

UT Southwestern Medical Center

Dr. Lora Hooper and Dr. Steven Kliewer Elected to National Academy of Sciences

April 28, 2015

To the UT Southwestern Community:

Please join me in congratulating our colleagues Lora Hooper, Ph.D., and Steven Kliewer, Ph.D., on their election, which was announced this morning, to the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), one of the highest honors attainable by American scientists.

Dr. Hooper is a Professor in the Departments of Immunology and Microbiology and is also a member of the Center for the Genetics of Host Defense, as well as a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator. Her research focuses on understanding how resident intestinal bacteria influence the biology of mammalian hosts, and her work has provided insights into the molecular mechanisms that mediate the interaction between the complex community of intestinal microbes and the host intestine to maintain health. She holds the Jonathan W. Uhr, M.D. Distinguished Chair in Immunology, and she is a Nancy Cain and Jeffrey A. Marcus Scholar in Medical Research, in Honor of Dr. Bill S. Vowell.

Dr. Kliewer is a Professor in the Departments of Molecular Biology and Pharmacology. He is a recognized expert in the field of orphan nuclear receptors. Prior to joining the UT Southwestern faculty in 2002, Dr. Kliewer identified the therapeutic target for a class of drugs used to fight type 2 diabetes. Since he came to UT Southwestern, he has shown that a hormone secreted by the gut – FGF19 – regulates bile acid metabolism in the liver. Dr. Kliewer holds the Nancy B. and Jake L. Hamon Distinguished Chair in Basic Cancer Research.

Through their research, both Dr. Hooper and Dr. Kliewer have illuminated fundamental processes that could lead to significant improvements in the prevention and treatment of some of the most serious diseases of the 21st century.

With their election, UT Southwestern Medical Center now has 23 members of the prestigious National Academy of Sciences on its faculty. This gives UT Southwestern the distinction of being among the most elite group of academic medical centers in the country.

Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.
President, UT Southwestern Medical Center