

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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UT SOUTHWESTERN RANKED AMONG AMERICA'S TOP BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

DALLAS – Sept. 26, 2002 – The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas ranks in the top 10 institutions in America in four of the six biomedical fields assessed in an independent analysis of scientific research impact.

Only two institutions – Harvard University and the University of California, San Francisco – scored higher, by achieving a top 10 ranking in five of the six fields. None was ranked in all six.

Along with UT Southwestern, three others – Yale University, Rockefeller University and the University of California, San Diego – achieved top rankings in four of the categories in the *Science Watch* study, which analyzed the impact of research publications from 1997 through 2001.

“The scientific community has recognized for some time that UT Southwestern has been rapidly gaining in stature and is now among the leaders in biomedical science,” said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of the institution. “It is especially meaningful for us, with a history of little more than 50 years, to be ranked as a leader alongside some of America’s oldest and most venerable institutions.”

Three institutions – Johns Hopkins, Stanford and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) – were ranked in three of the biomedical fields. Seven – including Duke, the University of Chicago and Columbia – scored in two categories. The only other Texas institution on the list was Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, one of 11 institutions placing in one category of research.

Science Watch, an independent publication that reports on trends and performance in basic research, said research work at the top universities in the study attracted citations in scientific journals “at a rate notably above the world average in each field over the last five years.”

UT Southwestern was ranked second, behind only MIT, in the impact of its research

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in molecular biology and genetics. In biology and biochemistry, UT Southwestern was only surpassed by Rockefeller.

When these two fields – the principal basic sciences relevant to all areas of medicine – are combined, UT Southwestern ranks first in the country. In two other biomedical categories – clinical medicine and immunology – UT Southwestern was ranked 10th.

Nobel laureate Dr. Michael Brown, director of the Erik Jonsson Center for Research in Molecular Genetics and Human Disease, said the *Science Watch* study reaffirms UT Southwestern's pre-eminent position in basic biomedical sciences.

"These rankings are particularly gratifying because they result from an unbiased computer-based analysis of the impact UT Southwestern research has had on science in the rest of the world, as evidenced by the number of times our work is cited by outside scientists," said Brown, who shared the 1985 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine with fellow UT Southwestern scientist Dr. Joseph Goldstein for discovery of the underlying mechanism of cholesterol metabolism.

Dr. Steven McKnight, chairman of biochemistry at UT Southwestern, said the rankings definitively illustrate that UT Southwestern is a driving force in medical science.

"Citations by other scientists are the very legitimate currency used to objectively measure the quality of scientific productivity," McKnight said.

McKnight said UT Southwestern's productivity creates a platform for even greater achievement in the future.

"When you're recognized as a leader, it enables you to recruit the very best faculty, postdoctoral researchers and students needed to sustain momentum," he said. "And the fact that we're at the top in producing important discoveries should encourage investors and the community to recognize UT Southwestern and Dallas as a fertile ground for development of the biotech industry."

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