

UT News

Office of Medical Information
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas
5323 Harry Hines Boulevard Dallas, Texas 75235
214/688-3404

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CONTACT: Bob Fenley
Office: 214/688-3404
Home: 214/352-2502

CONTACT: Ann Harrell
Office: 214/688-3404
Home: 214/520-7509

*****Ground breaking ceremonies for University
Medical Center scheduled June 23

DALLAS -- Dallas' own University Medical Center will be one step closer to reality on June 23 when ground is broken for the private 159-bed teaching and referral hospital affiliated with The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas and Parkland Memorial Hospital. The ceremony will begin at 11:00 a.m. at the future hospital's site on Harry Hines Boulevard between Lofland and Motor Streets.

University Medical Center Inc., the private non-profit corporation organized in 1984 to develop the hospital, will operate the facility in a three-member consortium with the health science center and the Dallas County Hospital District. University Medical Center will be the facility in which the medical school faculty can provide care for patients referred to them by other physicians. It will also provide rare and highly specialized cases for medical students to observe as part of their education. Parkland Memorial Hospital, the health science center's major teaching hospital, is devoted primarily to indigent and emergency patients from Dallas County.

"In 1981 the faculty identified the need for a referral hospital for private patients as a top priority for future growth and improvement," said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas. "We believe it will be the keystone that will support our efforts to become preeminent in teaching, research and patient care. At present, UTHSCD is the only highly ranked medical school that does not have a university hospital for referred patients. The hospital will not only help us attract and keep strong faculty members who need to be able to hospitalize referred patients, but it also will offer patients from all over Texas, the United States and abroad access to the highly specialized diagnostic and treatment programs at our institution."

University Medical Center

University Medical Center will open in early 1990. Constructing and equipping the 264,000-square-foot hospital is budgeted to cost \$40.2 million. Since the State of Texas has a policy which prohibits use of state funds to construct or operate new teaching hospitals, all funds for University Medical Center must come from private sources. Approximately half the amount required has been raised by the community leaders who make up the board of directors of UMC Inc. The board was headed by Ben Lipshy until his death in November 1985. Following Lipshy, Ralph Rogers served as chairman until the spring of 1987 when Donald Zale assumed the chairmanship. The remaining construction costs, pre-operating costs and start-up working capital are being financed by revenue bonds sold in March of this year, while fund raising continues.

The architects have designed the building according to specifications that were particularly responsive to the needs of the medical school faculty. "University Medical Center is not an ordinary hospital, so it received extraordinary care in planning and design," said Bruce Satzger, president of the University Medical Center. "The co-chairmen of the building committee of UMC Inc., Dr. Philip O'Bryan Montgomery Jr. and William E. Cooper, worked carefully as liaisons between the architects and the faculty."

The hospital will have nine stories -- a basement and levels one through eight above ground. The second level will house six oversized operating rooms to accommodate special equipment needed for eye, ear, nose and throat surgery, plastic surgery, oral surgery, gynecologic surgery, urology, neurosurgery, orthopedic surgery, chest and vascular surgery and special general surgery. In addition, there will be two suites provided for out-patient surgery and specialized facilities for cystoscopy and angiography. The second level will also contain recovery rooms and a waiting room for family and friends.

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The third level houses 20 intensive care beds -- 12 for surgical patients and eight for medical patients, with a nursing station for each section. A large waiting room for the families of patients in the ICU will open onto an outdoor deck at the front of the building. In addition, the hospital's medical laboratory and respiratory therapy facilities will be on this level.

Accommodations for psychiatry patients are located on level four. They consist of private rooms for 21 patients and generous space for group activities, including occupational and recreational therapy. An expansive wall of windows will make the large activity room light and inviting. There will also be supervised kitchen facilities for use by patients.

Levels five through eight contain private rooms for surgical and medical patients, approximately 30 to a floor. Each room has a private bath, and the design includes a built-in lounge-sleeper for the convenience of family members who might choose to spend the night. Rooms have windows angled to provide a view of the downtown skyline. Each floor includes one suite and one semi-private room. The patient-care floors also contain special treatment rooms and physicians' conference rooms to support the hospital's teaching role.

The hospital is designed both for excellent medical care and for the comfort of patients. The food will be "highest quality," and family members can order meals to be served in the patients' rooms.

The ground floor, level one, houses the public and administrative areas. The lobby, cafeteria for visitors and staff, meditation room and gift shop will be on this level, along with an admitting office, business office, medical records room and offices for auxiliary services, such as the nursing supervisor, security department and housekeeping. A patient receiving room will be provided for examination of patients before admission.

The basement level includes space for services such as the kitchen, engineering, maintenance, loading and central sterile supplies. Radiology services and a pharmacy are also located on the basement level.

Because of its proximity to Parkland Memorial Hospital and Children's Medical Center, University Medical Center will not provide emergency, maternity or pediatric care. Parkland Memorial Hospital will provide some support services to UMC. Offices and laboratories for faculty physicians whose patients are hospitalized at UMC, as well as additional teaching areas, are being provided in the health science center's Charles C. Sprague Clinical Sciences Building. It will adjoin Parkland and University Medical Center and is planned for construction at the same time.

University Medical Center has been designed by an unusual joint venture between The Oglesby Group, Dallas, and Page Southerland Page, Austin. "The Oglesby Group was responsible for interior and exterior design excellence and Page Southerland Page for making the nuts and bolts work," said Dr. Montgomery, co-chairman of the UMC building committee. Page Southerland Page, one of the major U.S. designers of hospitals, was represented by Jim Wright as project architect.

The Oglesby Group, which previously designed the Eugene McDermott Academic Administration Building at UTHSCD, was represented by partner Ensley "Bud" Oglesby and by architect Jim Wiley in the project. UMC board member Margaret McDermott worked closely with Oglesby in choosing decor for the interior, including special art work and wall hangings.

Ground Breaking Ceremony

On Tuesday, June 23, a tour of the hospital site will begin at 11:00 a.m. Ground breaking ceremonies will begin at 11:30 a.m. with a welcome by UMC President Satzger. Brief remarks by Dallas civic leaders will follow.

The speakers are Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas; The Honorable Annette Strauss, Mayor of Dallas; The Honorable Nancy Judy, Dallas County Commissioner, District II, and chairman of the Public Health Advisory Committee of the Dallas County Commissioners Court; Robert Rogers, chairman of the board of the Dallas Chamber of Commerce; Dr. Robert Kramer, director of the Dallas Cystic Fibrosis Care and Treatment Center at Children's Medical Center, an early supporter of UMC and clinical professor of pediatrics at UTHSCD; and Donald Zale, chairman of the board of University Medical Center Inc.

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The actual ground breaking will be done in relays by six teams of people. Representing the city, county and North Texas Region are Mayor Strauss, Commissioner Judy and Chamber Chairman Rogers. Representing the consortium planning the hospital are Donald Zale, Paul Bass, chairman of the Dallas County Hospital District, and Jack Blanton, chairman of The University of Texas System Board of Regents.

The partnership between private enterprise, state and county is represented by Satzger, Dr. Wildenthal and Dr. Ron Anderson, chief executive officer of Parkland Memorial Hospital.

Representing the people who pushed the project from concept to reality are Dr. Charles C. Sprague, president of Southwestern Medical Foundation and president emeritus of UTHSCD; Bruce Lipshy, chairman of the UMC Inc. fund-raising committee; and Dr. Kramer.

Representing the people who shaped the reality are UMC Building Committee Co-Chairmen Cooper, chairman emeritus of the Dallas Market Center, and Dr. Montgomery, UTHSCD professor of pathology, along with William DeMuth, UMC's architectural project manager and project director at Parkland Memorial Hospital.

The final team will be composed of Dr. Donald Seldin, chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine at UTHSCD; Dr. Clifford Charles Seidel, an alumnus from the class of 1949 and past president of the Southwestern Medical School Alumni Association; and a current student, Patrick Joseph Welch, who will graduate in 1990, the year the hospital opens.

In case of rain, the ceremony will be held in Gooch Auditorium on the health science center campus, 5323 Harry Hines Boulevard, according to Scherry Johnson, director of development for University Medical Center and coordinator of the event.

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Note: The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas comprises Southwestern Medical School, Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and the School of Allied Health Sciences.