

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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NEW CHAIR APPOINTMENT HONORS UT SYSTEM EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR'S CONTRIBUTION TO UT SOUTHWESTERN

DALLAS — February 14, 1996 — If home is where the heart is, Dr. Charles B. Mullins' heart is somewhere near UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, the place where he began his medical career.

Even though Mullins, executive vice chancellor for health affairs for the UT System, primarily lives and works in Austin, he returns to Dallas each autumn to teach a cardiology lecture class. His dedication is not going without reward.

He has been named holder of the newly established J. Fred Schoellkopf Jr. Chair in Cardiology, established by Anne C. Schoellkopf in memory of her husband, who died in 1993 from heart disease. The \$250,000 gift, which was matched by an anonymous donor, was given as part of UT Southwestern's recently completed Fund for Molecular Research campaign.

Mullins graduated from UT Southwestern in 1958 as a member of the medical honor society, Alpha Omega Alpha. He completed his residency at Parkland Memorial Hospital and was chief resident in 1965. He began teaching at UT Southwestern in 1966. The UT Southwestern class he teaches today, a popular lecture on identifying the physical signs of heart disease, fills to capacity.

"I like education and teaching bright minds," said Mullins, who has been a recipient of the Sophomore Teaching Award given by that class for excellence in teaching. "I especially enjoy helping point the students in an exciting direction and helping them become excellent doctors."

For someone whose primary job is a demanding position with the UT System, taking on teaching duties is an additional challenge. As vice chancellor for health affairs since 1981, he is responsible for budgetary and administrative oversight of the state's six health

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campuses.

"You couldn't ask for a better or busier life," said Mullins, who relishes the frenetic pace he keeps. He often leaves his Austin office to travel the state and visit the UT health institutions.

The Schoellkopf gift will allow him to continue his teaching, provide support for cardiology research activities and help him support the UT System's medical schools, which are funded through state, federal and private grants.

"Gifts like Mrs. Schoellkopf's endowment give academic institutions the edge of excellence that you wouldn't have with only state and federal funding," Mullins said. "True academic excellence requires additional funds.

"Private gifts are becoming more important because the relative proportion that comes from state and federal tax dollars is becoming smaller each year."

Through the executive vice chancellor's position, Mullins has his finger on the pulse of each medical school's lifeline of funding. As the medical schools' governmental liaison, he is often at the state Capitol educating state legislators about the importance of funding medical schools. Mullins also has testified before the House Ways and Means Committee in support of funding for the nation's medical schools.

Helping medical schools' educational and research efforts grow is important to Mullins because medicine is becoming a global effort today. "Medicinal research is now much broader-based in terms of researchers working together toward a common goal but in different labs," he said.

Understanding the impact of Texas' medical schools clarifies Mullins' concern with funding. The six state health institutions, including UT Southwestern, train about 70 percent of Texas' health professionals.

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