

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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UT SOUTHWESTERN PHARMACOLOGIST RECEIVES MAJOR MOLECULAR RESEARCH AWARD

DALLAS — August 10, 1995 — Dr. Margaret Phillips, an assistant professor of pharmacology at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, is one of five recipients of a Burroughs Wellcome Fund New Investigator Award in Molecular Parasitology.

Phillips, who joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 1992, is interested in drugs that would control trypanosomes, which are parasites responsible for such life-threatening diseases as African sleeping sickness and Chagas' disease. About 20 million people — mostly in Africa and South America — are affected by these diseases. Phillips said vaccines have not proven effective in preventing these diseases, and drug therapy is currently limited because of toxicity and resistance. She hopes her research will lead to the development of new drugs that would control the diseases, much like antibiotics control bacterial infections.

Other award recipients are from New York University, the University of Chicago, Case Western Reserve University and the University of California, Riverside. The award was established by the Burroughs Wellcome Fund, a private, nonprofit foundation located in North Carolina, to promote research of parasitic and tropical diseases.

"I'm delighted to receive this award," Phillips said. "It's particularly important to have this type of private support when research funds from other sources are becoming more difficult to acquire. Our lab is growing, and this award will help us make more progress."

Dr. Alfred Gilman, 1994 Nobel laureate, UT Southwestern chairman of pharmacology and holder of the Raymond and Ellen Willie Distinguished Chair in Molecular Neuropharmacology, in Honor of Harold B. Crasilneck, Ph.D., said, "This is a significant honor for Meg and will provide important support for her research."

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