

# SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

Media Contact: Rachel Skei Donihoo

214-648-3404

[rachel.donihoo@utsouthwestern.edu](mailto:rachel.donihoo@utsouthwestern.edu)

## **D.J. Moody bequeaths \$420,000 for scleroderma research at UT Southwestern**

DALLAS – Aug. 15, 2005 – Delores June “D.J.” Moody has bequeathed \$420,000 to UT Southwestern Medical Center to support research into scleroderma, a debilitating illness that plagued her in her final years.

The gift, which was made through Southwestern Medical Foundation, will establish the D.J. Moody Fund for Scleroderma Research. Ms. Moody, a longtime Dallas resident who died in 1997, was committed to finding a cure for the disease.

As many as 300,000 Americans suffer from scleroderma, a chronic connective tissue disease characterized by thickening and hardening of the skin. The disorder is most common in women between the ages of 25 and 55 and can take a variety of forms – several of which can be deadly. Scleroderma has no known cause and can result in stiffness, skin discoloration, joint or bone aches, and more serious complications such as swallowing difficulties and narrowing of blood vessels.

“D.J. wanted to do whatever she could to further a cause that she believed in,” said Judge Robert A. Hall, Ms. Moody’s longtime attorney. “I think she hoped that her contribution might somehow make a difference, and she was hopeful about the caliber of research being conducted at UT Southwestern.”

Born in Oklahoma City in 1928, Ms. Moody attended the University of Oklahoma in Norman and the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, where she was a member of the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. She was a member of Lover’s Lane United Methodist Church, the Sheer Luck Garden Club, the Dallas Ski Club, and Clipped B’s, an association of former Braniff International Airways flight attendants.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James Moody, co-founder of the Moody-Day Company in Dallas. Ms. Moody is survived by her son, James Grady Moody, of Dallas.

“This is a wonderful gift that supports an area of research of great concern and

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## **Moody gift – 2**

relevance,” said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern. “Ms. Moody’s generous bequest will allow our leading researchers to move more rapidly as they search for a cure for this devastating disease. Private support such as this enables our doctors and scientists to break new ground in understanding illnesses such as this and ultimately in treating and preventing them.”

W. Plack Carr Jr., president of the Foundation, said: “Southwestern Medical Foundation is honored to serve Delores June Moody by managing this marvelous gift to support scleroderma research.”

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