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Bea and W. Ray Wallace give \$1.5 million to establish endowment for urologic research at UT Southwestern

DALLAS – April 10, 2008 – Philanthropists Bea and W. Ray Wallace have given \$1.5 million to UT Southwestern Medical Center to establish a fund for urologic research in honor of Dr. John McConnell, executive vice president for health system affairs at the medical center.

The gift, which will create the Bea and Ray Wallace Fund for Endowed Scholars in Urologic Disease, in Honor of John McConnell, M.D., will enable the medical center to recruit outstanding new faculty members working on urologic diseases. Dr. McConnell is a urologist who is an internationally recognized authority on prostate disease.

The gift was given to Southwestern Medical Foundation as part of the medical center's *Innovations in Medicine* campaign. The recently completed campaign topped \$740 million and is the most successful philanthropic fundraising effort to date in Dallas history.

"Dr. McConnell has improved the lives of many people in the Dallas area over the years," Mr. Wallace said. "It's important to recognize those who can help the community grow and prosper. Someone like Dr. McConnell, who has contributed so much to the community, deserves some recognition."

Mrs. Wallace said she hopes Dr. McConnell remains in the Dallas area for years to come.

"He is an extremely caring, giving person," she said.

Mr. Wallace, who earned an engineering degree from Louisiana Tech University, is former chief executive officer of Trinity Industries Inc., a national leader in the transportation, construction and industrial sectors. His company endowed the W. Ray Wallace Distinguished Chair in Molecular Oncology Research at UT Southwestern in his honor in 1994.

A member of the board of Southwestern Medical Foundation, Mr. Wallace was a 1992 inductee into the Texas Business Hall of Fame. He has been an avid supporter of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America and the Boys Scouts of America Circle Ten Council.

An Oklahoma native, Mrs. Wallace attended the University of Oklahoma and is a member of the Board of Visitors of the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art in Norman, Okla. The first woman appointed to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, Mrs. Wallace currently devotes her time to the UT Southwestern Health System Board of Visitors, the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts Foundation and American Film Institute Dallas.

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"I am truly humbled by the generosity of Bea and Ray Wallace," said Dr. McConnell. "This remarkable gift will be of great value in attracting and retaining the very best talent to work in the area of urologic disease."

Dr. McConnell served as chairman of urology at UT Southwestern from 1993 to 2001 and led the development of a multidisciplinary program that addressed patient care, basic and clinical research, and health care policy in prostate disease. In 2001 he was elected to the Institute of Medicine, a component of the prestigious National Academy of Sciences. He has served on the advisory council for the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, and for a decade, he directed the National Institutes of Health's George M. O'Brien Urology Research Center at UT Southwestern.

Dr. McConnell earned his medical degree from Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine. He holds the S.T. Harris Family Chair in Medical Science at UT Southwestern, which was given in his honor.

"UT Southwestern's success in building and maintaining our comprehensive medical education, research and clinical-care programs depends to a significant degree upon the loyalty of our philanthropic friends and supporters," said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern. "The Wallaces' wonderful gift will help ensure the excellence of our urologic disease programs for generations to come."

W. Plack Carr Jr., president of Southwestern Medical Foundation, said: "This endowment will be of great value in advancing research and clinical treatment programs in urologic diseases at the medical center. We can't thank the Wallaces enough for their trust and generosity."

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