

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

Contact: Emily Martinez
(214) 648-3404
or e-mail: emart2@mednet.swmed.edu

HOFFMANS' GIFT FUNDS OSTEOPOROSIS RESEARCH

DALLAS — May 28, 1996 — Just as osteoporosis researchers work to reinforce bone, Adelyn and Edmund M. Hoffman are doing their part to strengthen osteoporosis research efforts at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

The Hoffmans have donated \$500,000 to Southwestern Medical Foundation to establish the Adelyn and Edmund M. Hoffman Endowment for Excellence in Osteoporosis Research at UT Southwestern. An anonymous donor will provide matching funds, raising the endowment's value to \$1 million.

"Osteoporosis is a major health problem for many women, and we're encouraged by all the progress made in recent years," Mrs. Hoffman said. "I think we're on the threshold of major breakthroughs."

UT Southwestern is one of the world's foremost centers for osteoporosis research. The effort is led by Dr. Charles Y.C. Pak, director of the Robert T. Hayes Center for Mineral Metabolism Research. His research team is awaiting approval from the Food and Drug Administration of a new osteoporosis drug known as Neosten, which Pak and his colleagues have shown in numerous studies prevents new spinal fractures and builds strong, new bone in patients who have established osteoporosis.

Pak, holder of the Distinguished Chair in Mineral Metabolism and the Donald W. Seldin Professorship in Clinical Investigation, has devoted more than 30 years to the study of osteoporosis and kidney stones. He said the Hoffmans' donation will help fund critical research involving comparisons between various osteoporosis medications.

"I very much appreciate the trust the Hoffmans have shown in our work," Pak said.

W. Plack Carr Jr., president and chief executive officer of Southwestern Medical Foundation, said the Hoffmans have played an important part in furthering essential medical research. "The Hoffmans have displayed a great understanding of the importance of research and have taken a leading role in making sure vital research projects get the support they

(MORE)

HOFFMAN GIFT — 2

deserve," Carr said.

Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern, said the Hoffmans' generosity will go a long way toward advancing researchers' knowledge of osteoporosis. "We are grateful that the Hoffmans chose to make this donation at a crucial point in the effort to overcome osteoporosis," Wildenthal said. "We are optimistic that research being conducted today could, in the near future, lead to great improvements in the quality of life for individuals suffering from osteoporosis."

Osteoporosis is a major medical problem facing women after menopause, often leading to fractures of the spine, which cause back pain and decreased height. Eight million women in the United States suffer from established osteoporosis (having already sustained a fracture), and another 15 million have lost more than 25 percent of their bone mass and are at risk of developing osteoporosis.

Adelyn Hoffman said she has firsthand experience with the potentially devastating effects of osteoporosis. Her mother suffered from the disease, and she herself was diagnosed with it 10 years ago. She has been under Pak's care since that time and has been able to avoid the severe symptoms experienced by her mother.

The Hoffmans have established a reputation as generous contributors to area medical, educational and cultural organizations. Edmund Hoffman became familiar with the medical center as a volunteer with the American Heart Association. He is also a trustee of the Southwestern Medical Foundation, a member of its Executive Committee and chairman of the foundation's Finance Committee.

One of the Hoffmans' two sons, Dr. Richard Hoffman, is a UT Southwestern graduate who now serves as the epidemiologist for the state of Colorado.

"I think the medical center has developed into a wonderful institution," Edmund Hoffman said. "You only need to look at how many Nobel Prize winners and National Academy of Sciences members are on the faculty to realize its importance."

Edmund Hoffman is co-chairman of Coca-Cola Bottling Group (Southwest). The Hoffmans' other son, Robert, also is in the bottling business and has made his own mark as a philanthropist.

###

This news release is available on our World Wide Web home page at
<http://www.swmed.edu/news/newspubs.htm>