

**\$250,000 gift from Elaine Sammons honors Fitzgerald,  
supports pulmonary research at UT Southwestern**

DALLAS – Sept. 15, 2009 – Shortly before her death in January, legendary Dallas philanthropist Elaine Dewey Sammons gave \$250,000 to support pulmonary research at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

The donation to Southwestern Medical Foundation was added to the Elaine Dewey Sammons Chair in Pulmonary Research, in Honor of John E. Fitzgerald, M.D. The gift brings the value of the endowment, which Mrs. Sammons originally established in 2006 with a \$250,000 contribution in recognition of her admiration for Dr. Fitzgerald, to \$750,000.

“I’d like to express my appreciation for the kindness and generosity Mrs. Sammons has shown to me and to UT Southwestern over the past several years,” said Dr. Fitzgerald, associate professor of internal medicine. “Her gift has allowed us to move forward with establishing a program for the study of interstitial lung disease, while joining an elite consortium of medical centers across the country conducting clinical research in pulmonary fibrosis through grants from the National Institutes of Health.

“We also are moving forward with the development of an advanced lung-disease program, which will be integrated with our expanding lung transplantation and pulmonary hypertension programs. Mrs. Sammons gave so much to so many, and I miss her deeply.”

Through the years Mrs. Sammons gave \$2.75 million in support of medical research at UT Southwestern, in particular for the work of Dr. Fitzgerald and the hematology-oncology investigations of Dr. Eugene Frenkel, professor of internal medicine.

Dr. Fitzgerald, a specialist in lung disease and critical care medicine, earned his medical degree from Washington University School of Medicine in 1989, where he was a member of Alpha Omega Alpha, a medical honor society. In 1985 he graduated *magna cum laude* with a Bachelor of Science in microbiology from the University of Michigan.

He completed an internship and residency at UT Southwestern in 1992 and joined the medical center faculty in 1995 following a fellowship at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. He leads cardiopulmonary services at UT Southwestern University Hospital - Zale Lipshy and the interstitial lung disease group at UT Southwestern.

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“Elaine Sammons’ generosity will endure as it continues to foster great advances in pulmonary research, bettering the lives of the millions of people who deal with pulmonary-health challenges on a daily basis,” said Dr. Daniel K. Podolsky, president of UT Southwestern. “Her loyalty to Dr. Fitzgerald and the medical center was wonderful, and we’re enormously thankful for her extraordinary gift.”

Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of Southwestern Medical Foundation, said, “Elaine Sammons was a tremendously loyal friend to UT Southwestern and to the field of medicine for many years. Her legacy at the medical center and foundation will live in perpetuity through this latest gift to advance our work in lung disease, as well as through her previous support to establish the Elaine Dewey Sammons Distinguished Chair in Cancer Research, in Honor of Eugene P. Frenkel, M.D.”

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