

NEWS

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
SOUTHWESTERN
MEDICAL SCHOOL AT DALLAS



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DALLAS--The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School at Dallas announced today a 15 per cent increase in the size of its incoming class of medical students, the first step toward the school's goal of doubling the number of doctors-in-training.

Notices of acceptance have been sent to 120 prospective first-year students, an increase from 105 accepted last year. Southwestern has set a goal of accepting 200 new students each year by 1975.

UTSMS Dean Charles C. Sprague, in announcing the enrollment increase, said the action is being taken before major new facilities for the school are completed because of the urgent need for more medical practitioners.

"We want to increase the size of our medical classes by as many as we can, as rapidly as we can," he said. "We recognize that health care is being hampered by a nationwide physician shortage that is particularly acute in Texas."

By 1979, Southwestern expects to have virtually doubled its medical student enrollment, from the present 420 to 800. Significant increases in allied health professions training and graduate programs other than medicine also are planned during the decade, Dean Sprague added.

Renovation of a first-year classroom and student laboratory will be completed this summer to accommodate the 15 additional freshmen students, he said. Classes for these students will begin Sept. 13.

Funds for this work have been provided by a special grant from the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. The \$225,000 award also includes supplemental funds for two additions to Southwestern's faculty, Dr. Sprague said.

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The Health Professions Educational Improvement Program grant will award an additional \$375,000 over a three-year period for remodeling and personnel additions to facilitate further annual increases in enrollment during construction of UTSMS' massive Phase One building program.

Dr. Sprague credited faculty and staff of Southwestern for their willingness to increase their teaching loads and "double up" in already-overcrowded facilities to make possible this fall's expansion.

The first new structure to help ease the squeeze at UTSMS will be the \$7.3 million Basic Sciences Research Building, due to be finished early in 1972. Some medical departments are expected to move into the new building midway in the 1971-72 school year, freeing up space in Cary Basic Science Hall to handle additional increases in the student population, Dr. Sprague said.

A \$23.2 million contract was awarded last month for the construction of four additional buildings and a connecting plaza, which will add more than 600,000 square feet to the school's plant for teaching, research and administrative functions. Work is due to begin this summer and be completed two years later, providing space for the doubled medical enrollment and adding for the first time such facilities as a cafeteria and auditorium to the Harry Hines Blvd. campus.

Southwestern's fall class of 120, the largest in the school's history, is approximately double the size of the first graduating class of 61, in 1944.

Confirmed acceptances in the 1971 freshman class include four Mexican-Americans, two Negroes and three Orientals, school officials reported. Nine women are among the 120 new students.

APRIL 7, 1971