

# SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

Contact: Emily Martinez  
(214)648-3404

## GIFT WILL FUND ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE RESEARCH

DALLAS - August 12, 1994 - An anonymous donation of \$125,000 to The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas will fund research into one of society's most troubling problems - alcohol and substance abuse. The center's Fund for Molecular Research will match the gift to create a challenge fund valued at \$250,000.

The anonymous donors said they hope their gift will encourage others to contribute. With additional donations, an endowed research chair can be established to guarantee support of scientists who specialize in research into the causes of alcohol and substance abuse, with the intent of developing more effective ways to combat the problem. The chair could be named in honor of a future donor.

According to the New York-based National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, as many as 10.5 million Americans show signs of alcoholism or alcohol dependence. About 7 percent of Texans have drinking problems.

By age 18, more than one in five children in the United States has used drugs, the council reports. An estimated 1.7 million American teens need drug-abuse treatment. Illegal drug use and alcoholism are leading causes of crime and child abuse.

"This gift is greatly appreciated by the researchers at UT Southwestern who are dedicated to helping the millions of individuals and families hurt by substance abuse," said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, UT Southwestern president. "We hope others will follow in the footsteps of these generous donors and help us make a difference."

###