

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

Contact: Morgan Lyons
(214) 648-3404

LEUKEMIA ASSOCIATION GIFT SUPPORTS UT SOUTHWESTERN RESEARCHERS

DALLAS — January 23, 1995 — A gift from the Leukemia Association of North Central Texas will help researchers at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas determine the cause of leukemia in adults and children.

The \$25,000 gift has been awarded to Dr. Richard Baer, associate professor of microbiology, and Dr. Thomas Wilkie, assistant professor of pharmacology.

The funds were part of the total raised during the 1994 Minyard Buddy Run, a 10K run, 5K walk/run and 1 mile fun run held Oct. 15. The Minyard Buddy Run commemorates M.T. "Buddy" Minyard, the founder of Minyard Food Stores. Proceeds from the run went to the M.T. "Buddy" Minyard Memorial Research Fund, established by the Leukemia Association of North Central Texas.

"The research goals of our laboratory are to identify and characterize the genes that cause acute leukemia in children," Baer said. "This award will provide invaluable support for our efforts to determine how the protein products of these genes elicit leukemia." That knowledge will help researchers develop more effective forms of treatment for leukemia, Baer added.

Wilkie's laboratory will use the funds to develop models that will help them understand the development of the disease. "We are delighted that the Leukemia Association is providing research funds for our endeavors," he said.

UT Southwestern president Dr. Kern Wildenthal said, "UT Southwestern is grateful for the support of the society. We are especially appreciative of the efforts of Gretchen Minyard Williams and Liz Minyard to advance biomedical research in leukemia here."

###