

News

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****Dr. Alfred Gilman receives AAMC Award for
Distinguished Research in the Biomedical Sciences.

DALLAS -- Dr. Alfred G. Gilman, professor and chairman of the Department of Pharmacology at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, has been honored by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) at its Annual Meeting in Chicago, Nov. 13-17.

Gilman received the AAMC Award for Distinguished Research in the Biomedical Sciences. The award recognizes outstanding clinical or laboratory research conducted by a faculty member at an AAMC-member medical school. It is funded by the Burroughs Wellcome Fund and the Baxter American Foundation.

In honoring Gilman, the AAMC cited his "pathbreaking work with hormones which has been immensely important to the understanding of the communication mechanism between cells. His discovery, characterization and purification of a set of guanine nucleotide binding proteins, termed G proteins, has had an indelible effect on most fields of biology and medicine."

At UT Southwestern Gilman is conducting research in the mechanisms of transmembrane signaling -- how chemical signals that are initiated by hormones and neurotransmitters move from the outside to the inside of cells and control cellular function. This basic scientific research is important for understanding how the body's functions are controlled by the nervous and endocrine systems. It also explains mechanisms of sensation, such as taste, smell, sight and pain.

Gilman received his M.D. and Ph.D. degrees from Case Western Reserve, and he is a summa cum laude graduate of Yale University in biochemistry. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, numerous other medical and academic societies and fraternities, and he has received many prestigious awards and honors. Gilman is the chief editor of the leading pharmacology reference book, "The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics."

Gilman, who has chaired UT Southwestern's pharmacology department since 1981, was named in 1987 the first holder of the Raymond and Ellen Willie Chair in Molecular Neuropharmacology established in honor of Dr. Harold Crasilneck.

Also honored by the AAMC with top awards were Dr. Michael E. DeBakey, chancellor of the Baylor College of Medicine, and Dr. Thomas H. Hunter, a former president of the AAMC who is professor emeritus of medicine at the University of Virginia School of Medicine.

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Note: The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas comprises Southwestern Medical School, Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Southwestern Allied Health Sciences School.