

June 17, 1983

NEWS

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**Dr. Kenneth Altshuler named to Sharp Chair
in Psychiatry.

DALLAS--Psychiatry is now at the point "when it finally looks like we will be able to put the brain and the mind together and make them one," says Dr. Kenneth Altshuler, appointed by the UT Board of Regents as holder of the Stanton Sharp Chair in Psychiatry, effective July 1. The appointment was made at the June 16 meeting.

Altshuler is professor and chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas.

The Sharp chair, founded by Mrs. Ruth Collins Sharp, is the first chair in Psychiatry at that institution. In a letter of intent to the school, the founder wrote of an awareness of the "need and potential for progress in the field of psychiatry." It is toward this goal that the Sharp chair is dedicated, says Altshuler.

Altshuler joined the UTHSCD faculty in 1977 after a distinguished career at Columbia University. During his years as chairman, he has developed an outstanding teaching program for medical students and residents and led the department to become one of the campus leaders in research activity. He is an eminent national leader in psychiatry, especially in the areas of deafness, sleep disturbance, geriatric psychiatry and psychoanalysis.

Both Sharp and her husband Charles have been involved leaders in outstanding educational and civic work in the community. A graduate of Southern Methodist University, she was awarded Dallas' prestigious Linz Award earlier this year. She was the first woman to head the Administrative Board of the Highland Park United Methodist Church and continues to serve as a board member.

The approval of Altshuler's appointment came at about the same time that the psychiatrist was celebrating his sixth year as chairman of Psychiatry at the Dallas school. At the time Altshuler assumed this position, there were only three faculty members and three residents. Today there are more than 50 faculty members in the department and 46 residents.

With a "buyers' market" for graduating physicians seeking places in psychiatry, more than 30 percent of these positions are unfilled nationwide. But there were recently 80 applicants for Southwestern's eight first-year slots. The majority of these residents matched the department's first eight choices.

Among the new faculty members recruited for the fast growing department are researchers/educators who are specialists in depression, clinical sleep disorders, the basic physiology of sleep, pain, the role of endorphins and enkephalins in pain and mental illness, schizophrenia and related disorders, depression and cognitive therapy. In addition, research is being done in the department on substance abuse, biofeedback and medical non-compliance in adolescents. Recently an active new psychiatric chemistry laboratory was installed by the department at the Dallas Veterans Administration Medical Center.

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"We can now measure anything relevant to research in mental illness that the body can ingest, excrete or metabolize," says Altshuler.

Since coming to the health science center, Altshuler has strengthened the interaction of the department with local hospitals, mental health organizations and other clinical and basic science departments in the school.

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Distribution: AA,AB,AC,AH,AI,SC,SL.