

Ray Walsh Foundation makes donation to charities for research

Members of Ray Walsh Foundation made a \$10,000 donation March 9 to The Methodist Hospital's Cell and Gene Therapy Department.

It is the largest gift presented by the foundation, which was started by members of an Atascocita family in memory of a beloved family member.

On July 18, of last year, longtime Atascocita resident and devoted family man Ray Walsh lost his battle with a rare and aggressive form of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. One week later, his family established Ray Walsh Foundation in his honor.

Ray Walsh Foundation is a non-profit corporation, established with the goal of helping to speed along a cure for blood cancers, which include all forms of lymphoma, leukemia and myeloma.

Ray Walsh Foundation selected Methodist primarily because of the new and innovative work the research team is performing everyday. According to Dr. George Carrum, oncologist at The Methodist Hospital, the doctors and research team at Methodist are looking for "new

approaches to treatment," including a "vaccine-like therapy" for certain types of blood cancers. Since the research done at Methodist is clinical research, the money donated to the Cell and Gene Therapy Department goes directly to patients or to new protocols.

Dr. Alex Preti, fellow oncologist at The Methodist Hospital, stated that the money donated by Ray Walsh Foundation came "at an important time" because his team is on the brink of new research that may help patients suffering from the more rare forms of lymphoma, where more traditional and established forms of chemotherapy treatment have not proven as effective.

Dr. Preti added that the new research they are developing will also help interpret biology better, which will translate into new protocols for drug therapy.

These therapies will be for patients battling myeloma, leukemia and lymphoma.

Last November, Ray Walsh Foundation hosted the first Ray Walsh Memorial Golf Tournament which yielded 118 golfers and raised more than \$12,000.

Combined with charitable gifts, Ray Walsh Foundation raised approximately \$20,000 for cancer research and cancer patients in its first year.

The foundation made donations to the Leukemia and Lymphoma's Chicago Chapter, the Leukemia and Lymphoma's Texas Gulf Coast Chapter and MD Anderson Cancer Center. For Christmas 2005, Ray Walsh Foundation adopted the family of a 4-year-old boy battling leukemia and provided food, toys and gift cards to the needy and thankful family.

Members of Ray Walsh Foundation hope their efforts will one day offer cancer patients hope, where before there was none, and a new chance for life. Ray Walsh Foundation was established after a dearly loved man was taken from this life much too soon, and the Foundation's goal is to prevent this from happening to anyone else. For more information on Ray Walsh Foundation, including donations and the Second Annual Ray Walsh Memorial Golf Tournament scheduled for Nov. 3, at the Clubs of Kingwood-Atascocita course, please visit www.raywalsh-foundation.org