

October 16, 1992

UT SOUTHWESTERN HOSTS REVES SYMPOSIUM CANCER RESEARCH UPDATE

DALLAS--The first Wendy and Emery Reves International Breast Cancer Symposium is a forum to present the latest research on the development of cancer, new approaches to diagnosis and treatment and ways to prevent cancer from spreading.

"The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School at Dallas has attracted some of the finest minds in cancer research, and this symposium is a means for them and others to share their findings in an exciting era of discovery," said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, UT Southwestern president. "Wendy Reves' generosity and concern for humanity will help us advance and disseminate a growing body of scientific knowledge in this field."

In 1990 Reves, who has been a generous benefactor of medicine and the arts in her native Texas, donated \$2 million dollars to fight cancer. Her gift established the Wendy and Emery Reves Breast Cancer Diagnostic and Treatment Center at Zale Lipshy University Hospital and the biennial Reves Symposium, co-sponsored by the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary.

Because advances in any area of cancer research are bound to benefit all areas of research and treatment, a wide range of topics relating to cancer will be covered during the symposium. "We've invited those scientists who are currently doing the most exciting studies in the many different and promising areas of research

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relevant to cancer," said Dr. Jonathan Uhr, chairman of the program committee.

Three UT Southwestern researchers will present their latest research findings. Dr. John Minna, director of the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center and holder of the Lisa K. Simmons Distinguished Chair in Comprehensive Oncology, will report on the latest thinking on the molecular roots of lung cancer. Drs. Ellen S. Vitetta, holder of the Scheryle Simmons Patigian Distinguished Chair in Cancer Immunobiology and director of the Cancer Immunobiology Center, and Philip Thorpe, holder of the Serena S. Simmons Distinguished Chair in Cancer Immunopharmacology, will discuss their research on the use of immunotoxins to treat lymphomas and solid tumors.

Other symposium participants include: Drs. Samuel Broder and Peter M. Howley of the National Cancer Institute; Dr. Mary-Claire King, University of California, Berkeley; Dr. Marc W. Kirschner, University of California, San Francisco; Dr. George Klein, Karolinska Institute; Dr. Philip Leder, Howard Hughes Medical Institute at Harvard Medical School; Dr. Arnold J. Levine, Princeton University; Dr. David M. Livingston, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute; Dr. Paul A. Marks, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center; Dr. Steven L. McKnight, Tularik Inc.; Dr. William P. Peters, Duke University Medical Center; Dr. Joseph Schlessinger, New York University Medical Center; and Dr. Charles J. Sherr, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Dr. Paul Berg, winner of the 1980 Nobel Prize in chemistry, will be a special guest at the symposium. Director of the Beckman Center for Molecular and Genetic Research at Stanford University, Berg will speak at a private dinner for friends of UT Southwestern and the Komen Foundation.

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According to the National Cancer Institute, breast cancer will claim more than 46,000 lives this year. The incidence of breast cancer has increased about 3 percent per year since 1980. An estimated 180,000 cases will be diagnosed in 1992. The increase may be due in part to improvements in screening techniques and expanded public awareness of the need for early detection.

The 5-year survival rate for localized breast cancer has risen from 78 percent in the 1940s to 92 percent today. If the breast cancer has not invaded other nearby tissues, surgical removal is successful in nearly all cases. If the cancer has spread regionally, however, the survival rate is 71 percent. When distant metastases have developed, the survival rate drops to 18 percent.

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NOTE: The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas comprises Southwestern Medical School, Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Southwestern Allied Health Sciences School, affiliated teaching hospitals and outpatient clinics.