

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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Jean and Tom Walter give \$1 million to honor UT Southwestern family doctor

DALLAS – Sept. 30, 2004 – A 30-year friendship between a talented doctor and two grateful patients has been commemorated in a \$1 million gift to establish a distinguished chair at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. The gift from Jean and Tom Walter pays tribute to the couple's esteemed physician – Dr. Albert D. Roberts, professor of internal medicine – upon his retirement from UT Southwestern.

The gift, which was made to Southwestern Medical Foundation, establishes the Walter Family Distinguished Chair in Internal Medicine, in Honor of Albert D. Roberts, M.D.

“Jean and I have always believed that UT Southwestern has the leadership and talent to make a significant difference in the lives of the people of Dallas and around the world,” said Mr. Walter. “We recognize the great importance of the clinical care and research being carried out at the medical center and respect the unparalleled quality of its physicians and scientists. We wanted to seize the opportunity to thank Dr. Roberts for his many years of devotion to his patients, which he has demonstrated so wonderfully through his sensitivity and expertise.”

In 1976 the couple established the Jean H. and John T. Walter Jr. Fund of Communities Foundation of Texas, through which this latest gift was made. Through the fund, they have provided assistance to a wide range of medical, educational and community activities and charities.

“Tom and Jean have created a legacy of generosity that extends far beyond the borders of our community,” said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern. “They are among the first to extend themselves when a new opportunity for helping arises, and their dedication to the betterment of Dallas – and the world, in general – remains an inspiring example of public service. We are sincerely honored by their generous support of UT Southwestern over the years, and it's especially gratifying that their latest gift has been made in honor of one of our most distinguished clinical leaders, Dr. Roberts.”

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER AT DALLAS

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Through the years the Walters' support has created three centers at UT Southwestern – for research in age-related macular degeneration, urologic oncology and movement disorders – as well as an endowed program for postdoctoral training and mentoring in breast-cancer clinical care and research.

Mr. Walter is a former senior vice president and chief financial officer for Electronic Data System, where he worked from 1963 to 1986. For the next three years, he served as chief financial officer for Ross Perot's diverse business activities. Since 1989 he has served as consultant for the Perot family investment interests and for the Merit Energy Corp. He serves on the board of Southwestern Medical Foundation, for which he is a member of the executive committee and chairman of the investment committee, and is a former board member of Zale Lipshy University Hospital. He also has served on the boards of the Auburn University Foundation, the Perot Foundation and the Highland Park Presbyterian Church Foundation.

Jean Walter, an Alabama native like her husband, enjoys being a grandmother of 10. She devotes significant time to community activities and to the couple's philanthropic interests. The Walters' three sons and their wives all live in the Dallas area.

Dr. Al Roberts, whose practice Tom Walter believes "epitomizes the personal relationship between a patient and physician," is one of the country's foremost advocates of patient care at academic centers.

He has spent much of his career working to forge and strengthen links between UT Southwestern and referring physicians outside the institution. Dr. Roberts, who participated in the planning and development of the original James W. Aston Ambulatory Care Center and of Zale Lipshy, played a pivotal role in the expansion of Aston in the 1990s and has remained committed to developing and improving the capabilities of the medical center to care for private and referral patients.

Dr. Roberts earned a bachelor's degree from Southern Methodist University before graduating from Southwestern Medical School in 1954. He received his residency training in internal medicine and completed a fellowship in nephrology at Parkland Memorial Hospital in

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1960, interrupted by a two-year stint as a U.S. Army ward physician at Fort Dix, N.J.

He had a private practice in Dallas for 15 years before joining the UT Southwestern faculty in 1975 as associate dean for clinical affairs and professor of internal medicine. After once more returning to private practice, Dr. Roberts returned full-time to the medical center in 1991 as a professor of internal medicine and associate dean for practice development. He holds the Tim and Toni Hartman Professorship in Medicine at UT Southwestern and is a laureate of the American College of Physicians' Texas Academy Chapter.

Dr. Roberts has served in leadership positions with the Board of Regents of the American College of Physicians (ACP) and was made a master of the college in 1990. He played a key role in the development of "Healthscope," the ACP's public television series. He also co-hosted the nationally televised PBS program "Here's to Your Health" from 1978 to 1981.

"Jean and Tom, their family and the many other wonderful people I have met through them have been central to my development as a physician and have enriched my professional experience immeasurably," Dr. Roberts said. "They continue to be an inspiration to all who know them, and I am humbled that they have given so generously to UT Southwestern in my honor."

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