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\$1 million gift from Diana and Richard Strauss fosters programs at UT Southwestern, honors Dr. Willis Maddrey

DALLAS – Nov. 17, 2008 – Dallas philanthropists Diana and Richard Strauss have continued their long-established support of Southwestern Medical Foundation with a \$1 million gift to support clinical and research programs at UT Southwestern Medical Center in honor of one of the country's foremost liver and digestive disease experts.

The donation pays tribute to the couple's longtime friend and physician, Dr. Willis Maddrey, executive vice president for clinical affairs. The gift will establish the Diana K. and Richard C. Strauss Fund for Medical Excellence, in Honor of Willis C. Maddrey, M.D.

"We consider it a privilege to be able to honor Dr. Maddrey," said Mrs. Strauss. "He is not only a great friend, he is an extraordinary physician who has eased the suffering of countless individuals and who sets a very high standard for others to follow."

Mr. Strauss serves as chairman and chief executive officer of Republic Property Group, a prominent Dallas real estate development firm, and Mrs. Strauss is an active supporter of local civic and charitable organizations, including the Dallas Children's Advocacy Center.

Mrs. Strauss has long championed women's health issues and has served in leadership roles for UT Southwestern's annual Women's Health Symposium, the Parkland Foundation, the Sweetheart Ball, and the UT Southwestern University Hospitals and Clinics Board of Visitors.

In addition to this latest gift, the couple previously has endowed the Diana K. and Richard C. Strauss Distinguished Chair in Developmental Biology, the Helen J. and Robert S. Strauss and Diana K. and Richard C. Strauss Chair in Women's Health, the Helen J. and Robert S. Strauss and Diana K. and Richard C. Strauss Chair in Pediatric Surgery, and the Diana and Richard C. Strauss Professorship in Biomedical Research.

"Diana and Rick Strauss are extraordinarily generous and creative in their philanthropy," said Dr. Daniel K. Podolsky, president of UT Southwestern. "Their support of medical research and their leadership in the arts and many other aspects of our community's progress will have a permanent impact on our quality of life. We're honored that they have given this gift to honor Dr. Maddrey, whom we all regard as a vital asset to the medical center and academic medicine worldwide."

(MORE)

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER AT DALLAS

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Dr. Maddrey, who holds the Adelyn and Edmund M. Hoffman Distinguished Chair in Medical Science and the Arnold N. and Carol S. Ablon Professorship in Biomedical Science, is a fellow and a master of the American College of Physicians and a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London.

In 1964 Dr. Maddrey earned his medical degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, where he later served as professor of medicine and assistant dean of postdoctoral programs and faculty development. He served as chairman of medicine at Jefferson Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia from 1982 until 1990, when he joined UT Southwestern.

An eminent hepatologist, Dr. Maddrey is a noted lecturer and author and is the recipient of many awards and honors, including the Distinguished Service Award from the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases and the Distinguished Educator Award from the American Gastroenterological Association. He has served as president of the American College of Physicians and the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases, and as vice chairman for the American Digestive Health Association.

“Rick and Diana are wonderful people, who have been loyal friends to me and to UT Southwestern for many years,” Dr. Maddrey said. “I’m honored and pleased that they have given such a significant gift in my honor and am continually impressed by their willingness to share their time and resources with our community. This important gift will enable us to continue to enhance some of our most important clinical and research programs, and, for that, I’m very grateful.”

Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of Southwestern Medical Foundation, added: “This generous gift is another extraordinary example of the ongoing role Rick and Diana Strauss have played in helping create one of the nation’s outstanding medical institutions. All of us at the medical center and the foundation are deeply appreciative.”

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