

December 3, 1952

NEWS RELEASE - SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL SCHOOL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

Southwestern Medical School of The University of Texas will offer a course entitled "Medical Economics and Ethics" to its senior medical students. The course will be presented during the final six months of the senior year and will emphasize economic problems related to medical practice.

From experienced physicians the students will learn about the advantages and disadvantages of individual or solo practice as compared with group practice of medicine. The satisfactions and problems of the general physician, both in the small town and in the large city, will be described.

The opportunity and challenge presented to the family physician will be portrayed by physicians active in this important phase of medical practice.

Specialists in certain fields of medicine which are now understaffed will have an opportunity to tell the students in detail of such fields as anesthesia, pathology, radiology, and psychiatry. All of these fields are now regarded as critical areas by those groups concerned with the health needs of the nation in time of military emergency.

Advice on selecting a location in which to practice will be offered. Such factors as hospital and laboratory facilities, number of physicians in the community, educational and cultural factors in the area, will be emphasized. Schedules of fees for professional services and collection of fees, together with advice on estate and investment planning, will be discussed by specially trained individuals.

Considerable emphasis will be placed on the relationship of the practicing physician to the other physicians in his community and in distant communities and to the role of the physician in county, state, and national medical societies.

The contribution of the societies to the individual physician will, in turn, be stressed.

Lecturers in the course will include faculty members in the various medical specialties, general physicians, and the following non-physician professional people:

Mr. Millard Heath, Executive Secretary of the Dallas County Medical Society
Mr. Albert Scheidt, Administrator of the Dallas City-County Hospital System
Mr. Frank A. Young, Chairman of the Department of Insurance, School of
Business Administration, Southern Methodist University
Mr. Pinckney Grissom, of Thompson, Knight, Wright & Simmons, Attorneys and
Counselors

Dr. George N. Aagaard, Dean of Southwestern Medical School, in commenting on the new course stated: "This course will be a step forward, since it will better prepare our students for the transition from the medical school to the private practice of medicine. Our students have indicated that they would like to have authoritative information on these subjects while they are in school. Although some of the information will not be applied until after the internship, much of the advice will be important in shaping and directing the interest of these young physicians as they move forward in their careers."

G. N. Aagaard, M.D.
Dean