

# SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

Contact: Heather Stieglitz  
(214) 648-3404  
e-mail: hstieg@mednet.swmed.edu

## UT SOUTHWESTERN RESEARCH PAYS OFF

DALLAS — April 3, 1997 — UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas ranks among the top 20 U.S. universities in the amount of revenue generated from licensed patents and technologies, the Association of University Technology Managers reported.

Its figures show UT Southwestern received \$3,185,000 in royalty revenues during fiscal 1995, ranking it 17th among U.S. universities and first in Texas.

The statistics, released last month, placed the combined University of California System first with \$57.2 million. Stanford University and Columbia University ranked second and third with \$38.9 million and \$34.2 million respectively. A total of 127 U.S. universities were ranked. "We deal in the futures business. We are working now on innovations that will pay off 10 to 15 years down the road," said Ray Wheatley, director of UT Southwestern's office of technology transfer.

"A substantial portion of recent years' income is derived from license agreements executed in the early 1980s," said Katherine L. Chapman, vice president for legal affairs and technology transfer. "Technology transfer requires patience and investment of time and money."

Medical center innovations range from medical devices and biotechnological inventions to software and videotapes.

In 1995, the UT Southwestern technology transfer office received 54 new disclosures, had 18 U.S. patents issued and handled 12 license and option agreements. In 1996 new disclosures increased 35 percent, and license and option agreements rose 67 percent.

Data gathered by the Association of University Technology Managers indicate that in 1995 licensing of university inventions led to the creation of an estimated 180,000 new jobs nationwide and the formation of 223 new companies.

New products are being developed faster than ever before, as a result of the 1980 Bayh-Dole Act, which enables universities to own and patent inventions developed under

(MORE)

## RESEARCH PAYS OFF — 2

federally funded research programs. Prior to 1980, few patents were issued to universities, and many innovations never made it to the marketplace.

The licensing of patents and technologies also benefits UT Southwestern's faculty who originate the ideas.

"Our policy of sharing with faculty who invent is very generous when compared to many other institutions. After costs, the inventor receives 50 percent of the revenue. Of the 50 percent retained by UT Southwestern, half is returned to the faculty member's laboratory for further research," Chapman said.

Technology transfer is the transfer of innovations from academic research centers to commercial businesses. The process begins with the disclosure of new potential inventions by the researcher. The technology transfer office then "manages" the disclosure, filing for patents when and if appropriate. The next step is to identify a commercial partner to whom the university will license the invention for commercial development. An invention does not have to be patented to be licensed. The entire process from disclosure to licensing can take several years, and many more years usually are needed before a return on the investment is realized.

Not all university patents are licensed or result in products in the marketplace. However, UT Southwestern is more successful than most.

"The quality of research at UT Southwestern leads to a great deal of interest from industry. Sixty percent of our issued U.S. patents are or were the subject of an option or license for commercial development. Among U.S. universities, we believe this is a very high percentage," Wheatley said.

Information on UT Southwestern's intellectual property can be obtained at the newly relocated technology transfer office on the 2nd floor of the UT Southwestern administration building or accessed via the UT Southwestern technology transfer home page:

**[http://www.swmed.edu/home\\_pages/technology\\_transfer/ott1.htm](http://www.swmed.edu/home_pages/technology_transfer/ott1.htm)**

###

This news release is available on our World Wide Web home page at  
<http://www.swmed.edu/news/newspubs.htm/>