

UT Southwestern Medical Center

Message from President Podolsky: William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital opens

December 6, 2014

To the UT Southwestern Community:

Today, a beautiful North Texas day, was an extraordinary one for UT Southwestern. We opened the William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital, culminating five years of planning and preparation that involved hundreds of members of the campus community.

In a little more than nine hours, nearly 200 patients were safely moved from the aging St. Paul University Hospital to the new, state-of-the-art Clements University Hospital. Within minutes of its opening at 6:00 a.m., new patients presenting with a variety of conditions were being cared for in the Clements University Hospital Emergency Room. And at 8:38 a.m., the first baby to be born at the hospital was joyfully welcomed into the world by his proud new parents. By the afternoon, patients had undergone urgent surgical procedures performed in the exceptional operating rooms and were recovering in their hospital rooms. By evening, St. Paul University Hospital was closed, and a new era in patient care at UT Southwestern had been launched.

I am writing to congratulate everyone who was involved in the exceptional efforts leading to this remarkable day and to thank them for their commitment and magnificent performance. The team led by Dr. John Warner, with Becky McCulley spearheading the meticulous transition day planning process, has been working intensively for months preparing for the move. The entire UT Southwestern community can take pride in the dedication and teamwork that was exhibited by hospital leadership and staff throughout the day.

At this time I also want to recognize the critical role of Information Resources and Physical Plant leadership and staff, who worked tirelessly in getting the new hospital ready to be opened. Thanks also are due to the more than 600 physicians, nurses, hospital staff, faculty from across our campus, patients, and community members who participated in the planning process that led to the innovative and functional design of Clements University Hospital. Throughout these years of planning and preparation, Dr. Bruce Meyer, Executive Vice President for Health System Affairs, has effectively led the overall development of the UT Southwestern Health System.

Going forward, the contributions of every member of the hospital staff – and indeed every member of the entire UT Southwestern community – will be essential in ensuring that we fulfill the opportunity now before us. With the opening of Clements University Hospital, our physicians, nurses, other caregivers, and staff now have an outstanding facility that, with their expertise and dedication, will make it possible for us to provide the people of Dallas, North Texas, and beyond with healthcare that reflects our distinctive, integrated missions as an academic medical center. We are fundamentally committed to providing the best experience possible for patients and their families who come to UT Southwestern for care. That commitment extends to seamlessly integrating the education and training of the next generation of caregivers and the research and discovery that advances our ability to prevent, treat, and cure medical problems.

I am deeply grateful to all of you who have enabled UT Southwestern to reach this major milestone on our clinical transformation journey. For virtually all of us, planning, building, opening – and now operating – this new hospital will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

It's a very special way for us to end 2014, and I wish you and your families a happy and healthy holiday season and new year.

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