

Contact: John Weeks

DALLAS--Dr. Frederick J. Bonte, chairman of the Department of Radiology at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School since 1956, will become dean of the school on April 1.

The appointment was announced Saturday by Dr. Charles C. Sprague, president of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas.

A distinguished radiologist and medical researcher, Dr. Bonte is the first dean named to head Southwestern since it was restructured into the Health Science Center uniting UT medical, graduate science and allied health schools here. He succeeds Dr. F. Douglas Lawrason, who has been acting dean of the medical school since the reorganization last November.

In making the announcement Dr. Sprague expressed pleasure at Dr. Bonte's selection and his willingness to serve as the school's ninth dean since its founding in 1943.

"Fred Bonte was the unanimous recommendation of members of a faculty search committee," he said, "and their choice has my wholehearted endorsement. I feel he will do a superb job."

As dean, Dr. Bonte will retain his faculty appointment in the Department of Radiology and will continue to participate in nuclear medicine research. Dr. Sprague praised his past performance as administrator, researcher-practitioner and teacher.

"Under Dr. Bonte's leadership, Southwestern's Radiology Department has achieved a national reputation for its pioneering contributions to the relatively new science of nuclear medicine," President Sprague noted. Nuclear medicine utilizes radioactive materials in diagnosis and treatment of disease.

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first add bonte appointment

"I am pleased that Dr. Bonte is enthusiastic about serving our institution in this important new capacity," Dr. Sprague continued. "He will provide strong leadership in a climactic period of development, as the medical school grows toward its goal of doubling in size by 1978."

Currently enrolling 471 students, Southwestern will accept its first entering class of 200 in fall of 1974 and will reach capacity of 800 medical students four years later. In addition, the faculty is currently responsible for the specialized training of more than 600 interns, residents and fellows.

Southwestern is scheduled to occupy additional facilities next year that are a major part of the Health Science Center's current \$40 million expansion program.

During Dr. Bonte's 17-year tenure as chairman, the school's Department of Radiology has grown from a one-man office to a department with 23 faculty members. Last year its radiologists performed about 10,000 radioisotope tests at Parkland Memorial Hospital, principal Southwestern teaching hospital, compared to only 20 such tests in 1956.

The nuclear medicine laboratory established there by Dr. Bonte was among the nation's first. It pioneered in placing nuclear test data on magnetic tape, in about 1960, and has taken a leading role in developing a series of widely-copied nuclear medical tests for the detection of heart disease.

The Southwestern laboratory has become a major diagnosis and treatment center for thyroid cancer, particularly in children. Recently Dr. Bonte and his associates have received national attention for their innovations in linking computers with isotope scanning to measure blood flow.

A leader in his field nationally, Dr. Bonte is chairman of the nuclear medicine section of the American Board of Radiology. He is a founding trustee of the American Board of Nuclear Medicine and has served on the National Council on Radiation Protection. He is a member of the Radiology Training Committee of the National Institutes of General Medical Sciences, and has served on the executive council of the American Roentgen Ray Society.

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Dr. Bonte is listed in "Who's Who in America" and "World Who's Who in Science." He is author of more than 80 scientific papers in nuclear medicine, experimental radiology and diagnostic radiology.

A native of Bethlehem, Pa., Dr. Bonte received his M.D. degree from Western Reserve University, Cleveland, in 1945. He studied two additional years in an Atomic Energy Commission medical research project and was a member of the Western Reserve faculty before coming to Dallas. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1946-48.

In addition to being director of radiology at Parkland, Dr. Bonte also serves as head of radiology service at the Dallas Veterans' Administration Hospital, Children's Medical Center and Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas.

He and his wife, Cecile, have six children.

MARCH 16, 1973

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