

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES ELECTS UT SOUTHWESTERN'S MACDONALD

DALLAS — September 27, 1997 — The American Academy of Arts and Sciences today inducted UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas physician researcher Dr. Paul MacDonald to membership in the 216-year-old society.

MacDonald, director of the Cecil H. and Ida Green Center for Reproductive Biology Sciences, is known for demonstrating that the hormone estrogen is synthesized not only in female ovaries but also in the brain and adipose, or fatty tissues, of both men and women.

The American Academy of Arts and Sciences was established in 1780 by John Adams. This year the organization's members elected 151 new fellows and 14 foreign honorary members in recognition of their contributions to science, education, public affairs and the arts. Three other Texans — from UT Austin, the UT Health Science Center at Houston and the Kimball Art Museum, Fort Worth — were honored this year besides MacDonald.

"I was shocked when I heard I had been elected," said MacDonald. "I'm very pleased and proud to be part of this prestigious group. This honor is certainly largely due to the strength and recognition of UT Southwestern and its renowned faculty."

Recently, much of MacDonald's work has focused on what triggers the onset of labor, especially pre-term labor resulting in pre-term birth. "One of the things we're studying

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is what causes fetal membranes to rupture prematurely," he said. "That is a major cause of premature birth.

"We are interested in facets of reproductive biology from the basic science point of view with the long-range goal of applying this knowledge to human problems," said MacDonald, who holds the Cecil H. and Ida Green Distinguished Chair in Reproductive Biology Sciences. He served as chairman of UT Southwestern's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology from 1969 to 1977.

Academy members meet to exchange ideas and promote knowledge for the public interest. There are now more than 4,000 fellows and foreign honorary members including 160 Nobel laureates and 64 Pulitzer Prize winners.

MacDonald is the 11th UT Southwestern faculty member elected to the academy. The others are: Dr. Donald Seldin (1974), Dr. Michael Brown (1981), Dr. Joseph Goldstein (1981), Dr. Jean Wilson (1982), Dr. Samuel McCann (1987), Dr. Alfred Gilman (1988), Dr. Daniel Foster (1992), Dr. David Garbers (1992), Dr. Jonathan Uhr (1993) and Dr. Roger Unger (1994).

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