

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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HOWARD HUGHES MEDICAL INSTITUTE AWARDS \$1.8 MILLION TO UT SOUTHWESTERN FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

DALLAS – Jan. 4, 2000 – Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) has awarded \$1.8 million to UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas as part of a four-year grant to improve and expand basic research, clinical treatment and the rapidly developing field of bioinformatics.

HHMI began making grants of this type in 1995 to supplement traditional funding that has dwindled in recent years.

"Medical schools are where a great many of the most important biomedical advances occur, yet they are being squeezed by the growth of managed care, new government policies and other changes," HHMI president Purnell Choppin said in announcing the latest grants. "These resources will help medical schools maintain the critical basic and clinical research activities that yield so many advances for patients."

The HHMI Research Resources Program grant will help launch junior faculty members' research in basic neuroscience and immunology.

"The generous grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute will help further the excellent research for which UT Southwestern has become known," said Dr. Robert Alpern, dean of Southwestern Medical School. "This grant will allow us to recruit the brightest young scientists to UT Southwestern and will provide funds to insure a great start to their careers."

A panel of experts reviewed proposals from 105 U.S. medical schools that requested funding through the HHMI program. The institute's management and trustees then awarded grants to 22 public and 19 private schools in 23 states.

HHMI is dedicated to advancing biomedical research by employing scientists in cell biology, immunology, neuroscience and structural biology. These investigators, numbering more than 320, conduct their studies at 71 medical centers and universities. Eleven of the researchers are based at UT Southwestern.

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