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**Sweetheart Ball raises \$1.9 million
for heart disease research at UT Southwestern**

DALLAS – Nov. 10, 2009 – The 2009 Sweetheart Ball generated more than \$1.9 million for UT Southwestern Medical Center scientists and clinicians to research new and innovative ways of fighting heart disease.

Nancy Dedman and her daughter-in-law, Rachael Redeker Dedman, co-chaired the event, and an anonymous benefactor matched the \$964,496 raised by generous donors.

“We were honored to chair this year’s Sweetheart Ball,” Rachael Dedman said. “It is our hope that the proceeds will provide UT Southwestern with the means to continue their important work in heart disease research.”

Proceeds from this year’s Sweetheart Ball established the Sweetheart Ball - Kern Wildenthal, M.D., Ph.D., Distinguished Chair in Cardiology at UT Southwestern, honoring the institution’s former president.

“Because Dr. Wildenthal started out as a cardiologist and was instrumental in the success of the Sweetheart Ball throughout the years, this was such a fitting and appropriate way to honor him and his efforts,” Nancy Dedman said.

Nancy Dedman has served on the Board of Visitors for UT Southwestern University Hospitals & Clinics, Shelter Ministries of Dallas, and the Salvation Army Advisory Board. She was honored in 2004 with the Annette G. Strauss Humanitarian Award by Family Gateway.

Rachael Dedman is an active member of UT Southwestern’s Clinical Services Initiative committee and serves on the boards of Meadows School of the Arts at Southern Methodist University and the Sweetheart Ball.

“I am deeply gratified that the generous supporters of the Sweetheart Ball would choose to honor me in this way,” said Dr. Wildenthal, who now is president and CEO of Southwestern Medical Foundation. “Their long-term commitment to advancing cardiovascular research has been exceptional. We are extremely fortunate that they have such confidence in the work being done here.”

A group of Dallas women committed to battling the nation’s leading cause of death came together in 1981 to establish the Sweetheart Ball. Throughout the 1980s, funds raised were given to

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projects geared toward research and treatment of heart disease. In 1984, proceeds helped establish the Gail Griffiths Hill Chair in Cardiology – named for Gail Griffiths Hill, one of the founders of the group who died that year.

Since its inception, the event has raised more than \$13 million to help UT Southwestern's efforts to become one of the world's premier cardiovascular research institutions.

Proceeds from the Sweetheart Ball were a critical component in the recruitment of the current chief of cardiology, Dr. Joseph Hill, in 2002.

"The generosity of the Sweetheart Ball committee is an extraordinary example of the vision of our local community and its philanthropic leaders," said Dr. Hill, who is also a professor of internal medicine and holds the Frank M. Ryburn Jr. Chair in Heart Research and the James T. Willerson, M.D., Distinguished Chair in Cardiovascular Diseases.

"Indeed, the support provided by the Sweetheart Ball has underwritten many of the successes we have achieved for our patients, including research on heart failure, regenerative medicine and much more."

Dr. Daniel K. Podolsky, president of UT Southwestern, said, "It is fitting that the Sweetheart Ball, which has a legacy of generosity that benefits the entire community, has honored Dr. Kern Wildenthal. His leadership and encouragement helped UT Southwestern to build one of the outstanding cardiology programs in the nation. The clinical and research breakthroughs supported by Sweetheart Ball funds will lead to better diagnostic procedures and treatments for patients with heart disease around the world."

This inaugural Sweetheart Ball - Kern Wildenthal, M.D., Ph.D. Distinguished Chair in Cardiology will be held by Dr. James de Lemos, associate professor of internal medicine.

"I am tremendously honored to hold this chair recognizing Dr. Wildenthal, given his enormous contributions to UT Southwestern as well as to cardiovascular research," said Dr. de Lemos. "This is a recognition of the wonderful team of cardiovascular researchers I have the pleasure of partnering with, many of whom have been recruited and supported by funds raised by the Sweetheart Ball."

Next year's Sweetheart Ball, scheduled for April 17, will be chaired by Deborah Gunter.

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