

# SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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## FAMILY SUPPORTS UT SOUTHWESTERN SUBSTANCE-ABUSE RESEARCH

DALLAS — November 28, 1995 — A Dallas family has donated \$50,000 to support substance-abuse research being conducted by the Department of Psychiatry at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

The funds will be matched dollar-for-dollar, making a total of \$100,000 available for the expansion of substance-abuse studies. The donation, given in honor of the late Wesley Gilliland, was made by his widow, Mrs. Marjorie Gilliland, and their daughter and son-in-law, Lynn Gilliland O'Neil and Michael O'Neil. Wesley Gilliland was a prominent Dallas businessman and civic leader.

Gilliland family members have been longtime supporters of UT Southwestern, said Lynn O'Neil, a certified financial planner. She and her husband, a partner in the Gardere & Wynne law firm, are members of the President's Research Council, a group of community leaders who help raise funds to support the efforts of up-and-coming researchers at UT Southwestern.

Mrs. O'Neil said her family chose substance-abuse research for its gift because of the impact substance abuse has on people's lives and because funds from agencies like the National Institutes of Health are not available for this type of research. "Substance abuse is related directly or indirectly to most of the problems in our communities, but researchers struggle to find the funds for studying the causes and cures," she said. "We hope this gift will encourage others to help UT Southwestern explore the fundamentals of this pervasive problem."

Dr. Kenneth J. Altshuler, chairman of psychiatry and holder of the Stanton Sharp Distinguished Chair in Psychiatry, said, "Substance abuse is one of our key community

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problems. Almost all families are touched by this problem in some way.

"Too often, it is handled primarily with punishment, with an occasional nod at treatment and little concern for knowledge about the underlying causes — yet understanding the physiology of abuse is what is needed if we are to have treatment that is effective.

"The wisdom of the Gilliland family's gift is in recognizing this fact and aiming funds to support its research. We are fortunate to have people like Mrs. Gilliland and the O'Neils with the vision, desire and means to help."

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