



Message to the UT Southwestern Community

September 1, 2008

Dear Colleagues:

As I begin my first day as president of UT Southwestern Medical Center, I write to welcome all of you to the 2008-09 academic year and to tell you that I am delighted to be part of this community. I look forward to working with you in the years ahead to build on the impressive accomplishments of the past so that we can achieve the full potential of UT Southwestern as an academic medical center.

While I have learned much about UT Southwestern in the few months since I was named the president-designate, now that I have arrived, my first goal is to get a full understanding of our challenges and opportunities through speaking with many of you, to set priorities, and to be able to formulate effective plans for achieving them. While there is much yet to do to finalize the former, they certainly will include sustaining the scientific excellence which has distinguished this institution and the quality of the education and training we offer to the next generation of clinicians, investigators and other health care professionals. Drawing on these historic strengths, our priorities must also include expanding our commitment to clinical excellence in all its dimensions – innovation that translates biomedical research into new approaches to patient care; quality that provides our patients with consistently safe and efficient care; and a culture that makes each patient feel truly cared for by our attention to them and their families. To do this, we must be able to create the facilities, systems, and environment that will allow everyone working at UT Southwestern to be an important contributor to this mission.

As I work with you to develop these and other priorities, an overarching goal must be to ensure that UT Southwestern provides an optimal environment for our diverse students, faculty and staff, so that everyone feels empowered to fulfill their responsibilities. Our ability to achieve our goals for UT Southwestern will depend on maintaining financial strength through responsible fiscal policies and the disciplined use of our resources as we face an increasingly challenging and complex environment for the funding of health care, research and education.

I plan to communicate on a regular basis to be sure you are well informed about key external and internal issues we face and plans we are developing for UT Southwestern in the weeks, months, and years ahead. I am honored to begin my tenure as president and eager to embark on what is now our shared responsibility to ensure that UT Southwestern serves the needs of the community here in Dallas, the state of Texas, and the country. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

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