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Local philanthropists raise \$3 million to establish breast-cancer surgery center at UT Southwestern in honor of Dr. George Peters

DALLAS – Oct. 30, 2006 – Friends, colleagues and admirers of prominent Dallas breast surgeon Dr. George Peters and philanthropist Nancy Hamon gathered in October to celebrate a successful yearlong campaign to establish a \$3 million breast-cancer surgery center at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

In 2005 Mrs. Hamon made a \$1.5 million challenge grant to Southwestern Medical Foundation to raise matching funds for the center to be named in honor of Dr. Peters, her good friend and former physician. Her contribution spurred a formal campaign that raised an additional \$1.5 million for the George N. Peters, M.D., Breast Surgery Center.

Dr. Peters is the former director of the UT Southwestern Center for Breast Care, part of the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center. He retired in 2001 after suffering a heart attack.

Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern, told the attendees, “This is a heartwarming occasion, and we have something truly wonderful to celebrate. There are an enormous number of people who love George Peters for the way he has inspired them, comforted them, and – in some cases – saved their lives.

“One of those people is Nancy Hamon, whose legendary generosity was an invitation to others to honor Dr. Peters through the creation of this new center. The response was overwhelming and this dream is now a reality.”

Plack Carr, president of Southwestern Medical Center, said, “Mrs. Hamon’s \$1.5 million challenge gave all of Dr. Peter’s patients and friends a wonderful opportunity to be an important part of the creation of the new breast-surgery center. We are all grateful for her continued generosity and willingness to help others.”

The campaign for the George N. Peters, M.D., Breast Surgery Center was co-chaired by Dallas philanthropist Carolyn W. Walker and Dr. Phil Evans, director of the breast care program.

(MORE)

Peters center – 2

Other members of the steering committee were Nancy Brinker, Marilyn Corrigan, Dr. Carol Croft, Dr. David Euhus, Frances Freeman, Dr. Eugene Frenkel, Nancy Halbreich, Dr. Marilyn Leitch, Christa Overcash, Dee Simmons, Diana Strauss, Anne Marie Walker and Jean Walter.

At the event Dr. Wildenthal unveiled a bronze plaque engraved with the names of the fundraising campaign's major contributors: Nancy B. Hamon; Carolyn W. and Thomas C. Walker; Mary Ralph Lowe/Lowe Foundation; Dee and Glenn R. Simmons; Jean and J. Thomas Walter; Christa Overcash; Marilyn and Leo F. Corrigan Jr.; Frances Freeman and family; Jean L. Karotkin/Meyer Levy Foundation/Dallas Foundation; Beverly and Jerry D. Lancaster; Carol A. Taylor; Sue L. Wayne; Alinda Hill Wikert; Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation; Inwood National Bank; Barbara and Mark L. Lemmon Jr., M.D.; Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation; Eugene McDermott Foundation; Diana and Richard Strauss; Lisa A. Blue-Baron and Frederick M. Baron; Jean and Bill Booziotis; Laurie and W. Phil Evans III, M.D.; A. Marilyn Leitch, M.D., and Ben C. Garrett; Maryann and Frank Mihalopoulos; Kimberley J. Pollock and Arthur J. Considine; Sondra and Don Shine; Jane W. Spears; and Rusty Wallis.

Dr. Evans said, "When I think about George Peters, I think about his devotion – to his patients, to his family and to his friends. He has a passion for everything he does and cares deeply about UT Southwestern and his colleagues and patients. In turn, those who have been touched by him return his devotion, which is what has made this center possible."

Dr. Peters joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 1996 as a leading breast surgeon in Dallas since 1980. He had earned his medical degree from the University of Mississippi School of Medicine, then trained at Baylor University Medical Center, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, and Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, N.Y.

Dr. Peters has been recognized by the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation as its "Man of the Year" and has received the American Cancer Society's Sword of Hope Award. In 1999 he was named by *Good Housekeeping* magazine as one of the nation's top breast-cancer surgeons. He has served as president of the Texas Division of the American Cancer Society and as vice president of the North American Senological International Society.

(MORE)

Peters center – 3

Nancy Hamon and her late husband, Jake, who died in 1985, are philanthropic legends. Mrs. Hamon's previous gifts to UT Southwestern include a \$25 million donation to the medical center's *Fund for Molecular Research*. Part of the gift – \$15 million – established the Nancy B. and Jake L. Hamon Center for Therapeutic Oncology Research, the Nancy B. and Jake L. Hamon Center for Basic Research in Cancer and two distinguished chairs in those fields. The remaining funds were used to help construct the Nancy B. and Jake L. Hamon Biomedical Research Building on the North Campus. In 1999 she gave a \$4 million challenge grant to launch a campaign to build the Bryan Williams, M.D., Student Center.

Mrs. Hamon also has given generously to other Dallas institutions, including – among many others – the Dallas Museum of Art, Southern Methodist University, the Dallas Zoo, the Booker T. Washington School for the Performing and Visual Arts, the Museum of African-American Life and Culture, and the Texas Ballet Theater.

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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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