



DALLAS--The Mary Lard Charitable Trust of Fort Worth has granted \$10,000 to The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School at Dallas for leukemia research, Dr. Charles C. Sprague, dean of the school, announced today.

The grant will enable researchers directed by Dr. Eugene P. Frenkel, professor of internal medicine, to pursue studies in two important areas, the dean said.

One project involves attempts to alter the ability of leukemia cells to repair themselves after treatment with anti-leukemic drugs.

"We have a large spectrum of drugs available to treat the various types of leukemias," Dr. Frenkel explains, "but their effectiveness is hampered by the unique ability of the leukemic cell to repair itself after drug therapy since only partial damage occurs to some of the cells."

Medical school scientists are attempting to block these repair mechanisms biochemically, to permit more effective cell-kill with available drugs. They also seek to disrupt the "salvage" process whereby leukemic cells scavenge debris from other cells for regrowth.

The second research area involves turning the body's own immunologic or defense mechanism against abnormal cell growth.

UTSMS studies have shown that leukemic cells under certain circumstances contain identifiable foreign protein molecules capable of triggering an immunologic response in the patient, Dr. Frenkel said.

Researchers are working to isolate these foreign molecules and exploit them to stimulate production of specific antibodies that will selectively destroy the leukemic cells containing them, leaving normal cells undamaged.

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