

# SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL PERSPECTIVES

FALL 2012 ♦ A PUBLICATION OF SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL FOUNDATION

A photograph of three people standing in a well-lit hallway with a large arched window in the background. On the left is a woman with short dark hair wearing an orange jacket and a white skirt. In the center is a woman with short blonde hair wearing a white textured jacket and black pants. On the right is a man with grey hair and glasses wearing a dark suit and a red patterned tie. The hallway has wooden floors and white walls with sconces on either side.

**Spirit of Discovery Sparks Philanthropy for  
Community Service Awardees**

LYDA HILL

UTE & ROLF HABERECHT



Charles Cameron Sprague

# Community Service Award

**Each year Southwestern Medical Foundation honors select individuals who have provided extraordinary support in enhancing patient care, medical education and medical research in North Texas. This year the organization named three people, whose names have become synonymous with generosity and innovative leadership, as the 2012 recipients of its highest recognition, the Charles Cameron Sprague Community Service Award. Rolf and Ute Haberecht and Lyda Hill join an elite list of community leaders, whose dedication to Dallas have earned them the award.**



*In 1991 the Foundation created a community service award, which later was renamed the Charles Cameron Sprague Community Service Award, in honor of the Foundation's former president, CEO and chairman emeritus, and in recognition of the significant and lasting influence his service at UT Southwestern Medical Center and at Southwestern Medical Foundation had on medicine in Dallas.*

*Prior award recipients have included: Ruth Collins Altshuler, James W. Aston, Paul M. Bass Jr., Julie T. and Louis A. Beecherl Jr., H.R. (Bum) Bright, Nancy Brinker, Rita C. and William P. Clements Jr., Mary McDermott Cook, Joe M. Dealey, Robert H. Dedman Family (Nancy Dedman, Patricia Dedman Nail, and Rachael and Robert H. Dedman Jr.), Jerry Farrington, Earl A. Forsythe, F.B. Pete Goldman, Cecil H. Green, Nancy B. Hamon, Jess T. Hay, Adelyn and Edmund Hoffman, Sydney and J.L. Huffines, Vester Hughes, Nancy and Ray Hunt, J. Erik Jonsson, Robert Korba, George L. MacGregor, Margaret M. McDermott, Sammye and Mike A. Myers, Edith and Peter O'Donnell Jr., Margot and Ross Perot, Madeleine and T. Boone Pickens, Caren and C. Vincent Prothro, Charlene and Lee Raymond, Laura and Jack Roach, Ralph B. Rogers, Sarah M. and Charles E. Seay, Annette and Harold C. Simmons, Jean and Dr. Bob Smith, Gay F. and William T. Solomon, Charles Cameron Sprague, M.D., Jean and Tom Walter, and Donald Zale.*





**LYDA HILL:**  
Responsive to the  
needs of all,  
all over the world

A business entrepreneur, environmentalist, volunteer and innovative philanthropist, Lyda Hill is, quintessentially, an adventure-seeker. One of the most enterprising businesswomen in the country, she also is one of the most philanthropic, having pledged to give away her entire fortune – most of it during her lifetime.

Born into a family of Texas leaders – her grandfather was oil magnate H.L. Hunt – Miss Hill developed a lifelong thirst for knowledge and an ingrained desire to give back to the community in which she was raised.

President of LH Holdings, a real estate, tourism and venture investment firm, she is an inquisitive traveler and lifelong athlete who has trekked, skied and snorkeled in more than 100 countries. She credits her broad experiences, both at home and overseas, for keeping her grounded and “open to the incredible needs of others, all over the world.”

President of the Lyda Hill Foundation, an organization that supports increased understanding of nature and science, the celebrated civic leader had her first foray into business development in 1967, when she founded Hill World Travel. The agency quickly became the largest travel agency in Dallas and was one of the largest in the country when she sold it 15 years later.

Her many real estate preservation projects include the award-winning redevelopment of the Fort Worth Stockyards, which transformed the area into a historic tourist attraction.

Countless nonprofit organizations have benefited from Miss Hill’s leadership as chairman or president, including the Visiting Nurse Association of Texas, the Dallas Chapter of the World Presidents’ Organization, the Crystal Charity Ball, the Junior League of Dallas, the Dallas and Texas Chapters of the American Heart Association, Easter Seals North Texas and the Women’s Texas Golf Association. She chaired the Public Affairs Committee of the Southwestern Medical Foundation Board of Trustees for many years and now serves as an Honorary Trustee of the Foundation.

In addition to her volunteer leadership, she has made multiple seven-figure gifts to many Dallas organizations, including to UT Southwestern for the Lyda Hill Endowment for Systems Biology (see pages 22-23).

She has received numerous awards and honors, including the Betty Ford Individual Philanthropy Award from Susan G. Komen for the Cure; the Luminary Award from the Committee of 200; a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Volunteer Center of North Texas; and distinguished alumnus awards from the Hockaday School, Hollins University and Leadership Dallas.

In the 1980s she launched the Volunteer Connection, an enormously successful pilot project she created in the Dallas/Fort Worth area to promote volunteerism. The initiative, which was widely duplicated nationwide, received high honors from local and national leaders and earned the prestigious President’s Volunteer Action Award. The project also earned Miss Hill a spot on the President’s [Ronald Reagan’s] Advisory Council on Private Sector Initiatives.

She describes her most recent business ventures as “philanthropreneurial.” She is particularly proud of her work with the Garden of the Gods Park in Colorado Springs, where she summered as a child and still has a second home; her conservation efforts in the Arctic Ocean; and her new biomedical research company, Remeditex.

Spirited, candid, and unpretentious, Miss Hill sat down with us to talk about her past accomplishments and future ambitions.

**Q: You are widely regarded as a trailblazer. You’ve already succeeded in so many different arenas, yet you continue to take on more every year. Where do you get your boundless energy?**

You know, I think I was just born with it. I’ve never been a person who likes to sit still for very long. The older you get, the harder it is to stay in shape, so I exercise seven days a week and try to stay active year-round. I hike in the summer, ski in the winter, and do all kinds of things in between. I love a good challenge, and I try to stay on my feet. There are a lot of entrepreneurs like me, who don’t like being in boxes, and I think that has continued to be one of the driving forces behind a lot of the things I do. I don’t like being penned in.



**Q: Who or what have been the greatest influences in your life?**

In many ways I’ve modeled myself after my mother, who was always involved in so much. As a kid, I went along with her when she volunteered, and it just became a part of life. I remember her taking me to what is now Easter Seals, and how excited I was the day I got to crank letters through the postage machine. [The experience] also gave me the opportunity to work with disabled people, which I think made me look at things very differently.

**Q: You’ve joined a handful of other great philanthropists, including Warren Buffett and Bill and Melinda Gates, in committing to giving away the majority of your wealth during your lifetime. Can you please explain how you arrived at such an important decision?**

Warren Buffett and Bill Gates started an organization called The Giving Pledge last year with the realization that there were a whole lot of people who were philanthropic, but who might need peer support when deciding how and where to donate. They also thought they could encourage billionaires to become role models for others who are inclined to give. I was eager to join because I wanted to meet those folks and knew I could learn from them. I’ve also found that it’s easier to make the money than it is to give it away right. We, as a group, can afford to do things that most people cannot, but with that comes a high level of responsibility. I have no qualms about giving all my money away, but I want to make sure it’s done in a way that is truly impactful.

**Q: How do you go about choosing a cause or organization to support?**

I’m a bit of a risk-taker, so I sometimes seek out organizations that are underserved or projects that are off the beaten path. No matter who you are, I believe you have to look to the future, so I try to find ways that [my support] will help not just now, but 25, 30, 40, even 100 years into the future. I don’t think people want handouts; they want opportunities to work, to preserve what they have, and to learn life skills. I always keep that in mind.

**Q: You recently created a \$100 million company, Remeditex, with the mission of developing early-stage biomedical science programs and making Texas an international hub for biotechnology. Please tell us about your passion for this field, and why you think it’s so important for global advancement.**

There’s a big gap in getting work out of the lab and into a format that venture capitalists can invest in, so I created Remeditex as a means of filling that void. Scientists will tell you that, until you have someone who’ll put some money into their research, it’s not going anywhere. The reason for the gap is that the failure rate is so high, so most philanthropists simply won’t take that level of risk, and traditional grants often run out before the research is commercially viable. Scientists refer to this gap in funding as the “the valley of death,” because that’s where so much research dies. We have many medical schools in Texas, but so much of the research being done just isn’t seeing the light of day. I want Texas to be a hotbed of venture capital investments, and I want people to know that – if they want to invest in life science – this is where they need to be.





**Q: The guiding principal behind the Lyda Hill Foundation is “Science is the answer.” Can you please explain why this idea has become so central to your philanthropic life?**

I truly believe that every issue our world faces – poverty, disease, climate change, or war – can be successfully approached in a scientific way. Whatever our problems are, science can help solve them. Even things that people don’t conventionally link to science, like crime and other social issues, can be examined in a scientific way. I also think that science has so much to teach us – and it is often the one “truth” about which people can’t argue.

**Q: You have served a leadership role at Southwestern Medical Foundation for nearly two decades and were instrumental in guiding the publication of *Perspectives* magazine. Why have you continued to support the organization?**

I’m practical. I love and need to see results, and Southwestern Medical Foundation helps UT Southwestern deliver them in spades. It has created thousands of jobs, produced great science, and pushed the boundaries of technology over and over again. It is a wonderful part of our community and one of the best medical institutions worldwide. You never know what you have at home until you travel, and I’ve traveled quite a bit. We have a jewel here in Dallas, and I want more people to recognize it.

**Q: If you could have the opportunity to solve one problem related to health and medicine, what would it be?**

I guess it would have to be cancer, which has touched my life in a very personal way. I was diagnosed with breast cancer and had my first mastectomy 33 years ago, and my family has lost a number of people younger than I am to the disease. And, frankly, cancer impacts everyone in some way. It is such a complex disease that I also think that when we find the answer to cancer, we’ll find the answer to a lot of other things.

**Q: You are a lifelong athlete and a vocal advocate of physical fitness. Please explain why you feel so strongly about exercise?**

Science tells us that exercise helps you live longer; it’s as simple as that. When you’re fit, disease comes later in life and is less likely to take you down. And, beyond that, exercise is one of the things that makes you feel good about yourself, particularly in light of all the dietary challenges that Americans face. I also believe that our attitude about aging has a lot to do with how we age, and there’s a large segment of the population that needs a change in attitude. It’s not the number of facelifts; it’s the number of workouts that is going to make the difference. You’re given this body, and what you put in is what you’re going to get out.

**Q: You created the Volunteer Connection in our community years ago, which promoted volunteerism throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth area. What motivated you to start the organization, and what was the philosophy behind it?**

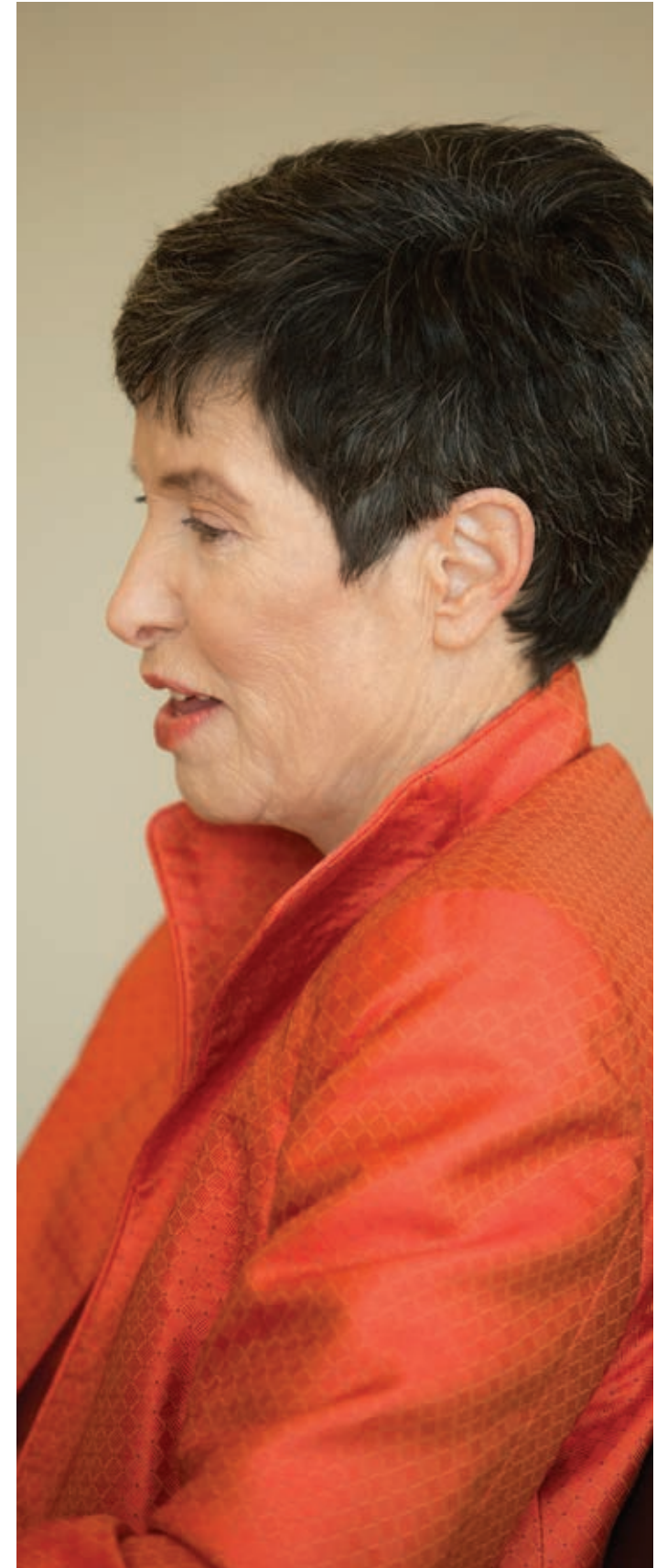
Everybody can volunteer; everybody can contribute. It’s just a matter of figuring out what organization fits your priorities. Volunteer Connection really was created to solve a problem. In a mobile society like ours, there are a lot of people who want to volunteer, and a lot of agencies that need the volunteers, so we wanted to find a way to put them together. I initially just set out to prove that it could work, but it was so overwhelmingly successful that I didn’t need to prove anything. The model eventually was replicated in 70 cities across America. Although the original Volunteer Connection is gone now, the need is still great, so we’re creating a new organization – Voly – that will use social media to help people connect with each other and with volunteer opportunities. We need to reach young people and make them realize that the most fun you can have in life is to give to others. The real rewards come from what you give, not from what you get. It’s an old saying, but anyone who has spent any time volunteering knows it’s true.

**Q: What do you think the future holds for you personally?**

I’m so excited, because there’s so much to do. There’s so much to learn. They say the older you get, the more you get like you – and I think that’s definitely the case for me. I’m getting to explore things I’ve always loved – science and medicine. This is the next chapter in my life. The first, when I was young, was the learning chapter; and then I had the entrepreneurial chapter, when I concentrated on building businesses; and now I’m lucky enough to be in the philanthropy chapter.

**Q: How do you feel about being honored with the Charles Cameron Sprague Community Service Award?**

Being recognized by your peers is always the most special honor of all. I’m delighted that I’ve identified projects that people have wanted to be a part of through the years, and I’ve been fortunate to have led organizations that people have wanted to join. If you run in front of the band fast enough, you’ll look like you’re leading it! You have to get out there early! It is particularly wonderful to receive an award named for Charlie Sprague, who was a great leader. I’m also moved to be in the phenomenal company of all those who’ve received this wonderful honor ahead of me.







**Ute and Rolf Haberecht:**  
**Changing the world through technology**

Fueled by imagination and an infectious enthusiasm for the wonder of invention, Dr. Rolf Haberecht and his wife, Ute, have spent much of their lives looking for ways to teach and inspire others.

With an unsurpassed passion for all things technological, the couple has infused the Dallas community with their creativity and commitment to educating the next generation of scientists.

Born and raised in Germany, the Haberechts made their home in Dallas more than 50 years ago, when Dr. Haberecht was recruited to work at Texas Instruments as a researcher. During his 22-year career with TI, he rose to corporate vice president, responsible for the company's worldwide semiconductor operations.

In 1984 he struck out on his own to co-found VLSIP Technologies, now a worldwide manufacturer of electronic medical modules. A lifelong inventor, he holds a number of patents, one of which is part of the Chip Collection in the Smithsonian.

Longtime champions of medical research, the Haberechts gave \$1 million earlier this year toward construction of UT Southwestern Medical Center's new \$800 million William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital. The couple has previously donated more than \$4 million to the medical center, which has recognized them with the naming of the Rolf and Ute Haberecht Administration and Academic Center of the UT Southwestern



Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, the Rolf and Ute Schwarz Haberecht Deanship of the UT Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and the Haberecht Family Fund in Honor of Kern Wildenthal, M.D., Ph.D.

Perhaps their most personal project, the Haberecht Wild-Hare Idea Program, was created by the couple to foster speculative research based on innovative and controversial ideas. Begun by the couple more than a decade ago, the program has spawned many ideas, one of which has resulted in promising drugs to treat neurodegenerative disorders. These early-stage compounds may hold promise in fighting Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease and cystic fibrosis.

Dr. Haberecht is a longtime member of the Board of Visitors for UT Southwestern University Hospitals & Clinics and the Southwestern Medical Foundation Board of Trustees. He is also a trustee of the Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Greifswald and a master's degree and doctorate in chemistry and physics from the Technical University in Berlin. Dr. Haberecht also holds a Master of Business Administration from Southern Methodist University.

Here, the couple reflect on their version of the "American Dream" and express their thoughts about the union of creativity and science.



**Q: What brought you to the United States and, specifically, to the Dallas area?**

**Dr. Haberecht:** It was my dream to live in this great country and pursue what is called the "American Dream." After completing university in Europe, I received an offer to work on semiconductor research in the U.S. I arrived in New York City via freighter! I eventually met Ute when I returned to Germany for a business trip, and we clicked. I had secured a junior engineering job at Texas Instruments in Dallas, and immediately after marrying, we moved to Texas. That was 51 years ago. Dallas became our home; we never moved away.

**Q: Who or what have been the greatest influences in your lives?**

**Dr. Haberecht:** I'd have to say my parents and grandparents, who stressed core values of education and integrity and reminded me to always do what I say I am going to do.

**Mrs. Haberecht:** Yes, I'd have to agree with Rolf. My parents and grandparents were big believers in working hard, doing your best, and giving back to others. I've tried to abide by those principles my whole life, and we've tried to instill those values in our children, as well.

**Q: Dr. Haberecht, you've said that your career at Texas Instruments influenced your philosophy of giving back to the community. Can you please explain?**

**Dr. Haberecht:** Yes, all of us at TI were very inspired to meet the challenging opportunities of exploring new semiconductor electronics, which changed the world and impacted everyone's lives. One day, Erik Jonsson, co-founder of TI, told me, "We are all coming to a point in our lives when we recognize that we have a responsibility to give back to our community with time and/or financial support." Ute and I understood his statement, and we took it from there.

**Q: Dr. Haberecht, you are widely regarded as a true scientific pioneer and entrepreneur. Please explain how you developed your great interest in science and technology.**

**Dr. Haberecht:** I have always been interested in connecting science and creation with reality, and I was lucky enough to have an opportunity to pursue my passion. I don't look at myself as a true scientific pioneer. I received a very strong education in basic science, which resulted in a job opportunity in the U.S., specifically to do basic research in the rapidly developing semiconductor industry – propelled by the transistor phenomenon discovered at Bell Labs. This discovery and field of research was advanced by Texas Instruments and others, who turned an amazing idea into a world-changing business.





**Q: There is no question that technology has changed – and will continue to change – the world we live in. Dr. Haberecht, as an entrepreneur, you have explored technological applications in many different industries. How do you view technology’s role in our society, and what inspired you to create your company, VLSIP?**

**Dr. Haberecht:** Yes, technology has changed, is continuously changing, and will continue to change. One can look at this from a different angle, starting with the Industrial Revolution in 1765, with James Watts’ steam engine. Next came Eli Whitney’s cotton gin in 1793 and A.G. Bell’s telephone in 1876. All of these were invented over a period of 111 years.

In 1879 Edison introduced the electric lights and ushered in the Electrical Age, a seven-decade span that saw the invention of the Benz gasoline engine, the electronic vacuum tube, and, in 1946, ENIAC [Electronic Numerical Integrator And Computer], a 100-foot long computer weighing 27 tons.

The invention of the transistor in 1947 ushered in the Electronic Age, which covered a three-decade span. This period gave us the first transistor radio, the microchip, the DOD [Department of Defense] Internet, the hand-held calculator, video games, wireless phones, the first international fax (six minutes per page) and the first implanted medical devices.

In 1977 we entered the Information Age, with Apple, IBM, single optical fiber and the World Wide Web. In 2000 the world had 600 million personal computers.

This brought us to the Bioelectronics Information Age, which – in a very short period of time – dramatically expanded to include miniaturization, major medical applications involving DNA, biocompatible implanted functions, and communications between the human body and doctors and researchers via electronic devices.

It’s quite amazing when you understand how quickly things are changing. While it took more than a century for both the steam engine and the telephone to be invented, the world now is changing exponentially from decade to decade. The pace has just exploded.

It has always been my goal to participate as an entrepreneur in the ever-changing electronic world. With the unwavering support of Ute and our two children, I participated as an entrepreneur, co-founding VLSIP nearly 30 years ago. A large portion of the company’s business is focused on medical devices used for cardiovascular disease, neuro-stimulation, and medical imaging, all of which are areas of enormous growth.

**Q: The Wild-Hare Idea Program you established at UT Southwestern is among the medical center’s most innovative and rewarding endowments. Can you please explain what motivated its creation?**

**Dr. Haberecht:** Many great discoveries begin with imaginative, out-of-the-box ideas that are, as yet, far too controversial for traditional funding. Ute and I have always been impressed by the high quality of research being done at UT Southwestern, and this program is exciting because it provides an opportunity to help launch an idea that might otherwise disappear into the closet. Ute and I brought the Wild-Hare proposal to Dr. [Kern] Wildenthal and Dr. [Charles] Sprague nearly two decades ago, and it was enthusiastically accepted.

**Mrs. Haberecht:** We are very happy to see young scientists have a chance to explore where their novel ideas may take them.



**Q: Mrs. Haberecht, you both have been great champions of education. Can you please explain the role that education has had in your own life, and tell us what educational opportunities you hope to create for others?**

**Mrs. Haberecht:** My parents and grandparents were very much interested in books and education and instilled in my sisters and me the importance of both. I still hear my father’s voice saying, “Education and books will open many doors for you and bring joy to your life.” With this in mind, Rolf and I have supported education and educational institutions in the Dallas community such as the Lamplighter School, St. Mark’s School, and the Episcopal School of Dallas with volunteer time and financial donations. Of particular interest to me was Erik Jonsson’s visionary program to introduce computers to third and fourth graders at the Lamplighter School, in order to study student receptivity to learning with computers. The success of this project here in Dallas was reported on the front page of *The New York Times* in 1982, which was such a thrill for us. Today, computers are an integral part of everyday classroom life across the country, and we were very proud to be part of a pilot program that helped turn that wonderful idea into a reality.



**Q: Dr. Haberecht, you have served a leadership role at Southwestern Medical Foundation for many years. Why have you continued to support the organization with such loyalty?**

**Dr. Haberecht:** I have been privileged to serve at the Southwestern Medical Foundation in various leadership roles. This involvement has led to a great and sincere appreciation for, as well as loyalty to, both the Foundation and UT Southwestern. With the kind of high-quality research being done at the medical center, the possibilities are endless.

**Q: What do you think the future holds for you personally – both as a couple, and as individuals?**

**Dr. Haberecht:** We have our roots in the Dallas community. Our children, Michael and Caroline, were born and raised in Dallas. We fulfilled the American Dream here. Going forward, we will continue to support UT Southwestern and the Foundation and want to encourage others, including industries, to do the same.

**Q: What was your reaction upon hearing that you were being honored with the Charles Cameron Sprague Community Service Award?**

**Dr. Haberecht:** Ute and I do not expect accolades for the work we do, but this is a great honor that we are extremely proud to accept. After hearing of our nomination for this prestigious award, we were both humbled and practically speechless.

**Mrs. Haberecht:** Yes, this is a truly wonderful honor, made even more so because of how highly we think of Southwestern Medical Foundation’s leadership. ■