

## Scheidel Foundation Awards Grant to Dr. Susan Franks

The Scheidel Foundation of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, a renowned private philanthropic foundation, founded by the late Herbert W. Scheidel, announced in late December that they had approved a grant to help fund the Guided Imagery Program developed by Dr. Susan Franks, PhD, Department of Family Medicine and Primary Care Research Institute and co-PI, Dr. Paul Bowman, MD, Professor UNT Health Science Center, Chairman of Pediatrics.

The grant will help develop, market and distribute imagery training materials including 2 books, 1 workbook and 2 CDs to 40 or more partner cancer support centers throughout the United States. Dr. Franks and her staff will be responsible for the management of the program, including the development of all materials, the marketing and distributing of these materials, evaluation of the program and fundraising efforts for year 2 of the program.

Imagery therapy is a cognitive-behavioral technique in which a patient is guided in imaging a relaxing scene or series of experiences. There have been significant advances that imagery counseling contributes to the healing process and quality of life of cancer patients, yet the use of imagery in modern medical care of cancer patients has not been incorporated into the standard care of the cancer patient. The overall goal of this project is to initiate a strategy for integrating imagery into the care of cancer patients through resource development and distribution for convenient access, thus placing choices for hope and optimism in the hands of patients and their loved ones.

The specific aims of raising the consciousness in the care of cancer patients includes (1) developing a set of **TRIUMPH** (**T**rainin**G**, **R**esources, **I**n **U**nderstanding **M**y **P**ower for **H**ealing) materials (books, work-

-books and CDs) which may be used in the care of patients and their family, healthcare professionals and caregivers. (2) provide **TRIUMPH** materials and information to participating cancer support centers in the United States; and (3) evaluate the interest and usefulness of **TRIUMPH** to consumers.

The **TRIUMPH** program is planned for initial implementation and testing over a one-year period. Content materials will be provided by Dr. Frank Lawlis and Gerald White; experts in the development and implementation of imagery with cancer patients. Dr. Lawlis is a Clinical Psychologist who pioneered the development and research of imagery protocols in cancer treatment and is the author of *The Cure: A Hero's Journey with Cancer*, and *The Cancer Imagery Workbook*. Mr. White is a survivor of a terminal cancer diagnosis, who credits his recovery to an imagery technique that he developed and utilized. He is the author of *Three Months to Life*. These resources are being provided by the authors for the **TRIUMPH** program. Each author will also contribute an imagery induction CD based on their own unique approach to working with cancer patients.

Upon IRB approval, cancer support centers will immediately be recruited for participation in dissemination of the resource package and monitoring its utilization. Dr. Lawlis and Mr. White will conduct lecture tours to selected participating cancer centers in order to generate interest among healthcare staff; the patients and families they serve; and the larger community in which the centers are located.

Dr. Susan Franks, PhD will manage the TRIUMPH project

