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Bobbie and Leo Fields donate \$250,000 for pulmonary hypertension research

DALLAS – March 30, 2006 – Dallas businessman Leo Fields, his wife, Bobbie, and their children have contributed \$250,000 to UT Southwestern Medical Center to support research into pulmonary hypertension, a disease that often leads to heart failure.

The gift, made through the Southwestern Medical Foundation and the M.B. and Edna Zale Foundation, will establish the Bobbie and Leo Fields Family Fund for Research in Pulmonary Hypertension.

Pulmonary hypertension is a chronic disease that causes high blood pressure in the lungs and affects people of all ages and ethnic backgrounds. The disease is typically not diagnosed until it's quite advanced, and it's often linked to other cardiovascular and pulmonary disorders.

"We saw a gap in our local ability to research the cause and find treatments for this disease," said Mr. Fields. "Our family wanted to close that gap and initiate this important research effort into broadening our understanding of pulmonary hypertension. Much progress has been made in the treatment of pulmonary hypertension with the new drugs which have recently come to market, and we hope that more progress will be made in the future with the addition of the research conducted by UT Southwestern Medical School."

A native of Wichita Falls, Mr. Fields began his business career working at the Zale Corp for his uncles, Morris Zale and Ben Lipshy. He retired in 1983 as Zale's vice chairman and continued to serve as director of Zale until the company's sale in 1986.

Failing retirement, in 1991 Mr. Fields co-founded Weisberg & Fields, Inc., a Dallas-based investment advisory firm.

He served on the boards of several organizations, including the Lamplighter School, the Greenhill School, Brandeis University, and the Institute for Social and Economic Policy in the Middle East at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

He currently serves as an ex-officio member on the board of the Legacy Senior Communities, planned for Plano. Mr. Fields also serves on the board of CBL and Associates Properties, Inc. a New

York Stock Exchange-listed real estate investment trust. He is a director of the M.B. and Edna Zale Foundation.

Mrs. Fields devotes her time to her family and friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Fields both attended UT Austin. The couple – married for 52 years – met when Mr. Fields returned from the Korean War. They have three children, seven grandchildren and two step-grandchildren.

“This generous gift provided by the Fields is critical to adding a pulmonary hypertension research component to UT Southwestern,” said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern. “We appreciate their ongoing philanthropic efforts, which will provide us with the groundwork to improve our research and understanding of this chronic disease.”

W. Plack Carr Jr., president of Southwestern Medical Foundation, said the Fields’ gift is a reflection of their magnanimous efforts to further medical research.

“We appreciate the generosity of the Fields in the support of excellence in medicine,” Mr. Carr said. “They are great friends of both the Southwestern Medical Foundation and the M.B. and Edna Zale Foundation.”

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