

News

Office of Medical Information
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas
5323 Harry Hines Boulevard Dallas, Texas 75235-9060 214/688-3404

January 4, 1988

CONTACT: Bob Fenley
OFFICE: 214/688-3404
HOME: 214/352-2502

SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER PLANS RESEARCH EXPANSION ON LAND GIVEN BY MacARTHUR FOUNDATION

DALLAS -- The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation has given The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas nearly 30 acres of land at Exchange Park for expansion of campus research programs.

The Chicago-based foundation, noted for wide-ranging charitable and public service philanthropy, owns surrounding lands and buildings at Exchange Park, an office park on Harry Hines Boulevard between Mockingbird Lane and Inwood Road in Dallas. Other Exchange Park land will be developed in keeping with master plans worked out with UT Southwestern.

To maintain the current rate of research expansion, officials at the academic medical center project the need for construction of two million square feet of facilities worth more than \$200 million on the site during the next two decades, pending approval by appropriate state agencies.

The first building on the site will be a \$4.8 million Magnetic Resonance Imaging center. Here, UT scientists will install huge magnets that allow them to view internal body structures without radiation and that even show chemical processes of cells. This project was approved Dec. 4 by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

The MacArthur gift will also allow UT Southwestern to build student housing for the first time in its history. Tentative plans call for two structures for student quarters in addition to a student center.

The new site, north across the Harry Hines-Inwood Road cloverleaf from UT Southwestern's main campus, contains exactly 29.74 acres. About 13 acres are immediately usable, and the medical center will embark on a flood plain reclamation plan to recover five additional acres. The remainder will be landscaped as permanent open space on the site.

"The MacArthur Foundation believes this land will help Southwestern Medical Center achieve a significant expansion of its research and will provide the anchor for development of a biotechnology complex in the Exchange Park area," said James M. Furman, executive vice president of the foundation. "We are delighted to participate in this coordinated development process."

Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern, declared: "This gift is a pivotal event in our march toward becoming one of the top academic medical centers in the nation. It will allow us to accommodate essential growth during the next two decades."

Dr. William Neaves, interim dean of Southwestern Medical School and dean of the Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, has for several years

(More)

represented the Dallas medical center in developing proposals with the MacArthur Foundation. Philip Montgomery III, a Dallas real estate developer, and Vin Prothro, venture capitalist and chairman of Dallas Biomedical Corporation, assisted the medical center in discussions with the MacArthur Foundation.

"Current evaluation of land is complicated by the recent decline in the Dallas market. Not long ago, this land would have been worth \$10 to \$15 per square foot," said Lawrence G. Martin, vice-president for real estate at the MacArthur Foundation.

"This is an exceptionally timely and valuable gift for our medical center," says Dr. Neaves. "It's been apparent for several years that more land for expansion is needed. Currently, research projects under way on our campus are attracting \$70 million per year in competitive funding. Research funding in fiscal 1987 increased 22 percent over 1986, and that was up 21 percent over 1985.

"Our full-time faculty complement of 650 is the smallest of the top ten medical schools. Over the next decade we expect a growth of 50 percent in faculty ranks, and it will take a million square feet to accommodate them. In 20 years, we expect to double our faculty, and this will take another million square feet," Dr. Neaves noted.

Parallel to this, the MacArthur Foundation hopes to turn its 70 acres of unused land at Exchange Park into a technologically oriented development that would benefit from proximity to the medical center. The foundation owns all the buildings at Exchange Park except the Texas American Bank Building.

The University of Texas System Board of Regents has authorized the Dallas firm of F&S Partners Incorporated to prepare a site development master plan for the 29.74 acres given to UT Southwestern. The foundation has agreed to coordinate its master plans with Southwestern to provide an integrated approach to buildings, roads, landscaping, drainage and other improvements.

In its plans for campus expansion, UT Southwestern will aim at development of several strong research programs, said Dr. Neaves. Included are establishment of an extensive neurobiology program, expansion of oncology (the study of cancer) research, and augmenting basic studies in molecular biology, the study of the most minute mechanisms of cells. Neaves said that philanthropic commitments have been made in these research areas.

The MacArthur Foundation, named for John D. MacArthur and his wife, Catherine, who held extensive insurance and real estate interests, is a private, independent grant-making foundation created in 1978 for charitable and public service purposes. The foundation has assets of more than two and a half billion dollars and will make grants totaling nearly \$120 million in 1987. Its fields of activity are mental health research, the biology of parasitic diseases, population, education, world environmental concerns, international peace and security, individual creativity, urban neighborhood renewal, cultural activities and mass communications.

XXX

Distribution: AC,AC1,AF,AF1,AG,AG1,AH,AI,AK,AK1,ADM,ADM1

Note: The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas comprises Southwestern Medical School, Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Southwestern Allied Health Sciences School.