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Inside the Community

Southwestern Medical Foundation presents 2015 Ho Din Award to Dr. Laurie Elise Seidel

Southwestern Medical Foundation has presented the 2015 Ho Din Award, its highest honor, to Dr. Laurie Elise Seidel.

Bestowed by the Foundation's Board of Trustees on an outstanding senior of UT Southwestern Medical School, the Ho Din Award is the most prestigious student award given to recognize the qualities inherent in all great physicians - medical wisdom and compassionate care.

As Southwestern Medical Foundation continues to celebrate its 75th anniversary, the Ho Din Award represents the hallmark of excellence on which the medical school was built, student by student. United States Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison presented Dr. Seidel with the award on May 27 during the graduation ceremonies for UT Southwestern Medical School.

"I'm incredibly honored and grateful to the Foundation for this distinguished award," said Dr. Seidel, a Dallas native. "Looking at the list of past winners is both humbling and inspiring, and I look forward to continuing to serve patients with the warmth and empathy that are embodied by so many at this great Medical School."



Southwestern Medical Foundation has presented the 2015 Ho Din Award, its highest honor, to Dr. Laurie Elise Seidel.

"Dr. Seidel exemplifies the spirit, principles and vision that are at the core of UT Southwestern Medical School," said Robert E. Rowling, Chairman of the Board of Southwestern Medical Foundation.

"Thanks to the strong support of our donors, the Foundation is proud to play a vital role in supporting many of the next generation of doctors and leaders in patient care, biomedical science and disease prevention."

"Dr. Laurie Seidel embodies the compassion and intellect inherent in the students who attend UT Southwestern," said Wes Norred, UT Southwestern Vice President for Student and Alumni Affairs.

"I'd like to thank the Foundation and its donors for inspiring students like Dr. Seidel in reaching their goal to become superb and caring physicians."

The Ho Din award was created on May 5, 1943, the day the Board of Southwestern Medical Foundation voted to begin the medical school called Southwestern Medical College (later known as UT Southwestern).

The award — which today includes a \$10,000 cash prize — was established by Dr. Edward H. Cary, a founder and the first President of Southwestern Medical Foundation. The Board voted to establish this annual award to recognize the medical student who best exemplified the ideal physician envisioned by the founders and recognize those who best represent the unique personal qualities embodied in all great physicians — knowledge, understanding, and, most of all, compassion.

Dr. Knox E. Miller and Major General W. Lee Hart, at the request of the Foundation, created the phrase to "emphasize 'spirit,' that ethereal something which is of great importance to a physician," according to Dr. Miller.

An Unwavering Commitment to Leadership and Community Service. In addition to maintaining a 4.0 academic record, Dr. Seidel has distinguished herself through a long, unwavering commitment to leadership and service in our community.

While still in high school, Dr. Seidel founded and served as the director of the Hearing Aid Recycling Program (HARP), a program that collects used hearing aids from around the nation and redistributes them to individuals with hearing loss through the Callier Center at The University of Texas at Dallas.

While attending Emory University, she served as the vice president of Emory's chapter of Colleges Against Cancer for three years, organizing an annual university-wide bone marrow drive.

While at UT Southwestern, Laurie helped found and was co-president of the Gender Equality Medical Society.

She served as chapter vice president of the American Medical Student Association and as the medical student representative on the Women in Science and Medicine Advisory Committee (WISMAC).

Dr. Seidel has served as a mentor in the Health

Professions Recruitment and Exposure Program (HPREP), encouraging high school students towards careers in health professions, and as a peer mentor in the Academic Colleges at UT Southwestern.

For her dedication to community service, she was honored as a finalist for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship for Community Service Award.

At UT Southwestern, Dr. Seidel has established a tremendous track record for initiative, clinical acumen, teamwork, empathy, and compassionate care.

"She revels in the opportunity that physicians have to make a difference," said Dr. Soumya Adhikari, Associate Professor of Pediatrics.

"She has a knack for finding out, especially in the midst of crises, what matters most to her patients, and has an empathy for others that is bred from her own real-world experiences, which have made her mature beyond her years. She is going to make a wonderful pediatrician."

After graduation, Dr. Seidel will move to Denver to begin her residency in Pediatrics at the University of Colorado.

Nearly 10,000 physicians have graduated from UT Southwestern over the years, yet only a select few have received the Ho Din Award.

After receiving the award, winners have often gone on to achieve high levels of success and distinction.

For example, Dr. Joseph L. Goldstein, the 1966 Ho Din Award winner, was co-winner of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1985 - the first UT Southwestern graduate to win the coveted Nobel Prize.

Since its formation, UT Southwestern has largely earned its prestigious reputation from its faculty's accomplishments and the success of its graduates.

Ho Din recipients have excelled to levels of distinction that the founders of the Ho Din Award encouraged and anticipated.

"We are extremely proud to honor Dr. Laurie Seidel with the 2015 Ho Din Award," said Kathleen Gibson, President and CEO of Southwestern Medical Foundation.

"Dr. Seidel represents exactly what this award was meant to honor and encourage. Her humanistic approach to medicine, combined with tremendous scientific preparation, will bring forth the kind of physician that provides the highest quality of care. It is the standard on which the Foundation and Medical School were built."

Southwestern Medical Foundation continues to celebrate its 75th anniversary - a milestone which provides the Foundation an opportunity to recognize the impact our community has had in advancing the important cause of academic medicine, research and medical education.

In 1943, the Foundation established Southwestern Medical College and helped to nurture its growth from a fledgling medical school into one of the preeminent medical research and academic centers in the world. Today, UT Southwestern Medical Center enjoys an international reputation for discovering the basis for disease through research, applying the discoveries to the clinical care of patients, and educating the next generation of health care professionals.

For 75 years, it has been the Foundation's privilege to foster a unique culture where generosity can be imbued with meaning.

The Foundation currently manages over \$800 million across 1,000 funds, creating a financial resource that will enable advances in health care benefiting the citizens of this community, state and nation for years to come.

For more information, please visit www.swmedical.org