

UT Southwestern Medical Center

UT Southwestern mourns the loss of H. Ross Perot Sr.

July 9, 2019

It is with profound sadness that we have learned of the passing of H. Ross Perot Sr., an inspiring leader and one of UT Southwestern Medical Center's most steadfast benefactors for more than three decades. On behalf of the entire UT Southwestern community, our heartfelt sympathy is with Mr. Perot's wife, Margot, and his entire family.

Mr. Perot will be remembered as an enormously successful businessman, political leader, and philanthropist. Known for his loyalty and commitment to his country, community, and family, he typified the great American citizen. He was a man possessed of tremendous drive, extraordinary business acumen, and keen intellect, with a clear sense of when and how he might improve the human condition.

UT Southwestern benefited immensely from his generosity and leadership. Mr. Perot and his wife, Margot, and the Perot Foundation have contributed more than \$90 million to UT Southwestern, including more than \$50 million to the Innovations in Medicine campaign to foster a variety of programs that are shaping the future of medical science.

Throughout his lifetime, Mr. Perot set his sights on supporting "world-class" institutions. He was impressed with UT Southwestern's advancement from its humble beginnings in the 1940s and was aware of the increasing number of faculty members gaining admission to the esteemed National Academy of Sciences.

That prestige reached a new level on Oct. 14, 1985, when Dr. Michael Brown and Dr. Joseph Goldstein won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for their discoveries concerning the regulation of cholesterol metabolism. Never before had a Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine been awarded for research conducted exclusively within the state of Texas. It was a pioneering discovery that would lead to the development of statin drugs, which help regulate cholesterol, improve the quality of life for millions of people, and save lives. With this achievement, UT Southwestern captured Mr. Perot's attention. He honored the two Nobel Laureates with a dinner that drew 300 community leaders. The celebration marked the beginning of significant local support for UT Southwestern's biomedical education and research.

Over the next few years, Mr. Perot became more involved with the Medical Center. The Perots and their foundation provided generous support for UT Southwestern's Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) and the research of Nobel Laureates Dr. Brown and Dr. Goldstein and their protégés. The MSTP,

which trains the next generation of leaders in academic medicine by offering a combined M.D./Ph.D. degree, is a significant component of Mr. Perot's legacy at UT Southwestern.

Mr. Perot also vigorously supported the Medical Center's Gulf War syndrome research efforts, after hearing stories of soldiers who returned from the Gulf War becoming sick or disabled for unknown reasons. In recognition of his contributions to "liberty and national security," Mr. Perot received the coveted Eisenhower Award from the Business Executives for National Security organization.

Most recently, the Perot Foundation established the Perot Foundation Neuroscience Translational Research Center at UT Southwestern. This latest expression of the Perot family's generosity is supporting translational research at the Peter O'Donnell Jr. Brain Institute to move science more quickly from the laboratory to the bedside and to transform research discoveries into improved and innovative drugs, devices, and treatments.

Mr. Perot was a true friend to the Medical Center and a remarkable man whose inspirational leadership touched all who knew him. He will be deeply missed.

Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.

President, UT Southwestern Medical Center