

S O U T H W E S T E R N M E D I C A L
PERSPECTIVES

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Caren and the late Vin Prothro

Helping
UT Southwestern
Become a Global Force
in Biotechnology



The 2001 Charles Cameron Sprague Community Service Award Winners

Dr. Bob and Jean Smith

Common Goals
Create Synergy
in Supporting Education
and Medicine





Vin and Caren Prothro

Helping UT Southwestern Become
a Global Force in Biotechnology

By Rachel Skei Donihoo

AT THE CORE of Southwestern Medical Foundation is a couple whose dream for an extraordinary Dallas — and for an eminent research center in their city — has forever changed the landscape of the local medical community. Caren and C. Vincent (Vin) Prothro have never been easily distracted, and their unerring dedication to biotechnology and, in turn, to humanity has made them pillars in the world of philanthropy and volunteerism. Even after Vin Prothro's sudden death last year at age 58, Caren Prothro has remained determined to see The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas continue as a global force in biotechnology research.

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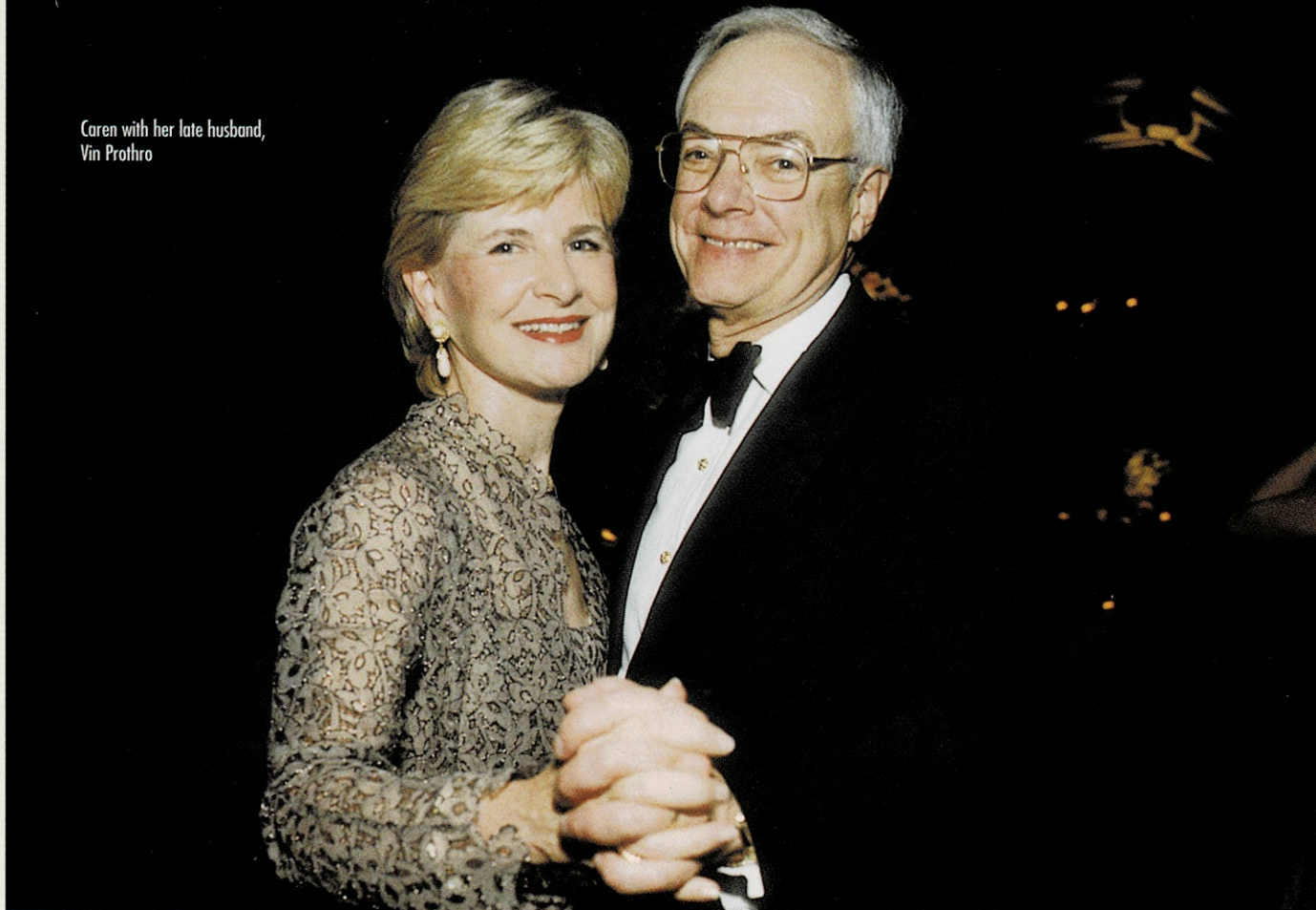
By Mindy Baxter

STARTING WITH A small practice in northeast Dallas and growing the business into a 300-bed medical and surgical hospital were challenges that Dr. Bob Smith took on readily. Similar to the founders of Southwestern Medical Foundation, he had a vision of creating something that would serve the community. Long hours and high risk brought satisfaction — and success. When Doctors Hospital was sold in 1986, Dr. Bob Smith and his wife, Jean, used the proceeds to create the Dr. Bob and Jean Smith Foundation.

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Caren with her late husband,
Vin Prothro



The Southwestern Medical Foundation Charles Cameron Sprague Community Service Award recognizes in

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AS CHAIRMAN AND vice chairman of their foundation, respectively, Dr. Bob and Jean Smith have personally watched their contributions in the Dallas community fulfill needs, and they are committed to continuing their philanthropy through their foundation. Their foundation has given to numerous organizations, including The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Baylor Health Care System Foundation, Children's Medical Center of Dallas and Southern Methodist University. UT Southwestern is home to the Bob Smith, M.D. Center for Research in Pediatric Psychiatry and the Dr. Bob Smith Foundation Center for Prostate Research.

A graduate of Southern Methodist University and Baylor College of Medicine, Dr. Smith practiced pediatrics in Dallas for many years before serving as chief executive officer of Doctors Hospital. He is a former trustee of SMU and serves on the boards of Zale Lipshy University Hospital and Southwestern Medical Foundation.

Jean Smith, a graduate of Michigan State, came to Dallas as a flight attendant for American Airlines. She has served on the board of directors for the Dallas Museum of Art and the Willis M. Tate Distinguished Lecture Series at SMU. She was also an active member of the Junior League of Dallas and The Crystal Charity Ball.

Dr. Smith and Mrs. Smith talked to us several weeks ago about the power of giving.



Both of you have been very generous to Southwestern Medical Foundation, UT Southwestern, Children's Medical Center, SMU, Baylor Health Care System and other institutions and organizations. What criteria do you use when considering which projects to support?

DR. SMITH: Southwestern Medical Foundation's mission and our foundation's mission are very similar. Southwestern Medical Foundation supports teaching and research through The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. Our foundation, established with the proceeds from the sale of Doctors Hospital, has three key interests it supports — health care, education and the arts. Since both foundations have common aims, I think working together we can have a synergistic effect in the medical community.

Tell me about the feeling you get when you support medical causes.

DR. SMITH: It makes me feel good. I'll tell you a story. Five years ago, I had problems with my prostate and went to St. Paul Medical Center (as it was known then) for radiation treatment. There were two radiation rooms, but only one was being utilized. I saw children and infants who were younger than 2 years old with brain cancer and other things. I asked my doctor, "Why aren't you using the second room?"

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VIN PROTHRO, honored posthumously, was the chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Dallas Semiconductor, which he founded in 1984. Among his many contributions to UT Southwestern was his success in persuading the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation of Chicago to donate the land for the medical center's North Campus. In 1985 the businessman, who held degrees from both Stanford and Harvard Business School, also raised \$15 million in venture capital to launch Dallas Biomedical Corp., a company that invested in start-up biotech initiatives at the medical center.

Caren Prothro continues to serve in a variety of leadership roles throughout Dallas and recently joined Southwestern Medical Foundation's board of trustees. She and her husband made a number of generous financial contributions to UT Southwestern over the years and countless gifts of time and energy.

Several weeks ago Caren Prothro sat down to discuss her late husband's desire to see Dallas become a world leader in biotechnology as well as her own hopes for a strong, vibrant community.

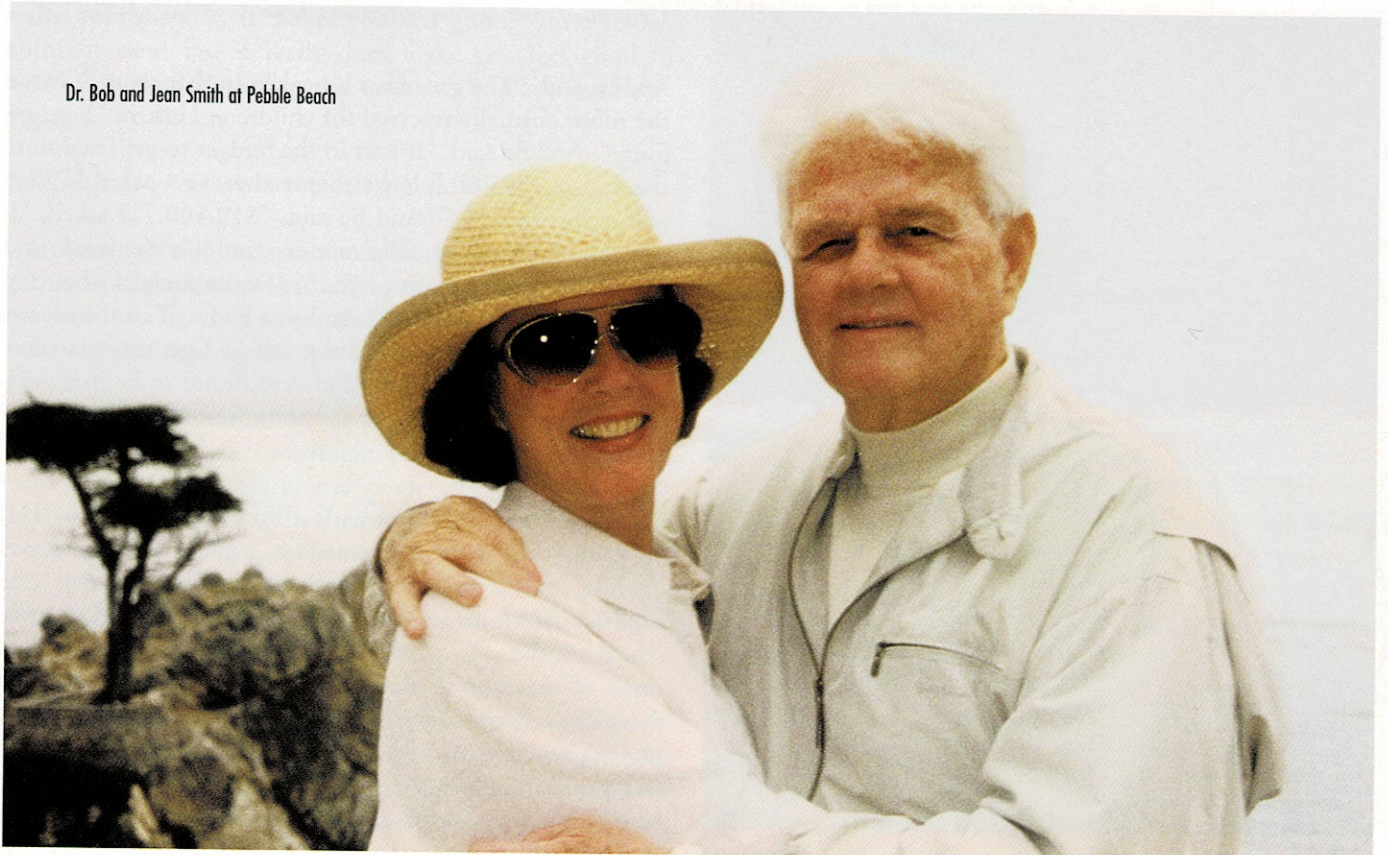


Caren, you and Vin have been tireless proponents of medical research and technology and have been instrumental in a number of key projects at UT Southwestern. What initially prompted your involvement with Southwestern Medical Foundation and the medical center? How did that involvement grow?

IN 1984 VIN was appointed by former Dallas Mayor Starke Taylor to head up a local biotechnology task force. Through the course of the committee's meetings, it became quite clear that the medical center needed to focus its resources on the emergent biotechnology field and perhaps come to some agreement on the commercialization of research. Vin and the rest of the task force wanted to find a way to reward faculty members' diligence and innovation. They felt very strongly that these scientists and physicians should share the proceeds of the significant biomedical inroads they were making. That idea spurred Vin to found Dallas Biomedical Corp. in 1985. Our involvement with UT Southwestern and the Foundation dominoed from there. Friends like Margaret McDermott and Peter O'Donnell, who got Vin involved in the Center for Human Nutrition, also influenced our decision to be supportive. It has been very satisfying for us to see the scope of research done under the leadership of Dr. Scott Grundy. Kern Wildenthal has played a key role in involving our family in the growth and development of UT Southwestern and

viduals who provide significant support for efforts to improve health care, medical education and research.

Dr. Bob and Jean Smith at Pebble Beach



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Zale Lipshy University Hospital. The medical center was — and still is — an incredibly exciting place to be.

How have you seen medicine, as well as the medical center, change through the years?

The change in medical technology in recent years has been extraordinary, and the growth that UT Southwestern has achieved is equally dramatic. The one achievement that Vin was perhaps proudest of was his lobby work that resulted in the medical center's acquisition of the 100-acre tract where the North Campus now sits. Over a 15-year period, Dr. Bill Neaves, Phil Montgomery and Vin made numerous trips to Chicago to secure the 100 acres for the North Campus. Of that land, 30 acres were donated by the MacArthur Foundation. The Simmons, Hamon and Seay buildings have evolved, advancing UT Southwestern research programming enormously. Had the medical center not had this space for expansion, it's difficult to say if such exceptional change could have happened so rapidly.

Why do you think UT Southwestern is so important to Dallas?

UT Southwestern has built a strong and highly capable team of research scientists and physicians who have brought great distinction to the university and to our community. They have four Nobel Prize winners and 12 members who have been elected to the National Academy of Sciences. Vin often said this was the greatest assembly of brainpower he had seen. Our city and region are so fortunate to have the health care delivery system that has evolved as a result of excellence in research and teaching. The economic impact is far-reaching and a powerful stimulus to Dallas' growth.

Earlier this year, UT Southwestern named a new campus plaza and garden after your late husband. The decision to dedicate the plaza to Vin was an emotional one for many people who knew him. How did your family feel about the naming?

We were overwhelmed that all of these wonderful people wanted to honor Vin in such a magnificent way. We knew that he had close relationships at UT Southwestern and the Foundation. We knew of his great affection and expectations for the medical center. But until the plaza naming was announced, I had not grasped the depth of the mutual respect Vin and his associates here shared. To be honored and remembered in the heart of the North Campus among buildings named for special friends and benefactors would have meant a great deal to Vin. It was a very



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And he said, "The generator is broken in that room." It was the room normally reserved for children. I asked, "For how long?" And he said, "It isn't in the budget to get fixed until the end of the year." It was September, so I asked, "What will it cost to fix it?" And he said, "\$19,500." I asked, "If my foundation gave that money, could it be fixed in a week?" The answer was, "Yes." I wrote a check that day, and it was fixed in a week. And you know of all the money — as much or as little as we've given — I get more satisfaction out of that small gift. I'm very proud to be in a position to help. I want Jean to tell about something we did for St. Anthony's.

MRS. SMITH: St. Anthony's is a little school over by Fair Park, and they were in dire need of a gym. Their gym was outside, and so whenever it rained or snowed, it was very hard on the children. I heard about the need and went to see St. Anthony's. I told Bob about it, and we provided some of the money, along with another charity, to build the gym. I went to the dedication and saw these children playing in the gym and enjoying it — I can't tell you the satisfaction that it gave me. When you can give back to your community, to people who are less fortunate and who

proud moment, particularly for our daughter, Nita; our son, Vincent; and our son-in-law, Cullum.

You continue to be an avid supporter of a variety of civic and professional organizations throughout Dallas, including the Dallas Museum of Art, Southern Methodist University, Dallas Zoological Society, The Dallas Foundation, Salvation Army, the Hoblitzelle Foundation and the new Dallas Center for the Performing Arts. What motivates you to remain so active in your community?

My parents and Vin's parents, through their own examples, always instilled in us the importance of getting involved and supporting causes that were important to the community. So, for Vin and me, it was always a given that we would find our own areas of interest. I got my first start in volunteerism through the Dallas Junior League when I was in my early 30s and involved myself to a fairly large degree in the Dallas County Juvenile Justice System. I happen to believe that the social services and the cultural arts work together to make our city a more civilized place in which to raise our children. Maybe that explains in part the eclectic nature of my civic involvement.

Why did you agree to become a Foundation trustee this year? How would you like to be involved as a trustee, and what do you hope to accomplish in that role?



really appreciate it, it makes you feel good. It's a selfish point of view, but it really does make you feel good to know that your money's going to the right place and helping at-risk children.

You call your gifts investments, not grants. Why?

DR. SMITH: We do research on each organization we give to. Is this an organization that is responding to a need in our community? Do they have good leadership? Do they have a mission that is consistent with ours? We approach this like a business.

MRS. SMITH: It's an investment to watch these organizations respond to needs in our community and hopefully improve and enhance individual lives as well as enrich our community.

Dr. Smith, your father was a general surgeon. Did he influence your interest in medicine?

DR. SMITH: My father was my mentor. It was a dream to have had a father like him, who was so compassionate. Growing up, I made house calls with him and even had a little doctor's bag with bandages and supplies. My father let

me stand in back on a little bench while he was in surgery. I don't know what other children did, but I was always interested in medicine. I liked the compassion he had for people, and I liked the way sick people would leave the hospital well.

You've been married nearly 50 years; you have five children and several grandchildren. How do you instill your same sense of community service in the next generation?

MRS. SMITH: I think it's very important to instill community service in children. It starts with volunteer work. Our children are grown now, and through the years they've volunteered in many different organizations and still do. They take it very seriously. They know the importance of it. We tried to set a good example for them.

DR. SMITH: At the pediatrics practice I set up, my partners and I had standing orders with all our patients. If your child got sick on Saturday night, don't call. Just come to the office at noon on Sunday and we'd be there to help. All of our daughters helped answer the phones and pull records on Sunday afternoon, and they loved it. They learned early the value of helping others. Now they are all on our board. I wanted our children to appreciate the environment they



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grew up in and to realize that not everyone is as fortunate as they are. I feel like they'll be good philanthropists and contribute to this community.

You founded Doctors Hospital. What made you decide to start a foundation when it was sold?

DR. SMITH: I always expected to make enough money to provide for my family, but it never entered my mind how much. When Doctors Hospital was sold, Jean and I talked about what to do. We didn't really want to be too wealthy because it can destroy motivation. So what was the best thing to do? Start a foundation. I think it was the best investment we ever made. You can't take your money to heaven, and by giving now and improving people's lives, it makes me feel, in my own small way, I have made a contribution to our society. It's gratifying to see how you can positively impact one person and/or a whole community.

Mrs. Smith, you are not a native Dallasite, but you've given time to numerous Dallas organizations during the 50 years

you've lived here. What advice do you have for people new to the area about how to get involved?

MRS. SMITH: Anytime you can do something for other people, do it. The tragic events of September 11th did produce one good thing — seeing people helping each other. It brings people together to be involved in the community. Volunteer in a hospital or a school. Join the Red Cross or Salvation Army. Give your time. Do whatever it takes to get involved and help the less fortunate.

What does recognition of your volunteer efforts through awards, like the Charles Cameron Sprague Community Service Award, mean to you?

DR. SMITH: I'm not sure we really deserve it. But we are so flattered to even be considered. I respect the principles of Southwestern Medical Foundation. Being a recipient of the Sprague Community Service Award humbles me, and I, as a representative of our foundation, am highly honored to be a recipient of this award.

MRS. SMITH: We know several of the people who have received this award, and it is an honor to be included in this group. ■

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Let me start by saying that it is an honor to be asked to serve, and I think that Vin would want me to continue to support the Foundation in this way. I've tried to analyze the things that were of greatest concern to both Vin and me and am trying to spend my time furthering causes that I think have the greatest potential for impact. When you've got your children and your grandchildren living in this community, you focus more sharply on projects that have long-lasting value to your city. Going forward, it is a tremendously exciting opportunity to be a part of Southwestern Medical Foundation.

What does the recognition of your volunteer and philanthropic leadership, through awards like the Charles Cameron Sprague Community Service Award, mean to you?

To be recognized as a recipient of the Charles Cameron Sprague Award is especially meaningful to me. Charlie Sprague is one of Dallas' finest citizens and he has been a very good friend over many years. It would be difficult to overstate his importance to the development of the medical school and to the entire community and region. And to share this honor with Bob and Jean Smith is indeed a humbling experience.

If you could have an opportunity to solve one problem related to health and medicine, what would it be?

That is such a difficult question to tackle. I would prefer to bring it down to a tangible level, related to the new research building on UT Southwestern's expanding North Campus. Last spring I read in *The Dallas Morning News* editorial page where the Texas Legislature approved a \$40 million grant to help finance this research facility, along with a special annual appropriation of \$9 million per year in funding. Out of this building will come new discoveries on the forefront of biomedical research that will ultimately benefit patients worldwide.

There will be centers for genetic, molecular and cellular biotechnology — new drugs will be developed. Out of all of this, I feel certain UT Southwestern will be in the very forefront of understanding many diseases.

Of particular interest to our family is work related to brain research. Vin's father, Charles, recently passed away after several years of illness due to Alzheimer's disease. UT Southwestern will be positioned to make exciting breakthroughs in all aspects of brain research affecting Parkinson's, depression, stroke and other brain disorders. Every family has been touched by these diseases of the brain. ■

