

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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DALLAS--A researcher at The University of Texas Health Science Center here has received a \$42,196 grant from the American Cancer Society for basic scientific studies in the genetic regulation of energy systems in living cells.

Dr. Ronald A. Butow, associate professor of Biochemistry, is particularly interested in the interaction of the genetic system of the mitochondria--the so-called energy center of the cell--with that of the cell's nucleus.

Questions which have arisen from observation of cancer cells make this area of genetic control attractive to researchers.

Dr. Butow will use the cells of baker's yeast in his investigation because the mitochondric system can be turned on and off with relative ease. He will attempt to induce mutations in the system by ultraviolet radiation and chemicals.

"What we're trying to understand is how the main nuclear system and the mitochondric system co-exist," added Dr. Butow. He noted that in cancer tissues, an upset of the energy system seems to exist.

The scientist's grant is scheduled to run for a year with an additional year's support assured if funds are available.

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