



CHARTING PROGRESS

SAN ANTONIO MEDICAL FOUNDATION • *Founders and Directors of the South Texas Medical Center*

Foundation Launches Website to Catalog Research Projects

The San Antonio Medical Foundation has launched a landmark website that will catalog bioscience research projects being conducted in San Antonio. The goal is to foster collaboration among San Antonio research institutions and those at the national and international levels and to assist the city's economic development efforts.

"San Antonio is a dynamic hub of research," said Dr. Bryan J. Alsip, chair of the Foundation in introducing the new endeavor. "Nothing like this website exists elsewhere; it will foster collaboration here and around the world."

The San Antonio Bioscience Research Database at www.sabioscienceresearch.org includes about 595 bioscience research projects underway at 11 public, private and military organizations in the city. Projects are organized according to the type of research, such as basic research, drug discovery and medical

devices. Projects are then further divided into 12 focus areas, such as aging, cancer or trauma, and finally by research organization.

The website can be updated by each participating institution or company through a password-protected system. The project information provided by the research organizations typically includes the subject matter, status of the project, funding, principal investigators and other data.



The landmark website catalogs bioscience research projects being conducted in San Antonio.

Foundation Board member Dr. Gabriele Niederauer chaired the steering committee that developed the concept and worked with local marketing and advertising firm Texas Creative, which developed the site. The committee members from participating research organizations spent a full year developing the protocols, designing it for interaction and then gathering all the data.

"All of us knew there was much significant bioscience research being done in San Antonio, but I'm not sure any of us knew both the quantity and sheer breadth of what is being studied," said Alsip.

The website will allow local scientists and researchers to connect and collaborate with other San Antonio research groups and for scientists around the country and world to seek collaborative opportunities. The project will foster economic development by showcasing the capabilities of San Antonio organizations and will serve as a recruitment tool for local research groups as scientists nationally and internationally learn about the research work being done in San Antonio.

Original Participating Research Organizations

Military

- Brooke Army Medical Center
- Naval Medical Research Unit—San Antonio
- South Texas Veterans Health Care System
- USAF 59th Medical Wing, Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center

Nonprofit

- BioBridge Global
- Southwest Research Institute
- Texas Biomedical Research Institute
- UT Health San Antonio
- University of Texas at San Antonio

Companies

- Biomedical Development Corp.
- Cancer Insight, LLC
- EO2 Concepts

Healthcare and Bioscience Industry Continues Growth in San Antonio

Sales and services in the San Antonio healthcare and bioscience industry grew by more than \$6 billion in the last two years, according to a San Antonio Chamber of Commerce report.

Trinity University professors Richard Butler and Mary Steff, who completed the biannual study, reported that the industry contributed \$37 billion to the San Antonio economy in 2015 compared with \$30.6 billion in 2013. The results include UT Health San Antonio, the new name of the UT Health Science Center; military medicine; and multiplier effects.

The healthcare and bioscience sector is easily the largest employer in San Antonio, with 172,094 employees, compared with more than 164,500 in 2013. More than one in six San Antonians work in the industry, which includes not only direct health and medical services but also related endeavors, such as healthcare insurance and pharmaceuticals.

The average salary of those working in the healthcare and bioscience industry continues to outpace the average wage in the city. The average healthcare salary in San Antonio was \$51,731 in 2015, while the average wage was \$46,411 for all fields. The total payroll for the sector reached \$8.9 billion in 2015.

With its economic impact of \$37 billion, the healthcare and bioscience industry probably qualifies as the largest industry in San Antonio, though the status cannot be confirmed, since the numbers for the competing sectors of military and manufacturing have not been updated recently.

The healthcare and bioscience industry in San Antonio has doubled in size since 2005 and is more than six times its size 25 years ago. During the last 10 years, the healthcare and bioscience industry has added 50,000 new jobs in San Antonio.

As the population continues to grow and age, the industry sector is also expected to continue growing in San Antonio, an experience that mirrors the situation at the national level.

The Biotechnology Innovation Organization reported in June that bioscience firms in the U.S. employed 1.66 million people in 2016, an increase of 147,000 jobs since 2001. Likewise, healthcare jobs are expected to have the fastest employment growth and to add the most jobs between 2014 and 2024, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.



Foundation Sets Annual Educational Lecture

Rear Admiral Susan Blumenthal, M.D., M.P.A., will present the Foundation's annual educational lecture on March 23. Blumenthal is a global health expert, psychiatrist and public health advocate whose service includes more than two decades as a senior government health leader in the administrations of four U.S. presidents.

She served as the first Deputy Assistant Secretary for Women's Health and Director of the Office on Women's Health in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She also has been Assistant Surgeon General of the U.S. and Senior Global Health Advisor in HHS and has held positions at the National Institutes of Health.

START Expands Clinical Trials Sites

The START Cancer Center located in the South Texas Medical Center has opened a comprehensive Phase I clinical trials program in Taiwan, the sixth in its global network of Phase I clinical research sites. START Taipei is located at Taipei Medical University, ranked by QS World University Rankings as one of the world's top 100 universities at which to study medicine.

Other sites in the START clinical trials program include two in Madrid, one in Shanghai, one in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and one in San Antonio at START's flagship site, which opened in 2007.

START conducts the world's largest physician-owned Phase I medical oncology program, putting more than 600 patients per year on Phase I trials. The program focuses on speeding completion of research by using all 24 hours of the clock. When one center closes for the day, another one is just beginning the day.

UT Health San Antonio and Faculty Member Recognized

Expertscape has named Ralph DeFronzo, M.D., professor of medicine at UT Health San Antonio, director of the UT Health Diabetes Research Unit and deputy director of the Texas Diabetes Institute, as one of the top five physicians in the field of type 2 diabetes mellitus. UT Health San Antonio, previously known as the UT Health Science Center, also was named as one of the top institutions in the U.S. in the field. Both DeFronzo and UT Health San Antonio were recognized at the American Diabetes Association's 74th Scientific Sessions for being at the forefront of research for this worldwide epidemic.

Dr. DeFronzo's research focuses on pathogenesis and treatment of type 2 diabetes mellitus, Insulin Resistance Syndrome and etiology and treatment of diabetic nephropathy. He has helped define the biochemical and molecular disturbances responsible for insulin resistance in type 2 diabetes mellitus.

New Cancer Care Program Announced

The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center announced an affiliation to create a comprehensive and clinically integrated cancer care program in San Antonio.

Beginning in mid-2017, the UT Health San Antonio MD Anderson Cancer Center will provide adult cancer patients in South Texas greater access to the most advanced oncology care available.

Through this affiliation, the Cancer Therapy & Research Center (CTRC) will collaborate as part of MD Anderson's international network of hospitals and healthcare systems. The affiliation will provide increased access to MD Anderson's treatment protocols, standards of care, extensive clinical trials and translational research in San Antonio.

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The mission of the San Antonio Medical Foundation is to provide leadership and active stewardship of our land and other assets to improve health care, advance biomedical science and enhance community well-being.

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