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News

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Researchers to speak on
nutrition--aging and
vitamin D therapy at UTHSCD
seminar.

DALLAS--The effects of diet on life-span as well as changes in protein and energy metabolism in the elderly will be presented for dietitians Dec. 2-3 at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas (UTHSCD).

The 22nd Annual Postgraduate Seminar in Nutrition and Dietetics sponsored by the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics of the School of Allied Health Sciences (SAHS), will present Dr. Vernon R. Young, professor of nutritional biochemistry and metabolism at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Such variables as total energy intake, timing of dietary change, effects of protein, fat and carbohydrate sources and patterns of meal intake have been shown to affect the life-span of experimental animals. Dr. Young will relate these findings to problems of practical nutrition and longevity in humans.

Dr. Hector DeLuca, chairman of the Department of Biochemistry at The University of Wisconsin, keynote speaker, will speak on the subject of vitamin D. Dr. DeLuca is noted for his research on vitamin D and bone and kidney diseases.

He will present new applications for vitamin D therapy in metabolic bone diseases, such as postmenopausal osteoporosis ("brittle bones"), vitamin D-resistant rickets and renal osteodystrophy. In renal osteodystrophy the bones of patients with kidney disease lose calcium and other minerals because of the kidneys' failure to synthesize the active form of vitamin D.

Dr. DeLuca will also address the question of whether vitamin D is a vitamin or a hormone. It has some properties of both. A vitamin must be taken in through the diet while a hormone is synthesized by the body. The active form of vitamin D is synthesized by the body from necessary precursors ("raw materials") which may be obtained either from the diet or from exposure of chemicals in the skin to sunlight.

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Program participants from Southwestern Medical School at UTHSCD will include Dr. Raymond F. Burk, assistant professor of internal medicine, on "Interactions of drug and diet therapy" and Dr. John M. Dietschy, professor of internal medicine, on "Cholesterol in gallstone formation."

Also, Dr. James Knochel, professor of internal medicine, on "Body composition, nutrition, and energy metabolism in physical training" and Dr. Holbrooke Seltzer, professor of internal medicine, on "Diabetes: the case for good control."

Instructors JoAnn Carson and Kaye Jessup of the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics of SAHS will present "Continuity of nutritional care."

"Computer utilization in clinical dietetics" will be presented by Carol Hickey, director of Nutrition Services in the Department of Pediatrics of The University Affiliated Center.

The seminar is approved for nine hours of American Dietetic Association continuing education credit.

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