

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler



ENDOWMENT PROFILE

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Endowment Supports Cutting-Edge Biomedical Research

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Health Science Center at Tyler's Center for Biomedical Research is home to world-class scientists searching for cures to many infectious diseases that affect the world today. Endowment support from the Effie and Wofford Cain Foundation, established in 1952, is critical to their ongoing efforts as they make new discoveries and continue to see success. The Cain Foundation has funded two endowments for the benefit of biomedical research at UT Health Science Center – Tyler. The *Margaret E. Byers Cain Chair for Tuberculosis Research* is named for the mother of Mr. James Byers Cain. She died from complications of tuberculosis in 1927, so Mr. Cain understood the impact that a cure or vaccine could have had in her life as well as in the lives of others.

Part of the *James Byers Cain Research Endowment* is named for Mr. Cain, himself, because of his passion and desire to assist talented scientists in finding cures for many infectious diseases that affect our world. Infectious disease is one of the leading causes of death worldwide.



Dr. Amir Shams

This endowment recently helped to fund an important discovery in the treatment and prevention of influenza. Influenza – the flu – causes severe illness in three to five million people worldwide every year and kills from a quarter-of-a-million to half-a-million people, according to the World Health Organization. Dr. Amir Shams and his team of researchers

have found that a natural chemical produced in your body can boost your immune system and protect you from the flu. If these results are confirmed by clinical trials that this chemical is safe and effective, one day you might not need to get a flu shot. Instead, you would fight off the flu with a nasal spray that boosts your lungs' immune system.

It wouldn't matter which flu strain you were exposed to – your lungs' supercharged immune system could resist infection by any influenza strain. It looks like this chemical could even protect people with weakened immune systems and effectively treat people who already were suffering with severe cases of the flu.

Through the support provided by The James Byers Cain Research Endowment which is managed by The University of Texas Investment Management Company, Dr. Shams and his team have been able to continue their work while applying for grants and other additional support as well. The endowment funds provide a steady stream of financial resources, so the team can continue to move forward with the next steps in their discoveries.

Biomedical research takes a long time and requires the commitment of the scientist, his team and those who support their work. Without biomedical research, many of the cures and vaccines that we enjoy today would never have come about. As the scientists at the UT Health Science Center – Tyler's Center for Biomedical Research commit their time and efforts to this arduous task, continued financial support from individuals and foundations like The Cain Foundation is critical to their success which could save lives in the future.

If you'd like more information about how to start an endowment, please contact:

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