

Thomas F. Burks Scholarship for Academic Merit Application Packet Information

General Information:

The Thomas F. Burks Scholarship for Academic Merit is available to all students enrolled full-time at one of the UTHealth schools able to demonstrate excellence by (1) academic achievement, having completed one or more semesters at UTHealth; and, (2) support of the mission of education and research within the applicant's school and UTHealth.

Scholarship History

Dr. Thomas F. Burks, who was an outstanding researcher, inspirational teacher and academic leader, and friend to faculty, staff and students, passed away in March 2001. As a tribute to his memory and to what he valued in life, a student scholarship was established in his name. The Interfaculty Council recommended that the scholarship be in the form of a Scholarship of Merit and that a Scholarship Selection Committee comprised of faculty and students be a part of the selection process.

Dr. Thomas F. Burks was a distinguished research scientist who had served UTHSC-H as its chief academic officer from 1991 to 2001. Dr. Burks came from the University of Arizona College of Medicine, where he served as an associate dean for research, and head and professor of the department of pharmacology. Prior to his work in Arizona, Burks was a faculty member at The University of Texas Medical School at Houston (UTMS-H) from 1971 to 1977. He began his tenure at UTMS-H as an associate professor of pharmacology. Later he was appointed professor of pharmacology. Concurrently, he served as a member of the faculty of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. He was recipient of the university's first John Freeman Award for Outstanding Teaching.

After receiving his postdoctoral training, Burks became assistant professor of pharmacology in 1967 at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine and was appointed associate professor in 1971. Burks received his B.S. and M.S. degrees at the University of Texas-Austin and Ph.D. at the University of Iowa College of Medicine. He conducted postdoctoral work at the Laboratory of Neuropharmacology at the National Institute for Medical Research in London, England.

He received multiple National Institutes of Health research grants in his major areas of interest and expertise: central and peripheral neuropeptide pharmacology; mechanisms of opioid actions; and gastrointestinal pharmacology. Prior to his death, Dr. Burks had been leading preparations for the 14th World Congress of Pharmacology in San Francisco in July 2002. The congress is the most comprehensive gathering of pharmacological scientists in the world and is conducted only every four years. He was selected president of the congress by the host organization, the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET). Burks was also president of ASPET in 1990 and 1991.



Dr. Gary Rosenfeld, Interfaculty Council Chair, 2001

**Thomas F. Burks Scholarship for Academic Merit
COVER SHEET: SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP CHECKLIST**

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Student Name: _____
Last Name First Name M.I.

Student ID: _____

School/Program of Study (*Please indicate*):

_____ School of Dentistry
Program: _____

_____ Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
Program: _____

_____ McGovern Medical School
Program: _____

_____ School of Biomedical Informatics
Program: _____

_____ Cizik School of Nursing
Program: _____

_____ School of Public Health
Program: _____

SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE CONTACT: _____

NOMINATION PACKET TO INCLUDE:

- _____ Cover Sheet
- _____ Letter of Recommendation from the Dean
- _____ Summary letter (one page maximum) from School Scholarship Committee outlining the internal selection process and criteria used by the school.
- _____ One-page **student essay**: single-spaced, 12 PT Font, justifying why you are deserving of this award. Essay should address 5 Points: 1) academics, 2) teaching & mentoring, 3) leadership experience, 4) community service, and 5) overcoming adversity.
- _____ Student Resume and/or CV

FORWARD NOMINATION PACKET TO:

Martha (Kathy) Rodgers
Office of Academic & Research Affairs
UCT 1565D
Phone Number 713-500-3065 (for more information)
Kathy.Rodgers@uth.tmc.edu