

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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BARRETT FAMILY PLEDGES \$1 MILLION TO UT SOUTHWESTERN FOR PEDIATRIC CANCER RESEARCH

DALLAS—April 6, 1999—Philanthropists Angie and Bill Barrett have contributed \$1 million to UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas to establish The Barrett Family Center for Pediatric Oncology.

The gift, which will be matched to create a \$2 million endowment, will target hematology-oncology research aimed at finding preventions and cures for childhood cancer.

“Angie and Bill Barrett’s true concern for the well-being of children and their overwhelming generosity will have profound implications on the lives of children and their families so indelibly affected by cancer,” said Dr. George Buchanan, professor of pediatrics, director of the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at Children’s Medical Center of Dallas and holder of the Children’s Cancer Fund Distinguished Chair in Pediatric Oncology and Hematology. “The Barrett Family Center for Pediatric Oncology will enable UT Southwestern’s pediatric cancer specialists to accelerate their research and hence come closer to finding a cure for children’s cancer.”

The Barretts have long been committed supporters of pediatric programs at UT Southwestern. They have made frequent major contributions to the Children’s Cancer Fund, a leading foundation that supports pediatric oncology at Children’s Medical Center of Dallas and UT Southwestern. In 1993, the Barretts also provided \$100,000 in matching funds to Crystal Charity Ball proceeds, which were directed to craniofacial deformity correction.

“Bill and Angie Barrett are truly legendary in their generosity and willingness to contribute to research that can make a difference in the prognosis of children who have cancer,” said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, UT Southwestern president. “Through this gift, they have given many children the chance to successfully battle their disease and resume healthy lives.”

Said Bill Barrett: “We know that Dallas has one of the finest pediatric cancer centers in

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the country. Over the years, I've seen Dr. George Buchanan and his colleagues use clinical expertise and basic science principles with children who are near death, and I've seen them cured. I've always been impressed by how science can be used to make a child well again."

About 25 percent of leukemia patients do not respond well to chemotherapy treatment, and over half of these patients who fail chemotherapy will die from the disease, according to Leukemia Society of America statistics. The Barrett gift will allow for a continued focus on helping these patients.

"The fact that the center will be located at a teaching institution affiliated with Children's Medical Center of Dallas means that patients will immediately receive the treatment dividends gleaned from new research," Angie Barrett said.

Researchers in the pediatric hematology-oncology program at UT Southwestern study how chemotherapy drugs such as methotrexate are metabolized and how their toxic waste products damage normal tissues.

"A better understanding of the potentially harmful effects of chemotherapy on the bone marrow, liver, brain, heart and other organs should allow for future treatment programs to be safer and more effective," Buchanan said. "Further understanding of the molecular genetics of childhood cancer, also under active study at UT Southwestern, will some day allow for earlier diagnosis or even prevention."

Roger Staubach, a close family friend, officially announced the Barretts' gift at a recent Children's Cancer Fund luncheon at the Wyndham Anatole Hotel.

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