



CHARTING PROGRESS

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

University Health System Breaks Ground on Women’s & Children’s Hospital

The University Health System has started construction on a 12-story, 300-bed hospital in the South Texas Medical Center. The half-million-square-foot facility will have a 900-space patient and visitor parking garage connected to it.

Expected to open in late 2022, the \$500 million Women’s & Children’s Hospital will meet the needs of a fast-growing South Texas population. The new facilities will replace existing facilities built in the 1960s to provide better care to the community.

Considered the second phase of the health system’s capital improvement program, the hospital will be built without an increase in the tax rate. Favorable market conditions allowed for refinancing existing bonds used to build the Sky Tower at University Hospital and new facilities at the Robert B. Green campus downtown.

As an academic medical center in partnership with UT Health San Antonio, University Hospital is South Texas’ only Level IV maternity center. That means the hospital is uniquely prepared for high-risk deliveries and complications that can occur during pregnancy.

“The women, babies and children who come through the doors of this new hospital will have unique needs and challenges, and we will be there to meet them with compassion and kindness..”

*—George B. Hernandez Jr.
CEO, University Health System*

A team of maternal, neonatal and pediatric specialists will care for mother and baby through every step of pregnancy and delivery. Special amenities will include a dedicated OB/GYN emergency department and operating suites, large

private labor and delivery suites and the highest level NICU connected to the labor and delivery unit.

The hospital will include space for family members to stay overnight and a family center with lounge and educational resources.



The University Health System has broken ground on a Women’s & Children’s Hospital in the South Texas Medical Center.

The hospital’s children’s health specialists will provide comprehensive care for sick and injured children. Facilities will include a dedicated children’s emergency department, a children’s health rehab gym and a center with a theater, movie lounge, game room and indoor playground.

When a baby is born too soon or has a serious congenital condition, the Level IV Neonatology team will provide care. Amenities will include single-family rooms arranged in pods to optimize quality, comfort and efficiency; space for family members to stay overnight; and advanced treatments and diagnostic tools.

Shell space for future growth will be included in the project.

San Antonio Medical Foundation Announces Research Grants

The San Antonio Medical Foundation has approved four grants totaling \$584,010 to local bioscience projects being undertaken by teams at eight locally-based institutions. The Foundation established the grant program in 2015 to encourage collaboration between healthcare and bioscience

institutions in San Antonio, with the idea of providing grants that would seed new collaborative initiatives. The Foundation has now funded 13 new collaborative research projects for a total of \$1,739,065 since the program began.

Foundation Trustee Stephanie Chandler, who chairs the Grant Review Committee, noted that interest in the grant program has grown rapidly since the first grants were

Grant proposals are reviewed in light of the ability of their collaborative effort to leverage the strengths of each institution and raise the national and international research profile of the San Antonio bioscience and medical community.

A team of scientists from Texas Biomed, UT Health San Antonio and Southwest Research Institute received \$173,354 to focus on bladder cancer. Scientists anticipate that injection of a modified BCG vaccine into bladder cancer tumors will reduce the recurrence and progression of cancer.

Another team of scientists from UT Health San Antonio and UTSA received \$199,961 to focus on diabetes with a new approach that will improve clinical outcomes of islet transplantation.

A third team comprised of the San Antonio Fire Department, U.S. Air Force En Route Care Research Center and UT Health San Antonio received \$69,000 to pursue treatment of blunt traumatic cardiac arrest with the Abdominal Junctional Tourniquet. The team is not aware of any other EMS system pursuing such a treatment and hypothesizes that incorporating the cost-effective tool into EMS traumatic cardiac arrest protocol will save as many as 13 lives every year in Bexar County.

A fourth team comprised of the South Texas Regional

Medical Foundation Collaborative Grant Recipients

- San Antonio Fire Department
- South Texas Blood and Tissue Center
- South Texas Regional Advisory Council
- Southwest Research Institute
- Texas Biomedical Research Institute
- UT Health San Antonio
- University of Texas at San Antonio
- U.S. Air Force En Route Care Research Center

funded in 2016 when it drew 12 applications. “This year, the Foundation received 27 applications,” she said.



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Advisory Council, South Texas Blood and Tissue Center and UT Health San Antonio received \$75,000 to establish a mechanism to rapidly resupply low titer O+ whole blood (LTOWB) for use in hospitals in the event of a mass casualty incident or other unplanned event requiring a scaled response through an emergency collection of LTOWB from the existing Brother in Arms donor population.

Bioscience Database Grows to 2,200

The San Antonio Bioscience Research database website now includes more than 2,200 research projects underway at 13 San Antonio bioscience research organizations. The San Antonio Medical Foundation facilitated creation of the website that launched in September 2016 with 585 research projects listed. The website can be found at www.sabioscience.org.

Because bioscience is an economic driver in San Antonio, the database is a tool for economic development, since the information is easily accessible not only for other scientists but for companies and research institutions outside the city. The site gets hits from around the globe.

Foundation Now on Social Media

The San Antonio Medical Foundation is now posting more information on social media following a meeting with representatives of bioscience and healthcare organizations in the South Texas Medical Center and around the city. The posting is on Facebook.

The Medical Foundation plans to add other social media in the future and will work with other organizations to extend the reach for their information and news. Organizations are encouraged to forward their information to blithewiley3@gmail.com.

Foundation Plans Green Street Expansion

The San Antonio Medical Foundation plans a “green street” expansion to include Hamilton Wolfe Road in the next two years. The expansion will complement the recently completed “green street” along Floyd Curl Drive, a project initiated by the Medical Center Alliance.

The green street concept includes 10-foot wide paved bike paths separated from the street traffic with a 4-foot buffer; another 4-foot wide strip separates the 6-foot wide sidewalk from the bike path. The makeover also includes landscaping.

FDA Approves New Drug

Ruben Mesa, M.D., director of the Mays Cancer Center at UT Health San Antonio MD Anderson Cancer Center, is one of the researchers who shepherded a medication for a rare blood disorder through the FDA approval process.

The medicine called fedratinib will be only the second medicine available to treat a leukemia called myelofibrosis. It works on a specific gene mutation—JAK2—that causes bone marrow to make too many blood cells and causes inflammation. In the future, the medicine may be used to treat other conditions that are linked to JAK2 mutations, according to Mesa.

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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.

FOUNDERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE SOUTH TEXAS MEDICAL CENTER

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