

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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UT SOUTHWESTERN OPHTHALMOLOGISTS EARN NATIONAL RESEARCH GRANTS

DALLAS — January 31, 1996 — Two nationally recognized ophthalmologists at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas have been selected from a national pool of researchers to receive \$155,000 in grants from Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB).

To date, RPB — the world's largest voluntary group supporting eye research — has awarded \$1,211,000 to UT Southwestern's Department of Ophthalmology. The department is one of the largest academic clinical and research facilities in the country devoted to researching the causes, treatment and prevention of diseases that cause blindness.

A new \$100,000 grant went to Dr. James P. McCulley, chairman of ophthalmology and holder of the David Bruton Jr. Chair in Ophthalmology. The group also presented a \$55,000 grant to Dr. H. Dwight Cavanagh, vice chairman of ophthalmology and the Dr. W. Maxwell Thomas Professor in Ophthalmology.

McCulley, who is listed in the latest edition of "Best Doctors in America," specializes in treating corneal diseases. He is among the nation's leading cornea-transplantation physicians. This is the 14th consecutive year he has received an RPB grant. Last year, he also received \$100,000 to supplement departmental research.

Cavanagh, a prominent researcher in the field of corneal infections, is studying the effects of contact lenses on the outer eye. Cavanagh's research, which has shown that low oxygen permeability in contact lenses is responsible for a majority of infections in contact-lens wearers, garnered worldwide media attention after he presented his findings at an RPB-sponsored research conference in Orlando, Fla., last October.

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