

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

Media Contact: Rachel Donihoo
214-648-3404
rachel.donihoo@utsouthwestern.edu

RAPOPORTS DONATE \$2 MILLION TO CREATE CENTER FOR CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH

DALLAS – July 31, 2001 – Renowned philanthropists and humanitarians Bernard and Audre Rapoport have given \$2 million to establish a center for cardiovascular research at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

The couple's donation will enable UT Southwestern researchers to further their study into the pathophysiology and treatment of ischemic heart disease – a leading cause of death in the United States – as well as support research studies in the area of congenital heart disease. The new Audre and Bernard Rapoport Center for Cardiovascular Research will be directed by Dr. Richard Lange, professor of internal medicine and director of the Cardiology Fellowship Training Program at UT Southwestern.

“Audre and I have long been dedicated to aiding progress – both social and technological,” said Bernard Rapoport. “We want to do whatever we can to support the work of the scientists and physicians fighting for the lives of those facing heart disease. We are proud to be able to establish such a promising center at UT Southwestern and are excited about the possibilities it will offer our community and the world of medicine. We are especially pleased to hear that the new center will be directed by Dr. Lange, whom we regard as an exceptional individual.”

Rapoport founded American Income Life Insurance Co. in Waco, Texas, in 1951 and served as the company's chairman of the board and chief executive officer until the sale of the company in 1994. He was appointed to the Board of Regents of the UT System by former Gov. Ann Richards in 1991 and was elected chairman of the board in 1993. In 1999 he was awarded the Horatio Alger Award by the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans. He is also a member of the Wise Circle and serves on the board of directors at several universities and numerous political, civic and religious organizations.

Audre Rapoport has interests in social services for women and children. She has been a longtime supporter of Planned Parenthood and helped establish the Planned Parenthood of Central Texas Audre Rapoport Library.

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In 1989 the Rapoports established the Bernard and Audre Rapoport Foundation, which has distributed more than \$19 million to charitable organizations, including a 1994 gift that created the Audre Newman Rapoport Distinguished Chair in Pediatric Endocrinology at UT Southwestern. The philanthropists also have created two chairs and two professorships at Bernard Rapoport's alma mater, UT Austin, as well as provided major support for scholarships and the university's art museum.

"The Rapoports are amazing people," said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern. "Their energy and humanitarianism is legendary, and their commitment to help others through philanthropy is unsurpassed. This generous contribution to UT Southwestern will enable Dr. Lange and his colleagues to carry their cardiovascular program to an even higher level of excellence."

Lange said he was "incredibly honored and humbled to direct this new center. This is a direct reflection of the Rapoports' generosity and foresight. They have invested not only in UT Southwestern, but also in the lives of future generations, who will benefit greatly from the strides we hope to make in the prevention and treatment of heart disease."

After graduating in 1982 from Southwestern Medical School, Lange completed an internship and residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. He returned to UT Southwestern as a cardiology fellow and joined the medical center's faculty in 1988 as an assistant professor of internal medicine and associate director of the cardiac catheterization laboratory, a post he held until 1999. Lange is co-director of the Adult Congenital Heart Disease Clinic at UT Southwestern and holder of the Jonsson-Rogers Chair in Cardiology. He also serves as chief of staff at Zale Lipshy University Hospital, the adult referral hospital for UT Southwestern, and is a fellow with the Council on Clinical Cardiology and the American College of Cardiology. In 2000 a chair was created in his honor through a \$1 million donation to Southwestern Medical Foundation from the family of Norma H. and Sanders H. Campbell.

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