

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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COLLINS FOUNDATIONS ESTABLISH CENTER FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH AT UT SOUTHWESTERN

DALLAS — September 13, 1993 — New gifts totaling \$500,000 from the James M. Collins and Carr P. Collins foundations have enabled a previously established research program at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas to be expanded into a research center that will be known as the James M. Collins Center for Biomedical Research. The center is named in honor of the eight-term U.S. congressman and Dallas civic leader, who died in 1989.

In 1991 the foundations established the James M. Collins Professorship in Biomedical Research at UT Southwestern and began providing annual operating funds to support research in pulmonary fibrosis, the cause of Collins' death. The latest gifts have been directed to Southwestern Medical Foundation for the benefit of UT Southwestern as part of the school's \$150 million Fund for Molecular Research campaign. Southwestern Medical Foundation provided \$500,000 in matching funds for the new Collins Center, which will focus on the area of pulmonary disease.

"The one thing Dad brought us all up on was that our primary responsibility is to the community in which we live," said Michael J. Collins, president of an investment banking firm and vice president of the Collins foundations. "To the extent that we have an opportunity to make something happen in our community which can have national and worldwide impact, that's where we should be concentrating our efforts."

Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern, said: "Lung diseases afflict many Americans, and one of the most devastating forms is pulmonary fibrosis. Basic research into the cellular and molecular abnormalities that cause fibrosis is the key to understanding and preventing this and a host of

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other related diseases. It is a great opportunity and privilege for UT Southwestern to be able to mount a major research program honoring Jim Collins in this field thanks to the generosity of his family's foundations."

Throughout his life, Collins was an ardent supporter of Dallas medical and educational institutions. He was especially committed to making health care more accessible to underprivileged people in Dallas. In 1971 he donated \$100,000 to establish Los Barrios Unidos Community Clinic in West Dallas.

In late 1988 Collins began experiencing serious problems with his own health. Troubled by shortness of breath, he consulted his physician. He was diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis, a disease characterized by the appearance of scar tissue throughout the lung. This inhibits the lungs' ability to deliver oxygen to the bloodstream. Sometimes the disease process is triggered by exposure to radiation or toxic chemicals. In most cases, however, the cause is unknown. According to current estimates, the illness affects about five of every 100,000 people worldwide. Three-fourths of its victims are men, most of them over the age of 40. It usually is fatal within three to six years after the onset of symptoms.

"The children and I are excited about the pioneering biomedical research that is taking place at UT Southwestern, and we are pleased to be a part of that effort," said Dee Collins, his wife of 47 years, president of the James M. Collins Foundation.

Ruth Collins Altshuler, president of the Carr P. Collins Foundation, said, "My brother's last thoughts and words were about the city he loved — Dallas. He was the city's biggest cheerleader. He invested nearly his entire life working to improve life for everyone here in Dallas. I think the investment in the research center will produce medical breakthroughs that will carry on my brother's legacy.

"I also think he would be pleased with this gift because I believe he recognized that the future of Dallas would be closely linked with health care and with UT Southwestern."

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