This medical reference book was written to address common problems.

Foster's commitment to help people is founded in his deep religious faith. At Dallas' First Presbyterian Church, he serves as elder and teaches a popular class. Through the church, he has worked in the area of poverty relief and has helped to start a number of preschools and neighborhood centers for the disadvantaged.

In the civic arena, Foster was elected a trustee of the Dallas Independent School District, serving during the tumultuous times of the desegregation case.

Currently, Foster heads a citywide task force to establish an AIDS hospice in Dallas. Since nursing homes won't take persons with AIDS, patients usually have to die in an acute care hospital.

"Every person ought to have a dignified place to die, in the company of those willing to practice mercy. If we're lucky, we'll have the hospice open by spring of 1988," he says.

A native of Marlin, Texas, Foster is a graduate of Texas Western College of the University of Texas -- now UT at El Paso. That university recently named him the 1987 Outstanding Ex-Student for "his achievements as an individual and for his continuing interest in the university."

He graduated at the top of his class from Southwestern in 1955 and performed an internship and residency at Parkland. He trained from 1959-60 as a postdoctoral fellow with Dr. Marvin Siperstein at Southwestern and subsequently took additional postdoctoral training as an investigator at the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases. Foster returned to Dallas in 1962 as instructor in internal medicine and has been on the Southwestern faculty since that time.

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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. The name of the institution was formerly The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas.