

# UT Southwestern Medical Center

## UTSW Responds to a 'Call to Serve' and Celebrates a Milestone

October 27, 2014

With all the activity surrounding Ebola over the past few weeks – and the events scheduled this week as we dedicate the new William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital – I want to take a moment to recognize what an extraordinary period this is for UT Southwestern.

Last week, we responded to a call to serve, when Governor Rick Perry asked UT Southwestern to play a leadership role in establishing an Ebola treatment center in North Texas. UT Southwestern will provide overall leadership, physicians and nurses, while Parkland will provide nurses and support staff, and Methodist will provide the care facility in Richardson.

UT Southwestern is uniquely positioned to meet this challenge. As one of the top academic medical centers in the country, we have highly experienced, skilled physicians who will provide the medical leadership for this effort, including experts in bio-containment, as well as a fully-trained, comprehensive nursing staff. We will be working closely with our partners at Parkland, as we do every day, to serve the needs of our community and state.

But beyond our medical capabilities, I am extremely proud of the people who stepped forward to serve at a time when our community needs us. This commitment to compassionate care is one of the core missions that draws us to the work of UT Southwestern. I want to thank those involved with this special effort focused on Ebola, as well as all other members of the UT Southwestern community who contribute to our missions every day.

And that brings me to the important milestone we will celebrate this week. On Thursday, we will dedicate our William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital.

The new hospital represents an enormously important step. It is a vehicle for our physicians, nurses, and staff to provide the best possible care and experience for patients by bringing together our three missions: excellence in patient care; the education and training of current and future caregivers; and research that improves the care and health of people everywhere.

I do want to make you aware that we have decided to move our official move-in date for the new hospital from November 15<sup>th</sup> to December 6<sup>th</sup>, still five months ahead of the original schedule. This decision was based on our desire to ensure that every aspect of the hospital is ready to function at the highest level on “day one.”

Encouragingly for us, in the time since our plans were set, the volume of our inpatient service has grown significantly faster than projected. In order to accommodate that growth, we are building out space that we originally intended to remain shelled at the time of the hospital's opening. The extra few weeks will allow us to fully complete the build-out of those spaces, along with the surrounding infrastructure,

which is critical for supporting the efficient operation of the hospital. Everyone working on this project has put in an outstanding effort, and by applying that same focus during the additional preparation time, we can make the hospital even more special – enhancing our ability to provide excellent care for more patients from the very first day it opens.

For people in the Dallas and North Texas community and beyond, the new hospital means patients will have access to the vanguard of medical care. You could travel anywhere in the country and not find what is available in this state-of-the-art facility. UT Southwestern is working to create the *future of medicine*, setting the standard of care not only for the region, but for the country.

I am delighted that many of you have signed up to go on tours of the hospital this week – seeing, for the first time, the inside of this extraordinary facility. The dedication ceremony on Thursday is necessarily limited to a number of invited guests. However, I hope the entire campus community will mark the occasion by watching the live videostream of the event on your computers, or the recording that will be posted on the *My UT Southwestern* intranet site afterward. The dedication ceremony is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Thursday, and the live videostream can be accessed at:

<http://streaming.utsouthwestern.edu/>

As the opening of the new hospital nears, your support and encouragement have been tremendous. People are excited about the quality of the patient experience and the enhanced efficiency and safety the facility will offer. But patient care is not about a building. It's about the people who provide the compassionate care we want every patient to experience when they come to UT Southwestern. That is what will make Clements University Hospital a landmark in healthcare.

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