

UT Southwestern Medical Center

Campus support following Turkey-Syria earthquake

Feb. 8, 2023

To the UT Southwestern Community,

On behalf of our entire campus, I want to express our profound sympathy and sadness to those affected by the tragic loss of life and widespread destruction resulting from the devastating earthquake that struck southeastern Turkey and Syria earlier this week.

As you are likely aware, this earthquake is the world's deadliest in recent history – with more than 11,000 people killed and tens of thousands more injured. The initial magnitude 7.8 quake and its aftershocks have spurred a new humanitarian crisis in Syria, which has already been shaken by more than a decade of civil war.

Many of our colleagues, learners, and trainees have close ties to family and friends in Turkey and Syria and are among those grieving the loss of life caused by the earthquake and the challenging rescue conditions. Please know the UT Southwestern community is here for you.

For those members of our community who may be personally affected by this tragedy, the [Employee Assistance Program](#) is available to all benefits-eligible UTSW employees and their live-in family members (regardless of participation in a health plan) 24 hours a day at 214-648-5330. Students may seek help from the [Student Wellness and Counseling Center](#) at 214-645-8680.

While UT Southwestern is prohibited from soliciting donations for other nonprofits, more information about organizations engaged in relief efforts can be found here:

- [Turkish American Association of Northern Texas](#)
- [International Rescue Committee](#)
- [The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies](#)
- [Doctors Without Borders](#)
- [United Nations World Food Programme](#)
- [UNICEF](#)
- [Save the Children](#)

Our thoughts remain with all those affected by this terrible crisis; and again, we are committed to supporting you during this most difficult time.

Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.

President
UT Southwestern Medical Center