SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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CYTOKINES: MEDICAL MIRACLE MOLECULES OF THE FUTURE

DALLAS — October 17, 1995 — Five of the world's leading medical researchers will offer a rare peek at the medicine of tomorrow during a 3:45 p.m. panel discussion Oct. 27 at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

The panel culminates a two-day symposium, "Molecular Medicine: Cytokines in Health and Disease." Cytokines are peptides that regulate inflammation and immune responses as well as cell differentiation and growth. Sponsored by Southwestern Medical Foundation, the free public symposium opens at 8:30 a.m. on Oct. 26 in Tom and Lula Gooch Auditorium at UT Southwestern.

On Friday afternoon, Oct. 27, the panel of medical scientists will discuss "Future Directions for Basic Research and Therapy." Panelists include Dr. William E. Paul, director of the National Institutes of Health's Office of AIDS Research and chief of the NIH Laboratory of Immunology; Dr. Maureen Howard, director of immunology at the DNAX Research Institute of Molecular and Cellular Biology, Palo Alto, Calif.; Dr. Donald Metcalf, a research professor of cancer biology at the University of Melbourne and head of the Cancer Research Unit at Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Melbourne, Australia; Dr. Charles Dinarello, professor of medicine and pediatrics, Tufts University School of Medicine; and Dr. Harvey Lodish, professor of biology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a member of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research.

Dr. Donald W. Seldin will chair the panel discussion. A professor of internal medicine and holder of the William Buchanan Chair in Internal Medicine at UT Southwestern, Seldin is Southwestern Medical Foundation's vice president for medical center relations.

"Cytokines are a burgeoning area of the utmost importance and excitement," Seldin said.

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"Unraveling cytokine function offers opportunities for major advances in the understanding and treatment of disease."

Cytokines may be developed that can be administered as drugs to control or cure viral and other infectious diseases and inhibit abnormal cell growth, to expedite wound healing, bone remodeling and repair of the highly specialized tissues of the nervous system, and to stimulate the formation of blood cells, he explained.

Cytokines can be secreted by virtually every cell in the body. Often they act on the very cell that produces them or on adjacent cells.

Some of the most important families of cytokines are growth factors, lymphokines, interferons, colony-stimulating factors and tumor-necrosis factors. Speakers during the two-day symposium will present the latest developments in each of these areas of research.

Southwestern Medical Foundation sponsors a scientific symposium biennially at UT Southwestern. "We are proud to be sponsoring a symposium on research that could be so important to the future of medicine," said Paul M. Bass, chairman of the board of the foundation.

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