

Recognizing and honoring the people who are UT Southwestern

UT Southwestern would not be the institution it is today without the people behind it – faculty, staff, students, and community supporters. Exceptional work by esteemed faculty members and staff led to numerous high-profile awards this past year, such as the Breakthrough Prize. Sadly, the University also mourned the loss of some legendary faculty members and key benefactors.



Outstanding scientific, clinical work brings distinguished honors

UT Southwestern faculty earned prestigious national and international awards this past year for breakthroughs ranging from discovery of an enzyme that launches the body's immune defenses to identification of a gene linked to low cholesterol. On the clinical side, excellence in patient care led to the selection of a William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital employee as Nurse of the Year, an honor presented annually by consulting firm Press Ganey to one outstanding nurse nationwide. Highlighted here are some of those exceptional individuals whose work merited top honors in 2017-2018.

Dr. Zhijian "James" Chen – Breakthrough Prize and Lurie Prize



Biochemist Dr. Zhijian "James" Chen, Professor of Molecular Biology and Director of the Center for Inflammation Research as well as a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator, won the prestigious 2019 Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences for his discovery of the cGAS enzyme that launches the body's immune defense against infections and cancers. That enzyme patrols the cell's interior and triggers the immune system in response to DNA. The international

award program, founded in 2013, is sponsored by Sergey Brin, Priscilla Chan and Mark Zuckerberg, Ma Huateng, Yuri and Julia Milner, and Anne Wojcicki. Winners receive \$3 million each.

Dr. Chen, who holds the George L. MacGregor Distinguished Chair in Biomedical Science, also received the 2018 Lurie Prize in Biomedical Sciences for the same discovery. The prize includes a \$100,000 honorarium made possible through a donation by philanthropist Ann Lurie.

Dr. Chen's discovery of the enzyme cyclic GMP-AMP synthase (cGAS) solved a century-old medical mystery. DNA was known to activate the immune system long before its role as a genetic material was understood. In 1908, a Nobel Laureate noted in his acceptance speech that surgeons in Europe treated patients with DNA to boost their patients' defense against infections. Dr. Chen's investigations revealed the mechanism underlying that response.

Dr. Helen Hobbs – Institut de France Grand Prix and Harrington Prize

Geneticist Dr. Helen Hobbs received two awards honoring her discovery of the link between a mutation in the PCSK9 gene and low cholesterol – the Institut de France Grand Prix Scientifique Lefoulon-Delalande Grand Prize in Science and the 2018 Harrington Prize for Innovation in Medicine.

Not only did her work lead to the swift development of a drug to lower refractory high cholesterol and thus prevent heart disease, but her research also changed the methodology used by many genetic researchers.

Dr. Hobbs is Director of the Eugene McDermott Center for Human Growth and Development at UTSW and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator. She is

also a Professor of Internal Medicine and Molecular Genetics and holds the Eugene McDermott Distinguished Chair for the Study of Human Growth and Development, the Philip O'Bryan Montgomery, Jr., M.D. Distinguished Chair in Developmental Biology, and the 1995 Dallas Heart Ball Chair in Cardiology Research.



Dr. Philipp Scherer – Diabetes Prize for Excellence

Dr. Philipp Scherer, Director of the Touchstone Center for Diabetes Research, won the 2017 EASD-Novo Nordisk Foundation Diabetes Prize for Excellence in recognition of his research on the relationship between body fat and Type 2 diabetes.

The European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) prize is bestowed on an internationally recognized

researcher for outstanding research or technology that contributes to the understanding of diabetes, its disease mechanisms, or its complications. The prize includes 6 million Danish kroner (approximately \$960,000) and is widely considered the most prestigious European prize for diabetes research.

Dr. Scherer, a Professor of Internal Medicine and Cell Biology and holder of the Gifford O. Touchstone, Jr. and Randolph G. Touchstone

Distinguished Chair in Diabetes Research, is known for his 1995 discovery of adiponectin – a hormone produced by fat – and for defining its physiologic roles. Previously, adipose tissue had been considered solely a storage depot for excess calories.



Dr. Ralph DeBerardinis – Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator and O'Donnell Award



Dr. Ralph DeBerardinis, Professor at the Children's Medical Center Research Institute at UT Southwestern (CRI), was named UT Southwestern's 15th Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Investigator.

With his selection, UT Southwestern leads the state in the number of HHMI investigators. HHMI is a philanthropic organization created to advance basic bio-

medical research and science education for the benefit of humanity.

Dr. DeBerardinis, Chief of the Division of Pediatric Genetics and Metabolism at UT Southwestern and Director of the Genetic and Metabolic Disease Program at CRI, also received the 2019 Edith and Peter O'Donnell Award in Medicine from The Academy of Medicine, Engineering and Science of Texas for his work on how altered metabolism

contributes to human diseases, including inborn errors of metabolism and cancer.

Also a Professor of Pediatrics and a member of the Eugene McDermott Center for Human Growth and Development, Dr. DeBerardinis holds the Joel B. Steinberg, M.D. Chair in Pediatrics and is a Sowell Family Scholar in Medical Research and a Robert L. Moody, Sr. Faculty Scholar. In addition, he is an attending physician at Children's Health.

Dr. Julie Pfeiffer – O'Donnell Award



Dr. Julie Pfeiffer, Professor of Microbiology, was awarded the 2019 Edith and Peter O'Donnell Award in Science from The Academy of Medicine, Engineering and Science of Texas for her work to understand virus-host interactions that impact the development of disease.

Dr. Pfeiffer, who holds the Kern and Marnie Wildenthal President's Research Council Professorship in Medical Science, studies how intestinal bacteria promote infection with enteric viruses. Enteric viruses are extremely common human infections that can range from mild gastroenteritis to systemic disease and death.

Her work has deepened the world's understanding of the interplay between the gut's microbiome – the viruses and bacteria that line the intestines – and disease. Specifically, she found that some viruses use the body's natural gut bacteria in order to become more infectious and replicate.

Dawn Brown – Press Ganey Nurse of the Year



Dawn Brown, a UT Southwestern employee for more than a decade, was recognized as Nurse of the Year by Press Ganey, a national consulting firm specializing in health care performance.

Ms. Brown, M.S.-M.A.S., B.S.N., the sole nationwide recipient of this prestigious award, is Clinical Manager of the Surgical Specialty Unit

at William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital.

The award recognizes the contributions of an outstanding direct care nurse who has gone above and beyond in their role and demonstrated care innovation, transformation, and collaboration that supports an exceptional patient experience.

Described as a "voice for patients who fiercely advocates for their needs," Ms. Brown

was nominated and ultimately selected based on her exceptional patient care, proven leadership skills, and ability to successfully collaborate with other team members. The recognition also noted her effort to craft successful pain management strategies that contributed to improvements in patient care.

'Intellectual father' of UT Southwestern left an enduring legacy

Dr. Donald W. Seldin, known as the "intellectual father" of UT Southwestern and one of the most distinguished medical educators in the history of internal medicine, died in April 2018 at the age of 97.

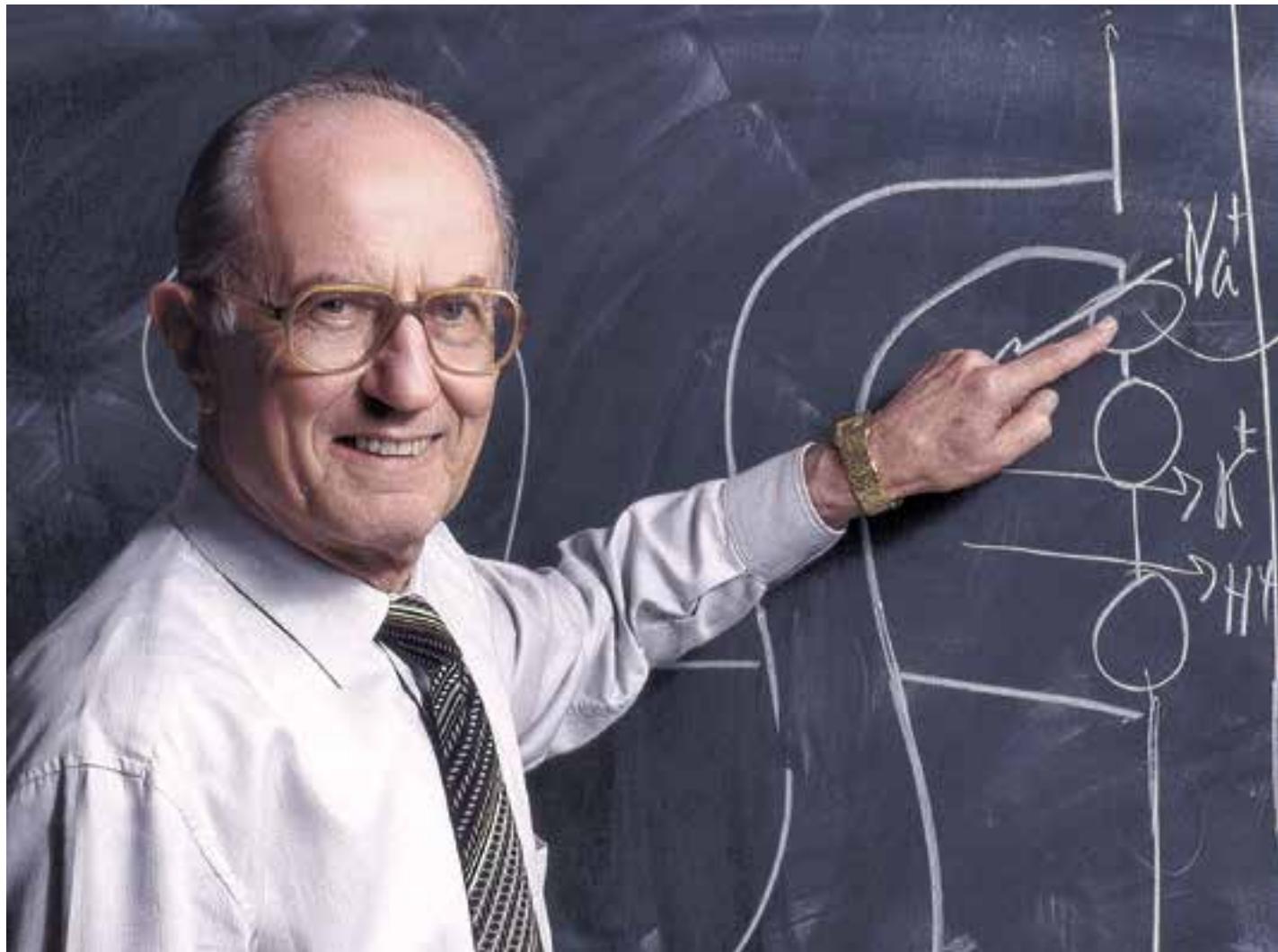
The contributions of Dr. Seldin, Professor and Chairman Emeritus of Internal Medicine, are interwoven in UT Southwestern's growth story. During his 67 years

working at UT Southwestern, his dedication to educating generations of top medical professionals, as well as his success in transforming a small medical school housed in converted Army barracks into one of the nation's premier academic medical centers, are all part of the lasting legacy of this giant of medicine and higher education.

Dr. Daniel K. Podolsky, President of UT Southwestern, noted the magnitude of Dr. Seldin's many professional achievements over his lifetime and at UT Southwestern.

"In his 36 years as Chairman of Internal Medicine at UT Southwestern, he held a singular view of what an academic department should be and built a world-class department around that vision – which has been emulated across the country," said Dr. Podolsky, who holds the Philip O'Bryan Montgomery,

UT Southwestern lost its "intellectual father" last year when Dr. Donald W. Seldin died in April at the age of 97. Dr. Seldin shepherded UTSW from a small medical school housed in converted Army barracks in the 1940s to the respected medical, educational, and research institution that it is today.



Jr., M.D. Distinguished Presidential Chair in Academic Administration, and the Doris and Bryan Wildenthal Distinguished Chair in Medical Science.

After completing high school at age 16, Dr. Seldin earned a bachelor's degree in literature. The New York native had read extensively in college, developing an interest in literary works – especially poetry. But realizing the lack of job opportunities in this field, he began taking courses needed to apply to medical school. In 1943, he graduated from Yale University School of Medicine.

Dr. Seldin's career at UT Southwestern started in 1951. He was recruited to then-Southwestern Medical School of The

Widely admired as one of the greatest chairs of internal medicine in American medical history, Dr. Seldin was a visionary, a tenacious leader, and a demanding yet patient teacher. His vast grasp of medicine established a climate at UT Southwestern that attracted superior faculty. Contrasting with this scientific side, Dr. Seldin's interest in art and literature fed the creative part of his personality. Always willing to take part in Medical School skits and chili cook-offs, Dr. Seldin is remembered fondly for his wit and fun-loving spirit, as well as for his medical acumen.

He garnered innumerable teaching honors, was an early member of the prestigious Institute of Medicine (now the National Academy of Medicine) and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and received six honorary degrees, including one from Yale and another from the Université de Paris VI – Pierre et Marie Curie.

Dr. Seldin held the William Buchanan Chair in Internal Medicine at UT Southwestern. In addition, several chairs at UT Southwestern have been created in his honor: the Donald W. Seldin Distinguished Chair in Internal Medicine, the Donald W. Seldin Professorship in Clinical Investigation, and the Sinor/Pritchard (Katy Sinor and Kay Pritchard) Professorship in Medical Education Honoring Donald W. Seldin, M.D.

A major figure in the emergence of nephrology as a discipline, Dr. Seldin was a founder of the American Society of Nephrology, one of seven learned societies around the world to which his peers elected him President.

Dr. Donald W. Seldin is known as the “intellectual father” of UT Southwestern and one of the most distinguished medical educators in the history of internal medicine.

University of Texas from Yale, where he had joined the faculty following service in the Army. After working for only a year in UT Southwestern's Department of Internal Medicine, Dr. Seldin became Chairman of the Department that he would ultimately bring to great acclaim.

Dr. Seldin led the Department of Internal Medicine from 1952 until 1988. During his tenure, he garnered renown for identifying, motivating, and nurturing talented students, residents, and fellows who went on to become distinguished leaders and faculty members in the academic world. Dr. Seldin built a department recognized as one of the best in the country.



Dr. Donald W. Seldin's life journey

OCTOBER 24, 1920

Dr. Seldin was born on Coney Island in New York City, the son of European immigrants.

1940 He graduated from New York University on a full scholarship. Dr. Seldin took a number of courses in biology and chemistry his senior year, allowing him to apply to medical school.

DECEMBER 1943

Dr. Seldin graduated from Yale University School of Medicine in a class of 39 students. His medical internship and two-year residency were completed at Yale's New Haven Hospital.

1945 – 1947 Dr. Seldin served in the Medical Corps as Chief of the Department of Medicine at the 98th Military Hospital in Munich,

Germany. During this time, he testified at a Nuremberg trial of a Nazi physician from the Dachau concentration camp about the deaths of inmates following purported liver biopsies for hepatitis. The then-27-year-old's expert testimony helped lead to guilty verdicts.

JANUARY 1951

Recognizing a lack of advancement opportunities at Yale, Dr. Seldin joined the Southwestern Medical School of The University of Texas as an Associate Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine. Within a year, at age 31, he became Professor and Chairman of the Department, serving in that position until 1988.

MARCH 16, 2015 On the South Campus, a 7-foot bronze statue and plaque commemorating Dr. Seldin's service was unveiled. More than 400 people, including Nobel Laureates, philanthropists, and UT Southwestern leaders and physicians attended the dedication ceremony for the Dr. Donald Seldin Plaza, renamed in his honor.

APRIL 25, 2018 Dr. Seldin

died of lymphoma at his home. His career included serving as President of seven learned societies. He also received six honorary degrees and numerous awards during his lifetime, including election to the Institute of Medicine (now the National Academy of Medicine) and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Remembering others we lost



Ruth Altshuler: A dedicated UT Southwestern advocate

Ruth Collins Sharp Altshuler, a longtime advocate for UT Southwestern and a prominent person in Dallas politics, died Dec. 8, 2017. She was 93. Born and raised in Dallas, she had an enduring passion to strengthen her community through purposeful work.

Mrs. Altshuler played a leadership role in fundraising for the Medical Center, participating in three key campaigns: the Innovations in Medicine campaign, which ultimately raised \$772 million for research and clinical programs at UT Southwestern; the Building the Future of Medicine campaign to build the William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital; and the Campaign for the Brain, which is helping UT Southwestern develop cures for brain diseases. She served as past

Chair of the Carolyn P. Horchow Women's Health Symposium, as a lifetime member of the UTSW President's Advisory Board and the former UTSW Board of Visitors, as a member of the Zale Lipshy University Hospital Board, and as a member of the Friends of the Center for Human Nutrition.

A recipient of multiple national honors in philanthropy, on a personal level Mrs. Altshuler was beloved for her engaging, friendly personality and quick wit. Friends said she had a unique talent for being poignant and funny at the same time when she shared stories about her life.



Rita Clements: Texas first lady and UT System leader

Rita Crocker Clements, one of the state's most generous philanthropists who served as an adviser at the highest levels of state government and education, died Jan. 6, 2018, from complications of Alzheimer's disease. She was 86.

Mrs. Clements was married for 36 years to former Texas Gov. William P. Clements Jr., who died in 2011. She is remembered for her dignity, elegance, and wide-ranging intellect, which allowed her to assume leadership roles that included loyal, long-standing support for UT Southwestern, Southwestern Medical Foundation, and the UT System.

Gov. and Mrs. Clements' support for research, education, and clinical care efforts in cancer, Alzheimer's disease, and human nutrition programs at UT Southwestern included significant gifts given anonymously; a \$1.25 million gift in 1998 to create the Rita C. and William P. Clements Jr. Scholar in Medical Research program; a \$10 million donation in 2006 to complete a UT Southwestern clinical and medical research facility later named the Bill and Rita Clements Advanced Medical Imaging Building; and Gov. Clements' \$100 million transformative contribution in 2009 to benefit UT Southwestern.

One friend described Mrs. Clements as a force of nature – someone who combined unusually keen intelligence, strong people skills, boundless energy, and very high aspirations for causes she felt passionate about.



Dr. Daniel W. Foster: Longtime Internal Medicine Chairman

Dr. Daniel W. Foster, a world-renowned diabetes expert, inspiring medical school instructor, and nationally recognized Chairman of UT Southwestern's Department of Internal Medicine for 16 years, died Jan. 18, 2018. He was 87.

Dr. Foster's long and varied medical career, which began as a medical student at UT Southwestern, took him from working as a research fellow at the National Institutes of Health to serving as a member of the President's Council on Bioethics, and from holding a Department Chair to hosting a popular weekly medical TV show. After 25 years as a UT Southwestern faculty member, Dr. Foster succeeded Dr. Donald W. Seldin as Chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine, where he served from 1988 to 2003. Under Dr. Foster's leadership,

the Department launched the Dallas Heart Study, as well as liver and lung transplant programs.

Respected and loved by the patients he served, Dr. Foster brought the highest integrity to every endeavor, whether it involved teaching weekly Sunday School classes, pursuing research projects, caring for patients, or speaking at medical conferences.

Dr. Foster, the third of five faculty Chairs of the Department of Internal Medicine since it was founded, held the John Denis McGarry, Ph.D. Distinguished Chair in Diabetes and Metabolic Research.

War II, married industrialist Eugene McDermott in 1954. He was a co-founder of Geophysical Services Inc. and its successor, Texas Instruments.

With a history of exceptional generosity to UT Southwestern totaling nearly \$45 million, the imprint of the McDermotts and their Foundation is far-reaching across campus. Among the many programs, centers, buildings, and endowed chairs named in their honor is the Eugene McDermott Center for Human Growth and Development. Mrs. McDermott also made significant gifts toward the Building the Future of Medicine campaign and to help expand William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital.

Through the years, many close personal friendships were formed as Mrs. McDermott repeatedly made generous gifts to UT Southwestern, speaking to her unique character as a true, rare friend and philanthropist. Humble at heart, she preferred to give generously but avoid the media spotlight.



Margaret McDermott: A rare friend and visionary

Margaret Milam McDermott, who died May 3, 2018, at the age of 106, was a visionary benefactor whose leadership, loyal friendship, and unwavering commitment provided transforming support to UT Southwestern.

Mrs. McDermott, a journalist who had spent time in both Germany and Japan after the end of World