



Passing of Harold C. Simmons

December 30, 2013

To the UT Southwestern Community:

It is with great sadness that I write to inform you of the death this past weekend of Harold C. Simmons – a visionary philanthropist, exceptional businessman and devoted friend of UT Southwestern Medical Center. His extraordinary generosity has had a transformative impact on this institution.

Mr. Simmons was a native Texan and an entrepreneur who graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 1951 and earned a master's degree a year later. He established a career as a legendary investor and in 1988 created the Harold Simmons Foundation. In 1995, he was awarded the Southwestern Medical Foundation Community Service Award, now the Charles Cameron Sprague Community Service Award.

Mr. Simmons' philanthropic support of UT Southwestern reflected his passion for advancing scientific research with the promise that it offers to ultimately improve lives and patient care. As steadfast and enthusiastic friends of this institution, he and his wife, Annette, contributed nearly \$200 million over three decades in support of the mission of UT Southwestern. This included a record \$125 million in contributions to the *Innovations in Medicine* campaign.

His support was critical to the establishment of the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center at UT Southwestern. As the only NCI-designated cancer center in North Texas, the center brings innovative cancer care to our region, while fostering groundbreaking basic research that has the potential to improve patient care and prevention of cancer worldwide.

The Harold and Annette Simmons Comprehensive Center for Research and Treatment in Brain and Neurological Disorders has similarly made possible fundamental discoveries that are providing new insights into brain function and neurological disorders, addressing some of the most devastating unmet medical needs of our time, such as Alzheimer's disease.

Mr. Simmons also provided gifts that have supported research into the treatment of kidney disease and arthritis, the latter including the establishment of the Harold C. Simmons Arthritis Research Center. He also supported various outreach efforts of the university and endowed five Distinguished Chairs named for his wife and four daughters.

In addition to funding these important programs, Mr. Simmons helped ensure that

UT Southwestern has facilities that enable its outstanding faculty and staff to fulfill the mission of the institution. Those include the Simmons Biomedical Research Building on North Campus, named for his parents, Reuben Leon and Fairness Clark Simmons; and the Annette Simmons Stereotactic Treatment Center at Zale Lipshy University Hospital. His most recent pledge was to the *Building the Future of Medicine* campaign for the new William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital, which will open later in the new year.

Mr. Simmons leaves an indelible and enduring imprint on our campus. His magnanimous support will continue to benefit UT Southwestern and our patients for decades to come.

I am sure I speak for all on the campus in offering heartfelt condolences to Annette and his family for their loss.

Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.
President, UT Southwestern Medical Center