



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
Paul L. Foster School of Medicine™

NEWS RELEASE

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Texas Tech's Internal Medicine's GI Division Named National Center of Excellence by ANMS

The Division of Gastroenterology, Department of Internal Medicine, TTUHSC Paul L. Foster School of Medicine has been named a National Center of Excellence by the American Neurogastroenterology and Motility Society (ANMS). Richard McCallum, M.D., Professor and Founding Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine and Marc J. Zuckerman, M.D., Chief of the Division of Gastroenterology, will head up the teaching team.

“GI fellows from all over the country will be able to spend one month with the Division learning about this field, specifically the special testing involved, patient management skills and new therapies. This clinical training program will allow gastroenterology fellows to pursue advanced training in gastrointestinal motility and neurogastroenterology, a deficiency in the majority of GI training programs in this country. We are one of eight sites selected in the U.S. and the only site in the Southwest,” said Dr. McCallum.

Recently, the division was recognized for its NIH-funded research as well as pioneering work on gastroparesis and gastric electrical stimulation involving implantation of the device by Texas Tech surgeon, Brian Davis, M.D. The program is headed by Irene Sarosiek, M.D., Ph.D. Dr. McCallum said about 1,000 patients in the U.S. annually receive gastric electrical stimulation treatment, also called Enterra therapy, for refracting nausea, vomiting and gastroparesis and Texas Tech – University Medical Center at El Paso is one of the largest centers. The technology received FDA approval in 2000.

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Disorders of gastrointestinal motility and function, although not well recognized by primary care physicians, affect 40 percent of the population of the United States according to the Society. Such disorders include constipation, diarrhea, irritable bowel syndrome, functional dyspepsia, nausea and vomiting, gastroparesis, abdominal pain, gastroesophageal reflux disease, bloating, gas, and fecal incontinence. They can pose a heavy burden of illness and quality of life decreases for patients suffering from these conditions.

This apprenticeship-based learning where trainees are taught by the experts at the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine will provide these physicians with in-depth knowledge of this area in preparation for their career as future academic and practicing gastroenterologists.

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