

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

**\$250,000 gift from Dr. Norman and Audrey Kaplan  
supports hypertension research at UT Southwestern**

DALLAS – Jan. 16, 2009 – Dr. Norman M. Kaplan, one of the world's foremost authorities on high blood pressure, and his wife, Audrey, have made an additional gift of \$250,000 to UT Southwestern Medical Center to support hypertension research.

The gift, which enhances an endowment the couple established in 1994, will support the work of Dr. Ronald Victor, chief of the hypertension division and the first holder of the Norman and Audrey Kaplan Chair in Hypertension.

Dr. Kaplan, clinical professor of internal medicine at UT Southwestern and former chief of hypertension, has been on the medical center's faculty since 1961. Internationally renowned for his work, he is a highly sought-after lecturer and author whose textbook, *Kaplan's Clinical Hypertension* (soon to be in its tenth edition), is widely regarded as a classic.

The Kaplan Chair in Hypertension supports research programs at UT Southwestern and has become a source of seed money, allowing the junior faculty in the hypertension division to obtain pilot data needed to compete successfully for research grants, said Dr. Victor, director of the Houston J. and Florence A. Doswell Center for the Development of New Approaches for the Treatment of Hypertension at UT Southwestern.

Dr. Kaplan said, "Audrey and I want to ensure the continued success of the hypertension division under the direction of Ron Victor. As a longtime faculty member, I know the importance of having adequate funding to support the work of key personnel. In the years since Dr. Victor has led the hypertension program, he has demonstrated his ability to gather excellent colleagues and mentor them while pursuing his own research. We are pleased to provide this additional financial support to the medical center and to a physician we hold in such high esteem."

Dr. Kaplan has published more than 500 scientific papers and has been a member of the Joint National Committee on Detection, Evaluation and Treatment of High Blood Pressure. He has been named a Master of the American College of Physicians, been given the Lifetime Achievement Award by the American Heart Association's Council for High Blood Pressure Research and served as a charter member of the executive committee of the American Society of Hypertension.

In 2004 Dr. Kaplan received the International Society of Hypertension's Stevo Julius Award

(MORE)

## **Kaplan gift – 2**

for Excellence in Public and Professional Communication in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Dr. and Mrs. Kaplan live in Dallas, where Mrs. Kaplan has long been involved in community service and real-estate development. Mrs. Kaplan serves on the boards of the American Jewish Congress and the Texas Freedom Network, organizations concerned about constitutional issues. She has been a volunteer for Planned Parenthood and other groups working for women.

Dr. Victor, whose work in hypertension has earned him international recognition, focuses on the role of the sympathetic nervous system in causing high blood pressure and, more recently, on the condition in African-Americans, who are particularly prone to developing the disease.

“This wonderful gift is one of many indelible contributions Norman Kaplan has made to the academic environment at UT Southwestern and to our field of study,” said Dr. Victor. “I can’t describe what an honor it is for me to hold the Kaplan Chair, and I am very touched by great generosity and continued support both Norm and Audrey have given to me and my colleagues in the division.”

Dr. Victor has served on the faculty of UT Southwestern since 1986 and has headed the hypertension division since 1997. Dr. Victor also is an investigator on the Dallas Heart Study – a major project of the Donald W. Reynolds Cardiovascular Clinical Research Center at UT Southwestern.

“Norman Kaplan has long been one of UT Southwestern’s finest clinicians and researchers, and we’re enormously grateful for his steadfast loyalty to the institution and his fellow faculty members,” said Dr. Daniel K. Podolsky, president of the medical center. “We are tremendously honored by this gift, which will significantly enhance a program he and his wife already have done so much to support. Hypertension, which affects an estimated 75 million Americans, is one of our most compelling national health crises. We’re thrilled that the Kaplans have once again chosen to aid the important work of Dr. Victor and his team.”

###

To automatically receive news releases from UT Southwestern via e-mail,  
subscribe at [www.utsouthwestern.edu/receivenews](http://www.utsouthwestern.edu/receivenews)