

NEWS

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
SOUTHWESTERN
MEDICAL SCHOOL AT DALLAS



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DALLAS--Research exploring animals' cholesterol-regulating process and the disease immunities of residents of a flood-prone Dallas neighborhood has won prizes for two University of Texas Southwestern Medical School students.

Alan Swann, junior medical student from Hurst, and Robert W. Haley, senior from Dallas, received top awards at the eighth annual UTSMS Student Research Forum Monday night at the Marriott Motor Hotel. Some 125 students and faculty members attended.

Each winner received \$100 cash and expense-paid trips to the national research meeting of their choice. Dr. Charles C. Sprague, UTSMS dean, presented the awards.

Five other finalists received \$100 prizes. They are F. Michael Schultz, Douglas Wooldridge, Alan Kohl, James E. Helgeson and Barry L. O'Neal.

A total of seventeen contestants each received \$25 book gift certificates. Faculty representatives and department heads judged entries.

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Swann, whose research was conducted under the preceptorship of Dr. Marvin D. Siperstein, professor of internal medicine, conducted experiments which showed how normal animal tissues control the amount of cholesterol produces. The studies demonstrated that other organs than the liver are capable of synthesizing major amounts of cholesterol, he said.

Haley studied blood samples of 214 residents of Roosevelt Heights, an often-flooded addition in South Dallas. He reported finding unusually high amounts of antibodies against St. Louis encephalitis and other mosquito-borne viruses.

The high incidence of natural immunity against encephalitis helps explain why no cases of the disease were recorded in the area during a 1966 epidemic, Haley said. The community apparently has experienced recurrent encephalitis infection, with previous low-grade or subclinical infections providing residents with immunity at the time of the epidemic.

Dr. James Luby, assistant professor of internal medicine, was preceptor for Haley's project, conducted in July, 1970.

The research forum audience also heard a lecture by Dr. Frank Dixon, chairman of experimental pathology at Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation in La Jolla, Calif., on glomerulonephritis, a kidney disease.

Dr. John Fordtran, UTSMS professor of internal medicine, was faculty chairman of the forum. Allan Metz, senior medical student, served as student chairman.

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