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Audre and Bernard Rapoport donate \$1 million to support indigent patient care programs at UT Southwestern

DALLAS – April 17, 2008 – Texas philanthropists Audre and Bernard Rapoport have donated \$1 million to foster clinical care and research for indigent patients at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

The gift, the couple's latest to *the Innovations in Medicine* campaign, will create the Audre and Bernard Rapoport Distinguished Chair in Clinical Care.

"Audre and I have always thought very highly of UT Southwestern and the caliber of patient care available there," Mr. Rapoport said. "One of the things that makes the institution so special is that the clinical services are backed by top-quality research – it's a continuum of care. We want to ensure that this excellent care is available to everyone in our community, including the most disadvantaged among us."

The Bernard and Audre Rapoport Foundation, founded in 1989, made a \$2 million gift to UT Southwestern in 2001 to establish the Audre and Bernard Rapoport Center for Cardiovascular Research. They have also established the Audre and Bernard Rapoport Chair in Cardiovascular Research, held by Dr. John Warner, assistant professor of internal medicine, and the Audre Newman Rapoport Distinguished Chair in Pediatric Endocrinology, held by Dr. Perrin White, professor of pediatrics, at the medical center.

The philanthropists, who have distributed more than \$32 million to charitable organizations through their foundation, also have created two chairs and four professorships at Bernard Rapoport's alma mater, UT Austin, as well as having provided major support for scholarships and the university's art museum.

"The Rapoports are true humanitarians whose commitment to fighting for social justice is known nationally," said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern. "Their dedication to UT Southwestern is a source of pride and inspiration to us, and we are extremely appreciative of their confidence in our institution as a force for improving the lives of others."

The son of Russian Jewish immigrants, Mr. Rapoport founded the American Income Life Insurance Co. in Waco in 1951 and served as the company's chairman of the board and chief

executive officer until its sale in 1994. He was appointed to the UT System Board of Regents by the late Gov. Ann Richards in 1991 and was chairman of the board from 1993 to 1997.

It was through his service as a Regent that he and Mrs. Rapoport became familiar with UT Southwestern's commitment to excellence and decided to help further its mission.

In 2008 the UT System Board of Regents awarded Mr. Rapoport its highest honor, the Santa Rita Award, and in 1999 he was awarded the Horatio Alger Award by the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans. He is a member of the Leadership Council of UT Southwestern's *Innovations in Medicine* campaign and serves on the UT Southwestern Health System Board of Visitors. In addition, Mr. Rapoport serves on the Chancellor's Council Executive Committee, the Commission of 125, the We're Texas Campaign Executive Council and is a life member of the UT Austin Development Board.

Mrs. Rapoport is active in a number of causes and is especially involved in social services for women and children. She is a longtime leader of Planned Parenthood and helped establish the Planned Parenthood of Central Texas Audre Rapoport Library and Audre Rapoport Women's Health Center in Waco.

"Getting to know the Rapoports has been one of the most special experiences of my career," said Dr. Warner, who also is the Jim and Norma Smith Distinguished Chair for Interventional Cardiology. "They are among the most inspiring people I have ever met, and their concern and advice to me and many others at UT Southwestern on both personal and professional levels, as well as their financial support, are very special and most appreciated."

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