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NEWS

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* * * * * Dr. John Porter named The Arthur Grollman Professor of Neuroendocrinology in OB/Gyn.

DALLAS--Dr. John C. Porter, professor of Physiology and Obstetrics and Gynecology and scientific director of the Cecil H. and Ida Green Center for Reproductive Biology Sciences, has been named The Arthur Grollman Professor of Neuroendocrinology in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas.

The Grollman Professorship was created at the request of the faculty of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and is funded by the department's MSRDP funds held in Austin.

Dr. Grollman, who died Jan. 28, 1980, came to Southwestern as professor of medicine in 1944. He is the only faculty member at the school to be nominated twice for the Nobel prize. He was nominated for his acetylene deletion technique for calculation of cardiac output and for his work in peritoneal dialysis. He established this school as one of the major centers for hypertension research.

The professorship was approved by the UT Board of Regents Feb. 12, and Porter's nomination was approved by them April 9.

Porter came to the medical school as instructor of Physiology in 1953, advancing to professor in 1964. In 1972 he received additional appointments as professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and scientific director of the Green Center.

A member of the National Institutes of Health Reproductive Biology Study Section, Porter also serves on the editorial boards of "Endocrinology" and "Progress in Reproductive Biology." He is a member of The Endocrine Society, American Physiological Society, Society for the Study of Reproduction, Society for Neuroscience and the Neuroendocrine Panel of the International Brain Research Organization as well as Alpha Omega Alpha and Sigma Xi.

Twice he has received the Distinguished Teaching Award from the freshman medical class at Southwestern.

The newly appointed Grollman Professor has published more than 300 scientific papers, books and abstracts.

He received his Ph.D. at Iowa State University in 1952 and did his post-doctoral training at Duke University School of Medicine under Dr. E.C. Hamlen.

Dr. Arthur Grollman retired from the faculty in 1977 following a career of outstanding contribution to medical science and to this medical school.

Fifty years ago he was the first to develop a method of determining human cardiac output. His method was based on measuring the rate at which acetylene breathed into the lungs is taken up by the blood. The method, updated by Dr. Robert L. Johnson Jr., professor of Internal Medicine, is still used in the human exercise lab in the Weinberger Laboratory for Cardiopulmonary Research to study the recovery of heart attack patients and to study normal adaptation to simulated zero gravity conditions.

One of the first to isolate previously unknown steroids from the adrenal glands, Grollman published the classic work, "The Adrenals," in 1936.

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He is also responsible for some major theories about the cause of hypertension, first calling attention to the importance of the kidney in keeping blood pressure normal.

In doing studies on animals on the effects of kidney removal, Grollman discovered peritoneal dialysis (using solutions to remove the body's waste products). In this method tubes are inserted in the abdomen. Fluid drains in and is left for an hour. Then gravity is allowed to draw it out.

"He was using this on patients here in the early '50s when I was a student, and he was the attending physician. He was making up all the solutions in his lab," said Dr. Norman Kaplan, head of the Hypertension Section in Internal Medicine. "Dr. Grollman discovered this method because he had to keep the animals alive without kidneys in order to study them. Using this method, he was able to do miraculous things with terminal kidney patients."

Grollman's discoveries led to the development of kidney machines and the treatment of kidney failure.

He served as chairman of the Departments of Physiology, Pharmacology and Experimental Medicine and as acting chairman of the Department of Biochemistry. Asked at his retirement how one person could be an expert in so many fields, Grollman replied, "Specialists know more and more about less and less until they know everything about nothing. I'm going to know nothing about everything."

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