

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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CHILTON FOUNDATION'S GENEROSITY BENEFITS BIOCHEMISTRY

DALLAS — July 23, 1996 — The A.L. Chilton Foundation has pledged \$130,000 to fund medical student summer fellowships, pre- and postdoctoral fellowships and the Chilton Foundation Visiting Lectureship at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas for the next year.

Dr. John Johnston, UT Southwestern professor of biochemistry and obstetrics and gynecology, describes the projects funded by the Chilton Foundation as "strongly people-oriented." Its latest gift to Southwestern Medical Foundation continues that tradition.

The Chilton Foundation also has committed to continue funding these activities for the next four years.

"The Chilton Foundation gifts provide support for an enriched environment, where young investigators may pursue original research and work closely with scientists," Johnston said. "The program has been so successful because it places a great emphasis on interaction between Chilton fellows and members of the biochemistry faculty."

The research conducted by Chilton fellows has made significant contributions to the understanding of diabetes, obesity, respiratory distress syndrome, and reproductive and developmental biology. In the last five years more than 65 original research papers have been published by Chilton fellows.

Chilton Foundation Student Research Fellowship Program

This program provides medical students the opportunity to work one-on-one with a UT Southwestern faculty member. Several students in the program have presented the findings of their investigations at national and international meetings and also published their original work. Chilton Foundation funds provide a stipend to the students while they are involved in the summer-long program.

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Chilton Pre- and Postdoctoral Fellowships

Most of the predoctoral fellows are enrolled in UT Southwestern's Medical Scientist Training Program, which leads to M.D. and Ph.D. degrees. The postdoctoral program is international in scope attracting M.D.s and Ph.D.s from major universities in Japan, Europe, China and the United States. Pre- and postdoctoral fellows spend one to two years working in the lab of a UT Southwestern faculty member and then seek a permanent position. A number of former Chilton postdoctoral fellows now hold teaching positions in major research universities around the world.

Chilton Foundation Visiting Lectureship

Chilton funds bring a visiting lecturer in lipid research to UT Southwestern each year. Past speakers include five Nobel laureates. The most recent Chilton Lecture on May 8 featured Dr. Steve Prescott, professor of biochemistry and internal medicine at the University of Utah School of Medicine, where he directs the Program in Human Molecular Biology and Genetics. Prescott spoke on "Cellular and Molecular Events in Early Inflammation."

"The Chilton Foundation trustees, Mar Nell and Andy Bell, have provided important support to our biochemistry program over a number of years," said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, UT Southwestern president. "The foundation's support of basic biomedical research and education has enabled our Department of Biochemistry to be ideally prepared to meet the challenges of the next century."

In addition to its annual grant, the Chilton Foundation has made a \$500,000 contribution for an endowed distinguished chair, which is held by the chairman of biochemistry. In appreciation for their longtime support, the Board of Regents of the UT System named the distinguished chair in honor of F. Andrew Bell and the late Sam G. Winstead, who served with Andy Bell as a foundation trustee for many years.

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