



Passing of Dr. Richard G.W. Anderson

March 20, 2011

To the UT Southwestern Community:

With sadness and a deep sense of personal and professional respect, I am writing to announce the death of Dr. Richard G.W. Anderson, an esteemed medical scientist and former Chairman of the Department of Cell Biology at UT Southwestern Medical Center. Dr. Anderson died yesterday at age 70. He leaves behind his wife, Barbara, a daughter, Amber, and a grandson, Matthew.

Dr. Anderson's research helped lay the groundwork for the 1985 Nobel Prize-winning work of Dr. Michael Brown and Dr. Joseph Goldstein at UT Southwestern. His investigations focused on two areas of cell biology — the mechanisms by which cells use endocytic receptors to engulf material from their environment; and the caveolae, a membrane system that organizes signaling molecules used by cells to communicate with each other.

On learning of his passing, Drs. Brown and Goldstein said, "The two of us were extremely fortunate in 1974 to find that young Dick Anderson had joined our faculty. We had been trained as biochemists. Through biochemical studies, we had discovered that cells take up cholesterol from cholesterol-carrying low density lipoproteins (LDL) through a receptor-mediated process, but we had no idea how it actually worked. Dick brought the culture and methods of cell biology to our research. He agreed to collaborate with us, and the rest is history."

Dr. Anderson in every way exemplified the vigor and far-reaching influence of UT Southwestern's leadership in basic science. He was an inspiration to generations of young scientists, and we are proud to share in his legacy.

He joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 1973 as Assistant Professor in Cell Biology. He became Professor in 1981 and was named department Chairman in 1999. Dr. Anderson served as Chairman of the Graduate Program in Cell Biology from 1975 to 1981, prior to being appointed Chairman over the Graduate Program in Cell and Molecular Biology. Due to illness, Dr. Anderson stepped down as Department Chairman in 2010, remaining on staff until a few months ago. He held the Cecil H. Green Distinguished Chair in Cellular and Molecular Biology at UT Southwestern. Dr. Anderson graduated from Oregon State University and completed his doctorate in anatomy in 1970 at the University of Oregon Medical School after majoring in mathematics at OSU.

Please join me in extending condolences to Dr. Anderson's wife, Barbara, and their family.

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