

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

Contact: Jennifer Donovan
(214) 648-3404

PROSTATE DISEASE CENTER BRINGS PATIENTS, RESEARCH GRANTS TO UT SOUTHWESTERN

DALLAS — September 9, 1993 — During its first year in operation, the Prostate Disease Center at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas has more than doubled its number of referred patients and brought a new \$400,000 prostate research grant to UT Southwestern.

"After just one year, the Prostate Disease Center has achieved goals we had given ourselves three years to accomplish," said Dr. John McConnell, associate professor of urological surgery and center director.

A primary objective of the Prostate Disease Center was to bring together a group of UT Southwestern faculty members whose combined expertise would make them more competitive for research grants, McConnell said.

It seems to be working well. In addition to funding for the Prostate Disease Center faculty's individual research projects — including studies of 5-alpha reductase expression in BPH (benign prostatic hyperplasia or enlargement of the prostate) and prostate cancer, of androgen-receptor expression, of alpha-blocker treatment for BPH and of the role of estrogen in BPH — UT Southwestern has been chosen by the National Institutes of Health as one of five major medical centers nationwide to conduct a five-year combined basic and clinical research study to define the biologic and clinical progression of BPH.

The NIH study, which will begin this fall, will attempt to correlate the biological progression of BPH — defined by cellular proliferation and alterations in bladder function — with clinical progression, defined by worsening symptoms. More importantly, a variety of new molecular markers will be tested for their ability to predict disease progression.

UT Southwestern also is among five finalists for two \$3 million NIH O'Brien

(More)

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER

Southwestern Medical School • Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences • Southwestern Allied Health Sciences School
Affiliated teaching hospitals and outpatient clinics

Office of News and Public Information • 5323 Harry Hines Blvd., Dallas TX 75235-9060 • Telephone (214) 648-3404 • FAX (214) 648-8252

Center research grants.

During the year Dr. Richard Silver, a urology resident, worked with Dr. David Russell on research into 5-alpha reductase expression in BPH and prostate cancer. Their results will be published soon in the *Journal for Clinical Investigation*. Russell, a member of the Prostate Disease Center faculty, is holder of the Eugene McDermott Distinguished Chair in Molecular Genetics at UT Southwestern. One of the center's goals is to bring clinical and basic researchers together in collaborative efforts like this, McConnell said.

The Prostate Disease Center has established a tissue retrieval program to provide benign and malignant prostate tissue obtained during surgery to investigators who need it in their research.

The year also saw an expanding role for Prostate Disease Center faculty in public policy making. McConnell is serving as chairman of a committee appointed to develop federal treatment guidelines for BPH. He also served on a summary team at a National Cancer Institute meeting on early detection of prostate cancer. McConnell and Dr. Claus Roehrborn, assistant professor of urological surgery at UT Southwestern, represented the United States at the second International Consensus Meeting on BPH, sponsored by the World Health Organization.

During its second year, UT Southwestern's Prostate Disease Center will be enrolling patients in a multicenter drug trial for chemoprevention of prostate cancer directed by Dr. Arthur Sagalowsky, professor of urological surgery; and Dr. Victor Lin, assistant professor of urological surgery, will conduct molecular-level research on smooth-muscle cells in the prostate, work that he hopes will lead to more effective treatments for BPH.

###