

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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BROCKS ADVANCE CANCER, MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS RESEARCH WITH \$500,000 GIFT

DALLAS – October 22, 1999 – When two frightening diseases hit close to home, Dallas philanthropists Steve and Jean Ann Brock vowed to do whatever they could to help find cures. Their help came in the form of a \$500,000 gift to support cancer and multiple sclerosis (MS) research at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

The donation, made through Southwestern Medical Foundation, will establish the Jean Ann and Steve Brock Fund for Medical Science. This year the endowment will benefit projects directed by Dr. Jonathan Uhr, professor of microbiology and internal medicine, and Dr. Michael Racke, associate professor of neurology.

"During the last several years our family has had to deal with several life-changing health issues," said Steve Brock. His wife, Jean Ann, successfully battled renal cell carcinoma last year, and his sister has been diagnosed with MS. "We saw firsthand how devastating these two diseases can be and also how vital quality care and research is. Jean Ann and I wanted to emphasize the fight to find cures, as well as recognize and thank UT Southwestern for the incredible work being done there."

Half of the endowment will support the evaluation of a highly sensitive test for detecting renal carcinoma cells in the blood. The test, which is being studied by Uhr and his associates, could help eliminate dangerous invasive diagnostic procedures and facilitate early diagnosis in high-risk patients.

"This gift allows us to pursue new approaches to treating and curing cancer that we otherwise would not have the opportunity to study," said Uhr.

The other half of the gift will further studies of the mysterious culprits behind MS and support the development of better therapies for treating the neurological disorder. The fund will allow Racke and his associates to examine the role that white blood cells play in the development of MS.

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"The sort of endowment provided by the Brocks is vitally important for launching new research initiatives," Racke said. "Although there are treatments for MS, we are still far from a cure. This type of generous support is a wonderful stepping stone for developing the results necessary for advancing research."

Dr. Kern Wildenthal, UT Southwestern president, said, "It is very commendable that the Brocks have taken a personal struggle and turned it into something that will make an important difference in others' lives. We are most grateful for their interest and support."

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