

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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FRIENDS OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE CENTER AWARD RESEARCHER \$50,000

DALLAS-July 30, 1999-The Friends of the Alzheimer's Disease Center (ADC) at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas has awarded its \$50,000 annual research prize to a scientist studying the role proteins play in disease development.

The Friends group, an organization of area citizens dedicated to supporting Alzheimer's research at UT Southwestern, presented its third annual award to Dr. Joachim Herz, professor of molecular genetics.

"The generosity of the Friends of the ADC has provided us with the ability to fund a major research grant each year for the past three years to extremely talented members of our faculty," said Dr. Roger Rosenberg, the center's director. "The researchers can use the information they gain from the Friends of ADC-supported projects to attract additional support from the National Institutes of Health, thus raising UT Southwestern's standing as a major center for basic research in Alzheimer's disease." Rosenberg, holder of the Abe (Brunky) Morris and William Zale Distinguished Chair in Neurology, also directs the Josephine Rudman Laboratory for Alzheimer's Disease Research.

Herz is researching FE65, one of the six known proteins associated with Alzheimer's disease. FE65 interacts with a receptor called LRP (low-density lipoprotein receptor-related protein). His work focuses on their interaction and the ensuing signals that can lead to the onset

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of the neurodegenerative disease. Herz said that signaling pathways traditionally have proven to be excellent targets for therapeutic interventions.

“If researchers understood how signals turn on Alzheimer’s disease, strategies to prevent its onset could be developed,” Herz said.

Robert “Bob” A. Wooldridge, a Dallas attorney and managing partner of Worsham, Forsythe & Wooldridge, serves as co-chairman of the Friends group. His father suffered from Alzheimer’s disease, and Wooldridge has worked as a volunteer in the battle to end the disease for many years.

The group’s other co-chairman, Carl J. “Tommy” Thomsen, is a retired senior vice president of Texas Instruments. Thomsen is another longtime volunteer in the fight against Alzheimer’s disease, and he has previously endowed a chair at UT Southwestern to support research in the field.

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