

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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ROLLIN AND MARY ELLA KING SUPPORT LIVER DISEASE RESEARCH, TREATMENT AT UT SOUTHWESTERN WITH \$500,000 GIFT

DALLAS – Nov. 7, 2000 - After Rollin King was diagnosed with hepatitis B four years ago and referred to liver experts at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, he decided he wanted to do something more than “just be a patient.” With that in mind, King and his wife, Mary Ella, have committed themselves to supporting research and treatment of liver disease at UT Southwestern with a \$500,000 gift to Southwestern Medical Foundation.

The gift will establish the Rollin and Mary Ella King Fund for Research and Treatment of Liver Disease. The fund will support the work of Dr. William M. Lee, professor of internal medicine at UT Southwestern and director of the Liver Diseases Clinical Center at the James W. Aston Ambulatory Care Center. Lee specializes in the study and treatment of acute liver failure, viral hepatitis and drug-induced hepatotoxicity.

“Mary Ella and I have been consistently impressed with Will Lee and UT Southwestern. I’ve been very fortunate to have received such quality care and wanted to do something to advance the important work being done at the liver center,” King said.

In addition to his own gift, King also has led other fund-raising efforts for the liver center. Along with Lee, his physician and friend, King has planned and hosted events to highlight the center’s need for additional philanthropic support. An expert in building customer-focused businesses, King has also helped develop patient satisfaction questionnaires for use at the Aston Center.

(MORE)

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“Rollin has gone beyond the call of duty in supporting our programs at UT Southwestern – he is finding ways to improve them,” said Lee. “First as a patient and then as a supporter, he has become intimately involved in the development of the liver center and has remained committed to its growth. I am personally very grateful for his wonderful generosity and am proud that he has remained so loyal to our center as a patient and a friend.”

Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern, said, “The Kings’ gifts of funds and of volunteer time have been of major benefit to our programs in liver disease. Their latest donation will help propel Dr. Lee’s efforts into international prominence.”

King helped found Southwest Airlines in 1967. Now retired, he continues to serve on the company’s board of directors. He and his wife live in Dallas.

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