

# NIH Opens New Clinical Research Hospital

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) celebrated the opening of the Mark O. Hatfield Clinical Research Center on Wednesday, September 22, 2004. This new hospital is totally dedicated to clinical research. This is the most significant addition to the NIH campus in more than 50 years and provides a unique opportunity for scientists, clinicians, and patients to study and conquer both chronic and acute disease in the twenty-first century.

The 870,000-square foot Hatfield Center connects to the existing Warren Grant Magnuson Clinical Center, which opened its doors to patients in 1953. In the 50 years since its opening, NIH has worked in partnership with more than 350,000 participants in clinical studies from every state in the United States and from around the world.

The Hatfield Center will continue to set the pace for developing the most promising medical advances. Annually,

more than 1,000 clinical studies are conducted at the NIH, and the proximity of laboratories, equipment, and patient care units will help rapidly move biomedical laboratory findings into the mainstream of medical practice, carrying on the bench-to-bedside tradition of the original NIH Clinical Center.

In 1989, an assessment of the existing Clinical Center's building systems concluded that the hospital had 12 to 15 years of useful life left. In 1994, by mandate of Congress, NIH convened an external advisory committee to conduct an in-depth review of the agency's intramural program. This committee strongly endorsed NIH's research program and recommended the immediate revitalization of the Clinical Center through construction of a new 242-bed hospital, followed by the phased renovation of the existing Clinical Center. Former NIH directors Bernadine Healy, MD, and Harold Varmus, MD, provided crucial support to this effort.

Named in honor of former Senator Mark O. Hatfield, who served in Congress for 30 years and provided steadfast support to the NIH and clinical research, the new hospital will allow for cutting-edge research and patient care in the twenty-first century. The Hatfield Center opened with approximately 240 inpatient beds and 80 day-hospital stations. Laboratories and patient rooms are highly flexible and can quickly adapt to meet new requirements and changing priorities.

Senior officials, researchers, and patients attending the opening ceremony on September 22, 2004, included former Senator Hatfield; Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Thompson; Elias A. Zerhouni, MD, Director, NIH; John I. Gallin, MD, Director, NIH Clinical Center; and US Representative C. W. Bill Young, chairman, Committee on Appropriations, US House of Representatives.

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## UT Southwestern Receives \$1.78 Million Grant for Obesity Research from NIH Roadmap Initiative

University of Texas (UT) Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas has been awarded a prestigious 3-year planning grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to study the causes of obesity and associated metabolic diseases.

The \$1.78 million grant, part of the NIH Roadmap for Medical Research, creates an Interdisciplinary Research Center and could develop into a permanent Metabolic and Obesity Center at UT Southwestern.

Dr. Gregory Fitz, chairman of internal medicine, initiated the Taskforce for Obesity Research at Southwestern. Dr. Jay Horton, associate professor of internal medicine and principal investigator on the grant, and 23 other UT Southwestern investigators from various disciplines will examine the behavioral, metabolic, and molecular mechanisms that cause obesity and metabolic syndrome. The major focus is the brain and liver because these or-

gans play key roles in the development of obesity and related disorders.

Four research teams will concentrate on three objectives: to foster interdisciplinary interactions at UT Southwestern to study obesity and metabolic syndromes, to develop state-of-the-art research programs using genetically modified mice to elucidate the metabolic and molecular bases of obesity and metabolic syndromes, and to support translation of scientific findings made in animal models to humans.

Dr. Keith Parker, chief of endocrinology and director of the Jean D. Wilson Center for Biomedical Research, is lead investigator for the team studying central regulators of energy metabolism. Dr. Horton will head the molecular biology of energy metabolism, whereas Dr. Craig Malloy, professor of radiology and internal medicine, will oversee the *in vivo* intermediary metabolism team. Dr. Scott Grundy, director of the Center

for Human Nutrition, is lead investigator for the human genetics and energy metabolism group.

In applying the research to humans, investigators will use participants from the Dallas Heart Study, an investigation of cardiovascular disease involving nearly 6,000 Dallas County residents. Molecular and clinical research techniques are being used in this groundbreaking study of a large multi-ethnic group of individuals to develop new biotechnology and establish a novel training program for scientist-physicians.

This initiative is led by the National Center for Research Resources. The NIH Roadmap is a series of far-reaching initiatives designed to transform the nation's medical research capabilities and speed the movement of research discoveries from the bench to the bedside. It provides a framework of the priorities that the NIH must address to op-

timize its entire research portfolio and lays out a vision for a more efficient and productive system of medical research.

Other UT Southwestern researchers involved in the Taskforce for Obesity Research at Southwestern are Dr. Michael Brown, director of the Erik Jonsson Center for Research in Molecular Genetics and Human Disease; Dr. Jeffrey Browning, assistant instructor of internal medicine; Dr. Shawn Burgess, assistant professor of radiology; Dr. Jonathan Cohen, associate professor of internal medicine; Dr.

Ralph DiLeone, assistant professor of psychiatry; Dr. Abhimanyu Garg, chief of nutrition and metabolic diseases; Dr. Joseph Goldstein, chairman of molecular genetics; Dr. Dana Hardin, associate professor of pediatrics; Dr. Helen Hobbs, director of the Eugene McDermott Center for Human Growth and Development and the Donald W. Reynolds Cardiovascular Clinical Research Center; and Dr. Steven Kliewer, professor of molecular biology.

Also involved were Dr. Edward Livingston, chief of gastrointestinal/en-

docrine surgery; Dr. David Mangelsdorf, professor of pharmacology; Dr. Eric Nestler, chairman of psychiatry; Dr. David Russell, professor of molecular genetics; Dr. Dean Sherry, professor of radiology; Dr. Kosaku Uyeda, professor of biochemistry; Dr. Gloria Vega, professor of clinical nutrition; Dr. Brian Weis, assistant professor of internal medicine; Dr. Masashi Yanagisawa, professor of molecular genetics; and Dr. Andrew Zinn, associate professor in the Eugene McDermott Center for Human Growth and Development.

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## International Medical Education Prize Awarded to Dutch Researcher



*Henk G. Schmidt*

Professor Henk G. Schmidt, of the University of Erasmus in Rotterdam, has become the first recipient of a new international science award for excellence in medical education research. The Prize for Research in Medical Education is awarded by the Karolinska Institute (KI), which also awards the Nobel Prize for physiology or medicine, and will be conferred every 3 years to a Swedish or foreign researcher in a field related to professional health care training.

On the invitation of KI, universities around the world nominated candidates for the award, which was presented at a ceremony in November 2004. KI's Board of Education and the Gunnar Höglund and Anna-Stina Malmberg Foundation have decided to award the prize to Professor Henk G.

Schmidt for his outstanding research into learning at all levels, from student to medical specialist. His work included studying student-centered learning, problem-based learning, clinical learning skills, and how people acquire specialist knowledge of medicine. The results of his excellent groundbreaking research efforts have changed medical education around the world. He will receive 50,000 euro (more than \$61,000).

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## Johns Hopkins University Study Focuses on Conflict of Interest in Research

A new government-funded study at Johns Hopkins University will provide much-needed information about conflict of interest in medical research. The \$3 million, 4-year investigation will explore the difficult issue of how best to disclose such conflicts to potential participants in research.

The main goal of the study, called the Conflict of Interest Notification Study (COINS), is to provide a framework for establishing sound policy and practices for disclosing conflict of interest in research. Funded by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health, COINS is

being led by Jeremy Sugarman, MD, MPH, MA, the newly endowed Harvey M. Meyerhoff Professor of Bioethics and Medicine at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Sugarman's appointment was honored at a dedication ceremony on September 27, 2004.