

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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ZALE FOUNDATION GRANT WILL HELP PURCHASE STATE-OF-THE-ART RADIATION TREATMENT MACHINE

DALLAS — March 7, 1994 — The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center may be one of the first four sites in the nation to offer the latest in cancer radiation treatment, thanks in part to a \$250,000 grant from the Zale Foundation. More funding is still needed, however, to purchase the equipment.

The gift will be applied toward the purchase of the Accuray Neurotron 1000. "We look forward to the clinical achievements this new medical system can bring to Dallas and Texas," said Dr. Michael Romaine, president of the Zale Foundation.

The Zale Foundation gift will be matched by the challenge fund of the Fund for Molecular Research, but more donations are needed to complete the funding of the \$2.5 million project. "We are pleased by the gift from the Zale Foundation, and we hope other organizations will join the effort to provide the latest in treatment options for cancer patients," said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, UT Southwestern president.

"The Accuray Neurotron 1000 is the wave of the future, the way radiotherapy will be delivered in the 21st century," said Dr. Eli Glatstein, chairman of radiation oncology at UT Southwestern. It is a linear accelerator used to deliver radiation to tumors. In contrast to average linear accelerators, which weigh 10 to 20 tons and can only work on one plane, the Accuray weighs 287 pounds and is mounted on a robotic arm so it can be pointed and arced around a patient in a variety of planes.

"The key to the Accuray is its remarkable flexibility. It can cover any part of the body in a wide range of arcs," Glatstein said.

Because it is able to deliver radiation from a variety of angles, the same cancerous tissue can be radiated every day without exposing normal tissue to repeated radiation. "The ratio of dose to tumor compared to dose to normal tissue

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should be high," Glatstein said. "This should be a tremendous advantage for treating a variety of different cancers."

The device, which will be housed in Zale Lipshy University Hospital, will be helpful in treating cancers of the brain, head and neck, bladder, prostate and pelvic areas. "This should represent an enormous improvement over what we presently do," Glatstein said. The advantages of the Accuray should provide patients with a better outcome and the opportunity to exploit multifraction radiation treatment.

"For every tumor treated with irradiation, data show that maximizing the numbers of exposures improves local control and minimizes normal tissue injury," Glatstein said. "The Accuray is the first stereotactic device designed for multiple exposures."

UT Southwestern's machine will be a prototype, and the medical center will be a test site for the machine. Researchers at UT Southwestern will study the machine's effectiveness and provide the manufacturer with feedback on its use.

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