

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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RESEARCH LABORATORY ESTABLISHED TO COMMEMORATE JOHN W. DUCKETT JR., M.D.

DALLAS – December 15, 1998 – A group comprised of former classmates, physicians, friends and residents of Highland Park and Dallas have donated \$250,000 to establish a memorial research laboratory at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas in honor of Dr. John W. Duckett Jr. – a leader in pediatric urology.

Duckett, a Highland Park native, was recruited in 1970 by former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop to serve as director of urology for Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and was professor of urology in the surgery department at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He often said that he and his family were just living in the East because Texas was still home. He considered himself a down home Texan.

When he died in 1997 several of his friends from Dallas formed a steering committee, to memorialize a man whose innovations in pediatric urologic surgical techniques improved the lives of many children around the world.

"This is exactly what John would have wanted, for his work to keep on going, creating hope for children in the future," said Peggy Duckett, his widow, "The committee has made this possible by perpetuating his work."

Gifford Touchstone, mayor of Highland Park, knew Duckett since grade school and has fond memories of the time they spent together in college. "I know the research laboratory at UT Southwestern will carry on John's commitment to excellence in pediatric urology research," said

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Touchstone, who also acted as co-chairman of the steering committee with Wade Smith and Syd Carter.

Construction of the John W. Duckett Jr., M.D. Pediatric Urology Research Laboratory will be completed in early 1999 in the Harry S. Moss Clinical Science Building on the South Campus of UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. The focus of the lab will be one of Duckett's research interests – cellular and molecular function in bladder dysfunction.

"We are very fortunate to be involved with a group of individuals who understand the significant role research plays in finding better treatments," said Dr. John McConnell, chairman of urology and holder of the E.E. Fogelson and Greer Garson Fogelson Distinguished Chair in Urology at UT Southwestern.

"The Duckett Laboratory offers great hope to our children, as the physicians who work there discover new procedures and treatments that will allow children to have better lives," said George Farr, president and chief executive officer of Children's Medical Center of Dallas.

The Duckett family has close ties to the Dallas medical community. John Duckett's father, Dr. J. Warner Duckett, was a prominent Dallas pediatric surgeon who was an active member of the medical staff of Children's. His sister, Ann Duckett Reed, serves as a trustee at Children's.

Duckett earned his undergraduate degree at UT Austin, his medical degree from Johns Hopkins Medical School and completed his residency at UT Southwestern.

Members of the steering committee included: W. Plack Carr Jr., Carter, Farr, Dr. George E. Hurt, Dr. Willis Maddrey, McConnell, Reed, Smith, Touchstone, Dr. Harold C. Urschel Jr., and Dr. Ted P. Voettler.

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