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# NEWS

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS  
SOUTHWESTERN  
MEDICAL SCHOOL AT DALLAS



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DALLAS--Dr. Charles C. Sprague, dean of The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School at Dallas, has been named chairman-elect of the Association of American Medical Colleges.

He will take over as chairman of the organization next fall. Dr. Russell A. Nelson, president of The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, just assumed the chairmanship at the AAMC's 82nd annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Sprague is a big, gregarious former college football star who had aimed for a career in business. Then, after a broken arm and other gridiron injuries, he became fascinated with the opportunity that doctors have to deal with people on a close, personal basis.

This was one of the factors which led to a distinguished career as physician, educator and administrator. Today as its dean, Dr. Sprague leads The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in a multi-million dollar program to double capacity and establish a Life Sciences Center in Dallas.

Deciding on medicine, Dr. Sprague went ahead to take a B.B.A. in accounting from Southern Methodist University, then added a year for a B.S. in biology.

At SMU, Charles and brothers, Howard and John, had all captained a football team. Brother Mortimer gained All American fame in captaining a West Point team. John was killed in action in Italy during World War II.

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Out of SMU in 1940, Dr. Sprague entered The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston for an accelerated three-year course. Then came internship at the U.S. Naval Medical Center at Bethesda, Md. and service in the South Pacific as medical officer aboard an LSM. After service, he became assistant resident of Charity Hospital of Louisiana; later a fellow and instructor at Tulane University School of Medicine. Named Commonwealth Research Fellow in Hematology, he spent time in Washington University School of Medicine and Oxford University School of Medicine in England. Returning to Tulane, he was promoted through professorial ranks and, in 1963, was named dean of the school.

In 1967, Dr. Sprague accepted a call to return to Dallas. His family was well known here--his father, George A. Sprague, was mayor from 1937-39 and a high school football stadium was named Sprague Field in Dallas.

Dr. Sprague took over reins of Southwestern Medical School June 1, 1967. In addition to launching his program for the life sciences, the 54-year-old hematologist actively participated in national medical affairs. He was chairman of the Council of Deans of the Association of American Medical Colleges during the 1969-70 term and currently is chairman of the Committee on the Financing of Medical Education for the AAMC. He is past president of the American Society of Hematology and has served on a number of other boards and committees in medicine.

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