

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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GILLSON LONGENBAUGH FOUNDATION GIVES \$120,000 TO SUPPORT CANCER RESEARCH PROGRAMS

DALLAS – December 17, 1999 – A longtime supporter of medical research, the Gillson Longenbaugh Foundation has donated \$120,000 to advance cancer investigations at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

The Houston-based philanthropic organization's gift will benefit the work of two prominent oncology researchers: Dr. John D. Minna, professor of internal medicine and pharmacology, and Dr. John D. McConnell, vice president for clinical programs and chairman of urology.

"We believe that the current revolution in biotechnology, molecular genetics and computational power will usher in a new era in the understanding and treatment of cancer," said Lawrence I. Levy, president and managing director of the Gillson Longenbaugh Foundation. "With these things in mind, we have chosen to support UT Southwestern, whose stature in the medical community we have long admired."

The gift will help fund Minna's studies on breast and lung cancer using new microarray "gene chip" technology, which allows researchers to uncover gene patterns that may aid in early diagnosis and better treatment for patients.

"This generous gift allows us to rapidly explore this very exciting new area of research and develop innovative technology that could one day have a far-reaching impact on patient care," said Minna, director of the Nancy B. and Jake L. Hamon Center for Therapeutic Oncology Research and the W.A. "Tex" and Deborah Moncrief Jr. Center for Cancer Genetics. Minna also holds the Sarah M. and Charles E. Seay Distinguished Chair in Cancer Research and the Max L. Thomas Distinguished Chair in Molecular Pulmonary Oncology.

McConnell's work, which is focused on developing a gene-based therapy for hormone-refractory prostate cancer, similarly will benefit from the endowment.

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"Gifts such as this one make a tremendous impact on our scientific research -- and ultimately on our patients' lives. I'm very pleased that the foundation has chosen to support our research and am excited about the possibilities it will afford us," said McConnell, director of the Dr. Bob Smith Foundation Center for Prostate Research and the Jean H. and John T. Walter Jr. Center for Research in Urologic Oncology. He is also an associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology and holder of the E.E. Fogelson and Greer Garson Fogelson Distinguished Chair in Urology.

"We are very grateful that the Gillson Longenbaugh Foundation has responded so generously to the need to advance basic cancer research," said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, UT Southwestern president. "With its help, we can move forward in our quest for earlier detection and better treatments for a disease that has impacted so many Americans."

The Gillson Longenbaugh Foundation was established in 1981 by the late philanthropist Alta G. Longenbaugh, whose farming and ranching interests, now held by the foundation, remain one of the largest land holdings in the Houston area. Although the foundation serves broad charitable purposes, it has primarily focused on medical research, specifically cancer-related, in recent years.

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