

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

Media contact: Susan A. Steeves
214-648-3404
susan.steeves@email.swmed.edu

STATE PROGRAM GRANTS \$3.6 MILLION TO UT SOUTHWESTERN

DALLAS — December 21, 1999 — The Texas Advanced Research Program/Advanced Technology Program (ARP/ATP) 1999 has made grants totaling \$3.67 million to UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. The amount allocated to UT Southwestern was the highest of any medical center in the state.

The grants will fund 21 research programs at UT Southwestern. The ARP/ATP awarded \$60.52 million this year to support 410 projects at 44 state colleges and universities.

The funding for projects at UT Southwestern range from \$10,115 to \$285,500. The largest amount was awarded to Dr. Roger Schultz, assistant professor of pathology and an investigator in the Eugene McDermott Center for Growth and Human Development. He will develop an automated workstation using hyperspectral microscopic imaging for early cancer detection. Hyperspectral imaging uses the whole color spectrum, allowing many different parameters to be evaluated at the same time. For example, the computer analysis of information collected with this microscope can be used to identify specific kinds of cells and sort out changes in selected genes within those cells. In this project, the technology will identify tumor cells in the blood, as well as identify specific changes in the genes present in those tumor cells.

Four researchers at UT Southwestern received \$225,000 each for their scientific investigations. They are: Dr. Jonathan Uhr, professor of microbiology and internal medicine; Dr. Ellen Vitetta, director of the Cancer Immunobiology; Dr. Eric Olson, chairman of molecular biology and director of the Nancy B. and Jake L. Hamon Center for Basic Research in Cancer; and Dr. Carmela Morales, assistant professor of internal medicine.

The grants are made through the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board on a competitive, peer-reviewed basis. Fifteen review panels were appointed to decide which of the 2,200 proposals would receive funding. The panelists were not affiliated with any Texas university, and most were from higher-education institutions outside Texas.

###

This news release is available on our World Wide Web home page at
http://www.swmed.edu/home_pages/news/