

Ross Foundation Supports Infectious Disease Expert

Dr. Temple Williams Honored by \$100,000 Gift

Last November, The Dale and Deborah Ross Foundation gave \$100,000 to Baylor College of Medicine in support of Temple Williams, M.D., Professor of Medicine and internationally renowned infectious disease clinician and researcher. This was the Rosses' first gift to the College, but they are not strangers to Baylor or Dr. Williams.

"Temple Williams has an outstanding reputation as a physician in the area of infectious disease and has had an illustrious career, but beyond that, he is just a quality human being and a delightful person," said Dale Ross. "He has been a wonderful friend to my family, and my wife, Deborah, and I wanted our gift to be a tribute to him."

An entrepreneur in the medical supply and health services fields, Mr. Ross has long known about Baylor's leadership position in biomedical science. Currently, he heads US Oncology, a nationwide network of nearly 80 comprehensive cancer centers, which he founded in 1992. Mr. Ross met Dr. Williams in 1982 when he started HMSS (Home Medical Support Services), which offered nursing and pharmacy support for patients requiring long-term IV therapy in their homes. As Chief of Baylor's Infectious Diseases Clinic at The Methodist Hospital, Dr. Williams treats many patients requiring this type of care.

The professional relationship between the two men grew into a close friendship. Over the years, Mr. Ross and Dr. Williams have been fly-fishing all over the world—from Alaska to the Bahamas—and recently went on a hunting expedition to Argentina.

Dr. Williams' history at Baylor College of Medicine is even longer than his friendship with the Rosses. In fact, since he came to Baylor as a medical student in 1955, Dr. Williams has spent only five years of his career away from the College. After receiving his medical degree in 1959, he left to complete his internship at Duke University Hospital. In 1961, he returned to



Dr. Williams (left) and Mr. Ross have enjoyed a long professional relationship, as well as a close personal one that includes fishing and hunting expeditions around the world.

Baylor for his residency and clinical fellowship in infectious diseases and then left once more for a prestigious research position at the National Institutes of Health. Since joining Baylor's faculty full-time in 1965, Dr. Williams has wholeheartedly dedicated himself to his Baylor students, patients, and research.

His commitment to education and mentoring medical students and residents is legendary at the College. Every year from 1968 until 1982, Dr. Williams was cited for his excellence and interest in teaching, and in 1982, he was inducted into the Baylor College of Medicine Outstanding Faculty Hall of Fame. In 1998, he was again honored for his outstanding teaching, this time by the Baylor Alumni Association. In 2000, he received one of Baylor's highest honors: the Barbara and Corbin J. Robertson, Jr. Presidential Award for Excellence in Education.

Dr. Williams is one of the country's most respected clinical experts in infectious disease. His medical practice and research span the entire field, but he is particularly interested in antibiotics, fungal diseases, and surgical infections. Dr. Williams helped establish and currently oversees Baylor's Infectious Diseases Unit, the first clinic of this type in a private hospital.

His peers admire his devotion to his patients and to the profession of medicine. David J. Tweardy, M.D., chief of Baylor's Section of Infectious Diseases, recently stated, "Temple is irreplaceable when it comes to clinical knowledge. No one can match his depth and breadth in clinical expertise. He is the most selfless, humble, unassuming practitioner I know, and a true doctor and gentleman in every sense of the word."

Last year, the Board of Trustees recognized Dr. Williams' countless contributions to the College by establishing the Temple Williams, M.D. Chair in Infectious Diseases. The Board honored Dr. Williams further by appointing him the first chairholder. ☒