

# SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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## **Maurice Jameson bequeaths 1.2 million for biomedical research at UT Southwestern**

DALLAS – May 3, 2005 – Maurice Jameson of Dallas has provided support for scleroderma and macular degeneration research at UT Southwestern Medical Center totaling \$1,225,000 through her will.

The gift, which was made to Southwestern Medical Foundation, will be divided equally to create the Maurice Jameson Fund for Research of Scleroderma and the Maurice Jameson Fund for Research of Macular Degeneration.

Ms. Jameson, who died in 2003, suffered from both debilitating illnesses and remained committed to doing whatever she could to help find cures for them, said her nephew, Dr. Ted Smith.

As many as 300,000 Americans suffer from scleroderma, a chronic connective tissue disease characterized by thickening and hardening of the skin. The disorder is most common in women between the ages of 25 and 55 and can take a variety of forms – several of which can be deadly. Scleroderma has no known cause and can result in stiffness, skin discoloration, joint or bone aches, and more serious complications such as swallowing difficulties and narrowing of blood vessels.

Age-related macular degeneration (ARMD) is the leading cause of blindness in the United States. ARMD – most commonly seen in patients in their mid-70s – results in loss or impaired central vision, affecting the ability to carry out daily tasks and often rendering victims partially or legally blind. Because the exact cause of the disease has not yet been determined and effective treatments are still in the early stages of development, ARMD has become one of the most pressing vision-related public-health dilemmas in America.

“My aunt was a very bright and compassionate woman, and she always had a special place in her heart for people who suffered. I know she wanted to do something to move UT Southwestern’s research forward, and I’m sure she would be proud to know that the funds she created might someday help others,” said Dr. Smith, a Dallas dentist.

Ms. Jameson, who worked as a model and in various administrative jobs in her earlier years,

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## **Jameson gift – 2**

was the widow of William S. Jameson, a Dallas oil attorney who died in 1998.

Texas Capital Bank, trustee of trusts established as part of Ms. Jameson's will, also presented checks to a variety of charitable organizations she supported, including The Family Place, North Texas Food Bank, Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas, Salvation Army of Texas, Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, Children's Medical Center Foundation and Guiding Eyes for the Blind.

"On behalf of the board of trustees of Southwestern Medical Foundation, I am honored to accept this most gracious donation from Ms. Jameson," said W. Plack Carr Jr., president of the Foundation.

Dr. Kern Wildenthal, UT Southwestern president, echoed Mr. Carr's sentiments. "We are honored that Ms. Jameson chose UT Southwestern to receive such a generous and far-reaching gift, and we are excited about what this will mean for our scleroderma and macular degeneration research. This bequest supports two areas of great significance, and we are proud and thankful for her faith in our institution."

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