

news THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT DALLAS

southwestern medical school ■ graduate school of biomedical sciences ■ school of allied health sciences

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Contact: Bob Fenley

*****Grant initiates cooperative research

DALLAS--A Dallas diabetes researcher and a California scientist have been selected as the first recipients of a grant by a new foundation designed to further scientific collaboration of senior scientists at Texas academic institutions with those at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies.

Trustees of the new foundation--The Salk Institute-Texas Research Foundation--selected Professor Roger Unger of The University of Texas Health Science at Dallas and Professor Wylie Vale of The Salk Institute at San Diego to collaborate on studies of the brain hormone somatostatin.

The two will share an initial grant of \$19,400 from the new foundation. Each year a few select projects of research in basic biological and health science fields will be supported by the organization, whose trustees are Mr. C.A. Tatum of Dallas and Messrs. Hugh Q. Buck and Thomas J. Brorby of Houston. Mr. Buck and Mr. Tatum also are trustees of the Salk Institute at San Diego.

Target of the work by Drs. Unger and Vale--somatostatin--is a hormone which controls some aspects of growth. It also controls the production of glucagon, another hormone which plays an instrumental role in blood sugar levels. Its potential importance in diabetes control is being investigated in many quarters today.

It was Dr. Unger who long propounded glucagon as being as important as insulin in blood sugar levels and who developed a sensitive test for glucagon in the body.

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5323 HARRY HINES BLVD. □ DALLAS, TEXAS 75235 □ TEL. (214) 688-3404

first add salk grant

It was for this work that Dr. Unger received the 1975 Banting Medal of the American Diabetes Association, an honorary Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Geneva; Gold Medal of the University of Liege, Belgium; Middleton Award of the Veterans Administration and others.

Professor Vale, born and educated in Houston, is a member of the team at Salk which first synthesized somatostatin.

Another grant of \$18,000 has been made to enable cooperative research between Professor Joe G. Wood, chairman of the Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, and Professor Floyd Bloom of the Salk Institute. The two scientists will collaborate on identifying the sites of action of chemical transmitters in the brain and, in particular, the action of these at nerve junctions.

The new Salk Institute-Texas Research Foundation has been launched by its trustees through an initial grant of \$150,000 from the M.D. Anderson Foundation. While projects generally will be the natural outgrowth of already established cooperation between Salk and Texas scientists, it is hoped existence of the foundation will strengthen and broaden projects undertaken.

The Salk Institute, with a scientific staff of more than 90 Ph.D.'s and M.D.'s working in some of the country's most advanced laboratories, is engaged in biological research with an emphasis on health sciences. Address of the new foundation is The Salk Institute-Texas Research Foundation, P.O. Box 98, Austin, Texas 78767.

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