

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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MEADOWS FOUNDATION GIFT SUPPORTS CANCER IMMUNOBIOLOGY RESEARCH AT UT SOUTHWESTERN

DALLAS — May 4, 1995 — The Meadows Foundation of Dallas has donated \$250,000 to support the work of promising researchers in the Cancer Immunobiology Center at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

The gift, which will be matched by an anonymous donor, will support the work of junior investigators, postdoctoral research fellows and graduate students by helping to fund equipment and supplies necessary to produce immunotoxins to treat B-cell lymphoma in clinical trials.

"Funding is very important to young researchers," said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, UT Southwestern president. "At a time when inadequate federal research funds mean that beginning scientists often find it impossible to get governmental support, the willingness of private philanthropic organizations like the Meadows Foundation to support scientists who are just beginning their careers is especially vital. In many parts of the world, major research gifts are set aside for exclusive use of senior investigators."

Dr. Ellen S. Vitetta, professor of microbiology, holder of the Scheryle Simmons Patigian Distinguished Chair in Cancer Immunobiology and director of the center, said, "It is becoming increasingly difficult to raise the federal funds needed to train our next generation of scientists. We need the very best young people to continue the attack on diseases such as cancer and AIDS."

Dr. Jonathan W. Uhr, professor and chairman of microbiology at UT Southwestern, added, "Having access to a pool of research funds improves our ability to attract and retain outstanding young researchers." Uhr also holds the Raymond and Ellen Willie Distinguished

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Chair in Cancer Research, in Honor of Laverne and Raymond Willie Sr.

Vitetta, Uhr and their colleagues in the Cancer Immunobiology Center are particularly interested in the development and use of immunotoxins to treat various types of cancer and AIDS. The initial results of clinical trials of the immunotoxins have been encouraging, the researchers said.

Compared with traditional chemotherapy and radiotherapy, which deliver medications to a general area of the body, immunotoxins are designed by scientists to kill only tumor cells or cells infected with the AIDS virus. The net effect is to improve the outcome of the treatment and reduce side effects at the same time.

The Meadows Foundation benefits programs throughout Texas in health, education, arts and culture, human services, and civic endeavors.

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