

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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

UT SOUTHWESTERN NAMES 1999 ENDOWED SCHOLARS

DALLAS – October 4, 1999 – UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas has selected its second group of Endowed Scholars in Medical Science, who are part of a highly competitive program designed to launch some of the world's top young researchers on their biomedical careers.

The scholars, each of whom will receive \$600,000 in research funds over four years, are appointed as assistant professors. This year's group includes specialists in steroid hormones, communication between nerve cells, biological time clocks, hepatitis C and the function of cells that fight off disease.

The first five investigators in the program, made possible by a \$52 million fund-raising campaign, began work last year. The program's goal is to accelerate their careers as biomedical researchers in order to benefit the scientific world and eventually enhance patient care. Five endowed scholars will be named each year for a four-year term, so that the total will reach a steady state of 20 by the end of 2002.

"We are very pleased to have five such outstanding young researchers joining UT Southwestern," said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, UT Southwestern president, in announcing the five new scholars. "Their work will have far-reaching impact on our institution and on the scientific community."

The 1999 scholars are:

- **The Nancy C. and Jeffrey A. Marcus Scholar in Biomedical Research in honor of Dr. Bill S. Vowell**

Dr. Michael Gale received his doctorate in pathobiology from the Seattle Biomedical Research Institute at the University of Washington. He participated in pioneering investigations of cellular-signaling pathways associated with the hepatitis C virus, which affects at least 6 million people in the United States. His postdoctoral work was supported by fellowships from

(MORE)

ENDOWED SCHOLARS – 2

the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the American Cancer Society.

Gale will continue his studies of hepatitis C as an assistant professor of microbiology. His goal is to design new treatments for the infection.

- **The W.W. Caruth Jr. Scholar in Biomedical Research**

Dr. Stephen Hammes earned his medical and Ph.D. degrees at Duke University School of Medicine, where he also performed his medical residency. He did postdoctoral work at the University of California, San Francisco with a fellowship from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. His research focused on the thrombin receptor, which is critical for blood clotting and other cardiovascular functions.

Hammes' current research will focus on discovering how thrombin receptors interact with steroid hormones to affect target cells. As an assistant professor of internal medicine in the endocrinology division, he will relate his studies to how these steroid receptors mediate the relaxation of blood vessels by nitric oxide for cardiovascular treatment, as well as the maturation of human eggs for reproductive problems.

- **The Effie Marie Cain Scholar in Biomedical Research**

Dr. Ege Taner Kavalali, a Turkish native, obtained his first postgraduate degree in electrical engineering from Bogazici University in Istanbul, then earned a doctorate in biomedical engineering from Rutgers University in 1995. His thesis was on the fundamental properties of calcium channels in nerve cells. The channels play an integral role in stimulating nerve cells by transporting calcium.

Kavalali, who will join the Center for Basic Neuroscience and the Department of Physiology, plans to continue this scientific investigation to determine how nerve cells communicate. This information should aid in relating such communication to the ability of the brain to process information. Eventually the findings may lead to treatments for neurological diseases.

- **The Louise W. Kahn Scholar in Biomedical Research**

Dr. Yi Liu earned his doctorate from Vanderbilt University then completed his

(MORE)

ENDOWED SCHOLARS – 3

postdoctoral work at Dartmouth University Medical School with a fellowship from the NIH.

He studies the molecular mechanisms that control proteins in cells that drive circadian or daily rhythms. This new research area, called chronobiology, defines how external cues such as light and temperature set an internal clock inside cells. Derangements of internal rhythms are implicated in such medical problems as insomnia, heart attacks, impaired immune responses and depression. Liu will be a member of the Department of Physiology.

- **The Southwestern Medical Foundation Scholar in Biomedical Research**

Dr. Anne Satterthwaite earned her bachelor's degree in life sciences and her doctorate in cell and developmental biology from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She completed her postdoctoral studies in microbiology and molecular genetics at the University of California, Los Angeles, with a fellowship from the Leukemia Society of America.

The focus of her research is the enzyme Bruton's tyrosine kinase and its regulation of the development of B lymphocytes, which manufacture antibodies to fight diseases. Understanding the role of B lymphocytes will aid in the development of more effective approaches to vaccination and other forms of immunotherapy. Satterthwaite's appointment is in the Department of Internal Medicine's rheumatology division and the Center for Immunology.

###

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

To automatically receive news releases from UT Southwestern via e-mail, send a message to
UTSWNEWS-REQUEST@listserv.swmed.edu. Leave the subject line blank and in the text box, type
SUB UTSWNEWS