



Uniformed Services University

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Media Advisory

Dr. Charles L. Rice To Be Installed As USU's Fifth President

BETHESDA, Md. – Dr. Charles L. Rice, former vice chancellor for health affairs at the University of Illinois, Chicago (UIC), will be installed as the fifth president of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) Tuesday, Feb. 7 by Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, Dr. William Winkenwerder, Jr., and USU Board of Regents Chairman Everett Alvarez, Jr.

Members of the USU Board of Regents, as well as faculty members and representatives from more than 20 other colleges, universities, professional societies and organizations will participate in the academic procession that will open the installation ceremony. Retired Army Surgeon General, Dr. Ronald R. Blanck ([bio](#)), President, University of North Texas Health Science Center, Fort Worth will be the guest speaker, and will be joined on the dais by U.S. Sen. Paul S. Sarbanes, MD ([bio](#)), Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Dr. David S.C. Chu ([bio](#)), and Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Dr. William Winkenwerder, Jr. ([bio](#)).

Dr. Rice, who officially assumed his duties as president last July, is a retired Naval Reserve Captain and a Navy-trained surgeon and researcher. Before assuming his present position, he served as the vice chancellor for health affairs at UIC from 1999-2004. Prior to that, he was vice dean of the UIC College of Medicine, as well as a professor of surgery and professor of physiology and biophysics.

As president of USU, Dr. Rice is responsible for the academic, research and service mission of the university. He advises the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and the four uniformed surgeons general on a wide array of issues related to graduate health professions education and health care research.

During the Military Health System (MHS) annual conference Jan. 30, Dr. Rice was introduced to his colleagues and peers by Dr. Winkenwerder, before hosting a media roundtable discussion in which he addressed USU's role in DOD transformation and medical education.

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"The role that USU will play in the integration is vital to the future of military medicine," he said. "Making USU a full partner with the medical treatment facilities in the National Capital Area is an important opportunity for the university."

The MHS conference is a forum for DOD health care professionals and their civilian partners to discuss issues, new programs and initiatives that affect health care delivery to the 9.2 million TRICARE beneficiaries. The theme for the conference is "Military Medicine: Transforming the Future."

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences educates health care professionals dedicated to career service in the Department of Defense and the United States Public Health Service. The university provides military and public health-relevant education, research, service and consultation to the nation and the world, pursuing excellence and innovation during times of peace and war.

Media interested in attending the installation ceremony should contact either Reginald Humphries at (301) 295-3166/e-mail: rhumphries@usuhs.mil, or Sharon Willis at (301) 295-3578/e-mail: swillis@usuhs.mil, by 4 p.m., Friday, Feb. 3. For a full biography on Dr. Rice go to: <http://www.usuhs.mil/installation/biography>. The installation ceremony will be available via live Web cast at: <http://www.usuhs.mil> by clicking on the installation ceremony link. The ceremony begins at 2 p.m.

An electronic version of the invitation is attached. The [program](#) contains information on Dr. Rice, honored guests and speakers, USU and the ceremony.

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