

FROM RAGS TO RICHES

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*The Phenomenal Rise of the University of Texas
Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas*

Errol C. Friedberg

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To Donald W. Seldin
A redoubtable University of Texas Southwestern pioneer

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Why not a great medical center in Dallas?

Edward H. Cary, *Dean, University of Dallas Medical
Department*

The medical school, at the outset of the 1950s had almost no financial resources whatsoever, and the facilities were poor. It was an opportunity as well as a problem. Fortunately, we had resources of a kind which should be remembered; we had students; we had housestaff; and we had student fellows. They would be, ultimately, the faculty of the future.

Donald W. Seldin, *Chairman Emeritus, Department of
Internal Medicine Southwestern Medical
School of the University of Texas*

I don't believe that the work that Joe and I have done could have been done at any other institution, because no other institution has the combination of assets and people that have made it possible.

Michael S. Brown, *Nobel Laureate*

The goal of UT Southwestern is to identify, recruit, and retain the top educators, physicians, and researchers in the world, provide them with an environment that will enable them to flourish; and encourage them to think boldly and build programs that will be the best of their kind anywhere. That philosophy, coupled with the support of community philanthropists and Texas political leaders has created an institution that is the envy of our peers around the world.

Kern Wildenthal, *President, University of Texas Southwestern
Medical Center at Dallas*

PREFACE

After spending close to two decades years on the faculty at Stanford University Medical School, my decision to move to a considerably less well-known academic institution located in a state infamous, among other things, for its torrid summers, was, to say the least, problematical. Forgetting for the moment my concurrence with all that I have heard about summers in Texas, being a faculty member at the University of Texas Southwestern (UT Southwestern) Medical Center has without question been the most satisfying and rewarding experience of my academic career.

I came quickly to understand that an intense pride and commitment permeates the halls of this extraordinary academic medical school, so much so that, I was prompted to scrutinize and ultimately to document UT Southwestern's astonishing ascendancy from arguably the most humble beginnings of any medical school in the country—certainly in the modern era. In so doing I have labored to avoid the format of dry historical documentation, striving instead to offer what I hope is a palpable flavor of some of the many personalities who contributed so profoundly to UT Southwestern's rise from also-ran to academic front-runner. Thus, I make no claims here for historical completeness. Instead, *From Rags to Riches* is for the most part a story about people. While practical reasons dictated that my recounting necessarily focus on a restricted set of prominent personalities, UT Southwestern owes its present reputation for academic excellence both to a much larger cadre of distinguished faculty and staff and to a loyal and dedicated group of Dallas citizens. I urge readers to examine the timeline provided for some notable events that transpired during the past century and to peruse previous historical offerings, notably *The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School: Medical Education in Dallas, 1900–1975* by former UT Southwestern faculty member John Chapman, and a comprehensive pictorial reminiscence by George Race called *UT Southwestern—Commemorating the First Half Century*.

My reportage may be accused of bias in favor of the basic science community at this institution. I plead guilty. But while it is an incontrovertible fact

that UT Southwestern's most spectacular academic successes have (to date) indeed been in the basic science arena, it should be noted that three of its four Nobel laureates are trained physicians, and that two of them pursued formal residency and fellowship training in Internal Medicine. Furthermore, as this book reveals, UT Southwestern's earliest claims to fame were in fact in the area of academic medicine, not the basic sciences per se. This caveat aside, UT Southwestern also enjoys an important position in the pantheon of clinical medicine and future developments in this area, some of which have been initiated at the time of this writing, will certainly enhance this position.

In documenting this medical school's history, I relied heavily on personal interviews. I am grateful to Mike Brown, Burton Combes, Johann Deisenhofer, Ron Estabrook, John Fordtran, Al Gilman, Joe Goldstein, Mary McDermott Cook, Steve McKnight, Peter O'Donnell, Ross Perot, Don Seldin, Jonathan Uhr, Kern Wildenthal, and Jean Wilson for their unstinting time and interest. I also thank my wife Rhonda for her constant cheerleading and her indispensable evaluation of innumerable drafts, and Angela Ceplis, Meredith Thomas and Wendy Deaner for their secretarial and logistical help.

I owe heart-felt thanks to Neil Patterson, who, convinced of the imperative to publish this book, orchestrated critical contacts with Carolina Academic Press. Thanks also to Keith Sipe and his able staff at Carolina Academic Press for their outstanding assistance, to Penny Austen for her expert editing, to Dr. Keith Wharton and Nicole Kosarek for their reading and proofing of the manuscript, to Wes Norred, Cyndi Bassel, Nancy Potter, Bill Mania, David Gresham and Karen Vieth at UT Southwestern for their assistance in procuring photographs and to Mark Smith for reproducing them for publication. Bill Maina and Laurie Thompson at the UT Southwestern library provided crucial help. Finally, I thank Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas for his enthusiastic support, his commitment to conscientiously offering comments and suggestions on numerous drafts, and his invaluable help in promoting the publication of this work.

Errol C. Friedberg, MD
September 2006

TIMELINE

- 1900 The University of Dallas Medical Department is established as the first medical school in Dallas, with founder **Charles M. Rosser** as dean. Hospital affiliation is with the Good Samaritan Hospital. Within a few months, a splinter group establishes the rival Dallas Medical College.
- 1901 **Edward H. Cary** becomes Dean of the University of Dallas Medical Department.
- 1903 The University of Dallas Medical Department becomes Baylor University Medical College, enjoying formal affiliation with Baylor University in Waco, Texas. **Edward H. Cary** is the first dean. Hospital affiliation is with Baylor University Hospital, formerly Texas Baptist Memorial Sanitarium.
- 1910 **Abraham Flexner** publishes *Medical Education in the United States and Canada*, a report on the state of American and Canadian medical schools. The report has far-reaching consequences for many medical schools.
- 1913 **Parkland Hospital**, opened in 1894, becomes affiliated with Baylor University Medical College.
- 1939 The **Southwestern Medical Foundation** is founded in Dallas.
- 1943 Baylor Medical College moves to Houston and **Southwestern Medical College** is established in Dallas by the Southwestern Medical Foundation. The school is located in army barracks on Oak Lawn Avenue and is the 68th medical school in the U.S.
- Donald Slaughter** is appointed the first Dean of **Southwestern Medical College**.
- 1943/44 The school's annual budget is approximately \$200,000.

- 1944 Tinsley R. Harrison is appointed Chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine and Dean of the Medical School, and begins writing *Principles of Internal Medicine*.
- 1945 S. Edward Sulkin is appointed Chairman of the Department of Microbiology.
- 1946 William Lee Hart is appointed Dean of the medical school.
Carl A. Moyer is appointed Professor of Experimental Surgery in the Department of Surgery.
Arthur Grollman is appointed Chairman of the Departments of Physiology and Pharmacology.
- 1949 Southwestern Medical College becomes part of the University of Texas System and changes its name to **Southwestern Medical School of the University of Texas**. The school's annual budget is about \$500,000.
- 1950 Tinsley R. Harrison leaves Southwestern Medical College.
Carl A. Moyer is appointed Dean of Southwestern Medical College.
- 1951 Donald W. Seldin arrives in Dallas as a junior faculty member in the Department of Internal Medicine under Chairman Charles Burnett. Burnett departs less than a year later, leaving the Department of Internal Medicine with but two full-time faculty members.
- 1952 James Aagaard is appointed Dean of Southwestern Medical School.
Donald W. Seldin is appointed Acting Chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine at Southwestern Medical School and the following year is named as permanent chairman.
- 1954 James A. Gill succeeds James Aagaard as Dean of the Medical School.
A new **Parkland Hospital** opens on Harry Hines Boulevard.
- 1955 The first new building on the site presently occupied by the medical center is opened adjacent to the new Parkland Hospital and is named the **Edward H. Cary Building for Basic Sciences**.
- 1958 A second new building, the **Karl Hoblitzelle Building for Clinical Sciences**, opens its doors. The clinical departments move from the old shacks on Oak Lawn Avenue to the present location on Harry Hines Boulevard.

- 1962 **Joseph L. Goldstein**, future Nobel laureate, enters medical school at Southwestern.
- 1965–75 The entering medical school class is expanded from 100 to 200 students.
The **Dan Danciger Research Building** opens.
- 1967 **Charles C. Sprague** is appointed Dean of the Medical School. The school's annual budget is now approximately \$10 million. The senior class attains top place in the country on Part II of the National Board Examinations.
- 1968 **Children's Medical Center** moves to the UT Southwestern campus.
- 1970–80 The campus is expanded by ~500,000 nsf with the addition of the **Philip R. Jonsson Basic Science Research Building**, the **Eugene McDermott Academic Administration Building**, the **Tom and Lula Gooch Auditorium**, the **Eugene McDermott Plaza and Lecture Rooms**, the **Cecil H. and Ida Green Science Building**, the **Fred F. Florence Bioinformation Center**, and the **Harry S. Moss Clinical Science Building**.
Ronald W. Estabrook is appointed Chairman of the Department of Biochemistry.
- 1971 **Rupert E. Billingham**, Fellow of the Royal Society of London, is appointed Chairman of the Department of Cell Biology.
Michael S. Brown, future Nobel Laureate, becomes a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Internal Medicine and a year later joins the faculty.
- 1972 The Medical Center, now comprising a medical school, a graduate school and a School of Allied Health Sciences, is renamed the **University of Texas Health Sciences Center at Dallas**.
Charles Cameron Sprague becomes the center's first president.
- 1973 **Fred Bonte** becomes Dean of the Medical School.
Jonathan W. Uhr is appointed Chairman of the Department of Microbiology.
Joseph L. Goldstein joins the faculty of the Department of Internal Medicine.
- 1979 **Ronald W. Estabrook** is elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.

- 1980 **Michael S. Brown** and **Joseph L. Goldstein** are elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.
Kern Wildenthal succeeds Fred Bonte as Dean of the Medical School.
- 1980–90 Another 300,000 nsf of academic space is added to the medical center with the completion of the **Cecil H. and Ida Green Science Building** and the **Charles Cameron Sprague Clinical Science Building**.
- 1981 **Alfred G. Gilman** is appointed Chairman of the Department of Pharmacology.
- 1983 **Jean D. Wilson** of the Department of Internal Medicine, is elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.
- 1984 **Jonathan W. Uhr** is elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.
The Aston Ambulatory Center opens its doors.
- 1985 **Michael S. Brown** and **Joseph L. Goldstein** are awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.
Alfred G. Gilman is elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.
The medical school is designated a member of the **Howard Hughes Medical Institute**.
- 1986 **Kern Wildenthal** is appointed the second President of the UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.
William B. Neaves becomes Dean of the Medical School.
Roger H. Unger, of the Department of Internal Medicine, is elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.
- 1987 The Medical Center once again changes its name, this time becoming **The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas**, the name it presently holds.
The **UT Southwestern Medical Center** acquires land from the **John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation** and planning begins for the future North Campus.
- 1988 **Johann Deisenhofer**, of the Department of Biochemistry, is awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry.
- 1989 **Zale-Lipshy University Hospital** opens its doors.

- 1990–2000 New facilities totaling over 600,000 nsf, comprising the **Simmons, Hamon and Seay Biomedical Research Buildings**, are completed on the North Campus.
- 1993 **David L. Garbers**, in the Department of Pharmacology, is elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.
The first **North Campus** building opens.
- 1994 **Alfred G. Gilman** is awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.
Ellen Vitetta, in the Department of Microbiology, is elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.
- 1995 **Steven L. McKnight**, a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, is appointed Chairman of the Department of Biochemistry.
- 1999 **Robert J. Alpern** is appointed Dean of the Medical School.
- 2000 **Eric N. Olson**, Chairman of the Department of Molecular Biology, is elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.
St. Paul Medical Center is acquired by UT Southwestern Medical Center and is leased to **Zale Lipshy University Hospital**, which re-names it **St. Paul University Hospital at Southwestern Medical Center**.
- 2000–2006 Three additional buildings totaling ~500,000 nsf, the **Moncrief Radiation Oncology Building**, the **Bill and Rita Clements Advanced Medical Imaging Building** and the 14-story **Biomedical Research Tower** are completed on the North Campus.
- 2002 **Thomas C. Sudhof**, of the Neurosciences Center, is elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.
- 2003 **Masashi Yanagasawa**, of the Department of Molecular Genetics, is elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.
- 2004 **Xiaodong Wang**, of the Department of Biochemistry, is elected to the US National Academy of Sciences.
Alfred G. Gilman is appointed Dean of the Medical School.
- 2005 UT Southwestern Medical Center acquires **Zale Lipshy University Hospital** and **St. Paul University Hospital**, merges them as **UT Southwestern University Hospitals**, and assumes full responsibility for their operations and finances.
- 2006 **Alfred G. Gilman** is appointed Provost of the University and Executive Vice-President for Academic Affairs.

David W. Russell of the Department of Molecular Genetics and **Melanie Cobb** of the Department of Pharmacology are elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.

Xiaodong Wang of the Department of Biochemistry wins the one million-dollar Shaw Prize in Life Science and Medicine.

The operating budget is over \$1.2 billion.