

Zale Lipshy University Hospital

At Southwestern Medical Center

May 21, 1990

News Release

CONTACT: Susan Rutherford
University Hospital
Office: 214/590-3106
or
Tommy Bosler
UT Southwestern
Office: 214/688-3404

DALLAS -- Dr. Ronald F. "Skip" Garvey, who provided leadership for Zale Lipshy University Hospital through its construction and opening, has announced his decision to step down as president and chief executive officer (CEO) of the hospital. Zale Lipshy University Hospital is a referral, teaching and research hospital for the faculty at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

Garvey says he plans to remain at his post as long as it takes to find a replacement, adding: "My intention was to get the hospital out of the development stage and then decide what my role would be." He assumed the leadership role in 1987 at the urging of the University Hospital governing board and the UT Southwestern administration and saw the hospital through its construction, opening and start-up.

"I've always seen my involvement in the launching of the hospital as a challenging project and never intended to remain indefinitely for day-to-day running of the hospital," he said.

He will return to full-time duties as a general surgeon and professor in the Department of Surgery at UT Southwestern. "Perhaps I'll take on an additional project or two. I've never had to look for a job in my life; they've always found me."

A search committee is being formed to select a new hospital chief, said Donald Zale, chairman of the board of University Medical Center,

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Inc., the independent, non-profit corporation that owns and operates the hospital. "Dr. Garvey has done an outstanding job in his role as hospital developer and administrator," he said. "He is a dear friend and we wish him well in all his endeavors."

"We are truly grateful to Skip Garvey for taking on the tremendous responsibility of starting up the hospital," said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern. "His effectiveness has been due both to his knowledge of clinical medicine and the needs of patients and medical professionals and to his leadership skills and decisiveness. It's impossible to imagine anyone having done a finer job at getting the new hospital planned, built and operating."

Ground was broken on June 23, 1987, for the new hospital at the 5151 Harry Hines site. In October 1987 Garvey was named president and CEO of University Medical Center, Inc. The hospital was completed four months ahead of schedule and under its construction budget. Ribbon cutting and dedication ceremonies were held November 10, 1989, and the first patient was admitted on November 27.

Although the hospital is licensed for 160 beds, the opening of those beds was planned to occur in stages, beginning with 30 "staffed" beds. Continued success in innovative nursing recruitment has allowed the medical facility to open more beds ahead of schedule: 60 by April and 74 by May 1. Currently there are 78 beds staffed by 150 nurses, most of whom were recruited from outside the Dallas area.

Garvey has been a member of the faculty of UT Southwestern since 1960, first on a volunteer basis and then full-time. From 1975 to 1983 he was chief of surgery at St. Paul Medical Center. While at St. Paul, he served as president of the medical staff, was director of

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the hospital's cancer center and served as a board member of the St. Paul Hospital Foundation. He began as a full-time UT Southwestern faculty member in 1983, assisting former surgery chairman Dr. William Fry in departmental duties.

A native of Olean, N.Y., Garvey is a graduate of Harvard College. He received his medical degree from the University of Buffalo School of Medicine in Buffalo, N.Y. His internship and residency were completed at Parkland Memorial Hospital. Garvey later received a master's degree in health care administration from the Graduate School of Management at the University of Dallas.

He was a governor of the American College of Surgeons from 1972 to 1978 and served as the organization's regional cancer field representative. Other offices held include president of the Dallas Society of General Surgeons, chairman of the Medical Advisory Council of the Dallas County Hospital District, founding president of the Parkland Surgical Society and member of the board of directors of the Dallas County Medical Society. He has served on the boards of the American Cancer Society, Dallas Visiting Nurse Association, Catholic Family Services and the Ronald McDonald House.

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