

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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HORCHOW GIFT TO FUND AIDS AND CANCER RESEARCH

DALLAS — May 6, 1994 — As producer of the Broadway hit musical "Crazy for You," S. Roger Horchow is giving life to art.

Now Horchow, his wife, Carolyn, and their daughters want to give the gift of life to others with a \$200,000 pledge to establish the Carolyn and S. Roger Horchow Research Fund at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

The endowment will support immunology research in the areas of AIDS and cancer under the direction of Dr. Jonathan Uhr, chairman of microbiology, and Dr. Ellen S. Vitetta, director of the Cancer Immunobiology Center. Uhr also holds the Raymond and Ellen Willie Distinguished Chair in Cancer Research, in Honor of Laverne and Raymond Willie, Sr. Vitetta is holder of the Scheryle Simmons Patigian Distinguished Chair in Cancer Immunobiology.

Uhr and Vitetta developed an immunotoxin to treat non-Hodgkin's, B-cell lymphomas — malignant tumors of lymph tissues and specialized white blood cells. Their research has shown that immunotoxins are successful in reducing tumor masses. This is important news for people with AIDS because a significant proportion of AIDS patients develop non-Hodgkin's lymphomas.

"The major advantage immunotoxins have over conventional chemotherapy is that they only attack targeted cells, leaving healthy cells relatively unaffected," Uhr said. Immunotoxins are pharmacologic agents constructed by linking an antibody with a toxic molecule. The resulting biological missile homes in on certain cells and destroys them.

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"I have great admiration for what UT Southwestern is doing," Roger Horchow said. "This is money that is well spent and an investment in an organization that we believe in and in people we admire."

He and his family also have more personal reasons for establishing the research fund to fight AIDS and cancer. "We have lost a lot of our theater associates to AIDS and so many friends to cancer. These are diseases for which cures must be found."

Dr. Kern Wildenthal, UT Southwestern president, said, "All of us at UT Southwestern sincerely appreciate Mr. and Mrs. Horchow's ongoing generosity and support. This gift is vitally important in ensuring that our AIDS and cancer research programs are accelerated and enhanced."

Horchow's musical comedy "Crazy for You," based on music by George and Ira Gershwin, won 1992 Tony Awards for best musical, costume design and choreography. Horchow currently has five companies performing the show in New York, London, Tokyo, Toronto and the United States.

The Horchows have been longtime supporters of UT Southwestern and have pledged nearly \$1 million to the medical center. The Horchows established the S. Roger and Carolyn P. Horchow Chair in Cardiac Research, in Honor of Jere H. Mitchell, M.D. They also supported the construction of Zale Lipshy University Hospital with a \$250,000 gift and have given \$50,000 to the Dr. Bryan Williams Student Assistance Fund.

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