

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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UT SOUTHWESTERN ESTABLISHES PROFESSORSHIP IN HONOR OF FORT WORTH DERMATOLOGIST DR. THOMAS SHIELDS

DALLAS – March 17, 2000 – In recognition of his decades of service to the Dallas/Fort Worth medical community and his generous philanthropy, UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas has established a professorship in honor of retired Fort Worth dermatologist Dr. Thomas L. Shields.

A gift from the Harris Methodist Health Foundation helped establish the \$100,000 Thomas L. Shields, M.D., Professorship. It will support research on skin immunology.

"Dr. Shields is a man of substance and enormous talent," said Dr. Paul Bergstresser, chairman of dermatology. "We want to honor all he has done for UT Southwestern and the community, and hope this symbol of our gratitude is a fitting tribute."

Shields, a retired Fort Worth dermatologist and former UT Southwestern faculty member, said, "One just can't express how I feel about this recognition. I'm both touched and exhilarated. I'm thrilled to have my name attached to research of such importance, and I'm very grateful to UT Southwestern for playing such a wonderful part in my career."

Dr. Akira Takashima, professor of dermatology and an internationally recognized expert on skin immunology, has been named holder of the professorship. The funds will support Takashima's efforts to develop new methods of treating skin disease.

"I am very pleased to have been honored like this and am tremendously excited about the new technologies this kind of funding will support," Takashima said. "It is very rewarding to be linked to Dr. Shields in this way. He remains an inspiration to all of us at the medical center."

Shields graduated from Baylor Medical School in Dallas and in 1942 completed his internship at Parkland Memorial Hospital. He served as an Army doctor in an infantry unit in World War II, then continued graduate training at the University of Pennsylvania in 1947. He joined the Southwestern Medical School faculty in 1948, where he served as an associate professor of dermatology until leaving to establish a private practice in Fort Worth in 1949. The

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former chief of dermatology at John Peter Smith Hospital, Shields was given the Distinguished Alumnus Award by UT Arlington in 1972. In 1990 he received the Gold-Headed Cane, which the Tarrant County Medical Society awards annually to a physician of high scholarship and integrity. Shields retired from private practice in 1994 at the age of 79.

In 1991 Fort Worth philanthropists Perry and Lee Bass gave \$1 million to Harris Methodist Health Foundation to honor Shields, who was Perry Bass' dermatologist. The Basses left it up to Shields to distribute the interest income from the gift, as long as it would be used for research. Shields has chosen to give the money to UT Southwestern's Department of Dermatology to fund various projects.

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