

# SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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## PROMINENT BLACK CARDIOLOGISTS TO ADDRESS CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE IN AFRICAN-AMERICANS

DALLAS — April 23, 1998 — Nationally recognized black cardiologists will exam risk factors for cardiovascular disease among African-Americans and the challenge of conducting research in the black community at a May 8 conference at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

The UT Southwestern continuing education conference, "Management of Cardiovascular Risk Factors in African-Americans," is aimed at health professionals but will be open to community leaders. The event also kicks off a weekend of educational efforts and public screenings in the African-American community. The events will be sponsored by UT Southwestern, the American Heart Association Dallas Division, Parkland Health & Hospital System, the U.S. Public Health Service and the Dallas County Health and Human Service Department.

"Four of the top African-American cardiologists in the United States are coming to UT Southwestern to share their knowledge and insight into this disease that affects so many in our community," said Dr. Clyde Yancy, a UT Southwestern cardiologist and associate professor of internal medicine. "It is truly a rare opportunity for physicians in this part of the country to have this kind of continuing medical education program available."

Dr. Charles Francis, board chairman of the Association of Black Cardiologists, will speak on research in the black community in an address titled "Research Needs in Cardiovascular Disease of African-Americans." Francis, director of medicine at Harlem Hospital Center, is a professor of clinical medicine at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Many researchers report difficulty in recruiting African-American patients for research studies due to distrust stemming from historical incidents such as the Tuskegee Syphilis Study, in which nearly 400 black men were never treated for syphilis or even told they had the infectious disease. Last year, President Clinton issued an apology for the study, which ran from 1932 to 1972.

The incidences of hypertension, stroke, diabetes and cholesterol disorders are more prevalent in

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African-Americans than in Caucasians, and these diseases are more often fatal for African-Americans, said Dr. Gloria Vega, professor of clinical nutrition and co-course director for the continuing medical education seminar.

Other invited national speakers to the conference are Dr. Elijah Saunders, chief of hypertension at the University of Maryland School of Medicine; Dr. Luther Clark, chief of cardiovascular medicine at the State University of New York Health Science Center at Brooklyn; and Dr. Ann Taylor, vice chairwoman of the Women's Health Program at the University Hospitals of Cleveland. All are members of the Association of Black Cardiologists.

Yancy, holder of the Dallas Heart Ball Chair in Cardiac Research and the Carl H. Westcott Distinguished Chair in Medical Research, is co-course director of the program.

Local speakers will address community resources available for managing and preventing cardiovascular diseases. Speakers include Dr. Ron Victor, UT Southwestern chief of hypertension and co-course director; Dr. Lauren McDonald, Dallas nephrologist and president of the medical staff at St. Paul Medical Center; Dr. Gerald Bulloch, clinical assistant professor of internal medicine at UT Southwestern and medical director of Physician's Association of Texas; Dr. Caron Houston, Baylor Senior Health Center-Fair Park; and Dr. James Race, immediate past-president of the C.V. Roman Medical Society, a membership of Dallas-area black physicians.

"Working closely with the community organizations is an excellent way for UT Southwestern to share its knowledge and gain insight into community needs," said Claudia Stravato, director of professional education at UT Southwestern.

Health-care professionals interested in more information on the conference and credits offered should call UT Southwestern's Office of Continuing Medical Education at (214) 648-9201.

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