

UT Southwestern Medical Center

Major Perot family gift expands Medical Scientist Training Program

Nov. 8, 2022

To the UT Southwestern Community:

It is with great pleasure I write to you today to share the wonderful news that UT Southwestern has received a \$50 million gift from the Perot family, The Perot Foundation, and The Sarah and Ross Perot, Jr. Foundation to endow our Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP).

This transformative gift from the Perot family marks a new era for our MSTP, which is already among the nation's elite programs that provide graduates a dual M.D./Ph.D. degree to advance medical science and translate laboratory discoveries into advances in clinical care. Our MSTP is now in its 40th year of graduating outstanding physician-scientists from UT Southwestern Medical School and UT Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. In recognition of this extraordinary commitment by the Perot family, students in the MSTP program, beginning with those who matriculated this year, will be designated Perot Family Scholars.

This gift will also help UT Southwestern in its efforts to counter the overall decline in the number of those pursuing full training as physician-scientists, enable the University to increase the number of M.D./Ph.D. students admitted annually, and broaden the research disciplines in which they study. The latter includes biomedical engineering, computational biology, bioinformatics, and data science. Beyond ensuring financial stability of the UT Southwestern MSTP, the investment will also provide funds to enhance the curriculum and experiences of MSTP students as well as support efforts to recruit more students from elite U.S. colleges, including top international students who wish to stay in the U.S. for their careers. I am grateful to Professor Andrew Zinn, M.D., Ph.D., Dean of UT Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and himself a graduate of our MSTP, for his leadership of this vitally important program.

This latest gift for the Perot Family Scholars Program builds on a decadeslong legacy begun in 1987, when Ross and Margot Perot provided a \$20 million gift to support Nobel Laureates Michael Brown, M.D., and Joseph Goldstein, M.D., and the Medical Scientist Training Program. With that support, Drs. Brown and Goldstein built our MSTP into an internationally recognized program.

In addition, the Perot family has supported the Perot Foundation Neuroscience Translational Research Center, mental health programs, and veterans research, including groundbreaking research on Gulf War Syndrome by Robert Haley, M.D.

We are profoundly grateful to the Perot family for their generous and ongoing support of UT Southwestern's mission to promote health and a healthy society through education, discovery, and healing.

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