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UT Southwestern faculty receive honors

DALLAS – Aug. 27, 2008 – Faculty members from UT Southwestern Medical Center recently were recognized for achievements in their fields.

Dr. Ahamed Idris, professor of emergency medicine at UT Southwestern Medical Center, has been inducted into NASA's Space Technology Hall of Fame. Dr. Idris led a series of studies in conjunction with scientists at the Kennedy Space Center human physiology laboratory to treat orthostatic intolerance – or the body's inability to adjust to an upright position. Astronauts experience orthostatic intolerance as they re-enter earth's gravity field from space. He tested a device called ResQPOD that quickly increases circulation and blood flow to the brain. The simple, non-invasive device is now being used in conjunction with cardiopulmonary resuscitation to enhance blood flow to the heart and brain during cardiac arrest. The hall honors the scientists, engineers and innovators responsible for creating life-changing technologies emerging from America's space programs. Previously inducted technologies include life-saving medical devices such as the DeBakey Blood Pump, the automatic external defibrillator, non-invasive breast biopsy technology, magnetic resonance and computed tomography scan imaging.

Dr. Paul Pepe and **Dr. Raymond Fowler** of UT Southwestern Medical Center were recognized as Heroes of Emergency Medicine by the American College of Emergency Physicians as part of ACEP's 40th anniversary celebration. Dr. Pepe, professor and chairman of emergency medicine, has won many health policy, governmental service, scientific and professional society awards, both nationally and abroad. He received ACEP's Emergency Medical Services Award in 2005. Dr. Fowler, associate professor of emergency medicine and co-director of UT Southwestern's section of EMS, Homeland Security and Disaster Medicine, led the regional team that cared for thousands of Hurricane Katrina evacuees at the Dallas Convention Center in 2005. The next year, he was named EMS Medical Director of the Year by the State of Texas while also receiving the National Association of EMS Physicians 2006 Outstanding Contribution to EMS Award.

Dr. Samir Gupta, assistant professor of internal medicine – digestive and liver diseases at UT Southwestern Medical Center, has received an Endoscopic Research Award given by the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy. The award is given based on peer-reviewed proposals that advance basic and clinical endoscopic technology research. Dr. Gupta received \$43,000 to investigate whether measuring for the presence of proteins associated with colon cancer may help distinguish high risk patients with colon polyps from low risk patients to become more efficient at determining which ones need intensive colonoscopy monitoring for future colon cancer and high risk polyps.

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