



CHARTING PROGRESS

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

Research Projects Mean Future Advances

Medical Center Celebrates 50 Years of Patient Service

In 1968, the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and University Hospital opened their doors, launching the South Texas Medical Center on a path of successful service to San Antonio and South Texas.

At a meeting hosted by the *Rivard Report* and Methodist Healthcare Ministries, Jim Reed, president of the San Antonio Medical Foundation, recounted the history of efforts to establish the Medical Center beginning in the 1940s. From beginnings on dairy farm land, the Medical Center now represents the largest concentration of the healthcare and bioscience industry in San Antonio.

healthcare to people in the area. Dr. William Henrich, president of UT Health San Antonio, looked to the future by focusing on the need for a mental health initiative that could mean adding a mental health hospital. He also cited the opportunities for technology transfer by bringing scientists together from throughout the city.

George B. Hernandez Jr., CEO/president of University Health System, also emphasized collaboration, citing the importance of work with other hospitals that helped address health issues caused when Hurricane Harvey hit the Texas coast last year. He also cited the problem with uninsured patients, saying it requires a national solution. "Texas has a 19th century approach that is done individually by county," he said.

Dr. Colleen Bridger, director of the San Antonio Metro Health District, addressed the district's emphasis on keeping people healthy. Policy changes, such as the San Antonio ordinance limiting the sale of tobacco to people over 21, will make a difference over time, since cancer is the leading cause of death. She said the environment must be addressed to give us cleaner air and system changes are important. "The mental health system needs to be blown up and redone," she said.

Jenna Saucedo-Herrera, CEO/president of the San Antonio Economic Development Foundation, said San Antonio "must find our niche, a way to differentiate ourselves from other cities." In the end, however, "we don't need a recruiting effort if we have a good quality of life."

Looking to the next 50 years, Hernandez says "the best way to predict the future is to help create it." Institutions at the South Texas Medical Center are doing just that by improving patients' health and looking for advancements in healthcare through cutting-edge research.

South Texas Medical Center Early Major Milestones

1947 San Antonio Medical Foundation established

1963 Southwest Texas Methodist Hospital opens

1960s-70s Bexar County Hospital, Veterans' Hospital, Baptist Hospital open

1968 Medical School and University Hospital dedicated

More than 58,000 employees in medical fields work at the Medical Center serving 5.75 million patients a year from throughout South Texas. The facilities include 15 hospitals and 80 medical office buildings as well as numerous businesses that provide services to that large employee and patient population.

From the original 200 acres of donated land, the Medical Center has grown to more than 900 acres, with approximately 220 acres available for development.

A panel discussion added perspective to the history of growth at the Medical Center and the importance of

Green Street Project Nears Completion

Floyd Curl Drive in the South Texas Medical Center will not only be a safer street but also a more aesthetically pleasing one when the "green street" project is completed next spring.

To ensure safety for pedestrians and bikers, the street is being retrofitted to include separate trails for each. The 10-foot wide bike trail will have a 4-foot buffer from the edge of the street; then another 4-foot wide strip will separate the 6-foot wide sidewalk from the bike path.

"Safety is a huge factor," said Bill Balthrope, chairman of the Medical Center Alliance, an organization of large tenants at the South Texas Medical Center. "The value of the project is that it creates a safe and healthy environment."

As the designation "green street" implies, the makeover of the street will include landscaping, not only along the sides of the street but also in the medians.

"Medians will be landscaped to provide better safety for pedestrians crossing the street," said Balthrope. "They won't be totally exposed in the middle of the street if they have to stop there."

When landscaping is completed, it will be maintained by a full-time crew hired by the Medical Center Alliance, as

are the other landscaped medians in the Medical Center.

The street will be the longest "green street" in San Antonio, stretching two miles from its beginning point at Fawn Meadow on the north to Louis Pasteur on the south. The Alliance hopes to eventually take the concept another four blocks to Huebner Road.

A joint project of the city of San Antonio, Texas Department of Transportation and the Medical Center Alliance, the expectation is that Floyd Curl will be a safer and more pleasant environment for drivers, bikers and walkers. "The street should give a feel of a more comfortable place, which is important when people are there for medical care," said Balthrope.



The "green street" will have bike lanes and walking paths that are separated with landscaping to provide a safe environment.



Foundation Schedules Educational Luncheon

The San Antonio Medical Foundation will host its annual educational luncheon featuring Dr. Vivek H. Murthy, immediate past Surgeon General of the U.S., on April 18, 2019. Lunch will begin promptly at 11:45 a.m. at the Omni Colonnade, 9821 Colonnade Boulevard.

Dr. Murthy, who served as the 19th Surgeon General of America's doctor from December 2014 to April 2017, will speak on the topic "Healthcare: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow."

The son of immigrants from India became interested in medicine while watching his parents treat patients like family in his father's medical clinic in Miami. He holds a bachelor's degree from Harvard University and an M.D. and M.B.A. from Yale University.

Before becoming Surgeon General, Dr. Murthy co-founded an HIV/AIDS education program in India and the U.S., a community health partnership to train women to become healthcare providers and a software technology company that improves research collaboration in clinical trials.

He treated thousands of patients in his practice and taught hundreds of medical students and residents while a faculty member in internal medicine at Harvard Medical School. He has conducted research on vaccines.

Register online at www.samedfoundation.org. More information is available by calling 210-614-3724.

UT Health Receives Research Grants

Researchers at UT Health San Antonio and UT Health in Houston were awarded \$6 million in grants from the Department of Defense to expand their study of an antibody-based drug that would stem the spread of breast cancer to bone. UT Health San

Antonio received \$3.2 million for preclinical testing and UT Health in Houston received \$2.8 million for drug development.

UT Health San Antonio also has received approval of \$24 million in National Institutes of Health funding during the next five years under the Clinical and Translational Science Award Program. The grant marks the third time in 10 years that UT Health has received the highly competitive NIH grants to translate research discovery into improved patient care.

"This program will bring cutting-edge treatments to San Antonio in new clinical trials to help the most complicated-to-treat patients," said Robert A. Hromas, M.D., dean of the Long School of Medicine and vice president for medical affairs at UT Health San Antonio. "The program emphasizes maintaining the health of our communities and not just the treatment of illness."

Aging Institute Tops Out New Building

Less than a year after groundbreaking, the new home of the Sam & Ann Barshop Institute for Longevity & Aging Studies has reached a milestone in its construction, with the beam for the top of the structure being put in place.

The institute, located at the corner of Floyd Curl and Charles Katz drives in the South Texas Medical Center, ranks as one of the top aging institutes in the U.S. It brings together some of the world's leading scientists in aging and longevity research.

The new three-story, 109,000 square ft. building is a \$70 million project. The first floor will include open research labs, lab support, offices and a large vivarium with support spaces and cage wash facilities. The second and third floors will accommodate research labs and faculty offices.

Construction is expected to be completed by December 2019.

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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.

The San Antonio Medical Foundation relies on contributions for its funding. Contributions are tax deductible, because the Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization.