

# JT News

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\*\*\*\*\*Vitamin A expert Dr. DeWitt Goodman  
to speak in nutrition lecture series

DALLAS -- Vitamin A is essential for healthy vision and skin. It prevents night blindness and is used to treat acne. Recent research shows that Vitamin A may help in preventing and treating cancer.

Dr. DeWitt Goodman of Columbia University, will speak on "Vitamin A in Health and Disease" at 7:30 p.m. on June 4 in the continuing education classroom (E6.200) at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas, Harry Hines Boulevard at Butler Street.

The importance of Vitamin A in preventing night blindness and diseases connected with "dry eye" has been well known for more than 50 years. That Vitamin A is also important for growth and health was acknowledged but not entirely understood. Continuous research on Vitamin A (retinol) and on related natural and synthetic compounds known as retinoids has demonstrated many ways in which they are used by the body. Among other functions, they help determine whether cells reproduce in the proper kind and number. And this knowledge has led to further research on how they might be used to prevent and treat disease.

For skin disorders, synthetic retinoids are being tested in the treatment of acne, psoriasis and related problems. Synthetic retinoids have also been used to prevent experimentally induced cancer of the bladder, breast and skin in animals. In humans, studies are measuring the effectiveness of retinoids in treating cancers of the lung, bladder, head and neck.

Goodman has done research on Vitamin A and retinoids for more than 20 years. He is one of the nation's experts on retinol metabolism and Vitamin A-related genetic diseases.

Presently the Tilden-Weger-Bieler Professor of Preventive Medicine at Columbia University, Goodman directs the Arteriosclerosis Research Center at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. He is also director of metabolism and nutrition in the Department of Medicine at the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center.

Goodman is a native of New York City. He received his undergraduate degree from Harvard University and his M.D. from Harvard Medical School in 1955. He served his internship and residency at the Presbyterian Hospital in New York City, was a research fellow at the Hammersmith Hospital in London, England, and was an investigator at the National Heart Institute in Bethesda, Md. In 1962, Goodman joined the faculty at Columbia University and the staff of Presbyterian Hospital.

He is vice chairman of the Committee on Diet and Health, National Research Council, Food and Nutrition Board and is chairman of the National Cholesterol Education Program Panel on Detection, Evaluation and Treatment of High Blood Cholesterol in Adults. He is on the editorial board of Arteriosclerosis and the advisory board of the Journal of Lipid Research.

Goodman's appearance is the last in the 1986-1987 series of Distinguished Lecturers on Nutrition sponsored by the Center for Human Nutrition at the health science center. All health care professionals and laymen who are interested in accurate scientific knowledge about nutrition are invited to attend the free lectures. For more information call 214/688-3404.

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Note: The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas comprises Southwestern Medical School, Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and the School of Allied Health Sciences.