

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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HELEN AND ROBERT STRAUSS ESTABLISH UROLOGY PROFESSORSHIP

DALLAS – May 17, 1999 – A \$100,000 gift from Mr. and Mrs. and Robert S. Strauss will advance urology research at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

“The new Helen J. and Robert S. Strauss Professorship in Urology will enable UT Southwestern to continue building the pre-eminent urology department in the country,” said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, UT Southwestern president. “The generosity of the Strauss family over a number of years has helped make our school what it is today.”

Dr. John McConnell said, “The Strauss gift will make it easier for our department to achieve the goal of furthering research efforts in urology, including the development of new techniques in bladder reconstruction for women.” McConnell is chairman of urology, holder of the E.E. Fogelson and Greer Garson Fogelson Distinguished Chair in Urology and director of the Dr. Bob Smith Foundation Center for Prostate Research.

“My wife and I have been donating to the medical center since it was first conceived,” Robert Strauss said. “From time to time, our imagination is captured by something in particular. This time Dr. McConnell captured our imagination, as he does many of his patients. We wanted to recognize him and his colleagues and the spectacular work they do.”

The new Strauss Professorship will support research into the causes and treatments of female incontinence, a problem that affects at least 40 million Americans. Dr. Philippe Zimmern, associate professor of urology and an expert on female incontinence, will hold the new professorship. He directs UT Southwestern’s clinical center for bladder and incontinence treatment.

Zimmern, who has written more than 100 scientific articles and 25 book chapters on female incontinence, said the professorship will allow him to continue pursuing new treatments for incontinence.

“We’ve made great advancements in the evaluation and treatment of incontinence,” he said. “With the backing of this professorship, I hope to continue finding new and creative ways

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of addressing this problem for patients.”

Robert Strauss, a former ambassador to Russia, heads the Texas-based law firm Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld. He is former chairman of the Democratic National Committee, served as chairman of President Carter’s 1976 and 1980 presidential election campaigns, and was Carter’s personal representative to the Middle East Peace Negotiations. Strauss received the nation’s highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, in 1981 for his role in those talks.

The urology professorship is the latest of several major gifts from the Stausses to the medical center. In 1995 they established the Helen and Robert S. Strauss Professorship in Pediatric Neurology. In 1996, together with their son and daughter-in-law, Richard and Diana Strauss, they contributed to the Helen J. and Robert S. Strauss and Diana K. and Richard C. Strauss Distinguished Professorship in Pediatric Surgery and the Helen J. and Robert S. Strauss and Diana K. and Richard C. Strauss Distinguished Professorship in Women’s Health.

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