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**TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
ASSOCIATE DEAN SELECTED AS RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR**

ODESSA, TEXAS – Craig Spellman, PhD., D.O., associate dean of research at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at the Permian Basin; was presented the 2008 physician-scientist Researcher of the Year award by The American College of Osteopathic Internists at a lecture in Marco Island, Florida.

Current epidemiologic research led by Spellman includes the National Institute for Health/Center for Disease Control-funded DREAMS project that focuses on Hispanic health disparities; identification of children at-risk for type 2 diabetes; screening strategies to identify Hispanic women and men with diabetes; and identification of risk markers for progression of coronary artery calcification.

Spellman's clinical research includes blood sugar control in critically ill patients. His basic research includes engineering High-Density Lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol particles in gene regulation. Key investigators in this research included Walter McConathy, Ph.D., professor of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at the Permian Basin School of Medicine.