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NEWS

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DALLAS--Dr. Dwain Thiele, post-doctorate research fellow in internal medicine, has received a supplemental grant from the American Liver Foundation. Thiele is one of a dozen researchers around the country receiving a national award for their work in liver diseases.

The physician is at work on studies funded by the National Institutes of Health in the area of immune responses in the liver. Thiele is investigating how monocytes, macrophages and Kupffer cells in the liver function and possibly regulate immune responses by lymphocytes.

It is thought that a number of liver diseases may be of the autoimmune type, that is, caused by the body's own immune system. Some of these are primary biliary cirrhosis, chronic active hepatitis and some of the drug-induced types of hepatitis.

"If we can understand more about the possibility of the body's own immune system causing these diseases and how this system works, this will give us clues as to how to intervene in the future. Perhaps more specific therapies could be developed," he said.

Thiele is a summa cum laude graduate of Rice and graduated with honors from Baylor College of Medicine in 1977. He then did post-graduate work in internal medicine at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C. Last year he came to UTHSCD as a post-doctoral fellow in liver diseases.

He is a diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine and an associate member of both the American College of Physicians and the American Gastroenterological Association. Other memberships include Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Omega Alpha.

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