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Hoblitzelle Foundation donates \$2 million for advanced imaging programs at UT Southwestern

DALLAS – March 13, 2006 – The Hoblitzelle Foundation has given \$2 million to support advanced imaging research programs at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

The donation, which was made to Southwestern Medical Foundation as part of the medical center's \$500 million *Innovations in Medicine* campaign, matches the largest cash gift the Hoblitzelle Foundation has ever given to a single institution – a gift it also made to UT Southwestern in 2002.

The latest Hoblitzelle funds will help equip a new state-of-the-art imaging facility, the 150,000-square-foot, six-story Bill and Rita Clements Advanced Medical Imaging Building on the UT Southwestern North Campus.

"We're pleased to have this opportunity to support the completion of the new imaging building, which will be used by UT Southwestern researchers and clinicians as well as scientists from several of this region's other universities," said Paul W. Harris, executive vice president of the Hoblitzelle Foundation. "This is the foundation's second major participation in the *Innovations in Medicine* campaign, and our relationship with the medical center will continue to be a hallmark of the foundation's work in this community."

The new facility will house cutting-edge equipment such as functional magnetic resonance imaging, or fMRI, one of the most powerful new research instruments for studying structure and function simultaneously. fMRI allows the monitoring of regions of brain activation during different kinds of sensory stimulation or activity, such as sounds, sights or while performing manual and mental tasks.

Eight new rooms, or bays, of the facility will be dedicated to the latest diagnostic, research and clinical equipment, including one of the nation's first 7-Tesla MRIs, which use the most powerful magnet available for human studies.

The facility also will feature a host of other new tools, including high-resolution positron emission tomography, a medical-imaging technique that produces a three-dimensional "map" of functional processes in the body.

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“Access to equipment of this caliber will have a tremendous impact on the ability of our researchers and clinicians to perform tests that are possible in only a handful of medical centers in the country,” said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern. “It will also foster collaborative efforts with other top universities and medical institutions. The Hoblitzelle Foundation has always been one of our greatest supporters, and we are extremely grateful for such a forward-thinking gift.”

The Hoblitzelle Foundation was established by Karl and Esther Hoblitzelle in 1942. The foundation makes grants to educational, scientific, cultural and other charitable organizations, exclusively in Texas.

Since its creation, the foundation has given the land for the original 60-acre site of UT Southwestern’s campus and more than \$11 million to support the medical center. Included in the gifts is \$900,000 in start-up funds for the Endowed Scholars Program in Medical Science, \$1.25 million to establish the Donald W. Seldin, M.D., Laboratories for Neuroscience Research, \$1 million to assist with initial construction of Zale Lipshy University Hospital, now UT Southwestern University Hospital-Zale Lipshy.

“The Hoblitzelle Foundation has been a special friend to UT Southwestern for decades,” said W. Plack Carr Jr., Southwestern Medical Foundation president. “Its support has been pivotal in the development of Dallas as a whole, and we are grateful that Paul Harris and the trustees of the foundation have honored us with such a substantial contribution.”

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