

NEWS

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas
5323 Harry Hines Boulevard Dallas, Texas 75235 (214)688-3404

March 12, 1984

CONTACT: Susan Rutherford
Office: 214/688-3404
Home: 214/349-7820

*****Summer research fellowships offered at U.T. Health Science Center at Dallas.

DALLAS--This summer the University of Texas Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at The U.T. Health Science Center at Dallas will offer 10 research fellowships to advanced undergraduates with majors in the natural sciences.

The fellowships, which include \$2,000 stipends, will allow highly motivated undergraduate students to undertake 10-week research projects at the graduate school under the supervision of the faculty here.

Fellows will be matched with a graduate school faculty member for a research problem according to interests. Faculty research interest covers the entire range of biological and biomedical sciences. Members of the faculty, at the forefront of their fields, work in the areas of tumor viruses, regulation of DNA synthesis, hormone effects, immunology, molecular engineering and others.

The Anson Clark Foundation is providing five of the fellowships which are limited to Texas residents but the other five fellowships are open to non-Texas residents.

Application forms are available from the Graduate School Dean's Office, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas, 5323 Harry Hines Blvd., Dallas, Texas 75235, (214)688-2174.

"The objective of the fellowship program is to give interested students an extremely important chance to become oriented to the workings of a lab and to become familiar with the questions asked in research," says Dr. Elliott M. Ross, director of the Graduate Program in Pharmacology and coordinator of the summer fellowship program. "Students will work full-time in a research position and will get a chance to see how they function in a laboratory setting. It is crucial to learn these things early in order to see if they are interested in a research career."

Dr. William Neaves, dean of the Southwestern graduate school, says, "Many ambitious college students think only of pursuing careers in either medicine, law or business. Just as I was naive as an undergraduate, many have no idea of a career in the biomedical sciences. This can provide an opportunity for some of the brightest college students to see what exists in the world of biomedical research."

Many researchers at the health science center took part in summer fellowship programs themselves. Typically they comment, "And it changed my life."

Ross was given a summer fellowship at Oakridge National Laboratory in Oakridge, Tenn., where he studied the damage caused to cell membranes when cells are frozen and thawed. "From that experience I learned the biological importance of cell membranes and their integrity," says Ross, "and now I am working on a related topic, the interaction between hormone receptors and enzymes on the surface of cells."

Neaves was studying to be a physician at Harvard University when he was given a National Science Foundation summer fellowship to work with a field biologist in the Chihuahua Desert near Kermit, Tex. There he joined a team who were trying to answer biological questions on free-ranging animals. By studying population dynamics of a desert lizard, the team of scientists answered fundamental questions on the rates of reproduction and survival. The experience changed his career goal, and Neaves now works on the subjects of male reproduction and comparative reproductive endocrinology.

Dr. James Stull, associate dean of the graduate school, says the summer fellowships will be unique training experiences for students, who will get to answer fundamental questions that have never been asked before. Stull also received a summer fellowship, which was a deciding factor in his profession as a biochemical pharmacologist. He is studying the mechanisms by which muscles contract and how drugs alter biochemical reactions involved in the mechanical performance of these muscles, including skeletal, heart and vascular muscles.