

Win prizes and make a difference by donating to the SECC

Help make a profound impact on the lives of those in need by participating in the Texas State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC) now through Oct. 31 and donating to any of several hundred state-vetted charities. We've already raised \$53,000, thanks to you, but we still have a long way to reach our goal of \$300,000 by the end of the campaign.

This year, just by participating in the campaign, you could **win one of 50 prizes**, including FC Dallas and Mavs gear, State Fair of Texas tickets, LED speakers, charcuterie board sets, gift baskets, and more. Winners will be notified via email.

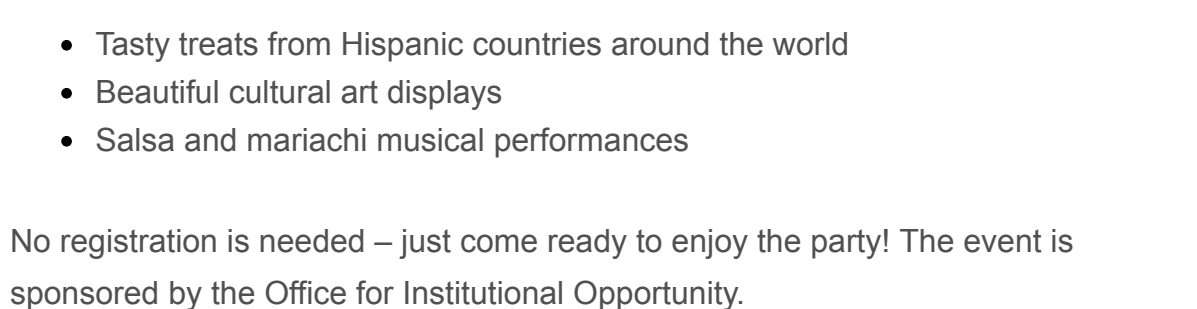
Getting started is easy:

- [Browse the list of charities](#) to find causes you're passionate about.
- Make a [one-time donation](#) via the new Converge Pay online tool or a [monthly payroll deduction](#) via PeopleSoft.

No donation is too small. Even **giving as little as \$2 a month** can provide a child with complete, basic childhood immunization against six diseases or cover the cost of planting 100 tree saplings.

New this year: The SECC will be coming to a location near you with pop-up events happening across campus and at our regional sites. You can get help making your donation, enjoy treats, and collect some swag! Visit the [Events Calendar](#) for the pop-up schedule.

[Details \(on-campus network or VPN connection required\)](#)



Fiesta on the Plaza: Food, fun, and culture

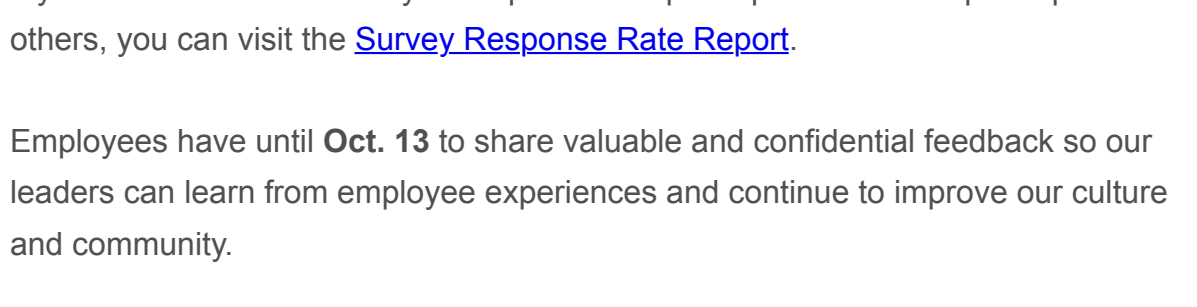
In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, we hope you join us for Fiesta on the Plaza Wednesday, Oct. 9., from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at McDermott Plaza on South Campus. The festivities will be packed with culture, fun, and delicious bites!

What to expect:

- Tasty treats from Hispanic countries around the world
- Beautiful cultural art displays
- Salsa and mariachi musical performances

No registration is needed – just come ready to enjoy the party! The event is sponsored by the Office for Institutional Opportunity.

[More info](#)



Engagement surveys reminder

We are a week and a half into UTSW's employee engagement survey period, and as the participation rate continues to tick upward, we want to share a few reminders and some new details about this year's leaderboard.

If you're curious about how your department's participation stacks up compared with others, you can visit the [Survey Response Rate Report](#).

Employees have until **Oct. 13** to share valuable and confidential feedback so our leaders can learn from employee experiences and continue to improve our culture and community.

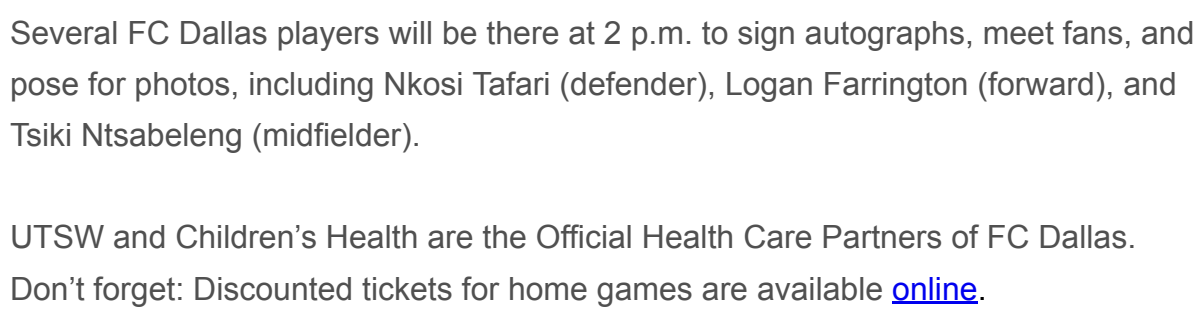
This year UT Southwestern is conducting two surveys:

- The annual Values in Practice (VIP) employee engagement survey was sent to some nonfaculty employees who are outside the Health System.
- SCORE (Safety, Communication, Operational Risk, Resiliency/Burnout, and Engagement) was delivered to employees, faculty, and learners who work in clinical roles, those who support clinical areas, and individuals who interact closely with them.

These surveys are vital to UTSW, and your confidential responses inform leadership what is working well and where we should focus our efforts moving forward.

For full details, including how to access the appropriate survey for you, visit [Campus Update](#).

[Participation dashboard](#)



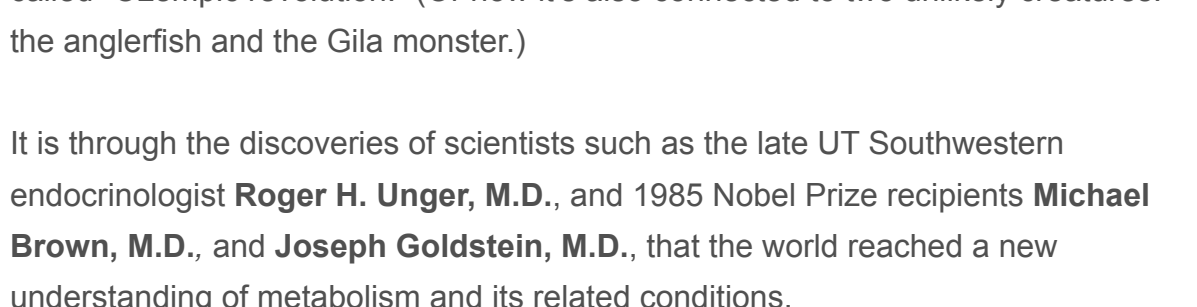
Happening tomorrow: Meet FC Dallas players and score big on jerseys!

As the FC Dallas season heads into the homestretch and the holiday shopping season approaches, now's a great time to grab the team's "Burn Baby Burn" game jerseys featuring the UT Southwestern logo.

This jersey will be 50% off for employees and students at the pop-up shop outside the North Campus University Store on Thursday, Sept. 26, from noon to 4 p.m. Several FC Dallas players will be there at 2 p.m. to sign autographs, meet fans, and pose for photos, including Nkosi Tafari (defender), Logan Farrington (forward), and Tsiki Ntsabeleng (midfielder).

UTSW and Children's Health are the Official Health Care Partners of FC Dallas. Don't forget: Discounted tickets for home games are available [online](#).

Get your gear and cheer on your team in style!



UTSW's legacy in obesity research

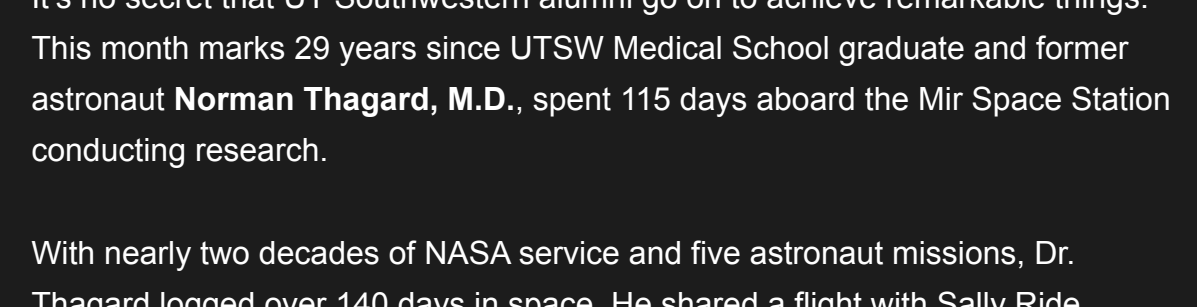
The excitement surrounding modern diabetes and weight loss drugs is at a fever pitch, but few people realize the decades of work it took to bring about today's so-called "Ozempic revolution." (Or how it's also connected to two unlikely creatures: the anglerfish and the Gila monster.)

It is through the discoveries of scientists such as the late UT Southwestern endocrinologist **Roger H. Unger, M.D.**, and 1985 Nobel Prize recipients **Michael Brown, M.D.**, and **Joseph Goldstein, M.D.**, that the world reached a new understanding of metabolism and its related conditions.

Today, that engine driving nutrition and obesity research is still strong, and the momentum gained at UTSW has reinforced its position at the forefront of this field. It is the reason why the National Institutes of Health decided to fund and create the Nutrition Obesity Research Centers (NORC) at academic medical centers across the country. UTSW is one of only 11 sites nationwide and the first of its kind in Texas. With this investment, UTSW is now focusing on new potential breakthroughs, the next generation of investigators, and community outreach events such as the recent Weight Wellness Day.

Learn more about UTSW's legacy of meaningful metabolic research in this story in our newsroom.

[UTSW Newsroom](#)



This month in UTSW history ...

September 1995

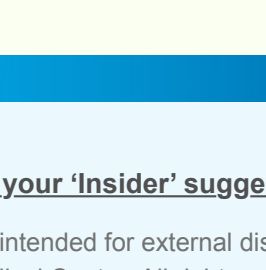
It's no secret that UT Southwestern alumni go on to achieve remarkable things. This month marks 29 years since UTSW Medical School graduate and former astronaut **Norman Thagard, M.D.**, spent 115 days aboard the Mir Space Station conducting research.

With nearly two decades of NASA service and five astronaut missions, Dr. Thagard logged over 140 days in space. He shared a flight with Sally Ride, Ph.D., America's first female astronaut, flew aboard the shuttle Challenger, and conducted medical tests on space adaptation syndrome before retiring from NASA in 1996.

At 30, Dr. Thagard was the oldest student in his 154-member class when he enrolled at UT Southwestern in 1973, graduating in 1977. His diverse career includes roles as an engineer, jet pilot, physician, astronaut, and college professor.

Check out more photos and a video of Dr. Thagard on Instagram, where you'll learn about his work providing health care that is out of this world!

[Visit Instagram](#)



UTSW Events Calendar

Looking for your daily dose of happenings?
The UTSW Events Calendar is updated every day.

[Click to view upcoming or trending events](#)

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