

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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NEW CHAIR HONORS FORMER UT SOUTHWESTERN DERMATOLOGY CHAIRMAN DR. JAMES GILLIAM

DALLAS – August 29, 2000 – Family, colleagues and friends of Dr. James N. Gilliam have established an endowment in his honor in the UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas Department of Dermatology, which he chaired from 1979 until his death from cancer in 1984.

The campaign to raise the \$500,000 for an endowed chair was headed by a committee that included UT Southwestern faculty members, Gilliam's widow, Dr. Anita Gilliam, and his brother, John Gilliam, all of whom also participate as donors. The James N. Gilliam, M.D., Chair in Dermatology will be held by Dr. Paul R. Bergstresser, Gilliam's successor as chairman of dermatology. It will support studies into the treatment of diseases of greatest interest to the late dermatologist, including lupus, scleroderma, and vasculitis.

"James Gilliam saw skin as a window to systemic disease," said Bergstresser. "He was a major figure in investigative dermatology and as exceptional a human being as he was a physician. It is a tremendous honor to be linked to him through this chair. He is someone I will always remember as a dear friend and esteemed colleague."

Gilliam became world-renowned because of his research in lupus erythematosus and related collagen diseases. He attracted a core of outstanding investigators to the department during his tenure.

Trained at Stanford University and Southwestern Medical School, where he would launch his career in 1972, Gilliam's successful academic record was marked by memberships in the American Society for Clinical Investigation and the American Dermatological Association. He received

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numerous grants and awards from the Veterans Administration and the United States Public Health Service and wrote many clinical and experimental publications. At the time of his death, Gilliam was serving as a director of the Society for Investigative Dermatology and as a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Investigative Dermatology*.

"Jim Gilliam was one of those rare physicians whose clinical sensitivity was matched only by his scientific accomplishments," said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern. "We were pleased and proud about the response we received from those who wished to honor Dr. Gilliam. Their enthusiasm and generosity is a testament to the impact Jim had on all who knew him as a doctor and friend."

Bergstresser, who earned his medical degree from Stanford University School of Medicine in 1968, joined the UT Southwestern faculty as an assistant professor in 1976 after appointments at the Irwin Army Hospital in Fort Riley, Kansas, and the University of Miami School of Medicine. He is a member of the American Board of Dermatology, is president of the Association of Professors of Dermatology and serves as secretary-treasurer of the Society for Investigative Dermatology. Widely published and recognized for his research on contact dermatitis and photobiology, Bergstresser has received numerous honors including the American Skin Association's annual Dermatitis Research Award.

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