

News

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***McCulley elected to prestigious
American Ophthalmological Society

Dallas--Dr. James P. McCulley of The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas has earned the rare honor of being accepted for membership in The American Ophthalmological Society.

McCulley is only the second Dallas ophthalmologist to become a member; the first was inducted in the mid-1940s. Only five other Texans are members of the 126-year-old organization, and fewer than 10 Texans are believed to have ever been members.

"This is a milestone in my career," said McCulley. "For many of my colleagues, this is a life goal, so I'm pleased to have been accepted."

The AOS was the first society devoted to a specific branch of medicine organized in the United States. Approximately 225 board-certified ophthalmologists currently belong to the society, whose memberships are for life.

To join the society, a nominee must be sponsored by two current members. To be nominated, a candidate must be board-certified, a significant contributor to ophthalmic knowledge through published papers and recognized as a reputable practitioner and leader in the field. Once accepted as a nominee, the candidate must write a thesis on a subject about which he has not previously published. The candidate has three years to complete the thesis. A majority of the papers are rejected, and some candidates are asked to rewrite their theses.

(More)

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McCulley's paper on ocular hydrofluoric acid burns showed that the substances used to treat these burns were not as effective as previously thought. Hydrofluoric acid is often used in the semiconductor industry to etch the chips.

McCulley, David Bruton professor and chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology since 1981 at UT Southwestern, is an expert on chemical burns of the eye; blepharitis, an inflammatory disease of the eyelid; the cell biology of corneal cells; transplantation of single cell layers of the cornea; and alternatives to toxicity testing in animals. More recently, he has become a leader in the diagnosis and treatment of a parasitic infection known as *Acanthamoeba keratitis*. This rare but potentially blinding disease often afflicts contact lens wearers who use homemade saline solutions or tap water to clean their contact lenses.

McCulley currently is directing a national multi-center trial for Bausch & Lomb of an imported treatment for *Acanthamoeba keratitis*.

Now that he has become a member of the AOS, McCulley said he is in a position to nominate other Dallasites. "The lack of Dallas members limited our chances of having anyone nominated before," he said.

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