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**KidneyTexas gives \$60,000 to UT Southwestern
for cutting-edge laparoscopic equipment**

DALLAS – Dec. 27, 2005 – KidneyTexas, Inc. has donated \$60,000 to UT Southwestern Medical Center for the purchase of a virtual reality laparoscopic simulation system, which will be used to train surgical residents and private urologists to use minimally invasive surgical techniques on the kidney.

KidneyTexas, a Dallas-based charity that provides funding for kidney disease-related research, prevention and care, raised the funds at its annual fall luncheon, auction and style show.

“We’re very proud of our ongoing relationship with KidneyTexas and are pleased to once again be the recipient of its generosity,” said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern.

“Minimally invasive surgery is a particularly exciting area of study and truly represents the future of medicine. We commend KidneyTexas for its commitment to fighting kidney disease, and we’re proud to partner with them on this project.”

The gift will allow researchers to purchase virtual reality simulation equipment, capable of recreating a dynamic replica of the human system. The program, which will be headed by Dr. Margaret Pearle, professor of urology, will help residents and physicians master the techniques of laparoscopic kidney surgery.

“We’re big fans of the wonderful work being done at UT Southwestern, so we’re very excited to be able to support an innovative program like this one,” said Emily Lynn Wilson, chair of charity selection for KidneyTexas in 2005. “Our goal is to do whatever we can to bring awareness of kidney disease to the community and to give to those who are finding ways to cure it. The medical center certainly fits that profile, and we’re very happy to be a part of its efforts again this year.”

KidneyTexas, chaired by Di Johnston, raised \$304,000 for local charities at its 2005 event. Additional recipients were Children’s Medical Center Dallas, the National Kidney Foundation of North Texas and the UT Dallas Center for Brain Health.

Past gifts from KidneyTexas to UT Southwestern include \$100,000 for the purchase of a confocal microscope (2005); \$110,000 for polycystic kidney-disease research (2003); and \$210,000 for a new pediatric and adult nephrology laboratory at the medical center (2002).

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