



Benefits enrollment is open: Here's what to know

Annual Benefits Enrollment is open now through July 31. This is your opportunity to select or adjust your coverage (e.g., medical, dental, etc.), including adding or removing dependents for the new plan year, which begins Sept. 1.

Please visit the [Annual Enrollment website](#) to learn more about important plan updates, including the new Preventive Care Incentive Program (PCIP), added lifestyle benefits, and rate changes.

Plan to join our Human Resources (HR) team at one of our Employee Benefits Fairs to chat directly with plan experts and retirement vendors, ask questions, and pick up some swag. The HR team will also be stopping by various locations to offer in-person help, resources, and more. If you can't make it in person, please consider attending a virtual session.

In-person employee fairs:

- [July 22: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.](#), South Campus, McDermott Lecture Halls, D1 Corridor
- [July 29: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.](#), Clements University Hospital, Lecture Hall 2.138

Information tables:

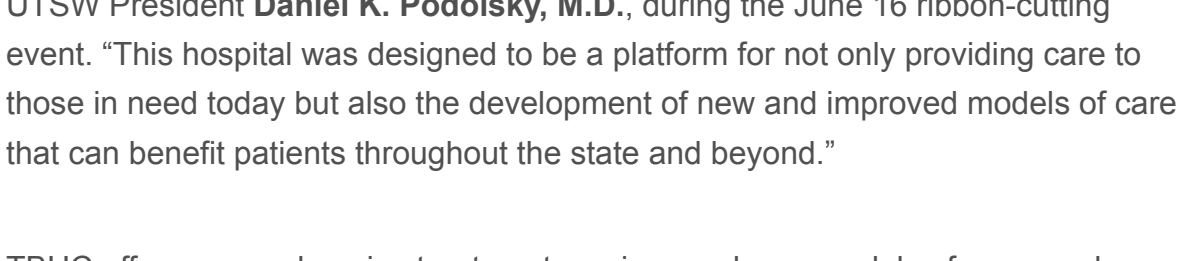
- [July 16: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.](#), Moncrief Cancer Institute, Education Center
- [July 16: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.](#), Monty and Tex Moncrief Medical Center at Fort Worth, Event Room 1
- [July 23: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.](#), Simmons Cancer Care Outpatient Building, NM03.930/936

"Ask a Benefits Rep" webinars:

- [July 21: 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.](#)
- [July 23: noon to 1 p.m.](#)
- [July 28: 11 a.m. to noon](#)

These sessions will also be recorded and posted on the [Annual Benefits Enrollment website](#). Additionally, the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) will offer a [hybrid learning session](#) on July 22, 10 a.m. to noon, in the Tom and Lula Gooch Auditorium on South Campus.

Questions? Reach out to our HR Team by [email](#) or by phone at 214-648-9810.



Inside a new era of behavioral healthcare in North Texas

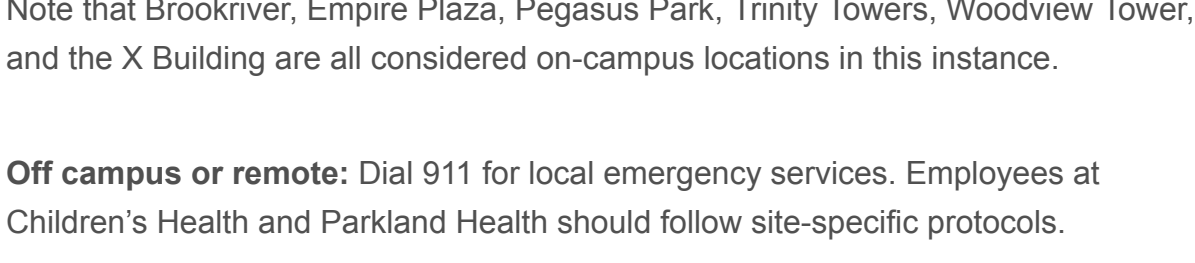
After years of planning, collaboration, and construction, UT Southwestern and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) have opened the first state psychiatric hospital in the Metroplex. Featuring an innovative, patient-centered design, the 292-bed Texas Behavioral Health Center (TBHC) admitted its first adult patients at the end of June. TBHC currently accepts only direct-transfer forensic patients from Dallas, Denton, and Collin counties.

"This project began with recognition by our state's leadership of the enormous scale of unmet needs of those suffering from serious psychiatric disease in Texas," said UTSW President **Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.**, during the June 16 ribbon-cutting event. "This hospital was designed to be a platform for not only providing care to those in need today but also the development of new and improved models of care that can benefit patients throughout the state and beyond."

TBHC offers comprehensive treatment services and new models of care, such as interventional psychiatry. The facility also provides a therapeutic setting with recreational and social spaces designed to prepare individuals for life outside the hospital.

A video and companion story on *Center Times Plus* take you inside the TBHC, with insights from some of the leaders who helped bring this transformative facility to life.

[Step inside the TBHC](#)



Staying safe on and around campus

Your security and well-being are top priorities, which is why the UT Southwestern Police Department (UTPD) is offering a few timely reminders to help keep all staff, faculty, and students safe.

Situational awareness: Please be attentive to your surroundings, especially while waiting for shuttles or entering and exiting campus buildings. If you notice someone unfamiliar attempting to enter a secure area, or if you witness a crime or suspicious activity, please contact UTPD immediately.

On campus: If you haven't already done so, save the following numbers to your phone favorites or speed dial for the fastest response:

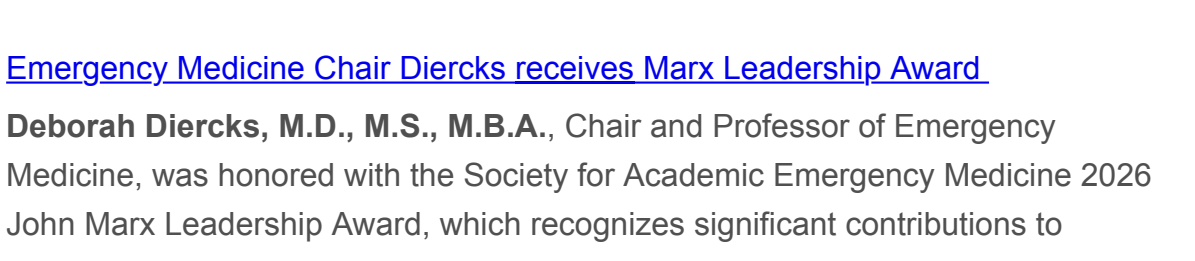
- Emergencies (on campus): 214-648-8911
- Nonemergencies: 214-648-8311

Note that Brookriver, Empire Plaza, Pegasus Park, Trinity Towers, Woodview Tower, and the X Building are all considered on-campus locations in this instance.

Off campus or remote: Dial 911 for local emergency services. Employees at Children's Health and Parkland Health should follow site-specific protocols.

Safety Connection: With the Safety Connection feature on the free Everbridge app, you can request a virtual security escort, check in with campus police, or send a personal SOS.

Download from [Google Play](#) or [Apple's App Store](#) today and feel more protected.



Photos: UTSW shows its World Cup spirit

World Cup excitement was on full display across UT Southwestern on Friday as employees proudly wore soccer jerseys representing countries from around the globe. From lifelong favorites to teams honoring family heritage and personal traditions, each jersey reflected a unique connection to the tournament. Even Tia, our beloved Simmons Cancer Center facility dog, joined the festivities dressed for Team USA.

Check out how colleagues showed their colors and celebrated the world's biggest sporting event.

[See Team UTSW!](#)

HONORS & AWARDS HIGHLIGHTS

Spotlight on excellence

Our UT Southwestern colleagues continue to earn recognition for outstanding contributions across education, science, and medicine. Here are a few recent honors, with links to more detailed stories on *Center Times Plus*.

[Emergency Medicine Chair Diercks receives Marx Leadership Award](#)

Deborah Diercks, M.D., M.S., M.B.A., Chair and Professor of Emergency Medicine, was honored with the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine 2026 John Marx Leadership Award, which recognizes significant contributions to emergency medicine. Dr. Diercks oversees emergency medicine programs at William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital and Parkland Memorial Hospital, which together make up one of the largest emergency medicine programs in the nation.

[Williams receives SSIB Hoebel Prize for research creativity](#)

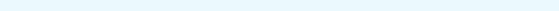
The Society for the Study of Ingestive Behavior has selected **Kevin Williams, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, for its 2026 Hoebel Prize for Creativity in recognition of his exceptional impact on ingestive behavior research. The Williams Lab studies how the brain controls eating, body weight, and blood glucose control.

[Chen receives New Investigator Award for infertility research](#)

Haiqi Chen, Ph.D., an Assistant Professor in the Cecil H. and Ida Green Center for Reproductive Biology Sciences and of Obstetrics and Gynecology, will receive the Virendra B. Mahesh New Investigator Award from the Society for the Study of Reproduction. The Chen Lab is applying the newest available tools to unresolved questions, with the hope of finding answers that will help improve human reproductive health.

[More Honors & Awards stories on CT Plus](#)

Insider Guide



Give blood tomorrow

8 a.m. to 3 p.m., July 16

Three on-campus locations

Make a blood donation at one of three on-campus locations and receive a free stainless steel canteen (while supplies last). For detailed information and to make an appointment, use the button below.

[Give blood](#)

Score World Cup churros

11 a.m. to 2 p.m., July 16

Various on-campus locations

In celebration of the FIFA World Cup, the Auxiliary Restaurant Group is serving churros with spiced chocolate sauce for \$2.69 at various locations on campus. Stop by and join in the global spirit of the world's game.

[Get the delicious details](#)

UTSW Events Calendar

Looking for your daily dose of happenings?

The UTSW Events Calendar is updated every day.

[View upcoming or trending events](#)

Share your *Insider* suggestions by sending them to utswinsider@utsouthwestern.edu. Looking for an item in a past edition of this newsletter? Check out our [Insider archive](#).

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