

# SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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## ALUMNUS CREATES SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR UT SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL STUDENTS

DALLAS – October 2, 1998 – A Southwestern Medical School graduate has created a \$100,000 endowment for scholarships for medical students who especially need financial assistance.

The gift for scholarships is the latest and the largest to UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas from Dr. Gerald Belkin, a 1955 graduate who practiced in Los Angeles until he retired from medicine in 1988. He said he hopes to make \$100,000 contributions to the endowment annually for five years, pushing his total gift to \$500,000.

"The reality is I don't think I could have afforded medical school if I'd had to pay today's substantial tuition," Belkin said. "It seemed to me and my wife, Rebecca, that if we could help qualified students and relieve some of the cumbersome financial burden, that would be worthwhile."

The more than 800 students of Southwestern Medical School receive about \$11 million in financial aid to help cover their annual tuition, fees, books and living expenses. But only \$1.4 million of the aid is for grants or scholarships based on the student's financial needs, said Charles Kettlewell, registrar and director of financial aid.

The Belkins' gift will reduce some UT Southwestern medical students' debts, which average about \$60,000 at graduation. Because of interest on loans and on loan deferments, medical school graduates eventually pay back about \$2 for every \$1 they borrow.

"This contribution by the Belkins will be instrumental in helping UT Southwestern attract the best students, and in allowing these students to graduate with manageable debts," said Dr. Robert Alpern, Southwestern Medical School dean. "Large debts incurred during undergraduate and medical school discourage some students from pursuing a career in medicine and force financial concerns of graduates to dominate all subsequent career decisions."

(MORE)

## **BELKIN GIFT – 2**

The Belkin Scholarship will help Luis Jancowski, UT Southwestern's first Belkin Scholar, complete his medical education. Jancowski, a native of Mexico and a graduate of the University of Texas at El Paso, is a first-year medical student.

The Belkin Scholarship Fund is being created with shares of SunGard Data Systems and with contributions from family and friends in Mrs. Belkin's memory after her death in July.

The Belkins received the stock last year when SunGard bought their company, Med Data Systems, which designs the MEDREC medical records software used by Parkland Memorial Hospital and many other hospitals across the United States. Belkin said he created MEDREC as a "hobby" after he retired from his internal medicine and hematology practice. He truly retired when he sold the company in July 1997.

"One of the things I've done since then was start to repay the debt to UT Southwestern," Belkin said, "because that experience got me started and made it all possible. It was a dream of mine and Becky's to create this fund. Since her death I've renewed that commitment on behalf of us both."

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