

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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HEART EXPERT TO EXPLORE BRIDGING BASIC CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH AND PATIENT CARE AT PUBLIC FORUM

DALLAS – May 8, 2002 – One of the nation's leading heart experts will discuss the promise of the landmark Dallas Heart Disease Prevention Project at a May 20 public forum at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

Dr. Kenneth Shine, president of the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine, will explore the primary focus of the heart study – bridging basic research and patient care to improve the cardiovascular health of Dallas County residents and ultimately the 61 million Americans affected by heart disease.

The public forum, sponsored by the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation, begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Excellence in Education Foundation Auditorium in the Simmons Biomedical Research Building on the UT Southwestern North Campus, 6000 Harry Hines Blvd.

The Dallas Heart Disease Prevention Project, also known as the Dallas Heart Study, is led by UT Southwestern researchers and funded by a \$24 million grant awarded in 1999 from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation, after a nationwide competition. The goal of the project, which began in 2000, is to uncover new, treatable causes of heart disease, including their genetic basis, and identify barriers to awareness and treatment of heart disease in various populations.

UT Southwestern researchers recently completed a survey of 15,000 randomly selected Dallas County residents and are now compiling data about participants' blood constituents, body-fat distribution, heart size and shape, and the extent of the disease in the blood vessels of the heart.

In 2000 the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation awarded a second \$24 million grant to Stanford University Medical Center, which established the Donald W. Reynolds Cardiovascular Clinical Research Center at Stanford, where similar heart research is under way. Researchers in the Donald W. Reynolds Cardiovascular Clinical Research Centers at UT Southwestern and

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Stanford, who are collaborating to uncover new breakthroughs in the prevention of cardiovascular disease and to improve patient care, are meeting in Dallas for a two-day symposium.

“The partnership between two premier academic research centers provides a unique opportunity for scientists to form a collaboration and work toward discovering new measures to reduce death and disability from atherosclerotic heart disease and its major complications,” said Dr. Helen Hobbs, director of the Donald W. Reynolds Cardiovascular Clinical Research Center at UT Southwestern.

“Our main goal is to utilize new, basic laboratory findings and apply them to people that are suffering from heart disease,” said Hobbs, who also directs the Eugene McDermott Center for Human Growth and Development and holds the Eugene McDermott Distinguished Chair for the Study of Human Growth and Development and the Dallas Heart Ball Chair in Cardiology Research.

The Donald W. Reynolds Foundation is a national philanthropic organization founded in 1954 by the late media entrepreneur for whom it is named. Headquartered in Las Vegas, Nev., it is one of the largest private foundations in the United States.

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