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****UTHSCD dedicates the Cecil H. and Ida Green Biomedical Research Building

DALLAS -- One of the world's most sophisticated biotechnological research facilities, the Cecil H. and Ida Green Biomedical Research Building, will be dedicated at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas on Tuesday, Apr. 21. Frank Press, president of the National Academy of Sciences, will be the keynote speaker at dedication ceremonies in Gooch Auditorium.

The program will begin at 10:00 a.m. with introductory remarks by Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of the health science center. Jess Hay, chairman of The University of Texas System Board of Regents, will formally dedicate the building.

Cecil H. Green, who, with his late wife Ida, was a major donor toward the building, will also address the dedication gathering, and Dr. Paul MacDonald, director of the Cecil H. and Ida Green Center for Reproductive Biology Sciences, will respond. Closing remarks will be offered by Dr. Charles C. Sprague, UTHSCD president emeritus.

Green is one of the founders of Texas Instruments Inc. for which he served as vice president and director until 1975, when he became an honorary director. As the company flourished, Cecil and Ida Green began the philanthropy for which they have won worldwide recognition. In 1985, the Greens jointly received the American Medical Association's Citation of a Layman for Distinguished Service. They have also received The National Academy of Sciences Human Needs Award, the Linz Award in Dallas and the Santa Rita Award from The University of Texas System.

The Cecil H. and Ida Green Biomedical Research Building is a collection of eight specialized research centers, each of which boasts state-of-the art equipment as well as a dedicated staff of investigators, post-doctoral fellows and technicians from around the world. The facility is designed to bring together the best of both basic and clinical sciences in an atmosphere of collaboration.

The Green Biomedical Research Building includes centers for cancer, diabetes, reproductive biology, molecular genetics, human nutrition, growth and development, arthritis and chemistry.

Investigators at the Harold C. Simmons Arthritis Center are researching causes of inflammatory arthritis, particulary spondyloarthopathies, conditions that affect the spine. Researchers are analyzing each link in a pattern that includes a genetic element and an environmental "trigger" that turns the body's normal defenses against itself and causes inflammation. Harold Simmons recently added $2 million to the $8 million that he initially committed for arthritis research in 1983.

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In the Gifford Laboratories for Diabetes Research, projects are related to the prevention and cure of diabetes and include the use of modern scientific techniques in molecular biology and immunology. Researchers have also established a registry of patients with insulin-dependent (Type I) diabetes and their families. During a long-term study, researchers are identifying high-risk diabetes patients and will attempt to treat them with new methods under investigation.

Serving as an administrative core for cancer-related research, teaching and patient care programs throughout the university, the Cancer Center helps facilitate such studies as those involving the growth of human tumor cells and the lymph node system as it applies to leukemia. Other major projects include research of cancers of the brain, breast and lung.

The overall purpose of the Eugene McDermott Center for Human Growth and Development is to study correlations between structure and function of the human body at different stages of development on the molecular, tissue, organ and whole-body levels. A permanent new director is being recruited for the center, which was founded by Texas Instruments co-founder Eugene McDermott.

Laboratories are also being reserved for the scientist who will be appointed to the Robert A. Welch Chair in Chemistry.

Research projects in the Cecil and Ida Green Center for Reproductive Biology Sciences are looking at ways to prevent prematurity and gaining a better understanding of the control of fertility. Endometrial cancer, as well as the aging process, is also being studied at the center. In 1973, Cecil and Ida Green founded the Green Center, which now has a committed endowment of $5 million.

X-ray crystallography, a means of using X-ray diffraction to analyze the three-dimensional structure of proteins, has begun to unravel a complicated chain of puzzles for investigators of structural biology at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. It will contribute to the many basic research projects being pursued in molecular and cellular biology and in protein structure and function by the 10 investigators at the institute.

Controlling cholesterol in hopes of preventing atherosclerosis and heart disease is a primary focus of research at the Center for Human Nutrition. Studies of monounsaturated fats and of the drug lovastatin have resulted in new dietary and treatment options for persons with high cholesterol levels. The center was founded jointly by UTHSCD and the Southwestern Medical Foundation in 1982.

The building also includes specialized facilities for laboratory animals. The Animal Resources Center supplies, houses and breeds models for all animal research at the university.

Tours of the building and several of the research centers will be available following the ceremonies.

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