

May 5, 1993

UT SOUTHWESTERN DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP  
HONORS DALLAS PHILANTHROPIST MARY MCDERMOTT COOK

DALLAS--In recognition of Mary McDermott Cook's long-standing support of The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, The UT System Board of Regents recently named a distinguished professorship in pediatric genetics in her honor.

The Mary McDermott Cook Distinguished Professorship in Pediatric Genetics, which is held by Dr. Golder N. Wilson, professor of pediatrics, was established as the Professorship in Pediatric Genetics in 1988 with an initial gift from an anonymous donor. Part of the funds from the final gift of the Biological Humanics Foundation was added to the professorship's endowment, which upgraded it to a level of distinguished professorship.

The generosity of Cook, who is Biological Humanics Foundation president, and her parents, Eugene and Margaret Milam McDermott, has influenced the development of UT Southwestern through four decades.

Eugene McDermott, probably best known as co-founder of Texas Instruments, founded the Biological Humanics Foundation in 1950 as a means to support research in human growth and development. Following his death, the foundation was chaired by Margaret McDermott for several years and subsequently by their daughter.

Between 1973 and 1991, the foundation created the Eugene McDermott Distinguished Chair for the Study of Human Growth and Development and the Philip O'Bryan Montgomery Jr., M.D., Distinguished Chair in Developmental Biology. It also has made grants of more than \$2 million to fund special research projects at UT Southwestern.

In 1992, under the leadership of Cook, the trustees of the foundation, in consultation with Margaret McDermott, decided to

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dissolve the foundation and give its residual assets to UT Southwestern.

"The McDermott family's appreciation for both the clinical and basic-science aspects of human development continues to have a powerful impact on the research we're doing at UT Southwestern," said Wilson. "Their ongoing interest and commitment in this area have been instrumental in establishing a pediatric genetics program."

Wilson arrived at UT Southwestern in 1988. During his first year, Wilson established the medical center's first pediatric clinical genetics program and was appointed to direct genetics and metabolism in the Department of Pediatrics. The program works closely with clinical programs at Children's Medical Center of Dallas and UT Southwestern's departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Pathology.

Reflecting his interest in genetics education, Wilson coordinates the freshman medical genetics course in addition to his clinical and research activities.

Wilson earned his medical degree and doctorate in biochemistry at the University of Chicago. After a pediatric internship at the Boston Floating Hospital, he was a research associate at the National Institutes of Health for two years. From there he went to the University of Michigan Medical School, completing a residency in pediatrics and a fellowship in genetics.

In 1977 he joined the pediatric faculty at Michigan. He was on the McGill University Faculty of Medicine in Montreal from 1985 to 1988 before joining UT Southwestern as a professor of pediatrics.

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NOTE: The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas comprises Southwestern Medical School, Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Southwestern Allied Health Sciences School, affiliated teaching hospitals and outpatient clinics.