

Media Contact: Rachel Skei Donihoo  
214-648-3404  
[rachel.donihoo@utsouthwestern.edu](mailto:rachel.donihoo@utsouthwestern.edu)

## **A.L. Chilton Foundation pledges \$700,000 to create new biochemistry faculty position and fellowship at UT Southwestern**

DALLAS – July 19, 2007 – The A.L. Chilton Foundation has pledged \$700,000 to support biochemistry research programs at UT Southwestern Medical Center, where it has a five-decade history of giving.

The latest gift will fund a new Scholar in Biochemistry, continue bringing a visiting professor to campus each year and establish a biochemistry fellowship.

The Chilton/Bell Fund for Scholars in Biomedical Research and the Chilton/Bell Biochemistry Research Fellowship Fund are named for Arthur L. Chilton, who established the foundation in 1945, and his longtime business associate and friend who chaired his foundation, F. Andrew Bell.

The new fellowship will be awarded to the biochemistry graduate student or postdoctoral trainee whom the department chairman selects as the best biochemistry trainee-of-the-year.

“As evidenced by our long history of giving to UT Southwestern, we are enormously proud of our relationship with what we regard to be one of the finest medical institutions in the country,” said Patti Brown, Mr. Bell’s daughter and a trustee of the foundation. “We’re very excited about the programs our latest gift will support, and we look forward to seeing new research unfold as these young scientists’ careers continue to grow.”

Additionally, the Chilton Foundation will continue supporting the Chilton Distinguished Visiting Professorship program, as well as clinical programs at UT Southwestern University Hospitals.

Mr. Chilton founded Sky Broadcasting System, which owned radio stations in Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas.

The Chilton Foundation actively supports medical research, educational and religious organizations. The foundation – inspired by Mr. Chilton’s interest in lipid metabolism and obesity research – began supporting UT Southwestern students in biochemistry in the 1950s. That support grew into a long-term commitment to the Department of Biochemistry. Mr. Chilton died in 1973, but the trustees of the foundation have continued to carry out his philanthropic mission.

The Chilton Foundation’s substantial gifts to UT Southwestern, which total more than \$5 million, have created the Mar Nell and F. Andrew Bell Distinguished Chair in Biochemistry (2003); the Sam G. Winstead and F. Andrew Bell Distinguished Chair in Biochemistry (1985); and the A.L. Chilton Distinguished Visiting Professorship in Biochemistry (1975).

“The long and loyal history of the Chilton Foundation support at UT Southwestern has been of exceptional importance to our emergence as an internationally renowned leader in biochemistry

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research,” said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of the medical center. “These latest commitments, which will support our \$500 million *Innovations in Medicine* campaign, will ensure our continued excellence in the field. We are tremendously grateful for the foundation’s great friendship and ongoing confidence in our institution.”

Dr. John Macmillan, assistant professor of biochemistry, has been named the Chilton/Bell Scholar in Biochemistry Research, and Dr. Carrie Partch, a postdoctoral trainee, has been given the Chilton/Bell Fellowship Award in Biochemistry.

Dr. MacMillan earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Iowa and his doctorate from the University of California, Davis. Before joining the UT Southwestern faculty, he worked at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego, where he studied marine bacteria isolated from the sea floor for their potential use in drug discovery.

Dr. MacMillan’s research goals include the discovery and characterization of new, biologically active natural products from marine microorganisms. His work focuses on exploring microbes in deep-water marine sediments, such as in the Gulf of Mexico, as a source of new compounds with novel mechanisms of action against disease. He uses a combination of fermentation science, high-throughput screening techniques, and analytical and synthetic chemistry to further develop promising compounds into drug candidates.

“This is a wonderful honor, and I’m very proud to be a part of a program – and a medical center – of this caliber,” Dr. MacMillan said. “With the Chilton Foundation’s indispensable support, I look forward to exploring new and novel lines of research.”

Dr. Partch earned her bachelor’s degree from the University of Washington and her doctorate from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. In 2006 she entered UT Southwestern’s postdoctoral research program, where her work focuses on the structure and function of two cancer-related proteins (transcription factors) that regulate how and when genes are turned “on” or “off.”

Dr. Partch’s research has garnered her numerous honors, including the Predoctoral National Research Service Award from the National Cancer Institute and the Predoctoral National Research Service Award from the National Institute of Mental Health.

“Receiving the Chilton/Bell Fellowship means a great deal to me because of the longstanding relationship between the foundation and the Department of Biochemistry, and I’m truly proud to be part of that legacy,” she said. “This award will be invaluable to me as I take on new research, and I’m so grateful to the Chilton Foundation for the opportunity it has given me.”

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