



## Laying the Foundation for a New University Hospital

October 11, 2011

To the UT Southwestern Community:

I am writing to you at a special time on our campus, as each of you has an important role in the success of UT Southwestern Medical Center.

Last week we celebrated the momentous occasion of our own Dr. Bruce A. Beutler being named the recipient of the 2011 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. It was a fitting reminder of the robust culture of discovery and investigation that has earned UT Southwestern recognition as one of the world's leading research institutions. The award is a milestone few institutions ever experience, making all the more significant the fact that Dr. Beutler is our fifth Nobel Laureate.

Today, we will mark another milestone as we lay the foundation for a new University Hospital – a state-of-the-art facility designed to promote excellence in the delivery of patient care, integrated with physician training and research. This is a landmark moment that I hope everyone at UT Southwestern will celebrate with pride, satisfaction, and a renewed sense of aspiration.

As we lay the foundation for this new hospital, we will literally be pouring into it more than a thousand expressions of hope, optimism, and expectation for its future written by members of the UT Southwestern community, our patients, and our friends. I thank you for taking time to share your thoughts about what we can accomplish in this new hospital in the decades ahead. There could be no more fitting foundation for what we are building to serve our community, our state, and our nation.

Given the limited space and the safety considerations on an active construction site, regrettably it was not possible to invite the entire campus to participate in this event. However, I am pleased that Shawna Ridley, chair of the Employee Advisory Council, will be representing all UT Southwestern employees, and she will help place your inspiring notes about our future into the foundation as it is poured. Looking ahead, we hope to arrange a “topping-out” event as the new hospital nears completion that will be a time of celebration accessible to the entire campus.

I am also pleased to announce the formal launch today of the New University Hospital [website](#), so that everyone working on the campus can read more about what will be an unsurpassed health care facility, view the beautiful images of spaces throughout the hospital, and watch its construction progress via a [webcam](#) that will be capturing each step of the construction process.

Today we lay the foundation for our tomorrow, literally and figuratively, and we rest that foundation on the hopes and aspirations of people all across our campus. I hope you will feel well deserved pride on this special occasion for being part of this institution and recognize that whatever position you hold, you are helping to make it possible for UT Southwestern to change lives for the better through our research, education, and clinical care missions.

Dr. Daniel K. Podolsky, President  
UT Southwestern Medical Center