

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

Media contact: Heidi Harris Cannella
214-648-3404
heidi.cannella@email.swmed.edu

UT SOUTHWESTERN PRESIDENT ELECTED TO INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE

DALLAS – October 13, 1999 – The president of UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas has been elected to the Institute of Medicine. Dr. Kern Wildenthal became the 13th

UT Southwestern physician/scientist elected to the prestigious organization charged with addressing national health issues.

A component of the National Academy of Sciences – but with separate membership – the Institute of Medicine shapes policies affecting public health and advises the federal government on issues regarding medical care, research and education. Selection requires international distinction in science, clinical medicine, public health or medical administration.

Institute of Medicine inductees are elected by incumbent members on the basis of professional achievement and of demonstrated interest, concern and involvement with problems and critical issues that affect the public's health. Dr. Daniel Foster, a member of the Institute since 1989 and chairman of internal medicine at UT Southwestern, nominated Wildenthal.

“By his brilliant leadership Dr. Wildenthal has transformed a state medical school into an elite research institution deserving inclusion in the top tier of academic medical schools,” said Foster, holder of the Donald W. Seldin Distinguished Chair in Internal Medicine, in his nomination proposal. “I know of no more inspirational academic leader in the nation. He is a premier role model of scientist turned administrator. He is trusted by the faculty because of his high academic standards and because of his ability to evoke loyalty and citizenship in the quest for academic excellence.”

Wildenthal's nomination was co-sponsored by Dr. Ron Anderson, chief executive officer of Parkland Health & Hospital System and professor of internal medicine at UT Southwestern.

“Kern Wildenthal's leadership has been a driving force in the achievements of UT Southwestern over the last several decades,” Anderson said. “He is an extremely capable administrator; he is politically astute; and he is a well-recognized leader both locally and at the

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state and national levels. He has been instrumental in creating an environment that recruits and nurtures young scientists as well as supporting seasoned researchers.”

Wildenthal became president of UT Southwestern in 1986. Six years earlier he had become dean of Southwestern Medical School at the age of 38, making him the youngest dean ever of a major medical school. Prior to that, he had served as dean of Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

His career in medicine actually started at Southwestern Medical School, where he enrolled at the age of 18. His post-medical school training took him to Bellevue Hospital in New York City for an internship in cardiology, brought him back to UT Southwestern for a residency and postdoctoral fellowship, sent him across the country to Washington, D.C., where he was a guest scientist at the National Institutes of Health, and, finally, carried him across the Atlantic, where he earned a doctorate in cell physiology from the University of Cambridge in England and served as a visiting scientist at the Strangeways Research Laboratory.

In 1970 he joined the faculty of Southwestern Medical School as an assistant professor of internal medicine. Five years later he won a Guggenheim Fellowship to teach for a year at Cambridge, the same year his Southwestern students voted him outstanding teacher of the year. Upon his return, he embarked on his administrative career.

Under Wildenthal's deanships and presidency, the medical center has seen the awarding of four Nobel prizes and the induction of 12 members into the National Academy of Sciences. He was influential in the building of Zale Lipshy University Hospital, a much-needed private, referral hospital for UT Southwestern faculty physicians. And he has made history with fund-raising in Dallas, increasing annual giving to UT Southwestern by tenfold over the past decade, including seven gifts over \$20 million.

Raising money is not an end in itself to Wildenthal, however. It is merely the means to attract the best and the brightest to Dallas, and Wildenthal's vision has done just that.

“Being part of the Institute of Medicine is a great privilege and I am very honored to join the distinguished clinicians, scientists and administrators who make up its membership,” Wildenthal said.

Dr. Foster said: “I am delighted that Kern Wildenthal was elected to the Institute of

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Medicine. He has a national reputation because of the faculty he has assembled, because of his ability to raise philanthropic funds for support of research and because he has provided far-sighted leadership.”

A native of San Marcos, Wildenthal’s interests extend beyond medicine and science. His leadership abilities have served him well as a board member of the Dallas Museum of Art, the Dallas Opera and the Dallas Symphony Association. He has been married to Marnie Dehlinger Wildenthal for 35 years and has two daughters and two grandchildren.

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UT Southwestern Institute of Medicine members

1999 Kern Wildenthal, M.D, Ph.D.
1997 Ron Anderson, M.D.
1995 Scott Grundy, M.D., Ph.D.
1994 Jean Wilson, M.D.
1989 Alfred Gilman, M.D., Ph.D.
1989 Daniel Foster, M.D.
1987 Paul MacDonald, M.D. (deceased)
1987 Joseph Goldstein, M.D.
1987 Michael Brown, M.D.
1979 Charles Sprague, M.D.
1975 Ronald Estabrook, Ph.D.
1974 Donald Seldin, M.D.
1970 Bryan Williams. M.D.

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