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**LeukemiaTexas gift supports research, development
of new therapies at UT Southwestern**

DALLAS – Jan. 22, 2010 – LeukemiaTexas has given a \$150,000 grant to support a study at UT Southwestern Medical Center that might lead to the development of targeted therapies for the treatment of acute and chronic leukemia.

LeukemiaTexas supports research to enhance the understanding of leukemia and its cause, to develop new and improved methods of treatment and prevention, and ultimately to find a cure for this life-threatening blood cancer. Through its Patient Aid program, the organization also provides financial assistance to those who are in need of help with treatment expenses.

Dr. Pier Paolo Scaglioni, assistant professor of internal medicine in the division of hematology/oncology, will lead the research efforts at UT Southwestern's Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Dr. Scaglioni and his research team are focusing on genes that play a key role in cancer development, including the promyelocytic leukemia tumor suppressor, and a protein called PI3K, which normally springs into action to keep tumor cells alive while they repair DNA damage. Dr. Scaglioni, who is developing PI3K inhibitors that could be used for the treatment of leukemia, expressed gratitude for the grant.

"This support from LeukemiaTexas will allow us to expand our studies and better understand the molecular pathways that drive this disease and the targets that can be exploited in cancer therapy," Dr. Scaglioni said.

About 45,000 people in America were diagnosed with leukemia in 2009, and approximately 22,000 died from the disease, according to the National Cancer Institute.

UT Southwestern has benefited from previous LeukemiaTexas fundraising efforts. Since 1999, the organization has awarded \$975,000 to support leukemia research at the medical center.

"The grants support innovative research conducted by promising scientists at Texas institutions," said Stephen Young, executive director of LeukemiaTexas. "The ultimate goal is to

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help the scientific community find a cure for this disease.”

The Dallas-based organization was established in 1970 and raises funds through major annual fundraising events including the LeukemiaTexas Golf Classic and The BeatLeukemia Ball.

Visit <http://www.utsouthwestern.org/cancercenter> to learn more about UT Southwestern’s clinical services in cancer.

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