

news THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT DALLAS

southwestern medical school - graduate school of biomedical sciences - school of allied health sciences

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******Dallas medical scientist
Roger Unger receives award from
Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.*

PHILADELPHIA--Dr. Roger Unger, professor of internal medicine at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas and chief of medical research at Dallas' Veterans Administration Hospital, received the David Rumbough Jr. Memorial Award for Scientific Achievement of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation here today (June 8).

Dr. Unger was cited by the foundation for his pioneering research in isolating and delineating the role of glucagon, a second pancreatic hormone which, along with insulin, has been shown to play a major role in the diabetic process. His work "has improved understanding of glucagon physiology, thus providing valuable clues about the cause of diabetes, and leading to ways of normalizing glucagon secretion by means of drugs and other treatments," the foundation said.

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Actress Dina Merrill presented the Rumbough award to Dr. Unger, in ceremonies at Philadelphia's Marriott Hotel. The award is named for Ms. Merrill's son, a diabetic, who died in 1973. Dr. Unger addressed the fifth annual national conference of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, describing glucagon as the "other half" of the diabetes disorder.

The award is the second major national honor for Dr. Unger in recent weeks. Earlier he was named winner of the 1975 Banting Medal, highest citation of the American Diabetes Association.

The Dallas scientist's contribution to increasing understanding of glucagon, which causes excess glucose secretion in diabetics and thus compounds the disease process, is being recognized internationally as a major scientific finding. Dr. Unger has received numerous other honors, including the VA's Middleton Award and the Lilly Award of the American Diabetes Association.