

News

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****Merck Scholars program established
at UT Southwestern Medical Center
with \$1 million grant

A \$1-million Merck Scholars program has been established at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. The university's president, Kern Wildenthal, M.D., Ph.D., announced today that the Merck Company Foundation of Rahway, N.J., pledged \$1 million over a 10-year period to support the research of young investigators in the Department of Internal Medicine.

"We have enjoyed a productive collaboration with a number of eminent scientists at Southwestern. We hope our pledge will help sustain the high academic and research standards for which Southwestern is known," said Dr. Edward M. Scolnick, president of the Merck Sharp & Dohme Research Laboratories.

Dr. Wildenthal said establishment of the program will help in recruiting promising young scientists. "This grant will allow the center to continue to attract young scientists who are on the cutting edge of research."

The university has enjoyed a mutually beneficial relationship with Merck for many years. In addition to funding several large research projects at the medical center, the Merck Sharp & Dohme

(More)

Merck scholarship--2

Research Laboratories contribute \$35,000 a year for predoctoral and postdoctoral fellowships at the university.

Sandra Lee Hofmann, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of molecular genetics, is the first Merck Scholar. Her research involves the biochemistry and molecular biology of calcium regulation in the muscle cells of the heart and blood vessels. She is also studying the way cell receptors on arterial walls interact with blood components to promote atherosclerosis -- the buildup of plaque that clogs arteries and causes coronary heart disease.

Dr. Hofmann received both M.D. and Ph.D. degrees in 1983 after completing the Medical Scientist Training Program at Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Mo. While there, she received the National Research Service Award.

She performed a residency in internal medicine at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis and received a postdoctoral fellowship in hematology-oncology at Washington University Medical Center.

Dr. Hofman received a Clinician-Scientist Award from the American Heart Association-Squibb in 1986.

Merck is a worldwide, research-intensive health products company that discovers, develops, produces and markets human and animal health products and specialty chemicals. In 1989, Merck plans to spend \$755 million on research and development.

The Merck Company Foundation was established in 1957. Funded entirely by Merck, the foundation is the chief source of company support to educational and non-profit organizations.

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