

# **SOUTHWESTERN NEWS**

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## **CANCER PATIENT HONORS HER PHYSICIAN AND FRIEND WITH \$100,000 GIFT TO UT SOUTHWESTERN IN HIS HONOR**

DALLAS – Feb. 7, 2001 – Crediting her longtime friend and physician with working “tirelessly to cure cancer for all of humanity,” Mary Watson and her husband John have donated \$100,000 to honor the life and work of Dr. Eugene Frenkel, UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas professor of internal medicine.

The gift, which was made to Southwestern Medical Foundation, will create the John R. and Mary A. Watson Endowment Fund for Cancer Research. The fund will help support Frenkel’s pilot studies in chemoprevention and the regulation of cell growth and proliferation. Frenkel has treated Watson since 1994 for B-cell lymphoma.

“John and I wanted to do something special to honor Gene Frenkel, whom we regard as one of the world’s great humanitarians,” said Mary Watson. “Not only does he stand out as an extraordinarily caring physician and a humble human being, he is a stellar researcher devoted to saving lives. We’re very proud to know him and are excited about encouraging his important clinical and research efforts.”

Frenkel has been a faculty member at UT Southwestern since 1962. He is a member of 18 professional societies and has served in various capacities for the American Cancer Society.

“I was deeply touched to learn of Mary and John Watson’s wonderful gift to establish a fund devoted to cancer research,” Frenkel said. “Mary Watson is a most unique, kind and supportive woman whose concern for others surmounts any personal focus. She and John make a

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formidable team dedicated to contributing to others and the community.”

John Watson is the president and founder of John Watson Landscape Illumination, an international residential and commercial landscape lighting company. The couple have lived and worked in Dallas for nearly four decades.

“The Watsons’ heartfelt gift will pave the way for many important research opportunities,” said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern. “We are extremely grateful for their trust and generosity, and are delighted that they have chosen to honor one of our finest physicians in such a significant way.”

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