

# UT News

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\*\*\*UTHSCD and Parkland prepare for influx  
of AIDS patients and AIDS research

DALLAS--AIDS has presented new challenges to the medical community. The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas faculty and residents and Parkland Memorial Hospital administrators are grappling with these new challenges. A new AIDS clinic, research and alternatives to hospitalization for AIDS patients are being planned to deal with problems that have not been faced with other diseases.

"We're all convinced that the AIDS problem is going to get worse before it gets better," Dr. James Luby, chief of the infectious diseases division at UTHSCD, says. "We can work with patients in more efficient ways."

Physicians and hospital administrators are remaining flexible as they try to find the best approach to deal with a disease that plagues its victim with a limited life span, outrageous medical bills and often isolation because of public fear of the disease.

As a first step toward more effective care of AIDS patients, a new AIDS clinic staffed with a half-time doctor, a nurse practitioner and a social worker will be established. Currently, UTHSCD medical staff cares for AIDS patients at Parkland's Allergy/Immunology Clinic. About one-fourth of Dallas County's AIDS victims are treated at Parkland.

Luby says UTHSCD and Parkland are looking at a combination of facilities to help patients cope with AIDS. The AIDS clinic will provide outpatient care and can refer patients to support groups. Special areas in Parkland may be designated for AIDS patients who need hospitalization. Centers that resemble halfway houses may be set up to provide a place for AIDS patients who need a home. And hospice centers could be arranged to care for those who are facing death.

Currently, UTHSCD is using experimental drugs to treat the opportunistic infections that afflict AIDS victims. After the AIDS clinic is established, Luby says UTHSCD may start research to find ways to stop the attack of the AIDS virus on the immune system.

Luby will join Dr. Charles Haley, Dallas County Public Health Department epidemiologist, Howie Daire, a psychotherapist who founded the Oak Lawn Counseling Center, and Mike Richards, director of the Dallas Gay Alliance, in a panel discussion on "Southwestern Medical Forum." The program is titled "AIDS: Dallas Fights Back." KRLD Radio's Alex Burton will host the program. Burton and KXAS-TV reporter Jane Boone will interview the panelists.

The program will air on Dallas Cable Channel 9, Sunday, October 5, at 5 p.m. and Wednesday, October 16, at 9 p.m. "Southwestern Medical Forum" is a monthly series sponsored by UTHSCD Office of Medical Information.

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