

News

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December 1, 1988

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****Texas Instruments' gift funds
Alzheimer's disease research

DALLAS---The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center is the first institution in the state to receive a \$100,000 Texas Instruments Director Award.

The gift was recently presented in the name of retired TI general director C.J. "Tommy" Thomsen. It is designated toward endowing a new faculty chair for Alzheimer's disease research.

Established in 1987, the TI awards program honors retiring general directors with a contribution in their name to the U.S. undergraduate or graduate institution of their choice. TI sees this as a way not only of thanking its directors for their years of service but also of contributing to the American educational system from which the company will draw its future leaders.

Thomsen, 72, is the fifth recipient of the innovative retirement tribute. Both as an employee and director, Thomsen was instrumental in TI's development and expansion since 1946. He served at the helm of several TI operations and was a corporate director from 1952-72. In 1973 he retired as an employee but remained active as a general director until last year.

A Wisconsin native, Thomsen is an engineering graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He pursued graduate study at Johns Hopkins University. A Dallas resident, Thomsen is a trustee of several local educational and charitable organizations.

TI Chairman Jerry R. Junkins presented the gift at a Dec. 1 appreciation dinner at the medical center hosted by UT Southwestern President Kern Wildenthal.

"We are very happy that Tommy Thomsen has chosen a Dallas institution for his TI Director Award," said Junkins, who also is president and chief executive officer of the Dallas-based firm. "By concentrating these funds on the specific target of Alzheimer's disease, we would hope progress can be made toward understanding this illness and lightening the great personal suffering and social costs which it brings."

In his selection of UT Southwestern, Thomsen noted that previous service on the Dallas Mayor's Biotechnology Task Force gave him "the opportunity to see the unlimited potential" of the medical center's research efforts.

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"Alzheimer's research is certainly one very important area when you consider demographics and realize the growing need to keep older people in productive capacities," Thomsen said, adding that both his mother and mother-in-law had suffered from symptoms commonly associated with Alzheimer's.

Dr. Wildenthal said that the TI gift will strengthen UT Southwestern's emerging leadership in research on Alzheimer's. "Known for its corporate good citizenship, TI also demonstrates through its generous involvement how important the business community continues to be in UT Southwestern's growth and achievements."

The TI-Thomsen gift will help move UT Southwestern scientists closer to improved diagnosis, treatment and an eventual cure for Alzheimer's. The disease, which claims more than 120,000 American lives annually, is the nation's most common irreversible dementing disease.

In October, a \$5-million grant from the National Institute on Aging established a national Alzheimer's Disease Research Center at UT Southwestern. That grant will fund major research projects exploring the underlying genetics and biology of memory loss, dementia and aging.

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Distribution: AA,AB,AC,AC1,ADM,ADM1,SL

Note: The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas comprises Southwestern Medical School, Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Southwestern Allied Health Sciences School.

Texas Instruments Incorporated, headquartered in Dallas, is a high-technology company engaged in the worldwide design, manufacture and sale of semiconductors, defense electronics systems, computer systems, industrial automation and control systems, electrical controls, metallurgical materials and consumer electronics products. Previous TI Director Awards have been presented in 1988 to the University of Michigan, University of Tennessee, Oakland University School of Business Administration and the Rochester Institute of Technology.