



Looking Forward to the Year Ahead

Jan. 7, 2011

To the UT Southwestern Community:

Having begun the new calendar year, I want to thank all of you for the work you do as faculty and staff to make UT Southwestern the place it is today.

As a result of your efforts, much has been accomplished over the past year. I am especially pleased by the progress that has been made in implementing the recommendations emerging from the strategic planning process of the year before. That initiative focused on several key priorities for ensuring that UT Southwestern continues to build on its outstanding legacy, as we pursue our aspiration to become the very best academic medical center in the country.

As described in an email sent this past November, highlights of what has been accomplished include significant investment in support of research and faculty recruitment; vigorous pursuit of our program of clinical transformation and the imminent beginning of construction of our new University Hospital; global health initiatives; establishment of an office to promote faculty diversity and development; and new programs designed to enhance UT Southwestern as a workplace for all employees. I encourage all of you to review these strategic priorities and learn more about the initiatives launched in this past year. This material can be found on our Chrysalis web site at <https://chrysalis.swap.swmed.org/default.aspx>.

As we look forward in this New Year, I am confident that we will continue to make progress in all of these important arenas — and others — towards achieving our interrelated missions of advancing medical science, furthering innovation and quality in clinical care, and educating and training the next generation of care-givers and scientists.

At the same time, we no doubt will have challenges. Next week the Texas Legislature will convene, and we know that they will face the difficult task of reconciling a large deficit with the diverse needs of this State. While we will not have a final determination until the Legislature concludes its work late in the spring, prudence requires that we anticipate significant reductions in State appropriations, which are an important source of support for UT Southwestern. This will necessitate especially disciplined decision-making when we formulate our own budget for next year, and will only heighten the importance of focusing on the strategic use of funds to ensure the long-term vitality and excellence of UT Southwestern. I have no doubt that whatever challenges we face on this campus, we will rise to meet them. We are fortunate that UT Southwestern will be starting from a base of good fiscal health, and I will communicate with you

in more detail about these matters as the Legislative Session proceeds.

Once again, I thank you for the role you play in creating and sustaining the missions of UT Southwestern on a daily basis. I believe we are privileged to be part of an institution that is making such important contributions to biomedical research, patient care, and the education and training of physicians and other health care professionals.

I wish you and your families a healthy and happy New Year, and I look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

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