

# news THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT DALLAS

southwestern medical school ■ graduate school of biomedical sciences ■ school of allied health sciences

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*\*\*\*\*\*NIH grant supports new graduate pharmacological sciences program combining pharmacology, biochemistry and toxicology areas.*

DALLAS--A new pharmacological sciences graduate training program, funded by one of about 20 grants of its type awarded by the National Institutes of Health this year, has been developed at the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas.

Titled "Factors Influencing Drug Activity and Distribution," the new field of study combines pharmacology and areas of biochemistry and toxicology into one general course program designed to evaluate therapeutic and toxic drug actions on individuals, animals and the environment.

Program director, Dr. George B. Weiss, professor of Pharmacology at the center, said the program was developed "to train selected Pharmacology and Biochemistry graduate students to attain proficiency in evaluating all factors of drug action on living organisms, both at the molecular and cellular levels and on animals and human beings."

The program's unique pursuit of study gained recognition as a "new approach in training" by NIH, which provided \$218,852 in funds to support the program. This grant covers a five-year period. This year, three students began the program, and six students will be admitted next year. Enrollment is then to be expanded to nine students each year.

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first add pharmacology grant

Twenty faculty members from several specialty areas at the center are involved in the project, including twelve from Pharmacology and others from Biochemistry, Forensic Toxicology, Pathology and Internal Medicine.

Topics to be covered in graduate-level courses range from new basic mechanisms and principles of drug action to experimental research techniques in pharmacology and toxicology. Students can obtain doctoral degrees in either Pharmacology or Biochemistry within the new interdisciplinary program. Ultimate career goals would be affiliation with academic institutions, regulatory agencies such as the Food and Drug Administration or industrial and environmental concerns.

Committee members working to develop the detailed training program include Dr. Bettie Sue Masters, associate professor of Biochemistry; Dr. James Garriott, instructor in Pharmacology and Pathology; and Dr. Frank R. Goodman, assistant professor of Pharmacology.

Further information on the pharmacological sciences program may be obtained from Dr. Weiss or the committee members.

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