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\$2 million gift from Florence Doswell creates center for hypertension treatment and research at UT Southwestern

DALLAS – Oct. 14, 2008 – Dallas philanthropist Florence Doswell has given \$2 million to Southwestern Medical Foundation to establish a special center at UT Southwestern Medical Center for the treatment and research of high blood pressure.

The gift will create the Houston J. and Florence A. Doswell Center for the Development of New Approaches for the Treatment of Hypertension. The center will be directed by Dr. Ronald Victor, chief of hypertension, whose research in the field has won him international recognition.

Mrs. Doswell and her late husband, a successful oil executive, have a long history of supporting local organizations that seek to improve area health care or address community needs. She is especially concerned about the growing rate of hypertension around the world and wants to help researchers explore better, more novel ways to prevent and manage the disease, she said.

Hypertension, which affects more than 75 million Americans and 1 billion people worldwide, is the leading cause of disability and death from heart attack, stroke and kidney failure.

“Mrs. Doswell has given us an enormous opportunity to explore better treatments for hypertension with fewer side effects,” said Dr. Victor, who holds the Norman and Audrey Kaplan Chair in Hypertension and the Dallas Heart Ball Chair in Hypertension and Heart Disease.

“It has long been a dream of mine to have a center where researchers and clinicians would have the ability to think broadly and creatively about novel ways of treating high blood pressure,” he said. “Despite the tremendous medical strides that have been made in the last century, research into more solvent high blood pressure treatments has reached a plateau. There is still much to be learned about how to treat the disease in a way that allows the patients to live without restriction. I am thrilled by the opportunity to lead the new center, and am humbled by Mrs. Doswell’s magnificent philanthropic spirit.”

Dr. Victor is an investigator for the Dallas Heart Study, funded by the Donald W. Reynolds Cardiovascular Clinical Research Center at UT Southwestern.

The new Doswell Center will allow researchers to explore novel therapies for treating high blood pressure, with a special emphasis on testing and proving the efficacy of nonpharmaceutical

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(“alternative”) remedies and reducing the often debilitating side effects of current drug therapies.

The center will employ a collaborative model, enabling hypertension researchers to work side-by-side with physicians and scientists in related fields throughout UT Southwestern. In addition, Mrs. Doswell’s support will help facilitate the recruitment of top-tier blood pressure specialists from around the world.

“The rate of hypertension here in our country and abroad has reached critical proportions, so this extraordinary gift is as timely as it is generous,” said Dr. Daniel K. Podolsky, president of UT Southwestern. “We’re very grateful for Mrs. Doswell’s foresight and commitment to our institution and are very proud to have the opportunity to establish a center in her honor.”

Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of Southwestern Medical Foundation, added: “We are very grateful to Mrs. Doswell for her loyalty and dedication to excellence in medicine. What her support will enable our physicians to accomplish is tremendously exciting. We are extremely appreciative for this wonderful gift.”

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