



Tragic events in the Middle East

October 12, 2023

To the UT Southwestern Community:

I know that many in our UT Southwestern community, like others around the world, have been anguished by the terrorist attacks launched last weekend against those living in Israel, including citizens of the United States and other countries. As the full scale and scope of the atrocities have emerged over the last few days, I write to condemn those attacks, express condolences to the victims, and offer support to those within our own community who are experiencing grief from these events.

No matter what anyone's view may be of the long-standing Israeli-Palestinian conflict, I do not believe there is anything that could justify the acts of cruelty against so many innocent people, from infants to the elderly. Like many of you, I find it incomprehensible that anyone could carry out such abhorrent acts. The human capacity to do so should shake each of us to our core.

These appalling events are the antithesis of the values that bring the UT Southwestern community together every day in our commitment to improve the health and well-being of every individual and our society as a whole. While the attacks took place thousands of miles from our campus and our community, we are reminded that violence and hate can surface anywhere at any time. I extend my condolences to those with family or friends living in the Middle East who have been affected directly or indirectly. I also empathize with those who are concerned about their own safety and well-being because of this heightened conflict.

Please know that your pain is shared. If you feel you may benefit from additional resources, our 24/7 Employee Support Line is available at 855-420-0734 to help you navigate this and any other crises. Students may also seek help from the Student Wellness and Counseling Center at 214-645-8680.

While the future of this conflict is uncertain, we remain steadfast in our support for you and your loved ones.

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