

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

Contact: Emily Martinez
(214) 648-3404
e-mail: emart2@mednet.swmed.edu

ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS INVITED TO ATTEND FORUM

DALLAS — March 20, 1997 — Allied health professionals in North Texas are invited to the UT Southwestern Allied Health Research Forum, an event that will showcase faculty members' research and also feature a presentation on recent advances in the investigation of Gulf War illnesses.

The fifth annual forum will take place April 9 in the Simmons Biomedical Research Building on the North Campus of UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, 6000 Harry Hines Blvd.

Dr. Robert Haley, chief of epidemiology at UT Southwestern and the primary investigator in a recent study of Gulf War veterans, will give the keynote address. The research concluded that some Gulf War veterans are suffering from three primary syndromes indicating brain and nerve damage caused by wartime exposure to combinations of low-level nerve gas agents and other common chemicals. The soldiers' medical problems will continue to pose challenges to professionals in a variety of health-care occupations as they search for new methods of therapy and rehabilitation.

Dr. Charles McConnel, associate professor of gerontology and geriatric services, is coordinating the event and anticipates a record turnout. He said the goals of the day-long seminar are to help health professionals remain at the forefront of their fields and to allow the faculty and students an opportunity to share information and refine research skills.

"The research projects we are presenting are more impressive than ever before," he said. "I think professionals working in all areas of allied health will find that their knowledge of recent treatment advances is enhanced by listening and meeting with researchers and colleagues."

Among the research topics presented at the forum will be alcohol awareness in the Hispanic community; child and adolescent psychiatric disorders and rehabilitation; and

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community-empowered health promotion projects in cities.

The event begins at 8 a.m. A registration fee of \$25 is being charged to cover the cost of breakfast and lunch. Attendees from most allied health professions will earn six hours of continuing education credit. For more information, please call (214) 648-2166 or (800) 688-8678.

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