

Media Contact: Rachel Skei Donihoo
214-648-3404
rachel.donihoo@utsouthwestern.edu

Hortense Sanger bequeaths \$377,843 to support cancer research at UT Southwestern

DALLAS – Aug. 5, 2008 – A \$377,843 bequest from civic leader Hortense Sanger will establish a professorship in oncology and will support cancer research at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

The gift, which was given to Southwestern Medical Foundation, establishes the Morton H. and Hortense L. Sanger Professorship in Oncology. Dr. Michael White, professor of cell biology, has been named the first holder. The remaining \$227,843 will foster oncology investigations at the medical center.

Mrs. Sanger, who died in 2003, was widely regarded as a Dallas visionary and is credited with getting the first social worker assigned to the Dallas Police Department. Her influence also prompted Dallas schools to use federal school lunch funds and resulted in the first cooperative day-care center in the housing projects of South Dallas.

Her volunteer efforts garnered her numerous awards, including the National Council of Jewish Women's Hannah G. Solomon Award, the Volunteer Center Award and the Hockaday Alumni Medal, among others. She also was a member of the Heritage Society, which honors those who make long-term charitable contributions to Southwestern Medical Foundation through planned gifts.

"My grandmother had a great love for this community and a great respect for UT Southwestern and all it has to offer the people of Dallas," said David Feld. "She was as unpretentious a person as you could ever find, but she was always outspoken about causes she believed in. Medical research was one of those things."

Mrs. Sanger was married to Morton Sanger, a Dallas retailing executive and civic leader. Mr. Sanger, who died in 1995, was a grandson of Sanger Bros. Dry Goods Co. founder Sam Sanger.

"Hortense Sanger was wholeheartedly committed to the betterment of her community, so this generous bequest prompted by her desire to support UT Southwestern holds special meaning for all of us," said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of the medical center. "We're very pleased and grateful to

(MORE)

Sanger gift – 2

have the opportunity to create a professorship in the Sanger name.”

Plack Carr, president of Southwestern Medical Foundation, added, “This is a truly wonderful gift from a woman who not only spoke of her beliefs, but acted upon them. We’re thrilled that this professorship will be supporting such promising cancer research.”

Dr. White earned a doctorate degree in biology from the University of North Carolina in 1992 after majoring in zoology at the University of Iowa. After completing postdoctoral training at Cold Springs Harbor Laboratory in New York, he joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 1995.

Dr. White, whose research focuses on helping define the core regulatory aberrations that drive tumor initiation and progression, is associate director for basic science at UT Southwestern’s Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center. He also serves on the editorial committee of the journal *Pharmacology and Toxicology*’s annual review, and on the editorial board of *Molecular and Cellular Biology*.

“UT Southwestern is taking a leadership role among other academic institutions in the application of post-genomic technology to human disease gene discovery,” said Dr. White. “This gift from Mrs. Sanger will help our efforts to investigate the molecular biology of cancer. I’m personally very grateful for this wonderful opportunity and feel very lucky to be a part of a world-class cohort of scientists and physicians.”

###

To automatically receive news releases from UT Southwestern via e-mail,
subscribe at www.utsouthwestern.edu/receiveneews