

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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LOWE FOUNDATION SUPPORTS UT SOUTHWESTERN WOMEN'S INITIATIVES

DALLAS — April 26, 1999 — The Lowe Foundation of Houston has given \$1 million to Southwestern Medical Foundation for UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas to support preventative programs in its new Clinical Center for Women's Health.

The clinical center is designed to meet the gender-specific health issues of females, especially as they enter middle age. A dramatic increase in the population of women over the age of 40 is predicted for the next three decades. The new gift will provide an increased focus on health maintenance and prevention of disease by establishing the Lowe Foundation Center for Women's Preventative Health Care.

"UT Southwestern has the highest-quality physicians and staff," said Mary Ralph Lowe, founder of the Lowe Foundation and the chief executive officer of Maralo, a Houston-based oil-and-gas company. "We are so pleased that they now are going to address all of the health needs of today's woman."

Women over the age of 40 "have specific health needs that are best met in the clinical center UT Southwestern has established," said Dr. Karen Bradshaw, medical director of the clinical center and holder of the Helen J. and Robert S. Strauss and Diana K. and Richard C. Strauss Distinguished Professorship in Women's Health.

"Since women are now living at least a third of their lives in the menopause years, we have a wonderful opportunity to really make a positive change in their health and well-being," she said.

The women's health center is equipped to deal with the extended range of medical issues associated with menopause, which women typically enter in their 40s or 50s. Each patient receives individually tailored care based on her particular risk factors for age-related diseases

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such as heart disease, osteoporosis and breast cancer. In addition the programs aid women in recognizing and treating the symptoms of the transition into the menopausal years.

The clinical center combines a first-rate multidisciplinary physician team with support services and state-of-the-art facilities. The Lowe Foundation gift will be used to develop and implement a clinical and research database in women's preventative medicine. It will support the following programs and studies: screening for osteoporosis, breast cancer and female reproductive-tract cancers; risk-factor assessment and tailored health plans; nutritional and exercise assessment and counseling; a study of lipids and coronary heart disease in older women with the aim of identifying those at risk and designing preventive strategies; a clinic for urinary incontinence where innovative diagnostic and early treatment options will be developed; psychological services; and collaborative clinical programs with breast health, cosmetic and reconstructive surgery.

"I am overwhelmed by the generosity of the Lowe Foundation's gift and the trustees' faith in and support of our women's health initiatives," said Dr. George Peters, executive director of the UT Southwestern Center for Breast Care, which will be closely linked with the Lowe Foundation Center for Women's Preventative Health Care. "This endowment will permit us to move forward immediately to address those important issues that more and more women will be facing in the next millennium."

Dallas resident Diana Strauss, a Lowe Foundation trustee, brought the Clinical Center for Women's Health to the attention of the Lowe board. The Lowe Foundation, established in 1988, supports women's and children's health issues. It has previously established two professorships at UT Southwestern – the Lowe Foundation Professorship in Pediatric Neuro-Oncology and the Lowe Foundation Professorship in Pediatric Critical Care Research.

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