



CHARTING PROGRESS

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

Methodist Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Receives Designation

The neonatal intensive care unit at Methodist Hospital in the South Texas Medical Center has received the Level IV designation, the highest level, from the Texas Department of State Health Services. The hospital is the only facility in Central Texas to receive the designation and one of only seven in the state.

The neonatal intensive care unit at Methodist Hospital is San Antonio's largest with 94 rooms in 19,000 square feet and includes in-house, board-certified neonatologists and advanced nurse practitioners providing 24-hour care.

"This designation recognizes the fact that Methodist Hospital is among a select group of hospitals in Texas that provide the best care for these fragile infants and their families," said Allen Harrison, CEO of Methodist Hospital and Methodist Children's Hospital.

Robert Lenza, CEO of Methodist Children's Hospital and Women's Services, emphasizes that the hospital focuses on providing a comprehensive range of services. "It's not one specific piece of the program that makes us the best; but by having an integrated process, we provide the most comprehensive care for infants and their families."

Methodist Children's Hospital opened in 1998 as the first hospital in South Texas built especially for children. The hospital recently concluded a major expansion that includes a seven-story patient tower with 96 private rooms, 40 private ER treatment rooms and a 94-bed newborn intensive care

unit, the region's largest.

With more than 400 physicians specializing in the care of children, the hospital has grown to become one of the leading U.S. hospitals providing bone marrow and stem cell transplants for children.



The Methodist Children's Hospital, which recently added a seven-story patient tower, has received the Level IV designation.

In response to House Bill 15 passed in the 83rd Texas Legislature, the Department of State Health Services was required to develop criteria for designating levels of neonatal and maternal care, including specifying the minimum requirements for each level—one through four. Any NICU in Texas that received Medicaid reimbursements must undergo the designation process by September 2018 to continue collecting Medicaid funds.

The certification process at Methodist Hospital began in August 2016 and included extensive documentation, records review, a site visit and interviews.

New Home Planned for UT Institute for Aging Studies



An artist's rendering of the Barshop Institute (left) shows the connecting bridge to the South Texas Research Facility.

UT Health San Antonio broke ground Oct. 17 for a three-story building to house the Barshop Institute for Longevity & Aging Studies.

Located at the corner of Floyd Curl and Charles Katz drives in the South Texas Medical Center, the 108,000 square foot building will provide space for a new era of research and discovery in the field of aging.

The first floor will include open research labs, laboratory support, administrative and research faculty offices and a large vivarium with support spaces and cage wash facilities. The second and third floors will accommodate future research labs and faculty offices. An open air bridge will cross above Floyd Curl Drive and connect the building to the South Texas

Research Facility.

The roots of a world-class center for aging research date to 1991 when Dr. Edward J. Masoro founded the UT Health Science Center's Aging Research and Education Center through a National Institutes of Health grant. In 2001, the Barshop Institute was created through a donation from Sam and Ann Barshop.

The institute has grown into one of the world's premier aging research centers. It now is the only aging-intensive research institute in the country to have four designations: two NIA-funded centers (Nathan Shock and Claude D. Pepper), a testing site of the NIA-sponsored interventions Testing Program and a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center.

The Barshop Institute has pioneered research in the compound rapamycin, currently being tested in clinical trials for tumor suppression.

Construction on the \$70.2 million building should be completed in late 2019.

Alzheimer's Institute Strides Ahead

The Biggs Institute for Alzheimer's and Neurodegenerative Diseases has made another leap ahead by receiving a grant for equipment and hiring the founding director.

The John L. Santikos Charitable Foundation has given a \$2.3 million grant to UT Health San Antonio to build the

Santikos CT and Nuclear Medicine Suite where high-powered radiological equipment will diagnose Alzheimer's disease and other age-related conditions. The state-of-the-art imaging suite is on the third floor of the Medical Arts & Research Center in the South Texas Medical Center.

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A widely published star researcher, Sudha Seshadri, M.D., has been recruited to begin work Dec. 1 as the Institute's founding director. Since 2005, Dr. Seshadri has served as professor of neurology and attending neurologist at the Boston University School of Medicine, where she completed her medical residency and served as chief resident in neurology. She earned her medical degree from All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi.

The Biggs Institute will not only conduct research but will also treat neurodegenerative diseases. The Institute's location with the Barshop Institute for Aging & Longevity will facilitate interactions between the two organizations.

The Santikos Suite will include high-powered magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and state-of-the-art nuclear medicine systems called SPECT-CT and PET-CT. The suite is credentialed to conduct studies in Alzheimer's, cancer and other diseases.

VIA to Offer Additional Service to Medical Center

In January, VIA Metropolitan Transit will begin offering service from the Stone Oak area to the South Texas Medical Center. Route 503 will run every 30 minutes during peak times from a new VIA Stone Oak Park & Ride facility that opens in January. Peak hours are from 5:45-9:15 a.m. and 3:30-6:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Service will operate every 60 minutes during off-peak times.

The new Stone Oak service is part of several service

improvements that will begin after Jan. 1. VIA also will replace existing diesel buses with new buses that use compressed natural gas. The CNG buses move VIA closer to their clean fuels goals.

Transportation Option Offered

You can get some relief from stressful traffic and volatile gas prices with a free carpool matching service offered by the Alamo Area Council of Governments. The service also provides rewards for green trips and reimbursement for an emergency ride home from work.

Residents of Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Guadalupe, Kendall, Medina and Wilson counties can join the service by going to www.NuRide.com on the Internet:

- Log on to NuRide with your email or Facebook account.
- Click "Find Rides" and provide your home and work addresses to find a match.
- Record your trips to get rewards.

On average, you will receive about \$1 in rewards for each trip you record. Rewards and coupons may be redeemed at Alamo Draffhouse, Krispy Kreme, Advanced Auto Parts and many more places.

The AACOG CARE Program also provides reimbursement for an emergency ride home from work if you've used alternative transportation to get there. For information about NuRide, call Lily Lowder at 210-362-5277 or email her at commutesolutions@aacog.com.

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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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