

news THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT DALLAS

Southwestern medical school ■ graduate school of biomedical sciences ■ school of allied health sciences

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EL PASO--A broad new program of research into prevention and cure of heart disease will be launched at Southwestern Medical School in Dallas with income from a \$6 million trust established by the will of Dallas oilman and civic leader, Harry S. Moss, The University of Texas Board of Regents announced Friday.

"The wisdom of this bequest commands our admiration as well as appreciation," remarked Board Chairman A.G. McNeese Jr. in acceptance. "The conquest of heart disease--the prime cause of death in man--may be speeded by this gesture."

Officials at the Dallas medical school said the money would allow the Division of Cardiology in the school's Department of Internal Medicine to expand research into promising areas, to encourage the work of young scientists, and to acquire the necessary scientific equipment to support those efforts.

Southwestern Medical School was picked as recipient by the three trustees of the estate, Mrs. Harry S. Moss, Attorney Frank M. Ryburn Jr., and the trust department of the First National Bank of Dallas.

"With this most generous bequest I think Southwestern will undoubtedly have the tools to carry out a preeminent program in heart research," declared Dr. Charles C. Sprague, President of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas. "We already have a fine nucleus of heart researchers with which to build an absolutely magnificent program."

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first add moss trust

In setting up the "Harry S. Moss Trust for the Prevention and Cure of Heart Diseases", the late Mr. Moss said:

"I believe that possession of property creates an obligation upon the owner to see to it that some part of that property is devoted to the assistance of his fellowman. Heart disease is one of the great scourges with which mankind is afflicted. I have determined that I could not pursue any course which potentially could be of greater service to the community than by creating in this my will a trust whose main purpose and object is the prevention and cure of diseases of the heart."

By far the largest part of his property was given over to the heart research trust. Assets consist principally of oil and gas properties, securities and real estate.

Moss, who died Dec. 26, 1970, had lived in Dallas for more than 45 years and was president of Moss Petroleum Co. He served as director of the First National Bank, State Fair of Texas, chairman of the Salvation Army Board and was a life board member of Children's Medical Center. A native of Canada, he served as an aviator with the U.S. Army Air Force in World War I.

Southwestern Medical School's Cardiology Division has achieved distinction with its research into the relationship of exercise and heart function and in several basic areas of heart mechanisms.

Led by Dr. Jere H. Mitchell, a past Established Investigator with the American Heart Association and a former Career Development Awardee of the U.S. Public Health Service, the research division has 11 senior investigators, eight fellows, two graduate students and six medical student research fellows.

A number of scientific findings have emanated from the Cardiology Division. In addition to the fundamental exercise studies, new insights into the geometry of the beating heart have gained through experimental three-dimensional X-ray studies in animals. Understanding of stress reflexes created by isometric exercise and establishment of artificially-maintained mouse hearts as test mechanisms have been a few of the division's accomplishments.

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second add moss trust

In explaining the program set up to utilize the Moss Trust, Dr. Mitchell said:

"We will be able to expand into exciting new directions which are of great potential importance in the prevention and cure of heart disease.

"These include gaining basic knowledge in mechanisms involved in heart failure and hypertrophy (enlargement), the nature of events that accompany myocardial ischemia (deficiency of blood supply) and its therapy, the central and peripheral mechanisms involved in shock and the role of assisted circulation and other therapy, factors that regulate the response of the heart during various kinds of stress, and analysis of the control of circulation utilizing neurophysiological techniques."

Professor Mitchell said he would be able to strengthen and attract additional top personnel and to develop clinical programs with the trust income.

He is particularly interested in delving into heart muscle metabolism--how the heart utilizes energy and rids itself of by-products--the molecular basis for heart muscle contraction, the control of peripheral circulation (arterial and venous), the links and controls shared by the heart and circulation with the nervous system, in bio-engineering and in clinical cardiovascular physiology.

"Our investment will be in programs--in people and the equipment which will enable them to search out the complexities of the heart," Dr. Mitchell said.

"The program will exist wherever our people are--whether in the medical school or at Parkland Hospital. It will include the training of researchers, medical students and fellows."

SEPTEMBER 28, 1973

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