

# SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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## **PUBLIC FORUM FOCUSES ON WOMEN'S HEALTH AFTER MENOPAUSE**

DALLAS — March 25, 1996 — Southwestern Medical Foundation spotlights the health of postmenopausal women in its annual public forum April 25 with experts from UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

The free forum, "Postmenopausal Woman: Osteoporosis, Breast Cancer, Heart Disease," will be presented at 7:30 p.m. in the Tom and Lula Gooch Auditorium, located on UT Southwestern's South Campus.

"There has been a growing appreciation of the vulnerability of the postmenopausal woman to heart disease, bone disease and cancer," said Dr. Donald Seldin, the foundation's vice president for medical center relations and a professor of internal medicine. "There also have been therapeutic developments to forestall these diseases, and there has been and will continue to be increased diagnostic procedures to determine which women will be most vulnerable."

Three UT Southwestern researchers who are specialists in the topics will lead the forum.

Dr. Charles Y.C. Pak, professor of internal medicine and director of the Robert T. Hayes Center for Mineral Metabolism Research, will share the latest information on the prevention and treatment of the degenerative bone disorder osteoporosis.

Pak, holder of the Distinguished Chair in Mineral Metabolism and the Donald W. Seldin Professorship in Clinical Investigation, has devoted more than 30 years to the study of kidney stones and osteoporosis. He has developed three FDA-approved drugs for kidney stones, explained metabolic causes for stone formation and devised a multitest kit for people at risk for forming kidney stones. During the past 13 years, he has concentrated on efforts to find an effective but safe use of fluoride to treat osteoporosis. He recently established a national training program in clinical research for young physicians.

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Dr. Nina Radford, an assistant professor of internal medicine and radiology, will discuss "Heart Disease in Women: The Silent Epidemic."

"More women die of cardiovascular disease every year than men, but it's not well publicized," she said. "Women are very familiar with their risk of breast cancer, but their lifetime risk of heart disease is 10 times greater."

While 46,000 women die of breast cancer each year in the United States, nearly 450,000 die of heart disease - usually after the onset of menopause.

Radford is one of 19 Master Faculty Members of an educational program on Coronary Heart Disease in Women, launched by the American Medical Women's Association. She has received The Clinician Scientist Award from the American Heart Association, which supports her research utilizing nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy and transgenic technology to identify ways to minimize myocardial cell death during heart attacks.

Breast cancer and related issues will be discussed by Dr. Eugene Frenkel, acting chief of hematology/oncology and professor of internal medicine. Frenkel is holder of the Patsy R. and Raymond D. Nasher Distinguished Chair in Cancer Research and the A. Kenneth Pye Professorship in Cancer Research.

The author of more than 250 publications, Frenkel is interested in the delivery of chemotherapy drugs to tumor cells. His research may lead to a greater understanding of why similar cancerous tumors respond differently to the same drug therapy. That knowledge ultimately may lead to new types of cancer treatment that are more effective and produce fewer side effects.

Those planning to attend the evening free forum are asked to make a reservation by calling 350-7787. For those requiring more information on the forum, please contact Southwestern Medical Foundation at 351-6143.

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