



February 7, 2024

To the UT Southwestern Community:

I am pleased to write to you this morning to formally announce our plans to undertake – in partnership with Children’s Health – construction of a new pediatric campus that will, upon completion, replace the existing Children’s Medical Center Dallas. This project follows years of careful consideration with our Children’s Health colleagues of how we can best meet the needs of the children of North Texas and their families in the coming decades. As one of the largest health care construction projects in the nation, this transformative pediatric campus will provide a foundation for the next chapter in the more than 60-year collaboration between Children’s Health and UT Southwestern.

Much has changed in the way we practice medicine since Children’s Medical Center Dallas opened in 1967. The existing facility is unable to accommodate infrastructure for future technology and, faced with nearly daily capacity constraints, has no option for expansion. The new, three-tower campus will enhance collaboration across our academic, research, and clinical care missions, allow us to flexibly adapt to innovations ahead, and set a new standard for excellence in health care.

This project is intended to position us to meet our region’s need for pediatric care, ranging from the common to the most comprehensive and complex. The current Dallas-Fort Worth area pediatric population of almost 2.5 million is expected to double by 2050. The approximately 2 million-square-foot new children’s hospital will feature two 12-story towers and an eight-story tower that will significantly expand inpatient, surgical, and ambulatory capacity when it opens, likely in 2031. Much has already been accomplished in preparing the 33-acre site for the new pediatric campus, and we anticipate breaking ground on construction later this year.

The new facility will be uniquely positioned by its proximity and connectivity to William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital, which enables us to deepen maternal and child services. With the addition of a comprehensive Fetal Care Center and fetal surgery capabilities at Clements University Hospital (CUH), babies will have immediate access to the pediatric expertise of the Level IV NICU and Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit by way of a connector bridge to the new pediatric campus. Similar to our planning for CUH, we have intentionally incorporated dedicated space to support our academic mission along with our promise to provide the very best care

possible to our patients. Additionally, the site is strategically located steps from our research laboratories to facilitate discovery that leads to better treatments.

Some highlights of the new campus include:

- 552 beds (38% increase)
- 96 additional outpatient exam rooms
- 22% increase in operating rooms
- 15% increase in Emergency Department space

Additional details are available in a [joint news release](#).

I want to thank the many faculty and colleagues who have already been deeply involved in advancing this project to achieve our goals, with special thanks to Jorge Bezerra, M.D., Christopher Madden, M.D., Becky McCulley, RN, M.S.N., Maeve Sheehan, M.D., Bethany McGaha, J.D., Marcia Schneider, M.B.A., and Juan Guerra Jr., M.B.A., as they have worked closely with our partners at Children's Health. I want to especially thank Christopher J. Durovich, President and CEO of Children's Health, for his leadership and partnership as we have worked together to set out our collective course for the future. You can visit our [newsroom](#) to view renderings and videos and track progress at [childrens.com/watchusgrow](http://childrens.com/watchusgrow) for up-to-date information as it becomes available.

This joint endeavor will elevate clinical innovation and transformative science and benefit generations of pediatric patients to come. Thank you for joining us on this exciting journey.

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