

News

Office of Medical Information
The University of Texas

Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas

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**** Ninth UT Southwestern faculty member
elected to National Academy of Sciences

DALLAS -- Dr. A. James Hudspeth, neuroscience researcher and chairman of the Department of Cell Biology and Neuroscience at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, has been elected today to membership in the National Academy of Sciences. He is the ninth UT Southwestern faculty member to receive this honor.

"When Dr. Hudspeth joined our faculty almost two years ago, we knew we were getting an excellent neuroscience researcher. His election to the Academy confirms that," said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern. "And naturally we're gratified that yet another faculty member has been elected."

Hudspeth has been working in the field of neuroscience since his high-school days in Houston, when he served as a laboratory assistant for a neuroscience researcher. The primary emphasis of his research in recent years has been on the mechanism of hearing. He is an expert on the neurological activities that occur when hearing takes place. He hopes to find ways to prevent and treat the nerve damage that results in hearing loss.

He received a bachelor's degree and later a Ph.D. in neurobiology

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and an M.D. from Harvard University. In 1975 he was awarded the W. Alden Spencer Award by the Center for Neurobiology and Behavior at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University. The same year, he received the Dr. Harold Lamport Award for Young Investigators in Physiology or Biophysics from the New York Academy of Sciences. Earlier this year he received the K.C. Cole Award from the Biophysical Society.

Hudspeth came to UT Southwestern in August 1989 after six years as a researcher, professor, director of the Cell Biology Program and vice chairman of the Physiology Department at the University of California at San Francisco School of Medicine.

At UT Southwestern he is holder of the Loyd B. Sands Distinguished Chair in Neuroscience and is leading the medical center's effort to expand its clinical and basic research programs in neuroscience. He is co-editor and co-founder of the scientific journal, Neuron.

The National Academy of Sciences is a private organization of scientists dedicated to the furtherance of science and its use for the general welfare. The Academy was established in 1863 by a Congressional Act of Incorporation, signed by Abraham Lincoln, that calls upon the Academy to act as an official advisor to the federal government, upon request, in any matter of science or technology. This provision accounts for the close ties that have always existed between the Academy and the government, although the Academy is not a government agency.

Election to the academy is considered to be one of the highest honors that can be bestowed on an American scientist or engineer.

In all, 60 individuals were elected to the Academy today, including one other Texan: Dr. James Kinsey, dean of Natural Sciences at Rice University. The current total membership in the Academy is 1,626 in all branches of science. Since 1979, 23 Texans have been elected as members, nine from UT Southwestern.

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National Academy of Sciences Members at UT Southwestern

Michael S. Brown	Molecular Genetics
Ronald W. Estabrook	Biochemistry
Alfred G. Gilman	Pharmacology
Joseph L. Goldstein	Molecular Genetics
A. James Hudspeth	Cell Biology & Neuroscience
Samuel M. McCann	Physiology
Jonathan W. Uhr	Microbiology
Roger H. Unger	Medicine
Jean D. Wilson	Medicine

NOTE: The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas comprises Southwestern Medical School, Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Southwestern Allied Health Sciences School.