

News

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*****"Life Matters" focuses on people that lead productive lives despite chronic illnesses

DALLAS -- Preventive medicine receives a great deal of attention -- as it should. But a new television series centers on the millions of Americans who have chronic conditions yet still lead productive lives.

Emmy Award nominee Dr. Norman Kaplan, director of the hypertension unit at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, is host of "Life Matters" on KERA, the area's local Public Broadcasting Service affiliate. The "stars" of the series have learned to cope with chronic illnesses and remain active. "Life Matters" premieres locally at 9:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 14. It premieres nationally on the Public Broadcasting Service at 5 p.m. (ET), Oct. 9.

Kaplan received an Emmy nomination for hosting KERA's "Here's to Your Health." That PBS series, along with "The National Nutrition Quiz" and "Good Health From Jane Brody's Kitchen" are just some of the programs that have helped build PBS's reputation in the health arena. These shows used UT Southwestern faculty members as scientific advisers.

The 13-part "Life Matters" series was filmed on location at leading clinics, hospitals and medical research facilities. The fourth segment in the series is about arthritis. It features UT Southwestern investigators -- Drs. Tom Geppert, and Allan DUBY -- discussing the disease process and research advances. "Star" of the segment is Dallas resident Mickey Mantle. Mantle's extraordinary career was peppered with knee injuries that have manifested themselves as arthritis.

UT Southwestern researchers also are featured in other segments. Dr. Ricardo Uauy discusses the relationship between the liver and "bad" cholesterol -- low density lipoproteins -- in children in the sixth segment called "Liver Transplant." One of Uauy's pediatric patients undergoes an experimental "cleansing of the blood" called LDL pheresis during the segment.

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Dr. Walt Andrews, director of the pediatric liver transplant program at Children's Medical Center in Dallas, is also featured in the "Liver Transplant" installment. Children's, the university's pediatric teaching hospital, has one of the largest and most active pediatric liver transplant programs in the country.

The fifth segment of "Life Matters" focuses on AIDS. Dr. John Burnside, associate dean of Southwestern Medical School, provides the up-to-date information. He also appears in the heart attack, liver transplant and breast cancer segments.

Dozens of other medical experts, commentators and patients appearing in various programs include Dr. William Castelli of the world-famous Framingham Heart Study; Dr. Helen Singer Kaplan of Cornell University Medical College; former Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Joseph Califano Jr.; Diane Feinstein, former mayor of San Francisco; Norman Cousins of the UCLA School of Medicine and AIDS volunteer Margaret Gallimore of Dallas, a registered nurse who received the President's Volunteer Action Award in June 1988.

Other topics covered in "Life Matters" are heart disease, epilepsy, substance abuse, AIDS, diabetes, liver disease, cancer, Alzheimer's disease, obesity, depression, glaucoma and maxillofacial prostheses.

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Distribution: AA,AB,AC,AC1,AF,AF1,AG,AG1,AH,AI,AK,AK1,ADM,ADM1

Note: The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas comprises Southwestern Medical School, Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Southwestern Allied Health Sciences School.