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**Dallas law firm Waters & Kraus gives \$250,000 to  
support research of rare lung cancer at UT Southwestern**

DALLAS – Dec. 7, 2006 – Dallas law firm Waters & Kraus LLP has donated \$250,000 to fund a lung-cancer treatment and research program at UT Southwestern Medical Center. The program will focus on mesothelioma, a rare cancer caused primarily by exposure to asbestos.

The gift, which was made through St. Paul Medical Foundation, will establish a Mesothelioma Treatment and Research Program designed to provide the finest care possible to patients suffering from the deadly disease. The program, which will be led by Dr. Michael DiMaio, associate professor of cardiovascular and thoracic surgery, will be part of the Heart, Lung and Vascular Center at UT Southwestern.

Peter Kraus, managing partner of Waters & Kraus, explained that his firm has long specialized in mesothelioma cases. “We’ve seen firsthand how painful and devastating this cancer can be, and so an opportunity to fund research of this caliber is exciting to us,” he said. “I’ve been so impressed by Dr. DiMaio and want to do whatever I can to help him in his mission to provide world-class care to lung-cancer patients here in North Texas.”

Although asbestos – a toxic, fibrous material that was once commonly used in construction – ceased to be widely used in the 1980s, the numbers of those diagnosed with mesothelioma, a cancer of the lung lining, continues to be high. The cancer is slow-growing – often taking from 25 to 50 years for symptoms to appear – but mortality can be swift once it is detected. Prolonging and improving the quality of life for those afflicted with the disease are primary goals of Dr. DiMaio and his team.

“Mesothelioma is notorious for its poor prognosis, but we are beginning to see significant improvements in the detection and treatment of this disease,” said Dr. DiMaio, who holds the Laurence and Susan Hirsch/Centex Distinguished Chair in Heart Disease. “Funding such as this will enable us to probe deeper into new therapies and help us to find even better ways to ease the pain of those suffering from the disease. I’m very grateful to Peter Kraus and his firm for their wonderful show of compassion and confidence.”

Mr. Kraus, who specializes in toxic tort and civil litigation, earned his law degree from the UT School of Law in 1985. He was named *Texas Monthly* Super Lawyer in 2003, 2004, 2005 and

2006. He is chairman of St. Paul Medical Foundation and has served on its board since 2002. He also serves on the board of Trial Lawyers for Public Justice.

Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern, said, "This generous gift from Waters & Kraus will enable us to expand our research and treatment programs for mesothelioma patients, and bring them the best possible care."

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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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