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Meadows Foundation funds Women's Mental Health Center at UT Southwestern

DALLAS – April 8, 2008 – The Dallas-based Meadows Foundation has granted \$810,000 to UT Southwestern Medical Center to create one of the few centers in the nation dedicated to diagnosing and treating mental health problems in women.

“The Meadows Foundation appreciates UT Southwestern’s commitment to psychiatric education and is pleased to support this important effort to give hope and medical aid to those who suffer from severe and persistent mental illness,” said Linda P. Evans, president and chief executive officer of the foundation. “Through the collaborative efforts of physicians and research professionals, the lives of those who struggle with the debilitating effects of mental illness can be improved with new and more effective medications and treatment programs, enabling these individuals to lead productive lives and become contributing members of society.”

Women suffer disproportionately from mood and anxiety disorders such as depression. The onset of depression in women can coincide with life transitions, and the Women’s Mental Health Center will provide clinical care, conduct research and train health care professionals to improve detection and treatment of mental illness in women as it relates to reproductive events such as childbirth and perimenopause, the few years before menopause when estrogen levels begin to drop.

Dr. Eric Nestler, chairman of psychiatry at UT Southwestern, said the significant contribution from The Meadows Foundation is critical to the improvement of women’s mental health.

“We are extremely grateful to The Meadows Foundation for its generosity and insight in providing crucial support for this very important clinical problem,” Dr. Nestler said.

The Meadows Foundation gift facilitated the recruitment of Dr. Marlene Freeman, associate professor of psychiatry and obstetrics and gynecology, to direct the Women’s Mental Health Center.

Dr. Freeman, holder of the Fisher Family Professorship in Women’s Mental Health Studies, established a similar service in 2000 at the University of Arizona and served as its director for seven years. She is vice editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Clinical Psychiatry* and established and edits the *Focus on Women’s Mental Health* specialty section for the journal.

(MORE)

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Previous gifts from The Meadows Foundation to UT Southwestern have totaled more than \$3 million, including funds for the Algur H. Meadows Diagnostic Imaging Center, the Bryan Williams, M.D., Student Center, and support for research and clinical programs in cancer and heart disease.

Created in 1948 by Algur H. Meadows and his wife, Virginia, The Meadows Foundation is one of the largest private foundations in Texas.

Starting with several small loan companies, Mr. Meadows founded General American Financing System to fund oil exploration in the booming East Texas oil fields of the 1920s and 1930s. He later built General American Oil Company of Texas into one of the nation's most successful independent oil and gas production companies.

The Meadows Foundation benefits programs throughout Texas in health, education, arts and culture, human services and civic endeavors. The foundation has received numerous awards for its support of a variety of nonprofit activities.

Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern, said that The Meadows Foundation has once again shown its foresight and dedication to improving the quality of life for all Texans.

“UT Southwestern greatly appreciates the funding we have received from The Meadows Foundation. This latest important grant will enable our institution to fill a void in women's health,” he said. “The support of dedicated community organizations is crucial for the development of new world-class programs, and The Meadows Foundation has contributed enormously to the betterment of our city and state.”

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