

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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DALLAS PHILANTHROPIST ESTABLISHES DISTINGUISHED CHAIR IN NEUROSURGERY IN HONOR OF HER LATE HUSBAND

DALLAS – December 9, 1998 – In memory of her late husband, a renowned Dallas neurosurgeon and prominent figure during the formative years of UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, Orien Levy Woolf has established a distinguished chair in neurosurgery at the institution.

Her gift of \$500,000 to Southwestern Medical Foundation, which will be matched, will endow the Orien and Jack Woolf, M.D., Distinguished Chair in Neurosurgery and Neuroangiography. It will support the research of Dr. Phillip Purdy, vice chairman of radiology and professor of neurological surgery at UT Southwestern, on the treatment of brain aneurysms and stroke.

"I could think of no better way to honor my husband and what he believed in than to support the research being conducted at UT Southwestern," Orien Woolf said. "I'm extremely grateful that I've been able to make a contribution to the medical school, and I hope, in the process, I've done something to aid progress in the field of neurosurgery."

The Woolfs had been married for 43 years before his death in 1982.

"This gift is an especially meaningful way to honor Dr. Woolf, a pioneer of neurosurgery in Dallas, because of the unwavering dedication to health care that it signifies," said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, UT Southwestern president. "We are extremely proud to be the recipient of Mrs. Woolf's gracious generosity and commitment to her husband's area of expertise. Her gift will undoubtedly be the cornerstone of a great deal of important neurosurgery research in the years to come."

W. Plack Carr Jr., president of the Southwestern Medical Foundation, also noted Dr. Woolf's contributions to medicine in Dallas. "Mrs. Woolf is a wonderful and far-sighted

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woman who wants to ensure that advances continue perpetually in the field where her husband gave so much.”

Purdy, who will hold the distinguished chair, has received national recognition for his groundbreaking research on stroke and brain aneurysms, and for being a pioneer in the emerging field of “endovascular neurosurgery.” Instrumental in the development of the innovative neuroradiology suite at Zale Lipshy University Hospital, he was one of the first physicians in the country to use biplane fluoroscopy and biplane digital angiography to treat such brain disorders.

"I feel very fortunate that my research will be enhanced by such a generous and heartfelt gift," Purdy said. "I have heard a great deal about the contributions Dr. Woolf made to the practice of neurosurgery, so I am particularly honored to be part of something done in his memory. It's wonderful to be given the means to further the work we're doing at UT Southwestern, and I'm very excited to see what the future holds for our research."

Dr. Duke Samson, who has overseen the Department of Neurological Surgery as chairman, recalled that Woolf guided him through the first vascular neurosurgery of his career. “Your gift honors both his obvious personal concern for young neurosurgeons in training and Dr. Woolf’s keen interest in the diagnosis and treatment of vascular diseases of the brain,” he told Mrs. Woolf. He pointed out that the gift will create the first endowed chair in North America focusing on this area.

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