

NEWS

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
SOUTHWESTERN
MEDICAL SCHOOL AT DALLAS



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DALLAS--The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School has been designated a Specialized Center of Research by the National Heart and Lung Institute with a grant totaling more than \$1.7 million over five years.

The Dallas medical school is one of 29 universities and hospitals throughout the country participating in \$16.4 million in grants for Specialized Centers of Research (SCORs). Each SCOR will focus resources, facilities and manpower on specific, high-priority problems in one of the following disease areas: arteriosclerosis, pulmonary disease, thrombosis, or hypertension.

Southwestern will be one of 11 centers concentrating on pulmonary disease. Part of the facilities for the array of studies on the lungs will be at the Veterans Hospital of Dallas.

First year's grant for Southwestern will be \$479,540 which will aid in setting up studies in five areas:

1. Assessment of the physical capacities of persons with lung disease, including those factors which affect ability to work, etc. Dr. Robert L. Johnson, Jr. and Dr. Alan K. Pierce, both professors of internal medicine, will collaborate in this area. Dr. Johnson coordinated preparation of the center proposal.

2. Effect of lung problems on the heart. Dr. Charles B. Mullins, assistant professor of internal medicine, and Dr. Pierce will share this work.

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3. Formulation of models of chronic bronchitis and emphysema. Dr. Pierce and Dr. Waldemar G. Johanson, instructor in internal medicine, will work in this area.

4. Studies of pulmonary embolism (blood clots in lungs). Dr. James E. Wilson III, instructor in internal medicine, and Dr. Johnson will collaborate.

5. Metabolism of the lung. Dr. Sami I. Said, who has been with the Medical College of Virginia, will join UTSMS to direct this particular study and to act as principal investigator for the entire project in Dallas.

Dr. Said, say Southwestern investigators, has been the first to describe a chemical released by the intestines which seems to affect both circulation and respiration.

The new grant and designation of SCOR centers go beyond the usual type of research grant, say the investigators, in that there will be close interaction with the National Heart and Lung Institute and with the 10 other centers specializing in pulmonary disease.

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