

# SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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## FORT WORTH COUPLE ENDOWS CANCER GENETICS RESEARCH CENTER

DALLAS -- February 15, 1994 -- More than 30 years ago W.A. "Tex" Moncrief Jr. and his wife, Deborah, lost a daughter to lymphatic leukemia. Now they are giving \$1 million to support cancer genetics research at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center.

The gift has been matched by the Fund for Molecular Research to establish the W.A. "Tex" and Deborah Moncrief, Jr., Center for Cancer Genetics at UT Southwestern.

"My wife and I are so impressed with UT Southwestern, with the people, the facilities and the research that is going on there," Moncrief said.

"UT Southwestern is one of the top 10 medical schools in the country, and that's really something. It gives us a great deal of pleasure to be able to share our good fortune with such a great institution."

There is a revolution going on in cancer research at the genetic level, said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, UT Southwestern president. "The Moncrief Center will allow UT Southwestern to be at the forefront in this very important field."

The Moncrief Center at UT Southwestern will work closely with the William A. and Elizabeth B. Moncrief Radiation Center in Fort Worth, a free-standing outpatient facility, which treats more than 200 people a day. Moncrief serves on the board of the Fort Worth center established by and named for his father and mother.

"Southwestern will be helpful to us, and I hope we will be helpful to Southwestern," said Moncrief. Wildenthal also looks forward to an active

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collaboration. "Working together, the two Moncrief centers will accomplish more than either could alone," he said.

Moncrief, a Fort Worth oil man, has long-standing ties to UT Southwestern and the UT System. Moncrief holds a degree in petroleum engineering from UT Austin. He served on the UT System Board of Regents from 1987 to 1993.

Moncrief's brother, Richard B. Moncrief, was treated for kidney disease by Dr. Donald W. Seldin, professor of internal medicine, holder of the William Buchanan Chair in Internal Medicine at UT Southwestern and vice chairman of Southwestern Medical Foundation. "Dr. Seldin is a fine, scholarly man and a great physician," said Moncrief. "I have no doubt that he saved my brother's life."

Through the years he has come to know and admire many other leaders at UT Southwestern, Moncrief said, including Wildenthal; Dr. Charles C. Sprague, chairman of the board and president of Southwestern Medical Foundation; Dr. John Minna, director of the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center and holder of the Lisa K. Simmons Distinguished Chair in Comprehensive Oncology; Dr. Eli Glatstein, chairman of radiation oncology; and Dr. Willis C. Maddrey, executive vice president for clinical affairs.

In 1989 the Moncrief Foundation established the W.A. (Monty) Moncrief Distinguished Chair in Cholesterol and Arteriosclerosis Research at UT Southwestern, in honor and memory of Tex Moncrief's father. The distinguished chair is held by Dr. Michael S. Brown, Nobel laureate and director of the Erik Jonsson Center for Research in Molecular Genetics and Human Disease.

"Cancer is on everybody's mind," Moncrief remarked. "It makes us extremely happy to be able to give this gift to UT Southwestern, where we know it can do some real good."

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