

# UT Southwestern Medical Center

## Recent Tragic Events, Hurricane Maria Relief Effort

Oct. 2, 2017

To the UT Southwestern Community:

It often seems that we are waking to a different and unthinkable tragedy every day, and each affects us deeply as individuals and as citizens of the world. Most recently, we grieve this morning's massacre in Las Vegas, and our thoughts are with any of you who have a personal connection to this terrible attack.

I also want to express our deep sympathy and concern, on behalf of the entire campus, for the millions who are still suffering in Puerto Rico in the aftermath of two hurricanes. Many members of our UT Southwestern community are from Puerto Rico or have close ties to family and friends there, connecting us directly with this ongoing humanitarian crisis. Our thoughts are similarly with our colleagues in the medical field as they work to assist in meeting the immediate needs there.

In the wake of Hurricane Maria, we know that thousands of homes remain uninhabitable, access to basic utilities and cell services is limited, many roads are impassable, and hospitals are struggling to provide medical care.

Although as a state agency there are boundaries on what is permissible at an institutional level, we are assessing how we can best support and assist our medical colleagues in these affected areas. We have been in contact with the Association of American Medical Colleges, which is working to coordinate and centralize efforts to support the medical schools and medical students on the island as well as all those in need.

In the interim, if you wish to support the relief efforts in Puerto Rico, many reputable organizations are accepting contributions. These include:

- [American Red Cross](#)
- [Americares](#)
- [International Medical Corps](#)

For those members of our community who may be affected by this or any tragedy, the Employee Assistance Program is available to all faculty and staff at 214-648-5330. Students may seek help from Student Wellness and Counseling at 214-645-8680. Both services are confidential.

Please join me in keeping those touched by these events in our thoughts during this most difficult time.

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