

News

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**** UT Southwestern Honors Greece
Birthplace of Modern Medicine

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas will play a key role in Dallas's World Salute to Greece and Her Legacy in April, hosting an international symposium on ancient Greek medicine, UT Southwestern President Kern Wildenthal, M.D., Ph.D., has announced.

Featuring some of the world's leading scholars in the history of science and medicine, the symposium will afford a rare insight into the classical roots of modern medical theory and practice, Wildenthal told Spyros Mercouris, visiting Dallas this week from Greece as a joint organizer and coordinator with the Dallas World Salute to Greece, and Virginia Lucas Nick, a Dallas arts patron of Greek descent who is helping spearhead the citywide tribute to Greece.

Symposium speakers will include John Scarborough, professor of the history of science and medicine at the University of Wisconsin; Heinrich von Staden, professor of classics and comparative literature at Yale University; Vivian Nutton, a member of the Academic Unit of Wellcome Institute in London, England; Wesley D. Smith of the University of Pennsylvania's Department of Classical Studies; and John M. Riddle, head of the Division of University Studies at North Carolina State University.

The topics of their symposium presentations include "Science Taboo and Philosophy in Hellenistic Medicine" and "Hippocratic Dietetics: Hippocrates' Contribution to Medical Science and Its

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Dr. James Robinson, an adjunct professor of medical history at UT Southwestern and Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, from Guy's Hospital in London, is in charge of the symposium.

It is extremely fitting, Wildenthal observed, that one of the leading medical schools of late 20th century America should pay tribute to the land that gave us Hippocrates, the father of modern medicine.

Perhaps modern medicine still can learn from the medicine of ancient Greece, Mercouris suggested.

Both said it is their joint hope that the symposium scheduled for April in Dallas can be continued in Greece in the spring of 1991, on the island of Cos, the birthplace of Hippocrates.

UT Southwestern will host a special banquet during the week of the symposium, for guest speakers, local and international leaders of the Dallas World Salute to Greece, and other special friends of the institution.

An unusual exhibit of 30 pharmaceutical herbs used by Hippocrates and discussed in his writings will also be on display in the UT Southwestern Library's History of Health Sciences Room. The unique collection of dried, mounted herbs is being donated to UT Southwestern by Niki Goulandris of the Goulandris Natural History Museum in Kifissia, Greece, in honor of the April salute to her homeland.

The exhibit will be "a valued addition" to UT Southwestern's historic collection of pharmaceutical texts, said Wildenthal.