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UT Southwestern faculty receive honors

DALLAS – July 21, 2008 – Faculty members from UT Southwestern Medical Center recently were recognized for achievements in their fields.

Dr. Joel Elmquist, professor of internal medicine at UT Southwestern Medical Center, has received the Ernst Oppenheimer Award from the Endocrine Society. The award recognizes the nation's top investigators under the age of 45 conducting research in basic or clinical endocrinology. Dr. Elmquist, who leads the division of hypothalamic research at UT Southwestern, studies feeding, body-weight control and diabetes. Dr. Elmquist's recognition marks the fifth time in the past 17 years that a faculty member from UT Southwestern has been honored.

Dr. Elliot Frohman, professor of neurology and ophthalmology and director of the Multiple Sclerosis Program and Clinical Center at UT Southwestern Medical Center, and **Dr. Mark Agostini**, assistant professor of neurology, have won Teacher Recognition Awards for 2008 by the A.B. Baker Section on Neurologic Education of the American Academy of Neurology.

"Teaching binds students, residents, faculty, other clinicians, researchers, and even patients, together and helps make our daily work more meaningful," the academy said in a statement.

Drs. Frohman and Agostini were among 27 members of the academy recognized this year.

Dr. Frohman holds the Kenney Marie Dixon-Pickens Distinguished Professorship in Multiple Sclerosis Research and the Irene Wadel and Robert I. Atha Distinguished Chair in Neurology, while Dr. Agostini is co-director of the UT Southwestern neurology clerkship.

The 2008 Roy M. Pitkin Award of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology has been given to **Dr. Donald McIntire** and **Dr. Kenneth Leveno** of UT Southwestern Medical Center, and **Dr. Jason Pates**. Drs. McIntire and Leveno, both professors of obstetrics and gynecology, and Dr. Pates, a former fellow, were honored for the article "Uterine Contractions Preceding Labor."

The research paper was recognized as one of the top five in 2007. The college publishes the journal *Obstetrics and Gynecology*, known as the "Green Journal," the most prestigious in the field. This is the second consecutive year that the department has received this honor.

Dr. Lu Le, assistant instructor of dermatology, has received a 2008 Dermatology Foundation Physician Scientist Career Development Award. The awards are intended to support training in research skills relevant to dermatology and cutaneous biology. Dr. Le was recognized for his research on cell origin and tumor microenvironment in NF-1 associated neurofibroma development. Neurofibromatosis type 1, or NF-1, is among the most common human genetic diseases, causing skin-color changes and tumors along nerves.

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