

# NEWS

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\*\*\*\*Sprague to be honored.

DALLAS--Dr. Charles C. Sprague, who recently completed his 15th year as the chief executive of Southwestern Medical School and The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas, will be honored Sept. 9 with a dinner at which creation of a new university professorship in his name will be detailed.

No one has ever held the top position at the Dallas medical institution as long as Sprague. He joined Southwestern Medical School as dean July 1, 1967, and became president of the new UT Health Science Center at Dallas when it was created in 1972.

Sprague, a former football star at SMU, agreed to vacate his post as dean of the Tulane Medical School and return to Dallas at a time when the average tenure of a medical school dean was five years.

Once in Dallas, he launched building programs that added some \$40 million in construction in the 1970s and that will reach well past \$60 million by the mid-1980s.

Southwestern Medical Foundation, which launched the original Southwestern Medical College in 1943, and faculty of the health science center will combine contributions to create the new endowment.

The foundation has already donated \$100,000 to establish the Charles C. Sprague Professorship, and a joint faculty-foundation campaign has been begun to raise additional funds to convert the professorship to a chair. Dr. Dan Foster and Dr. Jonathan Uhr are heading the faculty contribution effort and dinner.

"September 9 will be 'Charlie Sprague Night' at the Fairmont. The faculty will be gathering to honor their president with a few special guests who have played exceptional roles in support of the university," Foster said.

In keeping with Sprague's policies of promoting interaction between the various basic and clinical disciplines, the new professorship will be interdisciplinary, said Foster.

Southwestern Medical School is one of a half-dozen institutions whose graduating doctors consistently rank at the top in national competitive examinations.

A large part of this performance is based on a teaching philosophy supported and emphasized by Sprague, the idea that clinical medicine practiced at the bedside should be solidly anchored to the most fundamental and basic of the medical sciences.

During Sprague's tenure, the health science center has more than doubled in size and in interaction with the community through grants and contracts for medical services. Today the health science center has a budget of some \$120 million, and the center aids in the delivery of health care at a number of institutions including Parkland Memorial Hospital, the Veterans Administration Medical Center and Children's Medical Center.

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