

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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UT SOUTHWESTERN ESTABLISHES NEW SUPPORT GROUP TO AID FIGHT AGAINST ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

DALLAS – Nov. 2, 1996 – UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas has announced the establishment of the Friends of the Alzheimer's Disease Center, a support group that will raise awareness of the disease and money for research at UT Southwestern.

The Alzheimer's Disease Center is one of only 28 centers in the United States to receive funding from the National Institutes of Health for research on Alzheimer's disease, which now affects 4 million Americans. Memberships in the new group will help support new and innovation investigations that are not yet proven but show promise. Federal funding for such studies only comes after researchers can demonstrate proven results.

The Friends of the Alzheimer's Disease Center will hold an inaugural symposium for its members Thursday, Nov. 7. The symposium will feature presentations by two UT Southwestern faculty members. Dr. Roger Rosenberg, director of the center and holder of the Abe (Brunky), Morris and William Zale Distinguished Chair in Neurology, will speak on the latest scientific advances in research. Dr. Myron Weiner, vice chairman for clinical services in psychiatry and holder of the Aradine S. Ard Chair in Brain Science, will discuss current clinical studies and treatments.

Dallas civic leader and philanthropist Billie Leigh Rippey will serve as chairwoman of the friends group, and Nancy Cheney will serve as co-chairwoman of the group's steering committee. Other steering committee members are Marsha Ard, Gil J. Besing, S.T. "Buddy" Harris, Barbara Lipshy, Bruce A. Lipshy, Natalie Ornish, Evelyn Ponder, Harry A. Shuford, Carl J. "Tommy" Thomsen, Jim L. Turner and Robert A. Wooldridge.

Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern, praised the work of the steering committee. "I'm delighted the committee is willing to help us find the resources so we can

(MORE)

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search for answers as we try to understand and improve the treatment of Alzheimer's disease."

Rippey said the support group wants UT Southwestern to be the number one Alzheimer's disease research facility in the country. "There is no reason why it cannot be, but we need funds to continue in this direction," Rippey said on behalf of the steering committee.

"We feel it is important for the caregivers and lay people to work with the scientific community to put an end to this disease. The friends group is the cement in the relationship between caregivers, lay people and the scientific community. We want to build the symposium attendance so that more people will know about the research being done at UT Southwestern. We have the best resources and advice right here in Dallas, and we should look to UT Southwestern for answers."

Rosenberg, who also directs the Josephine Rudman Laboratory for Alzheimer's Disease Research, said, "We are gratified that this committee has volunteered its time and efforts on behalf of the Alzheimer's Disease Center."

Annually, the Friends of the Alzheimer's Disease Center steering committee, working with the medical and scientific advisory committee, will choose an outstanding Alzheimer's researcher at UT Southwestern and support his or her ongoing work, Wildenthal said.

Medical and scientific advisory committee members are Rosenberg, Weiner and Dr. Perrie M. Adams, associate dean for research and associate director of the Alzheimer's Disease Center.

For more information on joining the Friends of Alzheimer's Disease Center, contact Sally Bremond at (214) 648-2344.

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