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\$3 million gift from Harry W. Bass Jr. Foundation supports UT Southwestern's Heart, Lung and Vascular Program

DALLAS – Sept. 30, 2008 – The Harry W. Bass Jr. Foundation has given \$3 million to Southwestern Medical Foundation to support and name the Clinical Center for Heart, Lung and Vascular Disease at UT Southwestern University Hospital.

The gift will significantly enhance research and clinical care programs at the center, which includes UT Southwestern's internationally acclaimed Heart and Lung Transplant Program.

The center, now to be known as the Doris and Harry W. Bass Jr. Clinical Center for Heart, Lung and Vascular Disease, is a collaborative effort between UT Southwestern faculty and community physicians who unite to bring their clinical and surgical expertise to patients needing cardiac, pulmonary or vascular care. Seamless, individualized care is available for adult congenital heart disease, cardiac imaging, cardiovascular and thoracic surgery, electrophysiology, general cardiology, heart failure, heart and lung transplant, interventional cardiology, interventional radiology, lung transplant pulmonology, mechanical circulatory assistance, preventive cardiology, pulmonary hypertension, and vascular and endovascular surgery.

"As with every grant the Harry Bass Foundation makes, the trustees carefully monitor the use of funds we give to make certain they are utilized to the best and fullest extent possible," said Doris Bass, widow of Harry Bass Jr., and president of the foundation. "That means we take a hard look at the leadership of prospective grantee organizations to make certain that happens. Our grant to support UT Southwestern is a public statement of confidence in its strong leadership, knowing that the right decisions will be made for the continuing progress and success of this pre-eminent teaching, research and treatment facility, which is such a dynamic asset not only to the city of Dallas, but to the entire Southwest."

The Bass Foundation was established in Dallas in 1945 by Harry Bass Sr., a petroleum entrepreneur and founder of the Trinity Gas Corp. and numerous other oil and natural gas drilling and production companies. After his father's death in 1970, Harry Bass Jr. took over operations of the family foundation.

In 1991 Mr. Bass established a research foundation as an extension of his passion for

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numismatics, the study and collection of coins. The two organizations were merged in 2002 to create the Harry W. Bass Jr. Foundation, which remains committed to the support of local arts and culture, science and health, human services, religion and education. Mr. Bass was an avid outdoorsman and a prominent civic figure in Dallas until his death in 1998.

Mrs. Bass is joined in the leadership of the Harry Bass Jr. Foundation by trustees Michael Wylie of Dallas and Michael Calhoun of Houston, and David Calhoun of Dallas, who is also the foundation's executive director.

"UT Southwestern's success in maintaining the excellence of our programs depends to a significant degree upon the ongoing commitment of major supporters like the Harry Bass Jr. Foundation," said Dr. Daniel K. Podolsky, president of UT Southwestern. "The Clinical Center for Heart, Lung and Vascular Disease is one of our 'crown jewels,' and we are honored by the foundation's great generosity and confidence in our programs."

For more than two decades UT Southwestern has been at the international forefront on issues related to the vital cardiovascular and cardiopulmonary systems. Researchers in the Bass Center have contributed a host of scientific discoveries helping to decrease mortality from cardiovascular and pulmonary disease. Among these are the relationship between genetics and heart disease, the importance of reducing sodium intake in controlling hypertension, the importance of the liver in ridding the body of cholesterol, and the development of rapid cardiac magnetic resonance imaging for revealing heart injury through motion pictures of the beating heart.

"The Bass family has given generously to UT Southwestern and the Dallas community for decades, and we're enormously pleased that they have, once again, shared their resources with us," said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of Southwestern Medical Foundation. "We are delighted by this very important gift and what it will mean for the thousands of patients who pass through the doors of the Doris and Harry W. Bass Jr. Clinical Center for Heart, Lung and Vascular Disease."

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