

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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A.L. CHILTON FOUNDATION SUPPORTS MEDICAL RESEARCH AT UT SOUTHWESTERN WITH \$170,000 GIFT

DALLAS – May 12, 2000 – Continuing a decades-long tradition of giving to UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, the A.L. Chilton Foundation has pledged \$170,000 to support research in biochemistry, ophthalmology and clinical surgery.

The gift will be used to purchase ophthalmology research equipment for Dr. H. Dwight Cavanagh, vice chairman of ophthalmology and associate dean for clinical services; support the clinical surgical research of Dr. R. James Valentine, professor of vascular surgery; and fund the basic research of Dr. Ronald Estabrook, professor of biochemistry. The funds also will support the Chilton Foundation Visiting Lectureship, which was established many years ago by the foundation and brings a distinguished visiting lecturer in biochemistry to UT Southwestern each year.

"Mr. Chilton was a firm believer in the importance of medical research," said Mar Nell Bell, chair of the Chilton Foundation's distribution committee. "We want to make every effort to continue his mission of support of the local scientific community."

A.L. Chilton and his wife, Leonore, founded the Chilton Foundation in 1945. Chilton owned Sky Broadcasting Service, a chain of radio stations in Texas and Arkansas. UT Southwestern has been the largest single recipient of foundation funds for more than 45 years.

F. Andrew Bell, who worked at KSKY 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, took over distribution committee responsibilities when Mr. Bell died in 1999. The Trust Department of Bank of America serves as trustee for the Chilton Foundation and manages its funds.

"Andy Bell and Sam Winstead felt UT Southwestern projects were in keeping with what Mr. Chilton hoped to contribute to society," said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of the medical center. "As new members of the distribution committee, Mrs. Bell and her daughters agree there

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could be no more appropriate or beneficial use of their funds, and we remain extremely grateful for their trust and generous support."

In 1994 the organization, which supports religious, scientific and educational programs primarily in Texas and Arkansas, pledged \$500,000 to establish the Sam G. Winstead and F. Andrew Bell Distinguished Chair in Biochemistry, which is held by Dr. Steven McKnight, professor and chairman of biochemistry. Previous Chilton research grants have made significant contributions to the understanding of diabetes, obesity, respiratory distress syndrome, and reproductive and developmental biology.

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