

UT Southwestern Medical Center

NCI Designation for Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center

July 9, 2015

To the UT Southwestern Community:

I am very pleased to announce that the National Cancer Institute (NCI) has awarded its highest designation to UT Southwestern Medical Center's Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center, making it one of only 45 cancer centers nationally to receive this distinction over the past 44 years.

The Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center is the first and only facility in North Texas to receive the NCI's *comprehensive* designation, and the second in the University of Texas System, joining MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. The designation includes an \$8.1 million grant for cancer center support. The Simmons Cancer Center was originally designated an NCI cancer center in 2010, and in less than five years has risen to the top tier among cancer centers across the nation.

To achieve NCI comprehensive status, the Cancer Center had to:

- Demonstrate depth and breadth in laboratory research, clinical research, and population-based research;
- Demonstrate strength in transdisciplinary research that bridges scientific fields;
- Serve not only our regional area, but also the broader population through cancer research; and
- Integrate training and education of biomedical researchers and health care professionals.

UT Southwestern currently receives more than \$100 million annually for cancer research from the NCI and other National Institutes of Health and peer-reviewed funding agencies, including the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas. With more than 200 faculty from over 30 departments and centers campuswide, as well as 500 clinical and research staff, the NCI recognition is a testament to the talents and dedication of our extraordinary cancer team. Please join me in congratulating Dr. James Willson, Director of the Simmons Cancer Center and Associate Dean of Oncology Programs, and everyone associated with the Cancer Center for their contributions to this great accomplishment.

From a broader institutional standpoint, the designation reflects tremendous progress in achieving our strategic priorities – especially our commitment to develop an academic health care system that is at the vanguard of quality, safety, and innovation in patient care, enhanced by clinical and translational research.

The NCI designation also reflects our commitment to partnerships, including our collaborations with Parkland Health & Hospital System, which provides care for the underserved; Children's Medical Center Dallas; the UT School of Public Health Dallas Regional Campus; and UT Southwestern's Moncrief Cancer Institute in Fort Worth. All of these institutions played an important role in helping us achieve the comprehensive designation, and our collaborations make UT Southwestern a stronger, more diverse organization.

This is a proud achievement for UT Southwestern as we continue to seek excellence in all that we do.

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