



**SOUTHWESTERN
MEDICAL
FOUNDATION**

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE CARY COUNCIL, SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL FOUNDATION, AND UT SOUTHWESTERN ANNOUNCE DOCSTAR GALA GRANT RECIPIENTS

MONIES SUPPORT VITAL EARLY STAGE RESEARCH AMONG YOUNG UT SOUTHWESTERN DOCSTARS

DALLAS – November 10, 2017 – [The Cary Council](#), a group of emerging young leaders who support the mission of Southwestern Medical Foundation and UT Southwestern Medical Center, announced the grant recipients of funds raised to support early stage research from their inaugural “An Evening with DocStars” event earlier this fall. The Cary Council raised more than \$200,000 from this signature event, allowing them to give significant grants to each of the three chosen finalists, or “DocStars.”

The Cary Council Steering Committee selected the top finalists, Richard C. Wang, M.D., Ph.D.; Jacques Lux, Ph.D.; and Sara Piccirillo, Ph.D. from a group of eight young researchers nominated by J. Gregory Fitz, M.D., UT Southwestern Medical School’s Dean and Provost, and David Russell, Ph.D., Vice Provost and Dean of Basic Research.

“The Cary Council is a great example of how the vision of a single person can inspire people with very different backgrounds and diverse expertise. To me, it means a lot to have the support of young professionals, not only because we belong to the same generation, but also because they took on the challenge of advancing the mission of UT Southwestern and Southwestern Medical Foundation. They are dedicated to continuing the legacy of Dr. Cary,” says Dr. Sara Piccirillo, one of the DocStar finalists.

“The Cary Council was created to educate the next generation about the critical role medical research, education, and patient care play in improving our health and making Dallas a world-class city,” says Kathleen Gibson, President and CEO of Southwestern Medical Foundation.

Dr. Wang’s research focuses on pathways central to both the development of normal skin and non-melanoma skin cancer tumorigenesis. Dr. Lux’s research is concentrated on inhibiting allergic reactions to the most common treatment utilized for pediatric patients with acute lymphoblastic leukemia, the most prevalent childhood cancer in the U.S. Dr. Piccirillo’s research focuses on glioblastoma, a rare and aggressive type of brain cancer.

“We are focused on keeping UT Southwestern at the frontiers of scientific research; promoting clinical transformation through excellence and innovation in patient care; and ensuring that UT Southwestern educates and trains future professionals in programs that optimally prepare them for the changing landscape of health care delivery,” said Dr. Daniel K. Podolsky, President, UT Southwestern Medical Center.

The three finalists were announced at “An Evening with DocStars,” which took place October 10 in UT Southwestern’s C. Vincent Prothro Plaza and Garden. Attendees had the unique opportunity to mingle with Medical Center faculty and investigators and learn about innovative research driving science and medicine forward. They were equally delighted by the opportunity to experience medicine in action through interactive booths, simulation technologies, and robotics.

The Cary Council is dedicated to advancing the importance of early stage research and creating greater awareness of the overall mission of Southwestern Medical Foundation and UT Southwestern among young

professionals and community philanthropists in the Greater Dallas Area. It was named after Dr. Edward Cary, a founder of Southwestern Medical Foundation, who had a vision to advance medical education, scientific research, and “inspire a great citizenship to greater deeds.”

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ABOUT SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL FOUNDATION

Formed in 1939, Southwestern Medical Foundation has celebrated more than 75 years of impact in shaping 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 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.

It has been our privilege to foster a unique culture where generosity can be imbued with meaning. The Foundation currently manages over \$850 million across more than 1,000 funds, creating a financial resource that will enable advances in health care benefiting the citizens of this community, state, and the nation for years to come.

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