

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

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

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Contact: Christopher Land
Office: 214/688-3404
Home: 214/351-5624

*****Dallas scientists who discovered a mechanism by which the body controls production of cholesterol will deliver Harvey Lecture.

DALLAS--Drs. Michael S. Brown and Joseph L. Goldstein, co-holders of the Paul J. Thomas Chair of Medicine at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School at Dallas, have been selected to deliver one of the seventy-third annual Harvey Lectures. The lectureships, five of which are given each year, are among the most prestigious in the United States in the medical sciences.

The young Dallas researchers have received a number of other top honors recently--including Germany's Heinrich Weiland Prize and the American Chemical Society's Pfizer Award in Enzyme Chemistry--for their discovery of a specific inherited defect in the body's cells which results in high levels of cholesterol.

Working with members of families with hypercholesterolemia (excess cholesterol in the blood), Brown and Goldstein found that the sparsity--or sometimes, complete lack--of specialized receptors on the cell's outer membrane means fat production inside the cell goes out of control. Victims of this genetic defect often die of heart attacks at an early age.

The discovery has major implications for both heart disease research and the study of certain other genetic disorders, which also ultimately may prove to result from inherited abnormalities in cell receptors.

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Brown and Goldstein will present their Harvey Lecture, "Familial Hypercholesterolemia: A Model for Genetic Receptor Diseases," November 17 at New York City's Rockefeller University. The lectures are given each year under the auspices of The Harvey Society of New York, which was organized in 1905 and is dedicated to "the diffusion of scientific knowledge in selected chapters of the biological sciences through the medium of public delivery and printed publication of lectures."

Dr. Goldstein is head of the Division of Medical Genetics at Southwestern. He is a 1966 graduate of the school and at that time received Southwestern's highest honor--the Ho Din Award.

Dr. Brown graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in 1966, where he was awarded the David Drabkin Prize in Biochemistry and the Packard Prize in Internal Medicine. He joined the Department of Internal Medicine at Southwestern in 1971.

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