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Southwestern Medical Foundation elects new president, board chairman

DALLAS – June 10, 2008 – Southwestern Medical Foundation has announced a changing of the guard. Dr. Kern Wildenthal, who will retire as president of UT Southwestern Medical Center on Sept. 1, has been elected president of the foundation; and William T. Solomon, a Dallas businessman and civic leader who chaired the medical center's record-setting *Innovations in Medicine* fundraising campaign, has been elected chairman of the foundation's board.

These new roles were approved at the foundation's board meeting on April 29 and announced at a celebratory dinner honoring the benefactors of the ambitious campaign, launched in 2002. The campaign, which raised a total of \$772,790,488 for the research and treatment of major diseases for which major breakthroughs could be possible over the next several years and decades, is the most successful fundraising effort in Dallas history.

"The remarkable success of *Innovations in Medicine* attests to the extraordinary support that UT Southwestern has earned in our community and throughout the region, and is ultimately a reflection of the world-class work that UT Southwestern is doing in research, patient care and education," said Mr. Solomon, recently retired chairman of Austin Industries. "This is a very exciting time to be joining Southwestern Medical Foundation, and I'm honored and very pleased to take on the role of chairman."

Mr. Solomon replaces Paul M. Bass, who has served as the board's chairman since 1995. Under Mr. Bass' leadership the foundation's assets increased more than \$500 million, from \$126 million to \$647 million. Mr. Bass becomes chairman emeritus of the foundation.

"I am grateful and honored to have served with the most generous and farsighted group of trustees, donors, and friends in the private sector who collectively have supported the foundation and ensured UT Southwestern's pre-eminence as a world-class medical center," said Mr. Bass. "Bill Solomon is a philanthropist and long time supporter of UT Southwestern, and he brings an incredible track record to Southwestern Medical Foundation. Bill recognizes the huge significance and importance of the role of private philanthropy in elevating and transforming UT Southwestern for generations to come."

Dr. Wildenthal has served as president of UT Southwestern for 22 years and was dean of its
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graduate school and medical school during the decade prior to that. He announced his impending retirement as president of the medical center in October 2007. At the foundation, he will succeed W. Plack Carr Jr., who has led the organization since 1995.

Mr. Carr said, “Paul and I have had a great run of 13 years with what is truly a team effort that involves the staff, the trustees and the medical school. Both of us are honored to have had the faith and trust of this community placed in our hands. Now, with Bill and Kern assuming new roles at the foundation, there will be expanded opportunities to advance medicine in Dallas.”

Dr. Wildenthal said he was very proud of the quality of UT Southwestern, how it has grown, and the impact the medical center has had on people’s lives through education, research and clinical care.

“I believe that we are now recognized across the nation as one of America’s premier institutions, and Southwestern Medical Foundation’s role in that progress has been crucial,” he said. “I look forward to helping continue the foundation’s fundraising efforts and community involvement, and I’m deeply honored to be named president of such a respected organization which has been so ably led for so many years.”

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