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UT Southwestern faculty receive honors

DALLAS – March 12, 2010 – Faculty members from UT Southwestern Medical Center recently were recognized for achievements in their fields.

Dr. Kim Orth, associate professor of molecular biology at UT Southwestern Medical Center, was honored with the 2010 Norman Hackerman Award in Chemical Research for pioneering work focusing on the mechanisms bacteria use to cause disease. The Houston-based Welch Foundation, one of the nation's oldest and largest sources of private funding for basic research in chemistry, presents the award annually to honor up-and-coming scientists at Texas institutions. Recipients are recognized for expanding the frontiers of chemistry through their innovative research.

"Kim Orth is an original and creative biochemist and a tribute to our institution," said Dr. Daniel K. Podolsky, president of UT Southwestern. "Her discovery of novel chemical modifications of proteins by bacteria that enter and kill cells is an important achievement. The groundbreaking advances made by her laboratory provide the foundation for a better understanding of many significant infectious diseases."

Dr. Abhimanyu Garg, chief of nutrition and metabolic diseases and an investigator in the Center for Human Nutrition at UT Southwestern Medical Center, received the Greater Dallas Indo-American Chamber of Commerce's Outstanding Contribution in Medicine award. Dr. Garg, a native of New Delhi and a graduate of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, was presented with the award by Meera Shankar, India's ambassador to the U.S. In nominating Dr. Garg for the award, Dr. J. Gregory Fitz, UT Southwestern executive vice president for academic affairs, provost and dean of the medical school, recounted Dr. Garg's "major contributions to understanding the genetic underpinnings of the role of fat cells in lipodystrophies and other disorders of lipid metabolism."

Dr. Bruce Carr, professor of obstetrics and gynecology at UT Southwestern Medical Center, has received the Distinguished Researcher Award for 2009 from the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM). Dr. Carr was cited for his work in both clinical and basic research in reproductive endocrinology, and for training future academicians. Dr. Carr's basic research focuses on the regulation of steroidogenesis in the ovary, adrenal glands and placenta. He currently is investigating the role of 17 hydroxylase in human granulosa and placental cells. These investigations may provide answers to disorders of androgen excess (such as polycystic ovarian syndrome) and fetal placental function. His clinical research activities include new treatment options for endometriosis, uterine fibroids, menopause, infertility and contraception. Dr. Carr is the author of more than 600 scientific publications and abstracts and has served on numerous National Institutes of Health study sections, advisory panels and certification boards such as the American Board of Obstetrics & Gynecology.

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