

NEWS

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas
5323 Harry Hines Boulevard Dallas, Texas 75235 (214)688-3404

October 18, 1984

CONTACT: Bob Fenley

Office: 214/688-340

DALLAS--A new Clinical Sciences Building will be part of the proposed University Hospital development at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas. The Clinical Sciences Building will house the offices and laboratories of 60 physicians and will connect to both Parkland Memorial Hospital and the University Hospital.

The University of Texas Board of Regents approved construction of a new Clinical Sciences Building at their last meeting. The plan calls for a 10-story structure that would link the two hospitals on Dallas' Harry Hines Boulevard. Construction is expected to begin in the summer of 1985. Budget estimates put the cost of the Clinical Sciences Building at \$8 million.

UTHSCD President Charles Sprague says the new facility will help make the most efficient use of physician's time. "The offices and laboratories of faculty with a great deal of clinical responsibility would be located in the new building. By providing easy access to both Parkland and the proposed University Hospital, travel time will be reduced."

Sprague explains that patients will not be seen in the new building. The recently opened Aston Ambulatory Care Center houses outpatient care facilities. The Clinical Sciences Building will be devoted to the research and the scholarly activities of approximately 60 faculty members. In addition, another 120 support personnel will also occupy the Clinical Sciences Building. The building will feature more than 36,000 square feet of faculty offices, seminar rooms, laboratory and support space, conference rooms and small meeting rooms.

The proximity of the facility to both Parkland and the University Hospital will facilitate the integration of patient care and research. Sprague says, "Members of the clinical faculty need increased space and updated technical resources to pursue improved training and methods of care in such vital areas as burn treatment, diabetes, hypertension, developmental biology and pediatric trauma."

In recent years the health science center has developed new facilities devoted to research in the basic sciences. The latest project, the Cecil and Ida Green Biomedical Research Building, is currently under construction. The \$15,791,000, nine-story complex is slated for completion in the fall of 1986.

Sprague points out that the clinical departments are currently housed in the oldest buildings on campus. "We want to have a balanced program. We felt the priority was to develop the basic sciences. To a great extent, that has been accomplished over the last ten years. Now, we want to balance the clinical side and focus our development efforts in that area.

"We are greatly appreciative that the Board of Regents recognizes that need to achieve a balance between the clinical and basic sciences. Striking such a balance is a characteristic of outstanding medical institutions."

Sprague says new clinical facilities are needed if Southwestern Medical School is to retain and recruit outstanding doctors, scientists, students and resident physicians.