

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

Media Contact: Donna Steph Hansard
214-648-3404
donna.hansard@utsouthwestern.edu

CHILTON FOUNDATION CREATES DISTINGUISHED CHAIR IN BIOCHEMISTRY, FUNDS RESEARCH PROJECTS

DALLAS – Aug. 2, 2002 – Continuing more than four decades of giving to UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, the A.L. Chilton Foundation has donated and pledged more than \$950,000 for various medical projects, including \$500,000 toward establishment of a distinguished chair in biochemistry.

The chair, designated the Mar Nell and F. Andrew Bell Distinguished Chair in Biochemistry, honors close family friends of the late A.L. Chilton.

The Chilton Foundation's gifts, made through Southwestern Medical Foundation, include \$376,221 for four ongoing research studies:

- A biochemistry project dealing with defining the properties and regulation of the role of hemoproteins, called cytochrome P450, under the direction of Dr. Ronald Estabrook, professor of biochemistry and obstetrics and gynecology;
- An ophthalmology study involving non-invasive, in vivo confocal microscopic imaging of the living eye and corneal transparency headed by Dr. H. Dwight Cavanagh, vice chairman of ophthalmology and associate dean for clinical services;
- A study by Dr. R. James Valentine, professor of vascular surgery, into the genetic determinants of early-onset peripheral arterial disease; and
- Research by Dr. Richard Page and Dr. Robert Kowal, professors of internal medicine, into the use of automated external defibrillators in public places for the treatment of sudden cardiac death.

In addition, \$21,000 will benefit Zale Lipshy and St. Paul University Hospitals, and \$67,000 has been committed to the Chilton Foundation Visiting Lectureship. The lectureship was created many years ago to bring a distinguished visiting lecturer in biochemistry to the medical center annually.

This year's Chilton lecture, on April 17, was delivered by Dr. John E. Walker, director of the Medical Research Council, Dunn Human Nutrition Unit in Cambridge, England. Walker was awarded the Nobel Prize in chemistry in 1997. At a private dinner after the lecture,

(MORE)

CHILTON FOUNDATION - 2

establishment of the new Mar Nell and F. Andrew Bell Distinguished Chair in Biochemistry was announced.

“Mr. Chilton was a firm believer in the importance of medical research, and the trustees of his foundation have continued his mission to keep UT Southwestern on the cutting edge of medical technology,” said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern. “We are extremely grateful for their trust and continued generosity.”

UT Southwestern has been the largest single recipient of funds from the Chilton Foundation for more than 45 years.

“The Chilton Foundation has played a vital role in funding numerous research projects at UT Southwestern,” said W. Plack Carr Jr., president of Southwestern Medical Foundation. “Many individuals’ lives have been positively impacted as a result of the foundation’s staunch support over the years.”

A.L. Chilton and his wife, Leonore, established the Chilton Foundation in 1945. Chilton owned Sky Broadcasting Service, a chain of radio stations in Texas and Arkansas.

F. Andrew Bell, who worked at the chain’s Dallas affiliate KSKY-AM for 30 years, was appointed trustee of the foundation upon Chilton’s death in 1973. He co-chaired the distribution committee with Samuel G. Winstead, Chilton’s attorney and friend. Winstead died in 1995.

Bell’s widow, Mar Nell Bell, and their daughters, Bonnie Harding and Patti Brown, became responsible for the distribution committee’s activities when Bell died in 1999.

“For many decades, the Chilton Foundation has been extremely supportive of UT Southwestern and, in particular, the Department of Biochemistry,” said Dr. Steven McKnight, chairman of biochemistry, and holder of the Distinguished Chair in Basic Biomedical Research and the Sam G. Winstead and F. Andrew Bell Distinguished Chair in Biochemistry, established by the foundation in 1995.

“These kinds of endowed funds allow us to be ultracompetitive in attracting either an exceptional new scientist to UT Southwestern or retaining an outstanding researcher already here,” he said. “Either way, that individual will be able to pursue his or her most exciting research objectives in an unencumbered way.”

Gifts from the Chilton Foundation have helped fund vital research work at UT Southwestern over the years, furthering understanding of diabetes, obesity, respiratory distress syndrome, and reproductive and developmental biology.

###