

Media Contact: LaKisha Ladson
214-648-3404
lakisha.ladson@UTSouthwestern.edu

UT Southwestern faculty receive honors

DALLAS – Aug. 19, 2008 – Faculty members from UT Southwestern Medical Center recently were recognized for achievements in their fields.

UT Southwestern Medical Center's **Dr. Ralph DeBerardinis**, assistant professor of pediatrics in the Eugene McDermott Center for Human Growth and Development, and **Dr. Lu Le**, assistant professor of dermatology and developmental biology, received the 2008 Distinguished Young Researcher Award given by the President's Research Council at the medical center. The council is comprised of community leaders interested in learning about and advancing medical research at UT Southwestern. The doctors represent the best young researchers from around the world who are being recruited to UT Southwestern to discover the secrets of biology and to search for cures to human disease. Dr. DeBerardinis is studying the metabolic activities that support cell growth and proliferation and genetic diseases that affect metabolism in children. Dr. Le is investigating how genetic and other microenvironmental cues regulate tumor formation in the peripheral nervous system.

Dr. Philip Raskin, professor of internal medicine-endocrinology and holder of the Clifton and Betsy Robinson Chair in Biomedical Research at UT Southwestern Medical Center, received the Washington & Jefferson College Alumni Award for Achievement. Dr. Raskin directs both the University Diabetes Treatment Center and diabetes clinic at Parkland Memorial Hospital. A certified diabetes educator, Dr. Raskin is the principal investigator for two multi-center diabetes trial funded by the National Institute of Health and has published numerous papers in peer-reviewed journals. A 1962 graduate of Washington & Jefferson, Dr. Raskin went on to earn his medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh Medical School. He's a fellow of the American College of Physicians and the American College of Endocrinology.

Dr. Carole Mendelson, professor of biochemistry and obstetrics and gynecology at UT Southwestern Medical Center, has been awarded a three-year, \$379,443 grant from the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation as part of its prematurity research initiative. Dr. Mendelson studies the signals and mechanism that cause macrophages, which may arise from fetal lungs, to migrate to the maternal uterus and trigger an inflammatory signaling cascade leading to labor. She is also studying the mechanisms that inhibit this process and maintain uterine quiescence throughout most of pregnancy.

###