

News The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

San Antonio's Leading Research University

• Dental School • Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences • School of Medicine • School of Allied Health Sciences • School of Nursing •

The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio ranks in the top 15 percent of all academic health science centers in the United States. Faculty are leading world-changing discovery in cancer, heart disease, diabetes, aging, organ transplantation, women's health and other important areas of medicine that deeply impact South Texas. The Health Science Center is the gateway to expanding the growth of breakthrough scientific research, leading to the best in patient care and the highest quality of professional education second to none in the nation. An outstanding record of accomplishments is already in place, as demonstrated through:

- **Excellence in Aging Research**, with *The Sam and Ann Barshop Institute for Longevity and Aging Studies* ranked by The National Institute for Aging as "The Best in the Nation"
- **Excellence in Cancer Research**, distinguished by our prestigious designation as a National Cancer Center by the National Cancer Institute, one of only 61 in the nation and one of only two in Texas
- **Excellence in Cardiovascular Research**, highlighted by *The Janey Briscoe Center of Excellence in Cardiovascular Research* with one of the largest national studies of congestive heart failure and the largest study of Hispanics and cardiovascular disease
- **Excellence in Diabetes Research**, with the world-renowned Texas Diabetes Institute, considered the largest research-treatment facility in the nation devoted solely to diabetes in children and adults
- **Excellence in Women's Health**, and the designation as a *National Center of Excellence in Women's Health*, one of only 21 in the nation and the only one in Texas, addressing women's unique health needs across their life spans
- **Excellence in Organ Transplantation**, demonstrated in The Transplant Center, one of the nation's top programs in liver transplantation and other organs, particularly the lungs

Medical miracles of tomorrow in some of the most exciting areas of clinical and scientific study will be pursued at the Health Science Center using innovative approaches such as:

- **Regenerative Medicine**, engineering new body tissue for curing diseases such as cancer, diabetes, arthritis, congestive heart failure, spinal cord injuries, Alzheimer's disease and Lou Gehrig's disease.
- **Nanomedicine**, inventing small synthetic biologic devices that offer the hope of miraculous, mechanical therapies and cures such as monitoring heart plaque formation, measuring blood pressure within arteries, tumor recurrence in cancer patients, and blood glucose levels of diabetic patients.

—more—

- **Molecular Therapeutics**, focusing on new therapies and drugs to treat and prevent cancer, infectious diseases, vascular disease, neurological conditions and more.
- **Metabolic Biology**, understanding how to prevent, diagnose and treat diseases such as diabetes.
- **Imaging**, viewing inside the human body at the molecular level to understand such things as how the brain works, and following the progress of tumors and diseased cells with three-dimensional clarity for potential cures and preventions.

Background:

The Health Science Center, opened in 1968, is one of 15 institutions of The University Texas System and one of six academic health science centers in the UT System. It encompasses six campuses in San Antonio and South Texas and has more than 2 million square feet of education, research, treatment and administrative facilities. The main campus is located on more than 100 acres in the heart of San Antonio's South Texas Medical Center. A few blocks away is the University's 30-acre North Campus (today renamed the Greehey Academic and Research Campus) and approximately 25 minutes away sits the 160-acre Texas Research Park Campus in northwestern San Antonio. The Health Science Center's South Texas campuses are located in Harlingen, Laredo and Edinburg near the Mexican Border.

Education:

The University is the major provider of health professions education and life science research in South Texas with 2,825 students enrolled in five schools: the Medical School (849), the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (375), the Dental School (407), the School of Nursing (655), and the School of Allied Health Sciences (539). The schools award 69 health-related degree specialties and pre- and post-baccalaureate certificate programs. The Health Science Center is designated by the U.S. Department of Education as a Hispanic-Serving Institution, with Hispanics representing more than 25 percent of its full-time student enrollment. Our students train in an environment that involves more than 100 affiliated hospitals, clinics and health care facilities in South Texas. The University also offers cooperative programs in public health with The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and in pharmacy with The University of Texas at Austin. The Health Science Center has trained more than 22,000 physicians, dentists, nurses, scientists and allied health professionals, many of whom practice in this region and state.

Clinical Care:

The Health Science Center serves San Antonio and the 53,000 square-mile area of South Texas. It extends to campuses in the metropolitan border communities of Laredo and the Rio Grande Valley. The South Texas practice area covers 39 counties and stretches west from San Antonio to the border, and south to Mexico. The majority of these 39 counties are Health Professional Shortage Areas. Today, the practice constituency includes 3.67 million people. The University has affiliation agreements with dozens of hospitals, clinics and other health care providers, and each year contributes \$90 million in uncompensated health care to the medically indigent.

Research:

The Health Science Center has grown exponentially to rank in the top 5 percent of National Institutes of Health-funded research institutions in the United States. The priority health research areas include: Aging, Cancer Research, Cardio-Pulmonary Health, Diabetes Research, Musculoskeletal Health, Neurosciences, Oral Health, Transplantation Science, and Women's Health. Research support embraces five strategic innovative technologies: Nanomedicine, Regenerative Medicine, Metabolic Biology, Molecular Therapeutics and Imaging.

Economic Impact:

The Health Science Center is often called the “crown jewel” of the South Texas Medical Center, as it is the chief catalyst for the \$14 billion biosciences and health care industry in San Antonio. This is the leading sector in the city’s growing economy. The Health Science Center is recipient of nearly \$200 million annually in research-related grants, contracts and awards, the highest total by far of any research institution in South Texas.

Collaborative Strength:

With numerous community, university, and military partnerships, the Health Science Center’s outreach extends well beyond its campuses. The San Antonio Life Sciences Institute (formed in partnership with UT San Antonio), San Antonio Cancer Institute (one of only two NCI-designated Cancer Centers in Texas, formed in partnership with the Cancer Therapy and Research Center), and the Trauma Institute of San Antonio (the first and only Congressionally funded, joint military-civilian trauma institute in the United States) are just a few examples of the many collaborations designed to meet the demanding research and health care needs of the area. The interdisciplinary coordination of research and patient care is regarded as one of the University’s great strengths.

About Us:

- Current budget of approximately \$540 million
- Sponsored Program Expenditures: \$180 million
- Endowment Portfolio: \$348 million
- Ranked in the top 5 percent of all institutions receiving federal funding in the nation
- Only Tier I research university in South Texas
- Number one in country for basic aging research funding from the National Institute on Aging
- Eight Health Science Center faculty members are among the world’s most cited scientific authors, listed in the top one-half of 1 percent of all published scientists
- The Palmaz Heart Stent, developed by faculty Dr. Julio Palmaz, was named one of the "Ten Patents That Changed the World”
- Site of invention of the Titanium Rib, the only lifesaving method for children whose chest walls do not expand
- Home of the nation’s largest prostate cancer biomarkers clinical trial
- Home to a national clinical trial on strokes, a first of its kind study, funded by a \$37 million grant that is the largest in Health Science Center’s history
- Home of the nation's largest asthma clinical trial
- The liver transplant program, ranked among the Top 10 in the nation, recently completed its 1,000th transplant.
- Nearly \$1 billion a year contributed to the South Texas economy
- More than 100 faculty physicians of the Health Science Center have been named by their peers to the Best Doctors[®] list
- First home of the Texas Medical Rangers, a group of highly trained volunteers that serve communities during emergencies