

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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\$10 MILLION CENTER FOR PARALYSIS AND BASIC NEUROSCIENCE RESEARCH ANNOUNCED

DALLAS — January 22, 1994 - The Kent Waldrep National Paralysis Foundation has reached its initial \$5,000,000 goal and announced the establishment of a new \$10 million center for paralysis and basic neuroscience research at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, thanks to Southwestern Ball supporters and two anonymous donors.

The foundation set its \$5 million goal in 1989. An anonymous donor pledged to match that sum in order to stimulate donations, said Kent Waldrep, founder of the Kent Waldrep National Paralysis Foundation. This year, a second anonymous donor has pledged over \$2 million which — with this year's ball proceeds and those of 1990-93 — will complete the \$5 million challenge and be matched dollar-for-dollar.

While celebrating achieving the \$5 million goal at Saturday's Southwestern Ball held at the Anatole Hotel, Waldrep also announced the goal for next year's Southwestern Ball campaign: \$500,000, which, if attained, will be matched once again. And that \$1 million will in turn be matched by the Southwestern Medical Foundation's Mobility Foundation Fund. The \$2 million will then be used to endow positions for researchers in neurological rehabilitation, who will work in collaboration with basic neuroscientists to bring the fruits of basic research to the patient.

"The continuing support from the community for the Southwestern Ball and the support from our two anonymous donors is going to allow the creation of one of the largest and most comprehensive paralysis research centers in the world," said Waldrep. He established the National Paralysis Foundation in 1985 to raise

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funds for paralysis research and to promote increased services for people who are paralyzed.

"We are grateful for Kent Waldrep's dedication, the leadership and hard work of the chairs of the Southwestern Balls, and the generosity of the two anonymous donors who are enabling us to make great strides in paralysis and basic neuroscience research," said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, UT Southwestern president.

"The donors share the hope that basic neuroscience research will someday be able to help and heal people with paralysis and other mobility disorders."

Wildenthal announced at the ball that such support has helped make possible the recruitment of one of the world's leading authorities in neurological development and growth. Dr. Luis Parada, he said, is coming from the National Institutes of Health to direct a major component of the new research center.

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