

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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Nancy and W. Herbert Hunt give \$1 million to support prostate cancer research programs at UT Southwestern

DALLAS – Feb. 27, 2007 – A \$1 million gift from Dallas businessman W. Herbert Hunt and his wife, Nancy, will establish a distinguished chair in prostate cancer research at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

The gift, which was given as part of the medical center's \$500 million *Innovations in Medicine* campaign, was made in honor of Dr. John D. McConnell, executive vice president for health system affairs at UT Southwestern and an internationally recognized authority on prostate disease.

The Dr. John McConnell Distinguished Chair in Prostate Cancer Research will be held by Dr. Jer-Tsong Hsieh, associate professor of urology and director of the Jean H. and John T. Walter Jr. Center for Research in Urologic Oncology.

"Having battled prostate cancer myself, I know how important new research is for the survival of others faced with the disease," said Mr. Hunt, president of Petro-Hunt L.L.C. "Nancy and I have tremendous respect and affection for Dr. McConnell and wanted to do something to acknowledge the magnitude of his work as a physician and scientist."

A native Texan, Mr. Hunt is the son of legendary oilman H.L. Hunt. He spent his childhood witnessing the development of the East Texas Field, the largest oil field in the country's lower 48 states. After earning a bachelor's degree in geology from Washington and Lee University in Virginia, he returned to Dallas to work with his father in the family's energy companies.

Mr. Hunt serves on the board of the American Petroleum Institute, is a former president of the International Association of Drilling Contractors and has served as chairman of the National Offshore Industries Association.

Mrs. Hunt, an El Paso native, attended Hollins University in Virginia, and UT El Paso, where she was a member of Chi Omega. She is an avid supporter of numerous civic organizations, including the Junior League of Dallas, Crystal Charity Ball, the Dallas Woman's Club and the Dallas Garden Club.

Married since 1951, Mr. and Mrs. Hunt are members of Highland Park Presbyterian Church,
(MORE)

Hunt gift – 2

where Mr. Hunt is an elder. The couple has five children, all of whom live in Dallas, and 16 grandchildren.

“I am very humbled by the generosity of Herb and Nancy Hunt,” said Dr. McConnell. “Although I know that Herb is appreciative of the care he received at UT Southwestern, it is personally gratifying to see his philanthropic interest focused so intensely on prostate cancer research. This important gift will support research in the Department of Urology and the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center designed to improve both the detection and treatment of prostate cancer, second only to skin cancer in the number of American men it affects.”

Dr. McConnell served as chairman of urology at UT Southwestern from 1993 to 2001 and led the development of a multidisciplinary program that addressed patient care, basic and clinical research, and health-care policy in prostate disease. In 2004 he was elected to the Institute of Medicine, a component of the prestigious National Academy of Sciences. He holds the S.T. Harris Family Chair in Medical Science, which was given in his honor, and has served on the advisory council for the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. For a decade, he directed the National Institutes of Health’s George M. O’Brien Urology Research Center at UT Southwestern. Dr. McConnell earned his medical degree from Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine.

Dr. Hsieh earned his undergraduate degree from the National Taiwan University and a master’s degree from the National Yang-Ming Medical School. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1989 and became a postdoctoral fellow and then an assistant professor at UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. Following faculty appointments there and at the UT Health Science Center at Houston, Dr. Hsieh joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 1996. He has won numerous awards and honors for his prostate-cancer research and is a frequent lecturer in the U.S. and Taiwan.

“It is a great honor to be named the first holder of this distinguished chair, and I am very grateful to the Hunts for this significant gift,” said Dr. Hsieh. “As a cancer researcher, I am inspired by Dr. McConnell’s vision in building a comprehensive prostate cancer research team of clinicians and basic scientists. His passion and leadership have created a nationally recognized research program.”

Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern, said, “Herb and Nancy Hunt’s generous contribution is particularly meaningful because it addresses an area of major medical importance, and also because it honors one of UT Southwestern’s most distinguished leaders. The Hunts’ confidence in our institution and their desire to help others is extremely gratifying.”

(MORE)

Hunt gift – 3

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About UT Southwestern Medical Center

UT Southwestern Medical Center, one of the premier medical centers in the nation, integrates pioneering biomedical research with exceptional clinical care and education. Its more than 1,400 full-time faculty members – including four active Nobel Prize winners, more than any other medical school in the world – are responsible for groundbreaking medical advances and are committed to translating science-driven research quickly to new clinical treatments. UT Southwestern physicians provide medical care in 40 specialties to nearly 89,000 hospitalized patients and oversee 2.1 million outpatient visits a year.

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