

news *THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT DALLAS*

southwestern medical school ■ graduate school of biomedical sciences ■ school of allied health sciences

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DALLAS--Accelerated programs of research, teaching and patient care are planned by the Department of Neurology at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School under its new chairman, Dr. Roger N. Rosenberg.

Announcement of Dr. Rosenberg's appointment as professor and chairman of neurology was made by Southwestern's dean, Dr. Frederick Bonte, who said the new chairman "brings an excellent blend of research and teaching capabilities" to the medical school.

Dr. Rosenberg came to Southwestern Jan. 1 from the School of Medicine of The University of California at San Diego, where he had been associate professor of neurosciences and pediatrics and attending neurologist at the University Hospital.

Previously, he had taught neurology at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York and at Howard University Medical School, Washington. He also served for two years as a research associate in biochemical genetics at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. He is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of Northwestern University, receiving his M.D. degree there in 1964.

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first add rosenberg

Dr. Rosenberg is the author of some 40 scientific papers describing research covering a wide range of neurologic disorders, including neuroblastoma--a fast-growing malignancy of nerve cells that is the most common form of solid cancer among children.

In one line of ongoing research, Dr. Rosenberg and his associates seek to discover, by studying mouse neuroblastoma cells and the effects of various chemical agents on them, why a small percentage of human cancerous cells in the natural history of the disease become resistant to cancer-killing drugs, thus allowing the disease to recur.

A basic thrust of Dr. Rosenberg's research involves intricate studies of the chemistry of a variety of animal brain and nerve cells in the laboratory, and attempts to coorelate findings with clinical "neurotransmitter" diseases in man. Neurotransmitters are chemical compounds made by one nerve cell which in turn affect an adjacent nerve cell, in effect "passing along" the brain's message.

Problems in the biochemistry of one such neurotransmitter--acetylcholine--are believed at fault in the disease myasthenia gravis, a progressive weakening of muscles. By chemically "tagging" and tracing the substances acted upon by enzymes that make and break down acetylcholine, the scientist hopes to pinpoint the precise biochemical problem that may cause failure of this neurotransmitter to properly stimulate muscle fibers.

Along with research, Dr. Rosenberg has initiated a renewed training program for neurology residents, with three of the post-M.D. trainees due to begin their advanced study this summer. Patient care through the Neurology Service at Parkland Memorial Hospital, Southwestern's primary teaching facility, is scheduled for expansion from 10 beds to 25 beds on July 1, he announced.

second add rosenberg

Dr. Rosenberg also has initiated a clinical neurology teaching conference for medical house staff members at Parkland and set up a conference with the Division of Neurosurgery. He said the department will continue to have "a strong clinical affiliation" with the neurological units of Presbyterian Hospital, under the leadership of Dr. Richard North, associate professor of neurology, and with the Veterans Administration Hospital under its chief of neurology, Dr. Ludlow Pence, clinical assistant professor.

New faculty additions include assistant professors Dr. Fred Baskin, who has already joined the school, and Dr. Richard Tindall, who will come to Southwestern July 1. Both are conducting research in neurochemistry and neuroimmunology. In addition, Dr. M.H. Aung will be joining the faculty this summer as associate professor of neurology and director of clinical neurophysiology, providing the medical school "with continued excellence in clinical and basic neurophysiology," Dr. Rosenberg said.

"We hope to have an impact on medical students and hospital house staff," the new chairman commented, "as we develop what we hope will be a first rate neurological service."

Dr. Rosenberg, a native of Milwaukee, Wis., is married and he and his wife, Adrienne, have two daughters, Jennifer Gail and Lara Wendy.

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