



# CHARTING PROGRESS

SAN ANTONIO MEDICAL FOUNDATION • *Founders and Directors of the South Texas Medical Center*

## Pfeiffer Takes Reins as Medical Foundation Chairman

When the new chairman takes office to lead the San Antonio Medical Foundation on Jan. 1, members will see a familiar face. Attorney Philip J. Pfeiffer has served on the Foundation Board of Trustees since 1999 and played a big role in the Foundation's current direction by chairing the strategic planning committee.

He plans in his role as chairman to build on the initiatives that began as a result of adopting the strategic plan.

"The Board will continue to look at ways to broaden the work of the Foundation," said Pfeiffer, emphasizing his plan to continue the work of the three task forces created by the strategic plan: access and mobility, wellness/health education and military health care.

Pfeiffer has chaired the access and mobility task force, so knows well the importance of working on efforts to improve transportation in and around the Medical Center. The effort involves other players, such as the Medical Center Alliance, VIA and the city of San Antonio.

*"We want to look at ways to broaden the work of the Foundation, to explore new initiatives and make them vibrant."*

--Philip J. Pfeiffer

Incoming Foundation Board Chairman

The wellness/health education task force has been responsible for creating the walking/jogging trail in the Medical Center to encourage San Antonians to exercise. Under the leadership of Blair P. Labatt Jr., the task force is pursuing additional ways to

extend wellness programs and encourage healthy lifestyles, including a pilot program with CPS Energy to take wellness education programs to the utility's Calaveras power plant employees. Pfeiffer envisions that following evaluation of the pilot project, the wellness program will be extended to other San Antonio companies through a working relationship with area chambers of commerce.

The military health care task force focuses on relationships between the Medical Center and military medicine. "Some facilities already are aligned, such as the VA Hospital," said Pfeiffer. "But there is potential for relationships and cooperative work as the military training effort is expanded."

Pfeiffer wants to convene a strategic planning committee to map additional future activities. "We want to look at ways to broaden the work of the Foundation, to explore new initiatives and make them vibrant," he said.

### On the 2010 Agenda for the Board of Trustees

- Name a strategic planning committee to map additional future activities
- Continue and expand task force efforts on:
  - Access and mobility
  - Wellness/health education
  - Military health care
- Work with current Medical Center facilities
- Consider potential for value-added institutions and additional property
- Follow discussions of possible merger between Health Science Center and UTSA

Pfeiffer expresses interest in working with existing Medical Center facilities as the Board examines the potential to add institutions. "We are open to the potential for value-added institutions and additional property, as long as it furthers the overall mission of the Foundation and Medical Center."

Of great interest is the potential merger or integration of the University of Texas Health Science Center and the University of Texas at San Antonio. The Foundation will look at how it can work with either one or both institutions as a high level committee studies the possible benefits and problems of pursuing such a merger.

An attorney specializing in labor and employment matters representing employers, Pfeiffer has spent his entire career at Fulbright & Jaworski, starting in their Houston office. In 1980, he founded the San Antonio office and served as the managing attorney for 25 years.

The law firm has a history in the health care arena dating back to the founding in the 1940s of the Texas Medical Center in Houston and M.D. Anderson Hospital. Following in this almost 70 year tradition, Pfeiffer has worked with hospitals since the early 1970s.

## Chairman Discusses Health Care Reform

In July, Foundation Board Chairman Mike Kreager wrote the following letter to the editor of the San Antonio Express-News concerning health care reform:

To the Editor:

The President and the U.S. Congress are acting on substantive health reform legislation. Without question, the system is seriously flawed and changes are needed, but nothing should be done that jeopardizes the quality of health care in the United States, which functions best as a relationship between doctors and patients. While those responsible for ultimately funding health care, whether they are taxpayers, employers or individuals, are not satisfied with the situation today, neither are those involved in providing health care, whether they are physicians or hospitals. Moreover, we have far too many disadvantaged and uninsured residents who have no access to health care.

Health care costs and the U.S. economy are undeniably linked. Reforming the health care system is one of the essential elements in restoring the U.S. economy and the financial security of working and retired families. To begin with, Medicare should be adequately funded, as should any other

modifications to the existing system that affect access to care. By the same token, the payment system should be aligned with improved and efficient care.

Each American similarly should have, to the greatest extent possible, a vested interest in his or her own health care. To that end, each patient must have a financial stake in the decisions that are made, and this investment. One way to achieve this would be to require patients who are not indigent to pay the first dollars involved in medical services. This obligation would reinforce the notion that medical care is not free – someone must pay, whether it is the employer in providing insurance or the taxpayer funding government programs.

San Antonio's health care industry has a larger economic impact to San Antonio than its tourism and military industries. As a result, San Antonio's economy would be more significantly affected by the changes to come from health care reform. We must educate and involve ourselves on health care issues and communicate to those in Congress who are considering changes to be assured that these actions are for the good of all citizens.

## Medical Center Construction to Be Highlighted

To improve the flow of traffic in the Medical Center, the San Antonio Medical Foundation in conjunction with the Medical Center Alliance will provide information about construction projects on the Medical Center Alliance Web site.

Just go to [www.SouthTexasMedicalCenter.com](http://www.SouthTexasMedicalCenter.com) and select the tab for construction projects. Information will include schedules and the expected effect on traffic.

In addition, the Foundation is the contact point for sending e-mail messages with the construction information. If you would like to receive e-mail alerts about construction so you can inform employees and patients, call the Foundation at 614-3724 or send an e-mail message to [pam@samedfoundation.org](mailto:pam@samedfoundation.org).



## Foundation Board Elects New Officers and Adds Members

The San Antonio Medical Foundation Board of Trustees has elected officers to serve during 2010-11.

Philip J. Pfeiffer will assume the chairmanship. Other officers who are continuing in their positions include Raymond R. Carvajal, vice chairman; Ray Berend, treasurer; and Phyllis Siegel, secretary.

Wayne Alexander, who retired from AT&T, becomes chairman elect and Michael L. Kreager, who completed two years as chairman, will serve as past chairman. Officers generally serve 2-year terms and will begin their service Jan. 1.

Four new members have joined the Board, including Linda Hummel McAlpin, CEO of Humana Inc., and Joe Krier, attorney with Bracewell & Giuliani and past president of the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce. Tom Mayes, M.D., president/CEO of UT Medicine, and Dick Schlosberg, retired publisher of the Los Angeles Times also were named.

Trustees who received approval for term renewal include Ray Berend and David Zachry, who have completed two terms. Trustees who have completed one term and will continue on the Board are Mike Crownover, Russ McFadden and Todd Piland.

Yolanda Anderson, Barbara Dreeben, Jim Dublin, Arthur Emerson, Mike Kreager, James Pridgen, M.D., Jennifer Sammis and David Shulman, M.D. have been named Life Time Trustees. Trustees who complete three 3-year terms are eligible to be named Life Time Trustees.

## University Hospital Progresses on Expansion Project

University Hospital continues work on its strategic plan that will lead to a major expansion in the South Texas Medical Center.

Completion of a new trauma tower in 2012 will “right size” the Level 1 trauma hospital with the appropriate mix of diagnostic and treatment services. University Hospital will build the facility as part of a program to meet the growing needs for lifesaving services.

The trauma tower will bring the total number of patient beds to 721 from the current 498 and will house the relocated Emergency Center. New construction also will include a parking garage for 2,150 cars in addition to 1,100 spaces for patient parking under the new trauma tower.

After the new addition is completed, renovation to existing buildings will take place between 2014 and 2017. Funding for the projects includes available reserves, tax funds and certificates of obligation, including funds from the federal stimulus package.

## CTRC Research Noted Among Top Cancer Advances

Research conducted partially in San Antonio and led by Ian M. Thompson, M.D., executive director of the Cancer Therapy and Research Center at the UT Health Science Center, is included in a summary of the most significant cancer research advances during the year.

The American Society of Clinical Oncology report included Dr. Thompson’s article showing that men who had their prostate glands removed had better outcomes if they followed up with a course of radiation treatments.

Noted as one of the top 15 cancer advances in 2009, the article was published in the Journal of Urology in March.

Initiated in 1988, the study enrolled 425 men from the U.S. and Canada. On average, men were followed about 13 years.

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**The mission of the San Antonio Medical Foundation is to provide leadership and active stewardship of our land and other assets to improve health care, advance biomedical science and enhance community well-being.**

The San Antonio Medical Foundation relies on contributions for its funding. Contributions are tax deductible, because the Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization.