

Media Contact: Rachel Skei Donihoo
214-648-3404
rachel.donihoo@utsouthwestern.edu

\$100,000 gift from Betsy and Tom B. Medders III supports neurosurgery at UT Southwestern

DALLAS – Oct. 16, 2008 – Brain tumor survivor Tom B. Medders III and his wife, Betsy, have given \$100,000 to support neurosurgery research programs at UT Southwestern Medical Center in honor of the two doctors Mr. Medders credits with saving his life.

The gift was given in recognition of Dr. Bruce Mickey, vice chairman of neurological surgery, and Dr. Elizabeth Maher, associate professor of internal medicine and neurology.

Mr. Medders, who has battled a rare form of brain cancer for several years, is president and chairman of Medders Oil Co., a Wichita Falls-based independent oil company that his family has operated for three generations.

“My own experience has given me a great interest in doing what I can to support more research in the field of neurosurgery,” Mr. Medders said. “My wife and I have tremendous respect for Dr. Mickey and Dr. Maher and are very grateful to them for the outstanding care they’ve given me and for the compassion they’ve shown our family. We owe them a great deal and are pleased to have the opportunity to support their work.”

Longtime advocates of the health-care industry, the Medders have been loyal supporters of the North Texas Rehabilitation Center in Wichita Falls, where Mr. Medders serves on the board. Mrs. Medders has served on the boards of Straight Street Ministries and the Junior League of Wichita Falls. The couple, who have been married for 22 years, have three children, Cullen, John and Hallie.

“While this heartfelt gift fosters an area of research that has personally touched the Medders family, their generosity also extends to countless others who will benefit from advances it will enable,” said Dr. Daniel K. Podolsky, president of UT Southwestern. “We’re very proud that they have chosen to honor Drs. Mickey and Maher in this way and are grateful for their faith in our institution and their commitment to bettering medical care.”

Dr. Mickey, who joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 1984, directs the Annette G. Strauss Center for Neuro-Oncology and holds the William Kemp Clark Chair in Neurological Surgery. He

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earned a Bachelor of Arts from Harvard University in 1974 and a medical degree from UT Southwestern in 1978. Renowned for his expertise in tumors of the brain and spinal cord, he has been named to numerous national "Best Doctors" lists for many years.

"This gift is not only a great honor for me personally, but it is also exciting for me as a researcher," Dr. Mickey said. "Although current treatments used for primary brain tumors are substantially more effective than those available a decade ago, better treatment must be found. I believe that patients, their doctors and laboratory scientists must all be participants in an effort to develop new treatment strategies. Mr. and Mrs. Medders clearly understand this concept, and I'm honored to be on their team."

Dr. Maher earned a Ph.D. in physiology in 1989 and a medical degree in 1993 from McGill University in Montreal. Prior to joining the UT Southwestern faculty in 2006, she served on the faculty at Harvard Medical School in the Center for Neuro-Oncology at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Her brain-tumor research and clinical acumen has earned her numerous honors and several research awards, including a V Foundation Translational Research Award and a Goldhirsh Foundation Brain Tumor Research Award for her work on glioblastoma.

"Tom Medders has the generosity of spirit to recognize the importance of advancing brain tumor treatment, while he himself is struggling with the disease," said Dr. Maher. "I speak not only for myself, but also for our other patients when I say how thankful I am for such an important and gracious gift."

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