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# News

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas  
5323 Harry Hines Boulevard Dallas, Texas 75235 (214)688-3404

CONTACT: Ann Harrell  
Office: 214/688-3404  
Home: 214/369-2695

\* \* \* \* \* Biochemist honored with  
honorary M.D.

DALLAS--The golden ring of Aesculapius, son of Apollo and physician/god of the Greeks, carved with flowering staff and serpent, was presented to four internationally recognized scientists by the Karolinska Institute of Stockholm in white-tie ceremonies June 2. The presentation to the four, two of them from the United States, was a part of ceremonies awarding honorary doctor of medicine degrees.

Dr. Ron Estabrook, professor and chairman of Biochemistry at The University of Texas Health Science Center and former dean of the center's graduate school, was honored for his professional contributions. Other awardees included Professor Björn Afzelius of Stockholm, world-famous electron microscopist; Fillic Ingrid Blomberg of Spånga, Sweden, coordinator on research done into the genetic role of alcoholism, which included geneticists, epidemiologists, social workers and other medical and scientific personnel; and Professor Robert M. Zollinger of Ohio State, who, says Estabrook is the dean of surgery in the U.S. Honored as Jubilee Doctor was Professor em Arne Sjöberg of Stockholm, honored as outstanding graduate of Karolinska fifty years ago.

Ceremonies were held at Stockholm's Town Hall at 4 p.m. Bands and speeches by dignitaries highlighted the program that included, in addition to awarding the honorary doctorates and the Jubilee Doctor, the graduation of 60 Karolinska students with degrees, which Estabrook says are comparable to the Dallas health science center's M.D./Ph.D. joint degrees.

A reception, dinner for almost 700 guests, featuring smoked reindeer, lamb, more speeches and music by bands and choruses, followed. Estabrook was given the honor of giving the toast and statement of reception by the honored doctors. The evening closed with a ball which lasted till midnight.

And there's more to come. In September Estabrook will be presented with the Wilfred T. Doherty Award of the American Chemical Society. His portrait will be hung, along with those of past award winners, at The University of Texas at Dallas.

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