

**Gillson Longenbaugh Foundation donates funds to support  
cancer research programs at UT Southwestern**

DALLAS – Jan. 25, 2006 – The Gillson Longenbaugh Foundation, as part of its continuing support of UT Southwestern Medical Center, has given \$120,000 to advance cancer investigations there and foster the work of two prominent oncology researchers.

The Houston-based foundation's gift, which was donated as part of the medical center's \$500 million *Innovations in Medicine* campaign, will support the research and clinical activities of Dr. John Minna, director of the Nancy B. and Jake L. Hamon Center for Therapeutic Oncology Research and the W.A. "Tex" and Deborah Moncrief Jr. Center for Cancer Genetics, and Dr. Philip Thorpe, professor of pharmacology and radiation oncology in the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center.

"We are continually looking for talented researchers with creative ideas, and UT Southwestern has always been of great assistance in that endeavor," said Lawrence I. Levy, president of the Gillson Longenbaugh Foundation. "It is a remarkable institution, and Drs. Minna and Thorpe are bright and talented examples of that excellence. We're happy to be able to support them as they explore their promising research ideas."

The gift will help further Dr. Minna's studies on breast and lung cancers, which focus on the development of gene expression "signatures" in patients' tumors to predict prognosis and determine the best course of chemotherapy treatments – research Dr. Minna believes could one day have a major impact on selecting therapy for individual patients.

"This is a particularly exciting time for this type of study, and I'm very grateful for the Gillson Longenbaugh Foundation's willingness to help us leap forward with projects that are speculative, but potentially significant," said Dr. Minna, holder of the Sarah M. and Charles E. Seay Distinguished Chair in Cancer Research and the Max L. Thomas Distinguished Chair in Molecular Pulmonary Oncology.

Dr. Thorpe is exploring a new concept in brain-cancer treatment called "radiation vascular targeting," in which he uses a combination of radiation and antibodies to kill cancer cells by cutting off their blood supply.

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“Gifts such as this one make a tremendous impact on our ability to validate and develop novel research concepts to the point where we can secure grant support from national organizations and move our ideas forward to the next level – therapeutic drugs for our patients,” said Dr. Thorpe, holder of the Serena S. Simmons Distinguished Chair in Cancer Immunopharmacology.

The Gillson Longenbaugh Foundation was established in 1981 by the late philanthropist Alta G. Longenbaugh, whose farming and ranching interests, previously held by the foundation, were one of the largest land holdings in the Houston area. Although the foundation serves broad charitable purposes, it has primarily focused on medical research, with an emphasis on cancer-related study, in recent years.

Through the years, the foundation has given more than \$1 million to support programs at UT Southwestern.

“The Gillson Longenbaugh Foundation’s generous endorsement of our research is greatly appreciated by all of us at the medical center,” said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern. “We’re very proud of our relationship with the foundation and are grateful for its commitment to research and to the people of Texas.”

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