

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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PAK FOUNDATION ENDOWS TWO PROFESSORSHIPS SUPPORTING MINERAL METABOLISM RESEARCH

DALLAS – Aug. 12, 2003 – The Charles Y.C. Pak Foundation has established two endowed professorships to support mineral metabolism research at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

The Floyd C. Rector Jr., M.D., Professorship in Acid-Base Regulation and the Jacob Lemann, M.D., Professorship in Calcium Transport honor friends and colleagues of Dr. Pak, director of the Center for Mineral Metabolism and Clinical Research.

“In building the mineral metabolism group at UT Southwestern, I have been blessed with having as my colleagues and collaborators a group of talented individuals of outstanding character willing to work together to achieve common goals,” Dr. Pak said. “One way of recognizing the critical contribution of key members has been for me to establish endowed professorships in their honor, thanking them for their past and future efforts.”

Dr. Pak, assistant dean for clinical investigation, also directs the Robert T. Hayes Center for Mineral Metabolism Research and holds the Distinguished Chair in Mineral Metabolism and the Alfred L. and Muriel B. Rabiner Distinguished Academic Chair for Mineral Metabolism Biotechnology Research.

Named first holder of the Floyd C. Rector Jr., M.D., Professorship is Dr. Patricia A. Preisig, professor of internal medicine. Dr. Preisig trained with Dr. Rector at the University of California, San Francisco, where she received her master of science in nephrology and critical-care nursing and doctorate in physiology.

“It’s an honor to be acknowledged by Dr. Pak as recipient of this professorship, as well as to hold the professorship in Floyd’s name,” Dr. Preisig said. “He was a great mentor with very high standards.”

Dr. Preisig will continue her research on the regulation of citrate transport and metabolism in the kidneys and the effect of these processes on citrate excretion. Dr. Preisig joined UT Southwestern as an assistant professor of internal medicine in 1987. Prior to that, she was assistant professor of nursing and director of the renal clinical specialist program at UCSF.

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Named first holder of the Jacob Lemann, M.D., Professorship is Dr. Chou-Long Huang, associate professor of internal medicine. His studies focus on cellular-molecular regulation of calcium transport, including calcium excretion from the kidneys, as it is affected by high dietary protein intake, an area of research similar to that pursued by Dr. Lemann.

“Dr. Lemann is a world leader in kidney-stone disease and is a great nephrologist, who any young nephrologist would aspire to be like,” said Dr. Huang. “It is a great honor to hold the professorship named after him.”

Dr. Huang earned a medical degree from Taipei Medical College in Taiwan and a doctorate in physiology at UCSF. He served as clinical instructor of internal medicine at UCSF from 1993 to 1996 and joined UT Southwestern as an assistant professor of internal medicine in 1996.

The careers of both Drs. Rector and Lemann overlapped often with his own, said Dr. Pak. Dr. Rector, who graduated from Southwestern Medical School and did his internship and residency at Parkland Memorial Hospital, served as chief of nephrology at UT Southwestern from 1966 until 1973. At that time, he moved to UCSF as chairman of nephrology and later served as chairman of medicine until his retirement in 1995.

“Dr. Rector was one of the people responsible for recruiting me to UT Southwestern,” said Dr. Pak. “He is an encyclopedia of knowledge and was the one I often went to for information or to bounce off ideas.”

Dr. Lemann was chief of nephrology at Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee from 1970 to 1994, when he retired. Prior to that, he served as chief of the renal section at Boston University School of Medicine. He currently is a clinical professor of medicine at Tulane University School of Medicine.

“Dr. Lemann is the master in acid-base regulation as it affects calcium metabolism and kidney stone formation,” Dr. Pak said. “He is widely known for elucidating how the kidney handles calcium, especially during dietary acid load. Dr. Huang is extending the work Jacob has done to the next stage.”

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