

# News

Office of Medical Information  
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas  
5323 Harry Hines Boulevard Dallas, Texas 75235-9060 214/688-3404

May 6, 1988

CONTACT: Diane Adell  
OFFICE: 214/688-3404  
HOME: 214/750-6009

\*\*\*\*UT Southwestern researcher  
receives neurochemistry award.

DALLAS -- Dr. Scott Brady, assistant professor of cell biology and anatomy at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, recently received the 1988 Jordi Folch-Pi Memorial Award from the American Society of Neurochemistry. The award, which recognizes a young investigator who has made outstanding contributions in neuroscience research, was presented in March at the 19th annual meeting for the American Society of Neurochemistry.

Brady, in collaboration with researchers at UT Southwestern and elsewhere, has been a leading force in research on the cell biology of the nervous system -- especially in the area of protein transport. The type of transport Brady studies, which is usually called axonal transport, plays a critical role in the growth and maintenance of nerve cells as well as in regeneration of nerve fibers. Defects in axonal transport may be involved in a number of diseases including diabetic neuropathy, Lou Gehrig's disease (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) and Alzheimer's disease.

Brady's work has focused on transport along the axon, a thin extension which connects a nerve cell body to the branched ends of the cell. Proteins for cell growth and function must be transported along the length of the axon, which can range from less than a millimeter to over a meter long.

Through his research, Brady has identified an enzyme which is likely to be a "motor" involved in fast axonal transport. Brady says, "Discoveries such as this one -- that show us a door we never knew existed, a door that opens the way to a whole new area of research -- are very rare. As we begin to understand these motors, we will better understand how the nervous system works and how a nerve cell is made."

XXX

Distribution: SL

Note: The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas comprises Southwestern Medical School, Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Southwestern Allied Health Sciences School.