

# UT News

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\*\*\*\*\*UTHSCD Department of Ophthalmology  
receives grant from Research to  
Prevent Blindness

DALLAS -- The Department of Ophthalmology at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas has received a \$30,000 grant from Research to Prevent Blindness. The organization annually makes awards to selected medical institutions across the country to support research into the causes, treatment and prevention of blinding diseases.

Dr. James McCulley, chairman of ophthalmology, noted that the 1986 award represents a 20 percent increase over last year's grant. The increased support is particularly welcome, he says, at a time when federal funds for research are being reduced. Research to Prevent Blindness has given UTHSCD \$111,000 during the past four years. "The significance of these grants cannot be overstated," says McCulley. "Because they are unrestricted grants, continued support by Research to Prevent Blindness allows the department to explore new and potentially fruitful areas. Once a project is under way and promising, it is easier to attract additional support from other sources."

Research to Prevent Blindness assists many current research projects in the Department of Ophthalmology. Among these are studies of the mechanism of the development of glaucoma, amblyopia (lazy eye) treatment, the rejection process of corneal transplants, the immune response to ocular tumors, and the development of tissue culture alternatives to toxicity testing in animals.

Lew Wasserman, director of Research to Prevent Blindness, said the organization was able to increase support overall by 20 percent this year. Currently they give awards to more than 50 eye centers around the United States. In addition, more than 100 individual scientists have received special awards to accelerate pioneering work of exceptional merit and promise. Dr. Jerry Niederkorn of UTHSCD received a special grant in 1985.

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Note: The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas comprises Southwestern Medical School, Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and the School of Allied Health Sciences.