

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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STRAUSS FAMILY GIFTS BOOST RESEARCH AT UT SOUTHWESTERN IN WOMEN'S HEALTH, PEDIATRIC SURGERY AND DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY

DALLAS – December 17, 1996 – Gifts establishing two new distinguished professorships to support clinical research in pediatric surgery and women's health have been given to UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, along with funds to upgrade a professorship to a chair in developmental biology.

They are gifts from Robert Strauss and his wife, Helen, and their son Richard Strauss and his wife, Diana.

Robert Strauss, who has served in five U.S. presidential administrations, heads the Dallas- and Washington-based law firm Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, L.L.P., and is a former ambassador to Russia. Richard Strauss is chairman and chief executive officer of RCS Investments. Helen and Diana Strauss are leaders and strong supporters of local civic and charitable activities. Diana Strauss serves on the board of Zale Lipshy University Hospital and is chair of the 1996 "Friends of Zale Lipshy University Hospital" campaign.

"The Strauss families have been staunch supporters of UT Southwestern for many years," said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, UT Southwestern president. "They have contributed generously in a number of areas, especially those related to developmental problems and children's and women's health issues. These latest gifts will significantly enhance our programs in these areas."

The new chair in developmental biology is held by Dr. Luis Parada, holder of the original professorship established by the Strauss family. Parada, one of the world's leading developmental neurobiologists and director of UT Southwestern's Center for Developmental Biology, is working with his team to decipher the genetic blueprint that drives brain development. They are studying diseases like neuroblastoma, neurofibromatosis and nerve cell survival. Advances in this area could help improve the lives of children with brain disorders.

The first holder of the Helen J. and Robert S. Strauss and Diana K. and Richard C. Strauss Distinguished Professorship in Pediatric Surgery will be Dr. Philip Guzzetta Jr.,

(MORE)

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STRAUSS GIFT – 2

chairman of pediatric surgery.

It is one of 36 pediatric surgery training programs in North America.

"We are going to expand research opportunities through the division in both clinical and basic-research areas," said Guzzetta, who annually performs about 15 to 20 pediatric kidney transplants. "Our expectation is that funds generated from the professorship will be utilized for that type of academic pursuit."

Guzzetta said it was an honor to receive the professorship. "I believe this professorship for the pediatric surgery division is a great statement of the Strauss family's strong support for the medical center. I'm delighted and humbled," he said.

Dr. Karen Bradshaw, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, has been named holder of the Helen J. and Robert S. Strauss and Diana K. and Richard C. Strauss Distinguished Professorship in Women's Health.

Bradshaw specializes in reproductive endocrinology and is interested in the effects hormonal changes have on women at different life stages, such as puberty and menopause. This field is important, she said, because women are living longer and want to lead healthier lives.

"Our goal is to help make these transitions as comfortable as possible," she said.

Bradshaw also specializes in the hormonal and surgical treatment of developmental anomalies in the female genital tract. Although not common, women can be born with a variety of genital tract abnormalities.

"I'm very grateful for the Strauss family's support and ideas," Bradshaw said. "Gifts of this kind provide outstanding opportunities for academic physicians to continue developing research and innovative teaching methods. Teaching is such an important aspect of what we do."

The Strausses have been ardent supporters of UT Southwestern's teaching, clinical and research efforts. In addition to these three latest gifts, they previously endowed the Diana K. and Richard C. Strauss Professorship in Biomedical Research and the Helen J. and Robert S. Strauss Professorship in Pediatric Neurology. They also have contributed to the Sarah M. and Charles E. Seay Center for Basic and Applied Research in Psychiatric Illness, in honor of their friends, Mr. and Mrs. Seay.

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