

# SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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## **DR. AND MRS. NORMAN KAPLAN PLEDGE \$250,000 TO ESTABLISH CHAIR IN HYPERTENSION AT UT SOUTHWESTERN**

DALLAS – Feb. 11, 2004 – Dr. Norman M. Kaplan, one of the world’s foremost authorities on high blood pressure, and his wife, Audrey, have pledged \$250,000 to UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas to endow a chair in hypertension.

The gift is part of UT Southwestern’s *Innovations in Medicine* campaign to raise \$500 million for clinical advances and medical research.

Dr. Kaplan, clinical professor of internal medicine at UT Southwestern and former chief of hypertension for 17 years, has been on the medical center’s faculty since 1961. Dr. Kaplan, internationally renowned for his work, is a highly sought-after lecturer and author whose textbook, *Kaplan’s Clinical Hypertension* (now in its eighth edition), is widely regarded as a classic.

The Norman and Audrey Kaplan Chair in Hypertension will help support hypertension research programs at UT Southwestern and will become a source of seed money, allowing the junior faculty in the hypertension division to obtain pilot data needed to compete successfully for research grants, said Dr. Ronald Victor, chief of hypertension.

“This is a truly wonderful gift from a very fine man who has been an inspiration to so many – patients and fellow physicians alike,” Dr. Victor said.

Said Dr. Kaplan: “My wife and I decided to establish this research chair partly to repay UT Southwestern for all that it has done for us and also to help maintain the growth of the research programs at the medical center. We are very excited about the direction the hypertension division has taken under the leadership of Dr. Victor and want to do all we can to encourage these wonderful new developments in the study of hypertension.”

Dr. Kaplan has published more than 500 scientific papers and has been a member of the Joint National Committee on Detection, Evaluation and Treatment of High Blood Pressure. He has been named a Master of the American College of Physicians, has been given the Lifetime

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## **KAPLAN GIFT – 2**

Achievement Award by the American Heart Association's Council for High Blood Pressure Research, and has served as a charter member of the executive committee of the American Society of Hypertension.

In February Dr. Kaplan will receive the International Society of Hypertension's Stevo Julius Award for Excellence in Public and Professional Communication in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Dr. and Mrs. Kaplan live in Dallas, where Mrs. Kaplan has long been involved in community service and real-estate development. Mrs. Kaplan serves on the boards of the American Jewish Congress and the Texas Freedom Network, organizations concerned about constitutional issues. She has been a volunteer for Planned Parenthood and other groups working for women.

“Norman Kaplan is not only an excellent clinician, teacher and researcher, but also is an exceptionally loyal campus citizen,” said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, UT Southwestern president. “We are tremendously honored by his and Audrey’s gift, which will enable us to build on Dr. Kaplan’s decades of achievements in understanding hypertension, a condition that often goes undetected until it leads to serious illness or death.”

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