



## Employee Appreciation Week

May 6, 2013

To the UT Southwestern Community:

As we begin our annual observance of Employee Appreciation Week, I write to thank all UT Southwestern employees for the contributions they make on a daily basis to the Medical Center's missions of education, research, and patient care. Our students and faculty could not pursue their goals without the dedication and effectiveness of UT Southwestern staff.

I want to particularly thank and congratulate employees marking five-year anniversary milestones this year. Those who have reached 5, 10, 15, and 20 years of service will be recognized within their departments, and we will be welcoming 53 new members with 25 years of service to the Quarter Century Club.

The Quarter Century Club was established in 1996, and almost 4% of UT Southwestern's 9,000 classified employees are now members. At Friday's annual luncheon, we will not only welcome the new members, but will also celebrate current members who are reaching 30, 35, 40, and 45 years of service at UT Southwestern. Their commitment has been essential in making UT Southwestern the institution it is today.

As we approach the end of the 2012-13 academic year, we have much to celebrate. Just last week, Dr. Beth Levine became the twentieth member of the current faculty to be elected to the National Academy of Sciences; we will be conferring Ph.D. and M.D. degrees on 332 graduates in Commencement ceremonies at the end of this month; and our new William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital is well on its way to becoming a new campus and Dallas landmark, on track for its November 2014 opening. While we will not know the full outcome of the 2013 legislative session until it concludes at the end of May, we are hopeful that the final budget will include some restoration of the funding for UT Southwestern that was reduced in the last legislative session, and we look forward to being able to recognize employee performance in our FY14 budget with a 3% merit salary program.

My thanks to all UT Southwestern employees and my special thanks to those observing five-year anniversaries this year. I hope everyone will join me in congratulating colleagues who have reached these milestones – and especially those who will be recognized by the Quarter Century Club and featured in a special edition of the Center Times.

Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.  
President, UT Southwestern Medical Center