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\$1 million gift from the Lowe Foundation supports Alzheimer's disease research at UT Southwestern

DALLAS – Nov. 17, 2008 – The Lowe Foundation of Houston has given \$1 million to Southwestern Medical Foundation to foster Alzheimer's disease research at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

The funds will establish the Erma Lowe Laboratory in Alzheimer's Research and support the work of Dr. Craig Powell, assistant professor of neurology and psychiatry. His research is focused on the molecular and cellular mechanisms of cognition, with an emphasis on learning and memory. Dr. Powell has earned national recognition with his research into how brief environmental stimuli can lead to long-lasting behavioral and biochemical changes.

"We have great confidence that Dr. Powell and his colleagues will make an enormous contribution in the quest to find the answer and possible cure for this dreadful disease," said a representative from the Lowe Foundation.

The foundation was established in 1988 by civic leader Erma Lowe and her daughter, Mary Ralph Lowe, who has carried on her mother's commitment to the health and educational needs of women and children. Since its inception, the Lowe Foundation has assisted more than 400 organizations throughout Texas.

Erma Lowe was a dedicated volunteer and philanthropist, known for her tireless efforts on behalf of Cook Children's Medical Center and numerous other charities. She served on the Texas Christian University board of trustees and was an honorary trustee for more than two decades. Her husband, Ralph, was a Texas wildcatter who earned a reputation as one of the state's most respected members of the oil and gas industry. Among his many entrepreneurial enterprises were farming, ranching, real estate and thoroughbred racing.

Mary Ralph Lowe is currently president of Maralo LLC, a Houston-based oil and gas exploration and acquisition company founded by her father in the 1940s. She serves on the boards of TCU, the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame, and the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth. Zoo, the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, and the Presbyterian Night Shelter of Tarrant

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County. She also is active in numerous civic organizations, including the Texas Ballet Theater, the Fort Worth.

A longtime supporter of UT Southwestern, the Lowe Foundation established the Lowe Foundation Center for Women's Preventative Health Care at the medical center in 1999. It also previously established two professorships at UT Southwestern – the Lowe Foundation Professorship in Pediatric Neuro-Oncology, held by Dr. Naomi Winick, and the Lowe Foundation Professorship in Pediatric Critical Care Research, held by Dr. Philip Shaul. More recently, the foundation supported the *Innovations in Medicine* campaign with a major contribution to help endow the George N. Peters, M.D., Center for Breast Surgery and to provide support for early detection of breast cancer.

"The Lowe Foundation has a long history of advancing major medical initiatives at UT Southwestern," said Dr. Daniel K. Podolsky, president of UT Southwestern. "We are grateful for the foundation's consistent and magnanimous support and are very pleased that it has chosen to contribute to an area of research so essential to our aging patient population."

Dr. Powell earned a Ph.D. in neuroscience from Baylor College of Medicine in 1994 and a medical degree with honors from Baylor in 1997. He joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2001 and is a frequent speaker on topics related to brain research.

"I am honored and humbled by the generosity of the Lowe Foundation and its board members," said Dr. Powell. "They have shown a keen interest in every aspect of our research and seem to truly value the time and effort of basic neuroscientists trying to unravel the mysteries of brain function and dysfunction in disease. My greatest hope is that our research progress can match their generosity and good will."

Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of Southwestern Medical Foundation, added: "Gifts such as these are essential if we are to build far-reaching research, teaching and patient-care programs. We are deeply appreciative to the Lowe Foundation for this latest expression of its confidence in our institution."

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