

# SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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## **PEDIATRIC CANCER PROGRAM RECEIVES NATIONAL HONOR**

DALLAS — May 8, 1995 — UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas' pediatric oncology program has been ranked first among the nation's top cancer centers by the Pediatric Oncology Group (POG), an international clinical cooperative based in Chicago.

"UT Southwestern has provided invaluable leadership through its participation in POG clinical trials and research efforts," said Dr. Sharon B. Murphy, chairman of POG.

"Pediatric oncology faculty at UT Southwestern also have performed important administrative tasks, including coordination of national research protocols and supervision of research laboratories." Approximately 110 hospitals and medical centers, along with 1,500 oncologists, surgeons, pathologists, nurses, pharmacists and scientists make up the membership of POG.

The pediatric hematology-oncology program at UT Southwestern is directed by Dr. George Buchanan, professor of pediatrics and holder of the Children's Cancer Fund Chair in Pediatric Oncology and Hematology.

"This award is a boost to all of us in the pediatric oncology program," Buchanan said. "It's exciting that our peers have rated UT Southwestern POG's premier institution." Buchanan also is director of the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at Children's Medical Center of Dallas, the primary pediatric teaching hospital for UT Southwestern.

Buchanan said that three primary factors placed UT Southwestern at the top: The number of patients enrolled in POG clinical trials, scientific contributions such as development of new treatment programs for childhood leukemia and ongoing research in the biology of several pediatric cancers, and administrative support for POG. Buchanan said UT Southwestern staff members have been instrumental in developing a state-of-the-art data

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management system used by POG to track results of its clinical research programs.

UT Southwestern's contributions to POG were ranked No. 1 among more than 40 POG member institutions including such outstanding institutions as St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Johns Hopkins Medical Center, Baylor College of Medicine, Stanford University Medical Center and Duke University Medical Center. The Pediatric Oncology Group was founded in 1980 to enhance research in and treatment of childhood cancers. POG institutions are located throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, Canada, Switzerland and The Netherlands.

"This is an important honor for UT Southwestern. Dr. Buchanan and his team have a right to be very proud of this accomplishment," said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, UT Southwestern president. "This award reflects well on the hard work done by physicians representing many disciplines, nurses and clinical research associates."

In addition to patients from Children's Medical Center, the UT Southwestern consortium draws patients from Cook-Fort Worth Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth and the Scott and White Memorial Hospital in Temple, Texas.

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