



## Welcoming a new academic year at UT Southwestern

September 1, 2025

To the UT Southwestern Community:

As we begin the next academic and fiscal year, I want to extend a warm welcome to all who are new to UT Southwestern – our incoming students, trainees, faculty, and staff. Since the start of summer, roughly 1,600 colleagues have joined us, enriching our environment and expanding the breadth of expertise across our institution. Whether you are here to learn, teach, discover, care for others, or serve in one of the great variety of roles that are all essential to the work and mission of UT Southwestern, you are part of a community deeply committed to excellence, innovation, teamwork, and compassion.

Seventeen years ago this week, I shared my [first message](#) as President of UT Southwestern. In that note from 2008, I spoke of the privilege of serving this extraordinary institution, the importance of shared purpose, and the strength of our community. Those principles remain as vital today as they were then, and they continue to guide us as we move into this new academic year.

As summarized in my [June communication](#) to the campus, together we made significant progress across our mission over the course of Fiscal Year 2025. If you have recently arrived, I encourage you to read that update to gain insight into our latest accomplishments and institutional priorities, some of which I will briefly revisit below.

As we begin this year, I am pleased to note a number of new or soon-to-arrive colleagues who will assume important leadership roles within our institution.

Earlier this summer, **Wendy W. Chapman, Ph.D.**, became **Associate Dean for Health Informatics** and **Director of the Center for Clinical Informatics**. Dr. Chapman, a member of the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) who joined us from the University of Melbourne, supports investigators in better leveraging data and technology to improve health and health care delivery. We also welcomed **Matthew Rosamond, M.B.A.**, as **Vice President of Finance** and **Chief Financial Officer for UT Southwestern**, arriving from Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Health System in New York.

Next month, **Traci d'Auguste, M.B.A., M.S.H.A.**, joins us as **Vice President and Chief Executive Officer of William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital**, a key role within our University Health System. Ms. d'Auguste currently serves as Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at the University of Florida Health Shands Hospital and brings deep experience in academic medicine. She will work closely with faculty, nursing staff, and all those involved in ensuring our hospitalized patients receive the best care possible.

Looking ahead, we have launched a national search for our inaugural **Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer**, who will be responsible for leading, integrating, and scaling AI, machine learning, and data science initiatives across our Medical Center to enhance patient outcomes, accelerate research, and advance medical education.

National searches are also underway for Chairs of the Departments of Anesthesiology & Pain Management, Biophysics, Internal Medicine, and the Lyda Hill Department of Bioinformatics.

In parallel with these leadership searches, we continue to build momentum across key institutional priorities. Many of our FY25 initiatives remain central to our efforts in FY26, including the ongoing construction of our **New Pediatric Campus** in partnership with Children's Health. Expansion of clinical services in **Fort Worth**, including **Radiation Oncology**, is progressing along with strategic growth at our regional medical centers in **Frisco** and **RedBird**. These efforts are supported by patient care and recruitment strategies designed to meet the needs of the growing communities of North Texas.

As we look to the future, this fall we will revisit our **conflict of interest policies and procedures** to ensure they continue to reflect the highest standards of transparency and ethical conduct. These policies – covering research, vendor relationships, outside activities, and more – are foundational to maintaining public trust and institutional integrity. We will also continue refining our **six-year strategic planning framework**, which identifies priorities across our mission areas and suggests where to focus resources to achieve long-term impact. The [latest version of the plan](#) for 2024-2030 was posted online this summer and is accessible to all employees via the campus network or VPN. This fall, our efforts will center on evolving the framework from a catalog of initiatives to a more integrated model – one that better reflects the interconnected nature of our work in education, research, and patient care, and supports sustainable progress across our institution.

I recognize and appreciate the ongoing interest in our **institutional finances**. I am pleased to share that we begin this academic year with a strong financial foundation, thanks to the discipline and dedication of our entire community. Although it will take a month or more to finalize results for the just-ended fiscal year, performance through July indicates we are on track to achieve a 3% margin – significantly better than the 1% originally budgeted. That strength enables us to invest in our mission while remaining prudent in how we allocate resources, especially in light of national uncertainties surrounding the federal budget process and its implications for research funding. We will continue to advocate for the resources needed to sustain and strengthen our impact.

As part of our commitment to transparency and open dialogue, I invite you to tune in to my **first campus briefing** of the new year on **Wednesday, Sept. 3**, at 9 a.m., when I will also take the opportunity to answer many of the questions you submitted.

As we embark on this new year, I am reminded of what drew me to UT Southwestern nearly two decades ago. We are privileged to be part of an institution whose mission is so compelling and whose people are so exceptional. Thank you for your continued dedication to UT Southwestern and to all the patients, learners, and communities we serve.

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