

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

Media Contact: Katherine Morales

214-648-3404

katherine.morales@utsouthwestern.edu

Sweetheart Ball generates record \$1 million for cardiovascular research at UT Southwestern

DALLAS – Nov. 10, 2005 – The 2005 Sweetheart Ball set a record for the Dallas gala by generating more than \$1 million for cardiovascular research at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

“The Sweetheart Ball was again a wonderful success and a testament to the generosity of our members and guests who donated a record amount of more than \$1 million dollars,” said Alexandra Lavie, chair of the 2005 Sweetheart Ball. “The Sweetheart Ball supports an outstanding cause, and UT Southwestern Medical Center's contributions to Dallas, as well as the medical community at large, are truly exceptional.”

Since its inception the Sweetheart Ball has supported UT Southwestern's efforts to find revolutionary treatments for cardiovascular disease. The net proceeds from this year's gala totaled \$508,000, which was matched by an anonymous donor to produce a total of \$1,016,000.

“The tremendous success of the Sweetheart Ball and its supporters' continued generosity allows us to move forward in our mission to find more advanced ways of detecting, treating and preventing heart disease,” said Dr. Joseph Hill, chief of cardiology. “It is extremely gratifying to see people such as these come together for a common, altruistic goal, and I'm excited about the opportunities that this level of support will mean to our research efforts.”

Dr. Hill, who holds the James T. Willerson, M.D., Distinguished Chair in Cardiovascular Diseases and the Frank M. Ryburn Jr. Chair in Heart Research, was recruited four years ago from the University of Iowa College of Medicine with the help of Sweetheart Ball proceeds.

In 1981 public-spirited women committed to battling the nation's leading cause of death established the Sweetheart Ball – one of the most prestigious charity events in Dallas. From 1986 to 1991, proceeds from the ball were designated for the establishment of the Gail Griffiths Hill Chair in Cardiology, named for one of the founding board members who died in 1984.

Since 1992 the funds generated by the gala have been directed to the Sweetheart Ball Fund for Cardiology Research. The endowment has grown to more than \$10 million, with its income being used for cutting-edge cardiology research.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER AT DALLAS

Southwestern Medical School • Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences • Southwestern Allied Health Sciences School
Affiliated teaching hospitals and outpatient clinics

Office of News and Publications • 5323 Harry Hines Blvd., Dallas TX 75390-9060 • Telephone (214) 648-3404 • FAX (214) 648-9119

“The Sweetheart Ball has created a legacy of generosity that benefits the entire community,” said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern. “Its support and encouragement have helped enable us to build the top-ranked cardiology program in the nation. The research breakthroughs spawned by Sweetheart Ball funds will lead to better diagnostic procedures and treatments for patients with heart disease around the world.”

The 2006 Sweetheart Ball – chaired by Gene Jones – is scheduled for April 8, 2006. Linda Custard is chair-elect of the upcoming gala.

####

To automatically receive news releases from UT Southwestern via e-mail,
subscribe at www.utsouthwestern.edu/receivenews