

CONTACT: Liz Willding Office: 214/688-3404 Home: 214/620-8654

***UTHSCD to graduate M.D.'s, Graduate Students June 6.

DALLAS--Saturday, June 6 at 8 p.m., The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas will graduate 199 medical doctors and 47 graduate students. The ceremony will be held on campus plaza, or in case of rain, in Gooch Auditorium.

More than half of the 1981 M.D.'s graduating from UTHSCD's Southwestern Medical School are planning stay in the Lone Star State following their graduation, says Wes Norred, director of Student Affairs at SMS.

Norred also noted that the highest percentage of these M.D. graduates, and those leaving Texas, have chosen residency programs in the specialty of internal medicine. General surgery, family practice and obstetrics and gynecology also receive high percentages of the new doctors.

In contrast, the majority of the graduates from UTHSCD's Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences are receiving Master's and Ph.D. degrees in the fields of physiology, rehabilitation counseling, clinical psychology and biochemistry. Unlike their M.D. counterparts, most are opting to start their careers outside of Texas.

This year, the graduating class at SMS is also noted for graduating more Mexican-American students than ever before, with a total of 14. Norred explained that although that figure may seem low, it is actually high compared to the overall number of Mexican-American students who apply to U.S. medical schools.

Last year, he explained, only 232 Mexican-American students were enrolled in the 142 U.S. medical schools. SMS enrolled 19 of these students. Two hundred and fifty other hispanic students also enrolled nationally and three were placed at SMS.

The graduates will be addressed at the commencement ceremonies by Ralph Rogers, founder of Texas Industries and former chairman of the Board of Managers for the Dallas County Hospital District. Jess T. Hay, member of the Board of Regents of the UT System, will present degrees to the medical students. Dr. William Neaves, dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, will present degrees to the graduate students.

The invocation will be given by Gerald J. Kleine, Rabbi from Temple Emanu-El in Dallas and the North Texas Brass Ensemble will provide the music.