

# SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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## **NOBEL LAUREATE DR. ALFRED GILMAN ESTABLISHES A CHAIR IN PHARMACOLOGY AT UT SOUTHWESTERN TO HONOR HIS PARENTS**

DALLAS - March 27, 2000 - A Nobel Prize winner at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas and his wife have established a chair in honor of his parents, who inspired their son's imagination and encouraged his celebrated career.

Dr. Alfred G. Gilman, chairman of pharmacology, and his wife Kathy have endowed the Alfred and Mabel Gilman Chair in Molecular Pharmacology with a \$166,000 gift, which will upgrade an earlier professorship he had established in their honor. The pharmaceutical firm Eli Lilly and Co. provided matching funds for the gift.

Dr. Paul Sternweis, professor of pharmacology at UT Southwestern and a longtime associate of Gilman's, formerly held the Gilman professorship and now will hold the chair.

Gilman's groundbreaking work on cellular communication and his discovery of the G protein earned him the 1994 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine.

Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern, said the latest gift is another example of Gilman's generous spirit. "Al Gilman has made enormous contributions to UT Southwestern, to science and to his students through the years," he said. "By establishing this chair in his parents' honor, he is offering more outstanding evidence of his devotion to advancing medical research on behalf of future generations."

Gilman, holder of the Raymond Willie and Ellen Willie Distinguished Chair in Molecular Neuropharmacology, in Honor of Harold B. Crasilneck, Ph.D., said, "Kathy and I have received a great deal of pleasure from being able to name this chair for my parents, whose influence and encouragement shaped the course of my life."

After graduating *summa cum laude* from Yale University in 1962, Gilman entered Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland, where he received both medical and doctoral degrees in 1969. After further postdoctoral training at the National Heart, Lung and

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Blood Institute, Gilman moved to the University of Virginia School of Medicine, where he remained until joining the UT Southwestern faculty in 1981.

Sternweis helped shape his mentor's Nobel Prize-winning G-protein research by discovering another member of the G- protein family (called Go). Sternweis has published more than 80 papers on cellular communication.

"I knew and admired Alfred and Mabel Gilman, and I feel privileged to be the first recipient of this chair," he said. "I am extremely thankful for this gift and am grateful to Al for his many years of support and dynamic leadership."

After earning a doctorate from Cornell University in 1977, Sternweis launched his career in signal transduction by doing postdoctoral research with Gilman at the University of Virginia School of Medicine. He joined his mentor at UT Southwestern in 1981.

William Neaves, executive vice president for academic affairs, said, "Paul Sternweis is one of UT Southwestern's brightest stars and one of the nation's most gifted researchers. It is always inspiring to watch a researcher with such an intrinsic love of science."

The elder Alfred Gilman, also an accomplished scientist and teacher, earned his doctorate in physiological chemistry from Yale in 1931. He served on the faculty of the Department of Pharmacology at Yale Medical School, where, in 1941, he and a colleague published a major new pharmacology textbook, now in its ninth edition. He later served on the faculty of Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and eventually became the founding chairman of pharmacology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University. He died in 1984.

Mabel Gilman, a piano teacher and practicing social worker, died in 1993.

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