



The University of Texas
Health Science Center at San Antonio
15355 Lambda Drive
San Antonio, Texas 78245

Department of Physiology and Sam and Ann Barshop Institute for Longevity and Aging Studies

(210) 562-5080 / FAX: (281) 582-3538

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Dear colleagues,

I am writing to extend an invitation to you to attend a scientific symposium being held to celebrate the retirement of Dr. James R. Smith, Professor of Pathology at the Sam and Ann Barshop Institute for Longevity and Aging Studies. As part of the celebration we have been successful in persuading an outstanding group of scientists to agree to come to the Health Science Center to speak at this scientific symposium.

Among these speakers are several who have played key roles in the development of cell senescence as a vital topic in aging, particularly with respect to the aging-cancer relationship. Dr. Leonard Hayflick is one of those speakers; Dr. Hayflick initiated the first pioneering experiments in the field of cell senescence and gave his name to what is now often called "the Hayflick limit." Another of our speakers, Dr. George Martin, has contributed some of the most thoughtful analysis of the biology of aging, including the relevance of cellular senescence to aging. Dr. Judy Campisi has performed seminal studies of the molecular basis of cellular senescence and its relationship to cancer.

Four other speakers, Drs. Gretchen Darlington, Estela Medrano, Nick Timchenko, and Robb Moses, are Jim's colleagues who are or were at Baylor College of Medicine, part of the Program Project Grant that Jim led so successfully for many years. Dr. Arlan Richardson, Director of the Barshop Institute, and Dr. Huber Warner, former Director of the Biology of Aging Program at the National Institute on Aging, will speak on Jim's life in science.

We hope that you will join us in the Texas Research Park for this one-day symposium on August 3, 2007 and help us celebrate Jim Smith's retirement with this day of outstanding science.

Sincerely yours,

Peter J. Hornsby, Ph.D.
Symposium Organizer