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*** UTHSCD Fellow Receives Markey Scholar Award

DALLAS--Dr. Timothy F. Osborne, a post-doctoral fellow involved in cholesterol research at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas, has been named a recipient of the coveted Lucille P. Markey Scholar Award in Biomedical Science for 1986.

Osborne, 30, is the first investigator in Texas to receive one of the lucrative awards, which were established in 1984 to further the scientific development of outstanding young biomedical researchers. He is one of 16 young scientists selected from more than 180 applicants to receive annual funding for his research as well as a stipend and/or salary for a minimum of three and a maximum of seven years.

"This is probably the most prestigious of the group of awards given to researchers between their post-doctoral fellowship and their faculty appointment," said Dr. Joseph L. Goldstein, chairman of the Department of Molecular Genetics, in whose laboratories Osborne works. Goldstein and his longtime research partner, Dr. Michael S. Brown, won the Nobel Prize last year for their pioneering work into cholesterol metabolism.

"The salary and research grant represent a great opportunity for Tim to develop the confidence to become an independent scientist and give him the flexibility to stay here or go elsewhere to pursue his work," Goldstein said.

In the first year of the award, Osborne will receive a \$25,000 stipend and \$15,000 to support his research. In succeeding years, the stipend/salary and research allowance will be determined on an annual basis according to changes in Osborne's title or faculty status.

A native of Ouray, Colo., Osborne joined the health science center as a post graduate research fellow in 1983 after earning his Ph.D. in microbiology at the University of California at Los Angeles.

Osborne's work here has focused on the genetic "switch" that regulates an enzyme which synthesizes cholesterol within cells, said Brown, director of the Center for Genetic Diseases. This enzyme, HMG CoA reductase, plays a very important role in the removal of cholesterol-bearing molecules from the bloodstream. When the enzyme "turns off," the cell's internal cholesterol factory shuts down, and more of these cholesterol-rich molecules are extracted from the blood through receptors on the cell's surface. As the level of cholesterol in the blood is lowered, so is the risk of developing hardening of the arteries, which can lead to heart attacks.

"The important question is what switches this enzyme on and off," says Brown. "Tim has made great progress in identifying that switch in the gene."

Although a fledgling program, the Markey Scholar Awards already have assumed significant stature in the biomedical sciences because they afford young investigators generous, uninterrupted support for their research at a crucial time in their development. The awards are funded through the estate of Lucille P. Markey, who died in 1982 leaving assets estimated at more than \$300 million. Mrs. Markey's first husband founded the successful Calumet Farm thoroughbred breeding and racing stables.

A spokeswoman for the Miami-based Lucille P. Markey Charitable Trust, said other recipients hail from such renowned institutions as Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, the University of California at San Francisco, Duke University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Whitehead Institute. "Dr. Osborne is in very prestigious company," she said.