

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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MEADOWS FOUNDATION TO FUND PSYCHIATRIC RESEARCH

DALLAS — August 15, 1997 — The Dallas-based Meadows Foundation has made a donation of \$719,000 to support a statewide psychiatric research program based at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

The gift will help fund the Texas Medication Algorithm Project (TMAP). TMAP has developed medication guidelines for the treatment of schizophrenia, manic-depressive illness and major depression, and will study the cost-effectiveness in several community mental health centers throughout the state. The project is the first of its kind and is a collaborative effort led by UT Southwestern that also includes the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, four other Texas medical schools, and patient and family advocates interested in better treatment outcomes for these illnesses. Dr. Kenneth Z. Altshuler, chairman of psychiatry at UT Southwestern and holder of the Stanton Sharp Distinguished Chair in Psychiatry, and Don Gilbert, commissioner of the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, will oversee the research. Dr. A. John Rush, vice chairman of psychiatry and holder of the Betty Jo Hay Distinguished Chair in Mental Health and the Rosewood Corporation Chair in Biomedical Science, and Dr. Steve Shon, medical director of the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, will serve as project directors.

This gift represents the largest mental health-related grant ever given by the Meadows Foundation. The foundation has focused much of its philanthropy in the past on building and equipment funds for organizations throughout the state. The foundation benefits programs related to health, education, arts and culture, human services and civic endeavors.

"I'm proud that UT Southwestern is the recipient of a Meadows Foundation grant of such magnitude aimed at improving the care of the mentally ill," Altshuler said. "TMAP holds enormous promise. It can alleviate a great deal of suffering and lift Texas to the first

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rung in service to those with severe and chronic mental illness. It is wonderful that the Meadows Foundation saw the value of the project and, with this gift, supports the fact that these illnesses and the people suffering from them are important."

"My experience is that the Meadows Foundation has always been sensitive to the needs of people with disabilities and generous in its contributions," Gilbert said. "This gift will further some very important research that will no doubt improve the lives of people with mental illness."

Linda Evans, president of the Meadows Foundation, said the organization appreciates the commitment to psychiatric education displayed by UT Southwestern and is "proud to join in an effort to give hope and help to those who so desperately need it."

"The Meadows Foundation is pleased to support this important program to benefit those who suffer from severe and persistent mental illness. Through the collaborative efforts of psychiatric physicians and medical research professionals, the lives of millions who struggle with the debilitating effects of mental illness can be improved with new and more effective medications and treatment programs," Evans said. "This program could enable those suffering from mental illness to lead productive lives and become contributing members of society."

Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern, said the Meadows Foundation has been a strong supporter of UT Southwestern through the years. "We are grateful for this latest example of the Meadows Foundation's generosity," Wildenthal said. "The foundation continues to demonstrate its eagerness to support significant projects that benefit large numbers of people."

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