

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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\$850,000 BEQUEST FROM IRENE WADEL WILL ENHANCE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS RESEARCH

DALLAS – May 24, 2000 – Crowning a long philanthropic relationship with the Dallas medical community, Irene Wadel has bequeathed \$850,000 to UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas to further multiple sclerosis research.

The gift, partially made through Southwestern Medical Foundation, will establish the Irene Wadel and Robert I. Atha Distinguished Chair in Neurology, in Honor of Elliot Frohman, M.D., Ph.D. The chair will be held by Frohman, director of UT Southwestern's multiple sclerosis (MS) clinic, and will support his clinical research programs. Before her death earlier this year, Wadel and her husband, Robert Atha, established a professorship in Frohman's name, which this gift has upgraded to a distinguished chair.

"Mrs. Wadel was genuinely interested in our multiple sclerosis program and consistently generous with her philanthropic support. I am extremely grateful for her important support, and know she would be proud to see her gift used to advance the care of those living with MS," said Frohman, assistant professor of ophthalmology and neurology and holder of the Kenney Marie Dixon-Pickens Distinguished Professorship in Multiple Sclerosis Research.

Frohman, who joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 1995, is credited with developing one of the country's foremost comprehensive-care centers for MS patients, and has overseen a number of clinical drug trials and other research projects. Much of his research, which has attracted international attention, has focused on the immunology of MS and, most recently, has centered on eye movement and vestibular abnormalities.

Before joining UT Southwestern, Frohman was a fellow in neuro-otology and neurophysiology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Wadel and Atha also endowed the Irene Wadel and Robert I. Atha Professorship in Ophthalmology, in Honor of R. Wayne Bowman, M.D., at UT Southwestern in 1999, and the Irene Wadel and Robert Atha Professorship of Internal Medicine, in Honor of John W. Burnside, M.D., in 1993.

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Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern, said, "Through the years, Irene Wadel and Robert Atha have shown tremendous generosity and a steadfast commitment to fostering medical progress. We are especially thankful for this bequest and are proud to be able to carry on her memory through the multiple sclerosis research being done at UT Southwestern."

Dr. Charles Sprague, chairman emeritus of the Southwestern Medical Foundation, added, "Irene Wadel was a dear friend to the Foundation and the medical center. Her legacy will live on through her timeless gifts of generosity and love."

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