

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

Media Contact: Rachel Skei Donihoo

214-648-3404

rachel.donihoo@utsouthwestern.edu

McGee family gives additional \$250,000 to support arthritis research at UT Southwestern

DALLAS – June 2, 2005 – The McGee family of Dallas has given an additional \$250,000 to upgrade a distinguished professorship it established in 2003 to a chair at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

The gift, made to Southwestern Medical Foundation, will create the McGee Foundation Chair in Arthritis Research. Part of the gift came from the Kenton and Nancy McGee Fund of Communities Foundation of Texas and part from the McGee Foundation.

The chair will be held by Dr. Nancy Olsen, professor of internal medicine and director of clinical research at the Harold C. Simmons Arthritis Center at UT Southwestern.

“This donation by the McGees is made in recognition of the many achievements of UT Southwestern and its exemplary service to the Dallas community,” said Robert Lavie, president of the McGee Foundation. “Because arthritis has affected so many members of our family, our desire to support research in this area has always been very compelling.”

Dallas business executives Kenton and Nancy McGee established the foundation in 1989 to support education and medical research. The McGees own and operate Cornell Oil Co.

The McGee Foundation has made numerous previous gifts to support UT Southwestern and has also been a regular donor to UT Southwestern University Hospitals and to the Children’s Cancer Fund.

“We are truly grateful for the loyal support of Nancy and Kenton McGee, Alexandra McGee Lavie, and her husband, Robert,” said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern. “We are also very excited about the new research initiatives in rheumatology that Dr. Olsen and her team have developed. With support like the McGees’, Dr. Olsen and her colleagues will be able to move much more rapidly toward identifying new treatments for a disease that affects 70 million Americans.”

Plack Carr, president of Southwestern Medical Foundation, agreed. “We are very grateful to the McGee and Lavie families for their continued support of the research programs at UT Southwestern,” he said.

Dr. Olsen rejoined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2004 after serving on the faculty of Vanderbilt University Medical Center. From 1983-84 she served as an instructor at UT Southwestern, following a fellowship in rheumatology at the medical center.

(MORE)

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A graduate of Brown University and the Pritzker School of Medicine at the University of Chicago, Dr. Olsen is a widely respected expert on arthritis and autoimmune diseases. She has received numerous awards and honors, including the Clinical Scholar Award from the American College of Rheumatology (2003-2006) and the Mary Eda Larsen Award from the Lupus Foundation of America (2001). She has served on the editorial board of the *Bulletin of the Rheumatic Diseases* and is an associate editor of the *Journal of Investigative Medicine*.

“It is a great honor to hold this chair, and it was a major reason for my decision to return to UT Southwestern,” Dr. Olsen said. “This type of support allows me to expand my horizons in investigations aimed at finding causes of and treatments for arthritis and autoimmune disease and frees me to pursue projects that might be considered at present too novel for traditional funding mechanisms. I’m especially appreciative of the McGee family’s support, and I am looking forward to working with my outstanding colleagues at UT Southwestern to improve outcomes for the patients with these disorders who come to us for care.”

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