

Southern Illinois Trauma Center Names Dr. Fortune Medical Director

John B. Fortune, M.D., professor and chair of SIU's general surgery division, is the new medical director of the Southern Illinois Trauma Center (SITC), the Level I trauma center in Springfield.



Dr. Fortune

He succeeds William R. Schiller, M.D., SITC's founding medical director and professor of surgery, who retired this summer. Dr. Fortune joined SIU's faculty in January. He previously was professor of surgery at the University of Arizona and director of both regional trauma centers in Tucson, which serve 1.2 million people.

"Dr. Fortune is a well-known trauma surgeon with extensive experience, and we're proud to have him become the next medical director for this trauma center," Dr. Schiller said in July. "I'm happy to have come to Springfield to help start this joint trauma center. The community wanted the idea to work, and we've been successful."

Dr. Fortune is board certified in general surgery and surgical critical care and is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He received his bachelor's and medical degrees from Duke University (1971, 1975) and completed his residency at Duke and Albany Medical College.



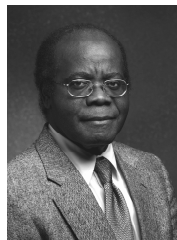
The Southern Illinois Trauma Center is now in its fourth year of operation and has rotated to St. John's Hospital.

John P. Sutyak, M.D., who joined the SIU faculty in July 2001 as an associate professor of surgery, continues as associate director for the trauma center.

SITC began providing trauma care for west central and southern Illinois in July 1999. It is a partnership between SIU and its two affiliated hospitals, which alternate responsibility for the trauma center annually. SITC just completed its third year of operation, based at Memorial Medical Center, and moved July 1 to St. John's Hospital.

New OB/GYN Chair

Kofi S. Amankwah, M.D., has returned to SIU as professor and chair of obstetrics and gynecology and director of that department's four-year residency training program. He succeeds PonJola Coney, M.D., who is now dean and senior vice president for health affairs at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tenn.



Dr. Amankwah

Dr. Amankwah first joined SIU's faculty in 1973, leaving in 1990 to move to a position with the University of Toronto.

"We are delighted to be maintaining strong leadership in OB/GYN with the return of Dr. Amankwah," said J. Kevin Dorsey, M.D., Ph.D., dean and provost of the medical school. "He is both well respected and well-loved."

Dr. Amankwah has been principal or co-investigator on nearly 30 grants including a current five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health to study hyperglycemia and adverse pregnancy outcomes.

NIH Grant Given to Study Pain

The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke has awarded a five-year grant to an SIU medical school faculty member for the study of pain sensitivity. The total budget for the grant is \$908,300.

Louis Premkumar, Ph.D., associate professor of pharmacology, is the principal investigator for the project. The study will look at various nerve receptors involved in the sensation of thermal and inflammatory pain. While pain serves as a protective function telling us of potential danger, nearly 86 million Americans are disabled to some degree because of chronic pain. Many of these individuals suffer from an excessive sensitivity to pain. This research will help with understanding the role of nerve receptors in chronic pain and could lead to new treatments to control this disability.

Dr. Premkumar pain research previously has received \$150,000 in funding from the National Science Foundation. He joined the SIU faculty in 1999.



Dean and Provost Dr. Dorsey (center) receives congratulations from Ted LeBlang, J.D., (right) who co-chaired the Dean Search Committee with David Stewart, M.D., (background).

Dr. Dorsey Appointed Dean of SIU School of Medicine

Following a nationwide search, SIU School of Medicine alumnus J. Kevin Dorsey, M.D., Ph.D., has assumed the position of the School's third dean and provost.

"Dr. Dorsey is a person of great vision, energy and integrity, and the School will continue to succeed under his leadership," said SIU Carbondale Chancellor Walter Wendler, Ph.D.

"It is a rare privilege to be selected to lead an institution that not only I care so much about, but also one which cares so much for the people of Illinois whom we serve," Dr. Dorsey said. "Our challenge will lie in expanding the services we provide, such as cancer care and women and chil-

dren's programs, outreach efforts in rural Illinois, and our young medical research enterprise during the current time of economic difficulty."

Dr. Dorsey joined the SIUC faculty as assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry in 1973 and graduated from the medical school in 1978. After additional training, he rejoined the faculty in 1983 as an assistant professor and coordinated clinical teaching activities for first-year medical students.

In 1998, he was named associate provost for the southern region in Carbondale. He has served as interim dean of the medical school since the departure of former dean Carl J. Getto, M.D., in November.



Protect Yourself from Sunburn and Skin Cancer

More than one million Americans are diagnosed each year with skin cancer, primarily caused by over exposure to the sun. Many cases could be avoided.

"The sun's ultraviolet rays are an invisible form of radiation that penetrates the skin and causes damage, which results in wrinkling and increases the risk of skin cancer," says Jonathan Goldfarb, M.D., associate professor and SIU's chief of dermatology.

The risk of skin cancer is greater among people who sunburn easily, especially those with red or blond hair and fair skin. Although the risk is lower among people with darker complexions, they also can get skin cancer.

"Children are especially at risk for sunburn because they have lighter complexions and their skin is not used to ultraviolet light," says Dr. Goldfarb.

The most dangerous time to be in the sun is between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., so people should limit their sun exposure during that time. He recommends applying sunscreen, number 15 or higher, to protect the skin.

For more information about In Brief stories, contact the Office of Public Affairs, SIU School of Medicine, P.O. Box 19621, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9621, 217-545-2155 (office) or 217-545-0580 (fax) or e-mail Nancy S. Zimmers, director of public affairs, at nzimmers@siumed.edu.