

news *THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT DALLAS*

southwestern medical school ■ graduate school of biomedical sciences ■ school of allied health sciences

Contact: Bob Fenley

Dr. William A. Pettinger of The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School at Dallas is the recipient of the coveted Burroughs Wellcome Clinical Pharmacology Award for 1974.

As the 23rd Burroughs Wellcome Scholar, Dr. Pettinger, professor of pharmacology and internal medicine at Southwestern, will expand his activities to form a Division of Clinical Pharmacology at the school.

Announcement of the award was made jointly by Dr. George H. Hitchings, president of The Burroughs Wellcome Fund and Dr. Charles C. Sprague, president of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas.

The 1974 award of \$150,000 is intended to support Dr. Pettinger's work for a period of five years. The aim of the awards is to stimulate excellence in teaching, training and research in clinical pharmacology. The programs are based around a top-flight scientist in the field of clinical pharmacology.

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The Burroughs Wellcome Fund is a private, nonprofit agency established in 1955 by Burroughs Wellcome & Co. (U.S.A.) Inc., a leading pharmaceutical company. In 1959, the directors of the fund decided to support an annual competitive award in an effort to further teaching, training and research in clinical pharmacology and to support the career development of clinical pharmacologists. Since the award's inception, \$2.5 million has been awarded to 21 medical schools in support of their developing sections of clinical pharmacology.

The medical scientists who become Burroughs Wellcome Scholars are selected by a distinguished scientific advisory committee. Members of the panel selecting Dr. Pettinger were Dr. A. McGehee Harvey, professor and director of the Department of Medicine at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, as chairman; Dr. A.S.V. Burgen, director of the National Institute for Medical Research, London; Dr. Julius H. Comroe Jr., director of the Cardiovascular Research Institute, University of California Medical Center; Dr. Alfred Gilman, professor of pharmacology at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and lecturer in pharmacology at Yale University School of Medicine; and Dr. Howard H. Hiatt, dean of the Harvard School of Public Health and professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School.

With the support of the fund, Southwestern and Dr. Pettinger will be able to expand a current one-man unit to a fully operational Division of Clinical Pharmacology with three faculty positions. The program involves the cooperation of the departments of Pharmacology, Medicine, Anesthesiology and Pediatrics at the medical school.

Dr. Pettinger has more than 30 scientific publications with particular emphasis on the mechanisms of hypertension (high blood pressure) and the relationships of these mechanisms to drug therapy. One major thrust of this new program will be research with new drugs that combat high blood pressure and arrest or reverse the progression of the disease. Another major area developing in Burroughs-Wellcome supported centers is provision of therapeutic drug-blood level determinations as a vehicle for teaching physicians and students. The ultimate goal is to provide the advantages of new and potent drugs for patients without inducing deleterious side effects, Dr. Pettinger said.

Health Science Center President Dr. Charles Sprague commented that this latest award was especially appropriate "since hypertension and cardiovascular disease combine to be the greatest killers of human beings, and drug therapy in this field holds potential of great benefit." "We are deeply appreciative of this honor bestowed on Southwestern and Dr. Pettinger," he said.

Dr. Pettinger is a member of the Council on High Blood Pressure Research for the American Heart Association and the Southern Society for Clinical Investigation. He is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and of Cardiology and a member of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics, the American Medical Association and the New York Academy of Sciences.

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He holds a B.S. degree in mathematics, an M.S. in physiology and an M.D. from The Creighton University. His internship and residency in Internal Medicine were at the New Jersey College of Medicine and Yale University - Grace New Haven Hospital. Dr. Pettinger was a clinical investigator in the Section of Clinical Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics at the National Heart Institute. He was a post-doctoral fellow and instructor and assistant professor in clinical pharmacology at Vanderbilt. He joined Hoffmann-La Roche in 1967 in Clinical Pharmacology. He became director of cardiovascular-renal pharmacology in 1969 while continuing his academic role as associate clinical professor at the New Jersey College of Medicine.

Dr. Pettinger who joined Southwestern Medical School in 1971, is the author of a great number of scientific papers dealing with drugs, mechanism of hypertension and other diseases.

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