

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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DONORS FUND HEART RESEARCH CHAIR AT UT SOUTHWESTERN

DALLAS — October 17, 1994 — Erik Jonsson, Ralph and Mary Nell Rogers, and Robert and Margaret Jonsson Rogers — some of the area's most dedicated philanthropists — have donated a total of \$375,000 to fund heart research at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

The gifts will be matched by UT Southwestern's Fund for Molecular Research and will fund the Jonsson-Rogers Chair in Cardiology. The first holder of the chair will be Dr. Richard Lange, associate professor of internal medicine, who has been on the UT Southwestern faculty since 1988. He is chief of the cardiac catheterization laboratory, which is involved in research in the area of ischemic heart disease and the mechanisms responsible for and the prevention of sudden death in survivors of myocardial infarction.

The Jonsson and Rogers families have been among UT Southwestern's most enthusiastic and generous supporters through the years. The Erik Jonsson Center for Research in Molecular Genetics and Human Disease, the Philip R. Jonsson Basic Science Research Building, the Mary Nell and Ralph B. Rogers Magnetic Resonance Center, the Mary Nell and Ralph B. Rogers Professorship in Immunology, and the James T. Willerson Distinguished Chair in Cardiovascular Diseases are but a few of the projects and facilities that have been supported by the families.

"From the vantage point of our lifetime of experience with doctors, hospitals and medical problems, and having spent many years in pro bono activities on behalf of medical science, it is clear that Dr. Richard Lange is

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highly qualified and deserving of being granted a chair by UT Southwestern Medical Center," Ralph Rogers said, on behalf of the five donors. "Our close association with UT Southwestern convinces us that it deserves to be ranked among the top institutions of its kind in the nation. In addition, we believe that the momentum which the Southwestern Medical School has achieved may very well qualify it as the no. 1 institution of its kind in the years which lie ahead. The progress of the institution during the past 15 to 20 years is nothing short of sensational."

Ralph Rogers, one of the most powerful voices supporting public television, was the driving force that built Texas Industries Inc. into a Fortune 500 company. His son, Robert Rogers, now serves as the corporation's president. Robert Rogers' wife, Margaret, is the daughter of Erik Jonsson. Erik Jonsson is a founder of Texas Instruments, a world leader in technology, and also served as mayor of Dallas.

Dr. Kern Wildenthal praised Jonsson and the Rogerses for their generosity. "These gifts are especially meaningful when you consider how much these families have done for UT Southwestern through the years. In that context, the donations can be seen as another inspiring example of their generous support of education and science."

Lange said he feels honored that "such special people" have chosen to support his research. "These donors' sustained efforts and countless contributions to the medical center have literally touched the lives of thousands of individuals. I am honored and grateful to be the recipient of this latest gift from these magnificent people."

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