

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

Media Contact: Rachel Skei Donihoo
214-648-3404
rachel.donihoo@utsouthwestern.edu

Lone Star Paralysis Foundation donates \$50,000 to support spinal-cord injury research at UT Southwestern

DALLAS – Oct. 4, 2005 – The Lone Star Paralysis Foundation has given \$50,000 to support spinal-cord injury research at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

The gift, which will establish the Lone Star Paralysis Foundation Fund for Clinical Research on Spinal Cord Injuries, was made to Southwestern Medical Foundation as part of the medical center's \$500 million *Innovations in Medicine* campaign.

"We are extremely excited about the spinal-cord injury research being done at UT Southwestern and know that, like us, researchers at the medical center recognize the critical importance of rehabilitation," said Doug English, founder and president of the Lone Star Paralysis Foundation. "We are learning more all the time about the effects of devastating spinal-cord injuries, and we are hopeful that this gift might help further our understanding of paralysis and the body's ability to rebound."

The Spinal Cord Injury Laboratory at UT Southwestern serves as a center for translation of basic research into clinical practice. The primary research aim of the medical center's spinal-cord injury program is to understand the mechanisms of neural plasticity responsible for the recovery of locomotion and other spinal-cord functions. Researchers study animal models and human subjects to understand how spinal-cord circuitry is changed with therapies like body-weight supported treadmill training, which can retrain a patient's ability to walk following a spinal-cord injury.

"Repetitive locomotor training may promote spinal and supraspinal learning and reorganize or strengthen the neural circuitry responsible for locomotion," said Dr. Keith Tansey, director of the program and assistant professor of neurology and of physical medicine and rehabilitation. "The results of these studies contribute to our knowledge of the fundamental mechanisms controlling locomotion and may provide strategies that can be used by clinical researchers to enhance the recovery of walking for patients following a spinal-cord injury,"

(MORE)

Lone Star gift – 2

Based in Austin, the Lone Star Paralysis Foundation was created in 2000 to raise money and awareness for spinal-cord injury research. Mr. English, also chief executive officer of ProLine Warehouse & Distribution Inc., is a former All-America at UT Austin and professional football player whose career with the Detroit Lions ended in 1985 with a serious neck injury. He has been raising money for spinal-cord injury research since 1988.

“This is a wonderful, heartfelt gift from an organization that is completely dedicated to finding a cure for paralysis,” said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern. “We are proud of Lone Star’s philanthropic partnership with the medical center and are grateful for its generous support.”

###

To automatically receive news releases from UT Southwestern via e-mail,
subscribe at www.utsouthwestern.edu/receiveneews