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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES  
SIX NEW TRUSTEES**

*Community Leaders Lend Talents and Expertise to Broaden Foundation's Impact*

DALLAS – February 24, 2022 – To help advance and inspire medical progress, [Southwestern Medical Foundation](#) elected six new Trustees at the Board's recent annual meeting. The exemplary group is a mix of philanthropic and business leaders who are well respected for their contributions and community involvement in our region.

The Foundation's new Trustees are: Cheryl D. Alston, Executive Director and Chief Investment Officer, Employees' Retirement Fund of the City of Dallas; Dawn Zierk, Community Philanthropist; Imran Khan, Co-Founder and CEO, Verishop; Kathleen J. Wu, Partner, Hunton Andrews Kurth; Pilar Tabarnero Henry, Community Philanthropist; and Shonn Brown, Vice President & Deputy General Counsel, Kimberly-Clark Corporation.

"I am honored to welcome our newest Board members," said James R. Huffines, Chairman of Southwestern Medical Foundation. "Each joins us ready to lead forward during this exciting time of growth and expansion in North Texas. Their diverse perspectives and experiences energize our efforts to broaden the reach of our mission and inspire progress in medicine."

The new Trustees join a group of renowned and dedicated leaders, whose fundraising initiatives have enabled tremendous innovation and growth in the scientific and medical communities of Dallas.

As a public charitable corporation, Southwestern Medical Foundation was created by community leaders to rally citizens in support of the highest quality health care possible in the Southwestern U.S. Today, the Foundation's mission remains to connect donors with innovative programs and serve as a sustainable funding source for leading-edge medical research, medical education, and patient care. Southwestern Medical Foundation manages a portfolio of \$1.3 billion in long-term pooled assets, arrayed across 1000 funds, of which half are permanently endowed for the benefit of UT Southwestern Medical Center.

"This outstanding group of community leaders makes a tremendous addition to our Foundation Board," said Kathleen M. Gibson, President and CEO of Southwestern Medical Foundation. "We have much to accomplish in the coming years, and we thank our Trustees for their willingness to devote their valuable time and expertise that will assure the Foundation's strategic and lasting impact in shaping our future."

The capacity of the Foundation’s six new Trustees to chart a course for the future of health care is exemplified by their unique qualifications across business, finance, technology, real estate, and philanthropy.

The New Trustees are:

	<p><b>Cheryl D. Alston:</b> Since 2004, Ms. Alston has been the Executive Director and Chief Investment Officer of the Employees’ Retirement Fund of the City of Dallas, a \$4 billion pension plan for the City’s civilian employees. She has over 25 years of expertise in the financial services industry and previously served as an Executive with CIGNA Retirement &amp; Investment Services. Prior to CIGNA, she was Corporate Banking Officer at Chase Global Services. Her service on various nonprofit boards and foundations includes a two-term appointment by President Barack Obama to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) Advisory Committee. In addition, she sat on the UT Southwestern Presidential Advisory Board and was an independent board director of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas, ending in 2021. She has an M.B.A. in Finance from the Leonard N. Stern School at New York University and a B.S. in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania.</p>
	<p><b>Dawn Zierk:</b> A Dallas resident since 2020, Mrs. Zierk is an after-school tutor at Polk Elementary and volunteers at Bonton Farms and Aunt Bette’s Food Pantry. She met her husband, David, while working as a financial analyst at Cisco Systems in San Jose, CA. She left the business world to pursue her passion for improving the community, serving on the board of Side-by-Side in Marin County, a non-profit organization serving vulnerable youth and their families. In 2013, she moved to Hawaii, where she volunteered at her sons’ school and established and coached an after-school robotics program. She continued fundraising as Chair of the Kukio Community Fund and other events, including her church’s capital campaign. Mrs. Zierk earned a B.S. in Biology from Binghamton University and an M.B.A. with a concentration in finance from Syracuse University.</p>



**Imran Khan:** As the co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Verishop, a social commerce company, Mr. Khan’s mission is to create a more joyful shopping experience for its community. He is also founder and CEO of Proem Asset Management, an investment firm that focuses on the technology space. Prior to co-founding Verishop, Mr. Khan served as Snap Inc.’s Chief Strategy Officer, where he oversaw the company’s corporate strategy, revenue generation, business operations, and partnerships. Under his leadership, Snap’s annual revenue run rate increased to \$1.6 billion from zero in less than four years. Previously, Mr. Khan was a Managing Director and Head of Global Internet Investment Banking at Credit Suisse where he advised on more than \$45 billion worth of Internet M&A and financing transactions. Before joining Credit Suisse, he held the role of Managing Director and Head of Global Internet Research at JPMorgan Chase.



**Kathleen J. Wu:** Ms. Wu, a partner at the law firm of Hunton Andrews Kurth, has built a real estate and finance transactions practice with a broad wingspan that crosses multiple industries and disciplines and serves a national clientele from Wall Street to California. Kathleen has used her considerable experience to counsel a broad spectrum of clients with mortgage loan origination, loan servicing issues, complex financings, joint ventures, asset management, construction and ground-up developments, affordable housing, data centers, industrial, retail, and warehouse properties, portfolios, and hospitality transactions. Her clients include private and public companies, hotel chains, governmental authorities, investment banks, syndicators, real estate developers, lenders, loan servicers, and other entities involved in the construction, sale, financing, servicing, leasing, and management of real property and other related assets. Kathleen has sat at just about every conceivable seat at the real estate table, giving her a valuable perspective on all the moving parts in a deal. Ms. Wu’s civic engagement is extensive including currently serving as Chair of the Board of Regents for Texas Women’s University, the President of the United States Tennis Association Foundation, and was recently inducted into the Texas Philosophical Society.



**Shonn Brown:** Ms. Brown is a recognized corporate and community leader for her strategic planning, risk management, governance, and advocacy skills. She is a seasoned litigation and trial attorney with over 20 years of experience as a trusted and influential business advisor. Since 2019, she has been the chief global litigation counsel for Kimberly-Clark Corporation, a \$19 billion consumer packaged goods company. Prior to Kimberly-Clark, she was a partner in the law firm Lynn Pinker Hurst and Schwegmann LLP. She began her law practice at Locke Lord LLP. She serves as Chair-Elect for Board of Trustees at The Hockaday School and on the Board of Directors the Dallas Museum of Art, among other various non-profit organizations. Ms. Brown is consistently recognized by her peers and named one of the Top 500 business leaders in Dallas. She is a zealous advocate for equality, with an emphasis on gender and racial equity. She is an alumna of Southern Methodist University where she received both her Bachelor of Science and Juris Doctorate degrees.



**Pilar Tabarnero Henry:** Born and raised in Madrid, Spain, Ms. Henry obtained her BA in Economics and Finance from the Colegio Universitario de Estudios Financieros. She moved to the U.S. to earn a Master of Business Administration from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth. She has worked for McKinsey and Company in Spain, and for PepsiCo and Revlon in New York. In 2003, she and her family moved to Dallas, where she is a member of the Meadows Museum Advisory Council, and a Board member at both the Meadows School at Southern Methodist University and the Dallas Theater Center. She is a former board member of The Arts Community Alliance (TACA). Ms. Henry has chaired various fundraising efforts, including DTC's Centerstage Gala, the Meadows Museum's inaugural Masterpiece Gala, as well as fundraising campaigns for the Hockaday School and Greenhill School.

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### **ABOUT SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL FOUNDATION**

Southwestern Medical Foundation is a public charity and a registered 501(c)(3) organized in 1939 with a question: “Why not a great medical center in the Southwestern United States?” The Foundation was created to rally citizens in support of the highest quality health care possible in the Southwestern U.S. Out of that community vision, UT Southwestern Medical Center emerged. Today it remains the Foundation’s partner and most significant beneficiary. Southwestern Medical Foundation is guided by four core principles: Service to Community, Vision of Excellence, Mindful Stewardship, and Best Outcomes. Each principle is a promise to donors, beneficiaries, and generations to come that the Foundation is dedicated to bringing the gift of better health to the Southwest and the world beyond. Southwestern Medical Foundation holds a 100 out of 100 Encompass rating with Charity Navigator and a Platinum rating with Candid (formerly Guidestar) – the highest status offered by each rating organization. These organizations rate governance, accountability, and transparency, supported by both qualitative and quantitative measures. Learn more at [swmedical.org](http://swmedical.org).

