

Media Contact: Rachel Skei Donihoo
214-648-3404
rachel.donihoo@utsouthwestern.edu

Esteemed researcher Dr. Charles Y.C. Pak and wife, Jane, give \$1 million to support, rename center for metabolic research at UT Southwestern

DALLAS – April 27, 2007 – Dr. Charles Y.C. Pak, an internationally renowned leader in mineral metabolism research, and his wife, Jane, have given \$1 million to support and rename a research center he established at UT Southwestern Medical Center more than a decade ago.

The gift will create the Charles Y.C. Pak and Donald W. Seldin Center for Metabolic Research. Dr. Seldin, chairman emeritus of internal medicine at UT Southwestern, recruited Dr. Pak to Dallas in 1972 and has continued to be an adviser to him.

Dr. Pak, professor of internal medicine and director of the Biotechnology Group in Mineral Metabolism, is former director of the Charles & Jane Pak Center for Mineral Metabolism and Clinical Research – named in 2003 in his and his wife's honor.

In 1995 the Paks donated \$500,000 – matched to \$2 million – to establish the Charles Y.C. Pak Center for Training in Clinical Investigation. The Paks' latest gift will rename that center and support clinical research projects and clinical research training in metabolic research at UT Southwestern's General Clinical Research Center, a National Institutes of Health-supported multidisciplinary research center that Dr. Pak opened in 1974 under Dr. Seldin's leadership.

The donation provides support for researchers performing detailed studies not eligible for traditional funding; training for medical students, residents, and fellows at UT Southwestern; and brings a high-profile visiting professor to the medical center annually.

Dr. Orson Moe, professor of internal medicine and director of the Charles & Jane Pak Center for Mineral Metabolism and Clinical Research will also lead the new Pak and Seldin center.

"I hope that the center will provide our researchers with excellent opportunities for hands-on experience, and the ability to immerse themselves in translational research," said Dr. Pak. "I'm indescribably grateful to the medical center and to Donald Seldin for what I've been able to accomplish as an investigator, so Jane and I regard this gift as a 'payback.' Dr. Seldin's support was absolutely critical in my early career, and it is his intellect and vision that have helped build the GCRC into one of the finest programs of its kind in the country."

A world-renowned pioneer in mineral metabolism research and drug development, Dr. Pak is the former chief of mineral metabolism and former assistant dean for clinical investigation at

(MORE)

Pak gift – 2

UT Southwestern. His groundbreaking studies on osteoporosis, kidney stones and other mineral-metabolism disorders have prompted major advances in the treatment of these diseases. In addition to uncovering new ways to diagnose and prevent the formation of kidney stones, Pak has dedicated much of his career to finding ways to avert and restore bone loss in women with osteoporosis. Dr. Pak's and his research team's findings have culminated in the development of several drugs used worldwide, including Citracal for the prevention of osteoporosis and Urocit-K for the control of kidney stones.

He has been honored with numerous national awards, including the International Urolithiasis Society's Lifetime Contribution to Stone Disease Award, the Bartter Award for Lifetime Achievement in Bone and Mineral Research from the American Society of Bone and Mineral Research, and the U.S. Public Health Service Award for Exceptional Achievement in Orphan Products Development.

"I think so highly of Charlie Pak, and I'm honored that he has chosen me to share the new center's name," said Dr. Seldin, who now is vice president for medical center relations for Southwestern Medical Foundation. "Dr. Pak's insight into mineral diseases has transformed our understanding of normal and deranged mineral and bone metabolism. But, above and beyond this, he has the unique ability to apply his command of basic science to specific disease processes and ultimately to individual patients. The net effect is a major advance in fundamental knowledge, as well as mitigation of human suffering.

"I believe, as he does, in the importance of providing support to clinical researchers whose ideas might never see the light of day if not for private funding. I'm personally very excited about the wonderful opportunities this gift will create for investigators at the GCRC, and I'm very proud to be a part of it."

Dr. Seldin, widely regarded as an intellectual cornerstone of UT Southwestern Medical School since the 1950s and chairman of internal medicine from 1952 to 1988, built a department recognized as one of the best in the country. He is a UT System professor of internal medicine. He was recently awarded Research!America's inaugural Builders of Science Award for his achievement in developing UT Southwestern into one of the world's premier research institutions.

"This is an exciting time for translational research, and I'm very hopeful about the human metabolic studies that will be made possible through this funding," said Dr. Moe. "Dr. Pak has

(MORE)

Pak gift – 3

always been very passionate about the GCRC and about his research, so it will be gratifying to watch his vision continue to grow. I'm proud to be part of it."

A graduate of the University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine, Dr. Moe trained in internal medicine and nephrology there before joining UT Southwestern as a research fellow in renal physiology in 1987. He became a member of the faculty in 1990. He holds the Charles Pak Distinguished Chair in Mineral Metabolism and the Donald W. Seldin Professorship in Clinical Investigation.

"Dr. Pak is one of the world's premier authorities on mineral metabolism, and he has developed a program that is second to none," said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern. "He is not only a world-class researcher, but also a true humanitarian and philanthropist. He and Jane are among UT Southwestern's most generous and consistent benefactors, and we are enormously grateful for their loyal commitment to education and research."

###

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