Dear Friends,

The year 2018 marked a momentous milestone for UT Southwestern – our 75th anniversary, which we celebrated with events and publications that both honored our past and looked ahead to our future. Thanks to the achievements of our faculty, enabled by the support of our friends and the state of Texas, over the past 75 years UT Southwestern has evolved from its origin as a small medical school housed in converted Army barracks to the UT Southwestern of today – a nationally and internationally pre-eminent academic medical center dedicated to education, discovery, and healing.

We are pleased to send you this UT Southwestern Annual Review for the 2017-18 academic year, which highlights current programs and activities we thought you would find especially interesting. Ultimately, the purpose of everything we do at UT Southwestern is to carry out our mission of promoting health and a healthy society that enables achievement of full human potential.

Much has changed at UT Southwestern over the past 75 years in the ways we have carried out our mission, but our mission itself is immutable – and our core values and commitment to education, discovery, and healing serve as the bridge linking UT Southwestern’s past, present, and future.

As you will see in this Annual Review, we are proud to be advancing medical care through innovation in new types of immunotherapy for cancer patients, through less invasive surgical techniques, and through the application of new genetic knowledge and technologies. At the same time, UT Southwestern faculty, working under the umbrella structure of the Peter O’Donnell Jr. Brain Institute, are pursuing breakthrough discoveries in Alzheimer’s disease and are participating in an international initiative to map brain cells to better understand how healthy cells work and ultimately how to treat brain diseases such as autism and schizophrenia.
This May, the Medical School Class of 2019 will be the first class to graduate having completed all four years under the new curriculum, which is based on a stronger integration of the scientific and clinical components of medical education and emphasizes teamwork and new skills, such as quality improvement, to better prepare our students for the changing landscape of health care delivery. In support of the new curriculum – and to provide ongoing training opportunities for nurses, residents, fellows, and clinical faculty – we opened a state-of-the-art Simulation Center last fall. One of the largest in the country, it offers valuable opportunities for education and training in developing and honing diagnostic, surgical, and decision-making skills.

To support growth on all fronts, we continue to expand our clinical programs in Dallas, Fort Worth, and other North Texas communities; we opened a new clinical and academic building, West Campus Building 3, last August; and we are well along on the construction of a William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital third tower, which will be completed in 2020. In addition, consistent with the priority we are placing on the development of the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center and the O’Donnell Brain Institute, we have been working intensively on plans for a new building on North Campus to house both of those programs, with a groundbreaking anticipated this spring.

UT Southwestern would not be the thriving, forward-looking institution it is today without the philanthropic support we have received from our friends in the Dallas community and beyond. On behalf of the entire campus community, I thank you for your generosity and commitment – past, present, and future.

Sincerely,

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