



DALLAS--Dr. Frederick J. Bonte, professor and chairman of radiology at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, has been named to the nation's newest medical specialty board, the American Board of Nuclear Medicine.

Dr. Bonte, a UTSMS faculty member since 1956, is one of 10 founding members of the board, which will serve as certifying body for practitioners of the rapidly growing specialty encompassing use of radioactive materials in diagnosis and treatment of disease.

The board will oversee qualifying examinations and designate specialists passing them as Board Diplomates. The first such national exam will be given at 10 medical centers, including Southwestern, next March 25.

Creation of the board "brings official recognition to nuclear medicine as a specialty," Dr. Bonte said. There are some 1,000 physicians nationally practicing fulltime in the field, which utilizes such sophisticated techniques as radioisotope imaging to track down elusive disorders like brain tumors and pulmonary embolisms--blood clots in the lung.

Texas' only approved post-graduate and residency training program in nuclear medicine is in Dallas, Dr. Bonte pointed out. The cooperative effort involves Southwestern Medical School and Parkland, St. Paul and the Veterans Administration hospitals.

Dr. Bonte also is a trustee of the American Board of Radiology. He is past president of the Southwestern Chapter of the Nuclear Medicine Society and formerly chaired the Texas Medical Association Section on Radiology.

The nuclear medicine board came into being after approval by the American Boards of Medical Specialties and the Council on Medical Education of the American Medical Association. It is the nation's first "conjoint" board, an inter-disciplinary entity bringing together physicians from existing medical specialties--in this case, internal medicine, pathology and radiology.

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