

# News

Office of Medical Information  
The University of Texas

Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas

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\*\*\*\*UT Southwestern researcher wins  
prize for excellence in research

DALLAS -- Dr. Ellen S. Vitetta, immunologist at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, received the 1991 Excellence in Science Award at the 75th Meeting of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology in Atlanta on April 24. Dr. Vitetta was honored for her pioneering research on the immune cells that produce antibodies.

A representative of Eli Lilly and Co. presented the \$10,000 award. This is the first year that Eli Lilly has sponsored the award, which was established by FASEB in 1989 to honor a woman whose excellence in research has contributed significantly to furthering knowledge of a particular scientific discipline.

Vitetta, director of UT Southwestern's Cancer Immunobiology Center, was selected for her contribution to the basic understanding of the immune system, especially for the understanding of B cells, immune cells that produce antibodies, and for her application of this basic research in the development of a method for treating B cell lymphomas and autoimmune diseases.

"It is uncommon for a basic scientist to be as intimately involved in bringing her research to the bedside as Dr. Vitetta has been," said Dr. Jonathan W. Uhr, M.D., chairman of the Department of Microbiology

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and a collaborator in much of Vitetta's work. "She is currently finishing a successful phase I trial for the treatment of B cell lymphomas with immunotoxins. The results indicate that this targeting approach to treatment of cancer has a very exciting future for the management of cancer and autoimmune diseases."

Vitetta received a doctorate from New York University in 1968 and has been at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center since 1974. She won the Taittinger Award for Breast Cancer Research in 1983, the Pierce Immunotoxin Award in 1988 and the Research Achievement Award from the Texas Cancer Council in 1991.

Vitetta is a professor of microbiology and holder of the Scheryle Simmons Patigan Distinguished Chair in Cancer Immunobiology.

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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.