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UT Southwestern faculty receive honors

DALLAS – Feb. 20, 2007 – Faculty members from UT Southwestern Medical Center recently were recognized for achievements in their fields.

Dr. Xiaodong Wang, professor of biochemistry at UT Southwestern Medical Center, has been awarded the 2007 Richard Lounsbery Award by the National Academy of Sciences for his research on cell death. The prize, for “extraordinary scientific achievement in biology and medicine,” includes \$50,000 and a medal. Dr. Wang, a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator, studies a process of programmed cell death called apoptosis. His research is applicable to many diseases, including cancer, because the malfunction of genes that control apoptosis can cause uncontrolled cell growth.

Dr. James Willson, director of the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center at UT Southwestern Medical Center, has been appointed to the National Cancer Institute’s Board of Scientific Advisors. The panel of medical experts advises the NCI director on a wide variety of matters concerning scientific program policy as well as progress and future direction of extramural research programs of the institute.

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