

News

Office of Medical Information
The University of Texas

Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas

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CONTACT: Lynn Gentry
Office: 214/688-3404
Home: 214/625-0851

**** High school students go to
medical school for the summer

DALLAS - Nine minority high-school students from local schools spent eight weeks at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas this summer participating in the National Institutes of Health-sponsored Summer Research Program for Minority High School Students and Teachers. Each of the students worked on research projects.

"This program provided the opportunity for students to learn what it's like to work in a research lab. It gives kids an understanding of the lifestyle and commitment level of a scientist," said Dr. Joel Goodman, associate professor of pharmacology and program sponsor at UT Southwestern. "A lot of them think scientists are superhuman. We tried to show them that we're not superhuman; we simply enjoy doing science. Naturally, we hope this experience encourages them to keep at it when they feel like dropping out of science."

"From my perspective, spending time with the students honed my own teaching skills," said Goodman. "It forced me to rethink some basic assumptions and bring science to a more basic level in order to explain complex concepts to people with less science background."

Goodman said that while none of the students undertook large, independent projects, all made small and important contributions to ongoing research programs. Many of them will get credit in papers

(More)

that will be published in the future. One high school student from 1986, Harold Hwang, was listed among the researchers on two papers Goodman published this year.

The program was introduced at UT Southwestern in 1983 with three students. This year 98 Dallas-area students applied and nine participated: four Asians, three African-Americans and two Hispanics. Goodman hopes to expand the program next year.

The following students participated this summer:

Kamila Alexander	W.T. White High School
Catherine Chang	Garland High School
Bao Dao	Bryan Adams High School
Vonda Jennings	Italy High School
Linda Kim	L.V. Berkner High School
Jason Rios	Richardson High School
Ivan Tatum	Skyline High School
Cecil Yau	Plano East High School
Aurora Yllana	Lake Highlands High School

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NOTE: The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas comprises Southwestern Medical School, Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Southwestern Allied Health Sciences School, affiliated teaching hospitals and outpatient clinics.

Photo enclosed.