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**Physicians help establish Endowed Scholars Program
in Autism Spectrum Disorders at UT Southwestern**

DALLAS – Dec. 1, 2006 – Drs. Deborah Caudy and Clay Heighten of Dallas have pledged \$750,000 to UT Southwestern Medical Center to help initiate a new Endowed Scholars Program to support research in Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Another \$750,000 will be raised through individual gifts, and that \$1.5 million will be matched by an anonymous donor to create a \$3 million endowment to enable the medical center to recruit a series of new researchers working on autism.

Drs. Caudy and Heighten – both of whom were clinical resident trainees at UT Southwestern – have an autistic 8-year-old son, Jon, and are committed to furthering research and treatment of the disorder. Dr. Caudy also is a former UT Southwestern faculty member, having served as a clinical assistant professor in internal medicine and an oncologist in the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center from 2000 to 2002.

“There are many unknowns about autism,” said Dr. Caudy, who left the medical center to care for Jon full time. “One gaping hole is the lack of intensity in basic research into the disorder.

“There’s no better place to go for that kind of basic research than UT Southwestern,” she said. “UT Southwestern has the right tools, the expertise and the ability to recruit new talent in the field of autism research.”

Drs. Caudy and Heighten also recently set up a nonprofit organization, designated “BRAINS,” with the mission to raise funds for autism research at the medical center. “BRAINS” is an acronym for “Benefiting Research for Autism Investigators Now at UT Southwestern.”

UT Southwestern’s acclaimed Endowed Scholars Program in Biomedical Science, established in 1998 with \$60 million in philanthropic funds, was designed to enable the institution to recruit and launch the careers of five highly trained basic science faculty members each year.

A new parallel effort, the Endowed Scholars Program in Clinical Science, will recruit young investigators who concentrate on clinically related research to the campus. It is a key component of

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disorder and ways to help treat children who suffer from it,” he said. “We are extremely grateful for their support, and look forward to beginning to make inroads into learning more about autism and how best to combat it.”

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About UT Southwestern

UT Southwestern Medical Center, one of the premier medical centers in the nation, integrates pioneering biomedical research with exceptional clinical care and education. Its more than 1,400 full-time faculty members – including four active Nobel Prize winners, more than any other medical school in the world – are responsible for groundbreaking medical advances and are committed to translating science-driven research quickly to new clinical treatments. UT Southwestern physicians provide medical care in 40 specialties to nearly 89,000 hospitalized patients and oversee 2.1 million outpatient visits a year.

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