

# SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

Media Contact: Toni Heinzl  
214-648-3404

[Toni.Heinzl@utsouthwestern.edu](mailto:Toni.Heinzl@utsouthwestern.edu)

## **Children's Cancer Fund gives \$1 million to complete pediatric cancer center at UT Southwestern**

DALLAS – Dec. 13, 2005 – The Children's Cancer Fund of Dallas has donated \$1 million to UT Southwestern Medical Center to complete its commitment to help create a comprehensive pediatric cancer research center.

The Children's Cancer Fund's (CCF) gift, coupled with a matching \$1 million grant from an anonymous donor, provides the final \$2 million necessary to endow the Children's Cancer Fund Comprehensive Center for Research in Pediatric Oncology. In 2000, the CCF initiated the funding of the \$6 million center with a \$2 million challenge pledge.

The comprehensive center comprises three separate but closely integrated components in pediatric oncology – clinical research, translational laboratory research and basic research. Included in the research programs are the Nearburg Family Center for Basic Research in Pediatric Oncology and the Barrett Family Center for Pediatric Oncology.

"The Children's Cancer Fund is proud to support the dedicated and compassionate doctors in their efforts to find a cure for kids' cancer," said Taylor Stone, president of the Children's Cancer Fund.

CCF was formed in December 1982 by parents of children being treated for cancer at Children's Medical Center Dallas under the care of UT Southwestern physicians. Since then, community and business leaders, volunteers, and medical professionals have joined the parents in raising funds to find a cure for cancers affecting children.

Since its inception, the Children's Cancer Fund has donated more than \$5 million to provide endowments, recruit and retain senior physicians and scientists, and support vital research projects in pediatric cancer at UT Southwestern and Children's Medical Center, where UT Southwestern's pediatric specialists care for their patients. Contributions from the Children's Cancer Fund have also helped establish a fellowship program aimed at training young pediatricians to become blood and cancer specialists.

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## CCF gift – 2

The center will serve as a magnet to attract some of the most sought-after researchers in the country and as a trailblazing model for pediatric cancer research, said Dr. George Buchanan, professor of pediatrics.

“We still have too many children who don’t survive cancer,” Dr. Buchanan said. “And we have to make the treatments less toxic and shorter. That’s why it is necessary to double our efforts in clinical and basic scientific cancer research. The support from the Children’s Cancer Fund has been spectacular.”

Dr. James Willson, director of the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center, applauded the strong advocacy and community support reflected in the work of the Children’s Cancer Fund.

“As a cancer center, we could not exist and succeed without our partnership with the Children’s Cancer Fund and our relationship with Children’s Medical Center and its pediatric oncology and hematology program,” said Dr. Willson.

UT Southwestern president Dr. Kern Wildenthal concurred: “Our pediatric cancer team is known as one of best in the world for clinical patient care and research, and this gift will enable us to attain an even higher level of eminence in pediatric oncology research. Young patients in Dallas and elsewhere will benefit from the treatments developed at the Children’s Cancer Fund Comprehensive Center.”

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