

Media Contact: Rachel Skei Donihoo

214-648-3404

rachel.donihoo@utsouthwestern.edu

**Mary Hicks bequeaths \$2.838 million to support
clinical care, research at UT Southwestern**

DALLAS – Nov. 28, 2006 – Waco philanthropist Mary Dees McDermott Hicks has bequeathed \$2.838 million to support clinical care and research programs at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

“This is an exceptionally generous bequest, and we are grateful for Mrs. Hicks’ confidence in UT Southwestern,” said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of the medical center. “Her wonderful gift will be of great assistance in our efforts to find better ways to prevent and treat disease.”

A portion of the gift will establish a chair in medical science, which will be held by Dr. Steven Bloom, chairman of obstetrics and gynecology.

Mrs. Hicks, an artist and patron of fine art and music, died in 2003 at age 78. She was preceded in death by two husbands, Benajmin Littlejohn of Waco and Maj. Herbert Leon Hicks of Corpus Christi and La Veta, Colo. She has two grown daughters, H. Leslie Hicks and Lisa Collins, both of whom live in Colorado, where Mrs. Hicks had a second home. Mrs. Hicks was a generous supporter of numerous charitable organizations, including St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis and UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

“It is a tremendous honor for me to hold the Mary Dees McDermott Hicks Chair in Medical Science,” said Dr. Bloom. “The funding provided by this generous endowment will support research that I hope will make significant and unique contributions to the field of obstetrics and gynecology.”

A 1990 graduate of UT Southwestern Medical School, Dr. Bloom completed his residency and fellowship in obstetrics and gynecology at UT Southwestern and Parkland Memorial Hospital. He then rose through the obstetrics and gynecology faculty, first as an instructor, then assistant professor, associate professor and interim chairman. He was named chairman of the department in July.

Dr. Bloom’s specialty is high-risk pregnancy, and he has been active in research on birth management. His most recent studies have found that coaching a woman to push during late labor makes little difference in outcomes for mothers or infants, and that doctors appropriately apply good judgment when deciding how quickly to start an emergency Caesarean section. He also serves as the

(MORE)

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER AT DALLAS

UT Southwestern Medical School • UT Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences • UT Southwestern Allied Health Sciences School
UT Southwestern University Hospitals & Clinics

Office of News and Publications • 5323 Harry Hines Blvd., Dallas TX 75390-9060 • Telephone 214-648-3404 • Telefax 214-648-9119
www.utsouthwestern.edu

Hicks gift – 2

protocol chairman for the Maternal-Fetal Medicine Units Network randomized trial of fetal oximetry. The results of this large, multicentered, randomized trial appeared in the Nov. 23 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Dr. Bloom serves on many advisory committees at UT Southwestern. His awards include the 2006 Research Excellence Award from the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine, the 2005 Distinguished Physician Award from Parkland Health & Hospital System, and the 1995 Jack A. and Signe Pritchard Fellow Award in Maternal-Fetal Medicine.

###

About UT Southwestern Medical Center

UT Southwestern Medical Center, one of the premier medical centers in the nation, integrates pioneering biomedical research with exceptional clinical care and education. Its more than 1,400 full-time faculty members – including four active Nobel Prize winners, more than any other medical school in the world – are responsible for groundbreaking medical advances and are committed to translating science-driven research quickly to new clinical treatments. UT Southwestern physicians provide medical care in 40 specialties to nearly 89,000 hospitalized patients and oversee 2.1 million outpatient visits a year.

###

To automatically receive news releases from UT Southwestern via e-mail,
subscribe at www.utsouthwestern.edu/receivenews