

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.

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).

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.