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UT SOUTHWESTERN MOLECULAR GENETICIST WINS KILBY-SCIENCE PLACE AWARD

DALLAS -- Dr. David W. Russell has been named one of the first three Kilby-Science Place Award winners.

Russell, a professor of molecular genetics and holder of the Eugene McDermott Distinguished Chair in Molecular Genetics at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, was honored for his innovative research into the genetic causes of a variety of related male-hormonal disorders, including male pseudohermaphroditism and prostate disease.

Jack St. Clair Kilby, for whom the awards are named, presented medallions to Russell, two other regional Kilby-Science Place winners and five national Kilby Foundation Award recipients at the annual Salute to Science and Technology in Dallas this month. Kilby, retired from Texas Instruments Inc., is the inventor of the integrated circuit, on which all the computer technology of today is based. He also is co-inventor of the hand-held calculator.

The Kilby Foundation Awards were created to honor Kilby by recognizing the creative thinking and innovative research being done by a new generation of scientists. This year The Science Place joined with the Kilby Foundation to honor three such innovators in the North Texas area in addition to the five named nationwide.

Accepting the award, Russell said: "As a native of Dallas, I am especially gratified to receive an award named for Mr. Kilby, a remarkable man who made scientific history many times in our city and

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whose accomplishments have affected each of us."

Russell continued: "Throughout my professional career at UT Southwestern, I have been blessed with many mentors, colleagues and students who provide a fertile environment in which to do research. As mentors, I am fortunate to count Drs. Michael Brown, Joseph Goldstein and Jean Wilson, who initially steered me into medical research and then taught me how to approach a scientific problem; as talented collaborators and colleagues -- Dr. John McConnell, with whom we do much of our research in human prostate biology, and Dr. Hans Deisenhofer, whose quiet confidence and scientific accomplishments are a source of inspiration and a paradigm of scientific focus."

Russell also emphasized the importance of students and teaching in a research setting. "It is only through the stimulation of young minds that we can hope to continue our current rapid progress in medicine and technology," he said. "As recipient of this award, I will continue to work hard to stimulate young minds. If we are lucky, one of the stimulated may just be the next Mr. Kilby, and we will all benefit."

Russell studied biology at UT Austin and earned a doctorate in chemistry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 1982.

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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.