

# News

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## \*\*\*\*Support of cancer research activities surges at UT Southwestern

Kern Wildenthal, M.D., Ph.D., president of The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas announces landmark progress in this year's record-setting developments in cancer research. Funds topping \$70 million virtually assure "world-class" standing of cancer activities at UT Southwestern, including the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Komen Alliance Center for Breast Cancer Research, he states.

\*\*\* Site preparation for a \$52.5-million Simmons Biomedical Research Building to house cancer research has begun on UT Southwestern's new 30-acre North Campus.

Harold C. Simmons, Dallas entrepreneur and philanthropist, earmarked \$5 million of his \$41-million gift to UT Southwestern last December to help finance a building for cancer research. Full funding for the building has been obtained, with a \$20-million allotment from the UT Permanent University Fund, plus UT Southwestern funds and private donations.

The building will be named the Simmons Biomedical Research Building in honor of Reuben Leon and Fairess Clark Simmons, parents of

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Harold Simmons. Construction of the building is expected to begin in 1990 with a projected occupancy date set for two years after groundbreaking.

The Simmons research building will have 11 floors containing almost 400,000 gross square feet of space.

The building will be the first of six research towers on the new North Campus -- land at the northeast corner of Harry Hines Boulevard and Inwood Road. The land, valued at \$8 million, was given to UT Southwestern by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation in December 1987 for campus expansion. The first structure on the North Campus, the Mary Nell and Ralph B. Rogers Magnetic Resonance Center, is now nearing completion.

\*\*\* A total of \$24 million from the \$41-million Simmons' gift will support cancer research activities at UT Southwestern. This will include funding of the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center to allow new initiatives in a broad spectrum of cancer investigation and clinical care. A national search will be conducted for a director.

Four "distinguished chairs" in cancer research, named for Harold Simmons' four daughters, will be established with the Simmons gift, each chair retaining an endowment of \$1 million. The distinguished chairs will support outstanding faculty scientists whose research activities are concentrated in the areas of comprehensive oncology, cancer immunochemistry, cancer immunopharmacology and cancer immunobiology. Ellen Vitetta, Ph.D., professor of microbiology at UT Southwestern, has been named the holder of the distinguished chair in

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cancer immunobiology and director of a new center in cancer immunobiology research. Search committees are seeking individuals to be recruited to the other chairs.

\*\*\* The Komen Alliance Center for Breast Cancer Research is being established as an autonomous center within the comprehensive cancer program. It will occupy a new \$860,000 facility with 8,300 square feet of laboratory and office space. Located on the 9th floor in the Cecil H. and Ida Green Research Building at UT Southwestern, the facility is scheduled for completion in February 1990.

The Komen center will be funded from a \$3-million pledge from the Komen Foundation, as well as funds from the Simmons gift and other institutional resources. Part of the Komen Foundation gift will endow the Annette Simmons Distinguished Chair in Breast Cancer Research, named for Harold Simmons' wife, a member of the Komen Foundation Board.

The Komen Alliance Center for Breast Cancer Research will be directed by the holder of the Annette Simmons Chair, and will accommodate a team of breast cancer researchers. The research group will work collaboratively with breast cancer clinicians at Baylor University Medical Center, a partner in the Susan G. Komen Alliance for Breast Cancer Research, Education, and Treatment, providing new prospects for the diagnosis, treatment and eventual cure of breast cancer.

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Note: The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas comprises Southwestern Medical School, Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Southwestern Allied Health Sciences School.