

UT News

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****Clinical Nutrition Scholars program
established at UTHSCD

DALLAS -- The Center for Human Nutrition at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas has been awarded grants totaling \$750,000 to establish the Clinical Nutrition Research Scholars program.

The Noble Foundation of Ardmore, Okla., contributed \$500,000 over five years to support two scholars. A contribution of \$250,000 from a Dallas foundation will support a third scholar for five years.

Dr. Scott Grundy, director of the Center for Human Nutrition, calls the Noble Foundation grant a milestone in research in nutrition. "Up to 20 percent of faculty research is related to nutrition. Despite the fact that nutrition is such an important subject for the medical profession, there are no established pathways for training outstanding young physicians to do research in clinical nutrition. The scholars program provides this opportunity."

Clinical Nutrition Scholars will be selected from physicians who have completed a residency and a two-year specialty fellowship. Candidates for scholars will be proposed by senior faculty at UT Southwestern Medical School. Each position will be awarded for a period of three to five years.

The nutrition center has designated three of its nine laboratories for collaborative research into atherosclerosis and heart disease, two for diabetes, and one each for cancer, osteoporosis and pediatrics. Each laboratory will be supervised by a Clinical Nutrition Research Scholar. The scholar will be the liaison with the health science center's collaborating departments and its outstanding research scientists.

The strength of the faculty who will help select the scholars and with whom the scholars will work makes this program unique in scientific nutrition among medical schools in the United States.

Investigators presently studying the atherosclerosis problem include Drs. Joseph Goldstein, Michael Brown, John Dietschy and David Bilheimer. The Center for Human Nutrition has been at the forefront of testing diet and drugs to control blood lipid levels.

Collaborative research on diabetes will be directed by Drs. Roger Unger and Daniel Foster, both Banting Award winners. Research on cancer and nutrition will be in cooperation with Dr. Michael Bennett, a pathologist and expert on tumor biology.

Dr. Charles Y.K. Pak, chief of the Mineral Metabolism Unit, will direct research into nutrition and osteoporosis. Dr. Ricardo Uauy, an authority on pediatric nutrition who is now doing research into the feeding of low-birthweight premature infants, will direct a study on the effect of early diet on plasma lipids and cholesterol in children.

The Noble Foundation's support of two nutrition research scholars at UTHSCD is in addition to the eight staff members who do nutrition research at the foundation's headquarters in Ardmore. The Noble Foundation, which also supports cancer, atherosclerosis and agricultural research, was established by Lloyd Noble in 1945 in memory of his father, Samuel Roberts Noble, an early-day merchant in southern Oklahoma. John F. Snodgrass is the president of the Noble Foundation.

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