

Alumni Reunion Dinner

15 September 2017

ND14 Private Dining

6:30 PM Reception

7:20 PM Brief remarks (5 minutes)

7:30 PM Seated dinner

- *Audience: Alumni reunion classes (classes of 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2007) Expected number of attendees about 250+*
 - *Audience will be standing; therefore we will have a mini-riser with podium for Dr. Podolsky. Dr. Podolsky has not previously addressed this alumni group in this type of setting. He has on occasion participated in reunion weekend activities as a featured speaker.*
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Good evening. I'm Daniel Podolsky, President of UT Southwestern Medical Center. On behalf of the entire UT Southwestern Medical Center community, welcome back to campus.

It is always a pleasure to host former students, and I invite you to visit us often. Whether you want to help with student recruiting, engage in research, work with our clinical care team, or would simply like to stop in for lunch and a quick tour, I hope you will actively look for ways to get involved with us.

Also, starting in the next month or two, we will be working harder to reach out to each of you. Our alumni relations office is adding staff and resources. They have some great ideas on events, networking activities, and opportunities to get you more involved in all that we do as a campus and as an academic medical center.

Today, however, I want you to celebrate. I consider reunions like this one to be especially meaningful as we mark milestones in your ongoing connection to the school and the institution. We are proud that our graduates have become our colleagues, that you serve as role models and mentors for others, and that the knowledge you gained here is being applied every day to provide relief from suffering and the toll of disease.

My leadership team and I often speak of the seeds that start here and spread throughout the medical community. More than 60% of practicing physicians in the State of Texas went to medical school here. You've worked in major hospitals, small town clinics, and tents in disaster zones. Some of you bring your knowledge and expertise to the classroom. Others are conducting groundbreaking research. And at least one of our graduates attending this weekend's reunion has even worked in space.

As an institution, we are also expanding our reach. UT Southwestern began as a private medical college founded by the community of Dallas. Over the 75 years since, it has emerged as one of the world's leading academic medical centers.

That strength manifests in more than just physical locations through the region. It's about our exceptional work training physicians, healing the sick, and seeking scientific breakthroughs to ensure the well-being of future generations.

It's also a tribute to our dedicated employees, without whose work we would not be so successful. An inspiring example of this is Wes Norred. Many of you probably know Wes, who has been the Vice

President of Student and Alumni Affairs for some time now. In this role and others in academic affairs, he has touched the lives of more than 10,000 students and alumni.

What you may not know is that Wes is celebrating 45 years of service with UT Southwestern Medical Center. He started working here before many of you were in medical school, and will be retiring at the end of this semester. Please join me in thanking him for his service to our institution.

I now invite you to please be seated for our dinner.