

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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******The multi-faceted problem of child abuse is the subject of a conference to be held at UTHSCD February 26 and 27.*

DALLAS--More children die from child abuse than from tuberculosis, whooping cough, polio, measles, diabetes, rheumatic fever and appendicitis combined.

So says Ms. Harriet Stambaugh, assistant professor of Pediatrics at The University of Texas Health Science Center here and chief of social work, Children's Medical Center. An innovative leader in the field of child abuse, Ms. Stambaugh will be among the featured speakers at the seventh annual child abuse conference, sponsored by the Mental Health Association. The conference will be held in Gooch Auditorium at UTHSCD February 26 and 27.

According to Department of Welfare statistics, there were 4,000 cases of suspected child abuse reported nationally in 1973. Of these, 2,500 cases were confirmed. From the confirmed cases, 104 deaths resulted.

"The statistics of reported child abuse are just the tip of the iceberg", commented Ms. Stambaugh. "If we had a more efficient system to identify child abusers, the numbers would be far higher."

Dr. Ray E. Helfer, considered an international expert in child abuse, will be the principal speaker at the conference. Dr. Helfer is now professor of the Department of Human Development, College of Medicine, Michigan State University. He is co-author of the books "The Battered Child" and "Helping The Battered Child and His Family".

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Vignettes, produced for the conference by the Dallas Theater Center, will be moderated by Dr. Helfer and the other featured speakers. The sketches will follow the abused child through the emergency room and hospital social work, child protection, law enforcement and judicial procedures.

The program was developed to educate people working within the system as well as concerned citizens. Both how to recognize child abuse and what to do once abuse is confirmed will be covered in the sessions.

In addition to Ms. Stambaugh, speakers representing the center will be Guido Currarino, M.D., professor of Radiology; Jorge Howard, M.D., professor of Pediatrics; and Robert Kramer, M.D., associate professor of Pediatrics.

Tuition for the conference is \$25 per person and includes luncheon on February 26. For further information contact the 1976 Child Abuse Conference, Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, 2500 Maple Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75201.

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