

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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PHYSICIANS BRUSH UP DURING WEEK AT UT SOUTHWESTERN

DALLAS — February 20, 1996 — UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas has initiated intensive seven-day fellowships for practicing Texas physicians who want first-hand knowledge of medicine's latest developments.

The minifellowship program links physicians in private practice with UT Southwestern specialists who are eager to share the latest in patient care, techniques and knowledge.

"With medicine advancing so rapidly, UT Southwestern established this program for physicians who want to keep pace," said Dr. John Burnside, UT Southwestern's associate dean for professional education. "We spent months designing a unique review program that relies on UT Southwestern faculty expertise to refresh and rejuvenate physicians."

UT Southwestern plans to offer the minifellowship program quarterly, with a limit of 10 physicians each time. The fellows will spend about half the time in group sessions for overviews of new findings in several key areas and half the time in curricula they design to meet their individual needs.

Nine physicians — from Amarillo, Austin, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Longview, Marshall, Midland and Nacogdoches — participated in the first program Jan. 28 to Feb. 3.

Dr. Russell Warden, a Longview internist, wanted to expand his knowledge of geriatrics because many of his patients are elderly. His week included time in the osteoporosis and rheumatology clinics at the University Center for Bone and Joint Disorders in the James W. Aston Ambulatory Care Center.

"I love to learn. I'll never know enough, and I wanted a situation where I wouldn't just sit there for eight hours a day being a sponge," Warden said. "Private practice can be a real stress that leaves little time to read and keep up with the latest developments. This program was very good and very practical."

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Claudia Stravato, UT Southwestern's director of professional education, said several physicians already have applied for the next session in April, proof that physicians want and need exposure to medicine's advances.

"Physicians who are committed to their patients must be committed to a life of learning," Stravato said. "As a medical school, we pledge to provide opportunities for that learning."

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