



## **Francisco G. Cigarroa, M.D.**

### **Selected Highlights of UT Health Science Center Presidency**

2000

- October – The University of Texas System Board of Regents names Francisco Joaquin Gonzalez Cigarroa, M.D., a 42-year-old pediatric and transplantation surgeon educated at Yale, Harvard, Johns Hopkins and the UT Southwestern Medical Center, the third president of The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.
- November – Dedication of the South Texas Centers for Biology in Medicine building and the SBC (now AT&T) Teleconference Center doubles the Health Science Center presence in the Texas Research Park.

2001

- February – The Health Science Center announces it has raised \$20 million to build a premier research facility, including a \$4 million gift from Sam and Ann Barshop of San Antonio. The Board of Regents names a major campus research center the Sam and Ann Barshop Institute for Longevity and Aging Studies.
- August – Ground is broken for the Children’s Cancer Research Center, later to be renamed the Greehey Children’s Cancer Research Institute.
- September – Just four days before the September 11 attacks, the formal investiture of Dr. Cigarroa as president is held on campus with 1,000 attending.
- September/October – The Health Science Center responds in various ways to the national tragedy, including sending one of its forensic dentists to assist with mortuary efforts at Ground Zero.
- October – President Cigarroa announces a fast-track agreement for St. Mary’s University students to seamlessly transition into the School of Nursing at the Health Science Center. It is one of a series of such agreements he announces through the years with universities in San Antonio, Laredo and the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The

medical, dental, nursing and health professions schools have various agreements in place today with several universities.

## 2002

- June – President Cigarroa, Gov. Perry and leaders of the Rio Grande Valley legislative delegation, along with more than 1,000 in the audience, celebrate the dedication of the UT Health Science Center San Antonio Regional Academic Health Center (RAHC) Medical Education Division in Harlingen. Medical student rotations in Harlingen are already under way.
- August – The School of Medicine establishes the Center for Medical Humanities and Ethics.
- August – A national magazine ranks the Palmaz Stent as “one of 10 patents that changed the world.” Dr. Julio Palmaz developed the first stent at the Health Science Center.
- September – Dr. Cigarroa establishes a Presidential Research Enhancement Fund to support novel and innovative research programs of Health Science Center faculty members.
- September – President Cigarroa inaugurates the Presidential Distinguished Lecturer Series at the Health Science Center. Harvard Medical School’s M. Judah Folkman, M.D., a noted pioneer in angiogenesis, the formation and differentiation of blood vessels, is the first lecturer. The Presidential Distinguished Lecturer Series continues to bring top scientists to campus annually.
- December – President Cigarroa, Sen. Judith Zaffirini and other leaders dedicate the D.D. Hachar Building, the first facility of the Laredo Campus Extension of the Health Science Center.

## 2003

- January – The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Health Science Center’s and UT San Antonio’s request to establish a joint Ph.D. program in biomedical engineering.
- March – The Health Science Center announces it has entered its first equity agreement in lieu of royalties with Vidacare Corp. Vidacare is developing the EZ-IO, a hollow drill to quickly infuse lifesaving fluids into the bone marrow cavity when traditional IV lines cannot be established.

- May – The National Institutes of Health awards a \$37 million grant, the largest grant in Health Science Center history, for a study aimed at preventing the most common type of stroke in Mexican Americans.
- September – M.D./Ph.D. and D.D.S./Ph.D. programs are launched to develop new clinician scientists.
- December – President Cigarroa and President Ricardo Romo of UTSA sign an agreement establishing the San Antonio Life Sciences Institute, a joint program to develop research between the two institutions.
- December – President Cigarroa announces a fundraising initiative, The Campaign for the Future of Health. The goal is to raise \$300 million in private and public funding for a new signature research facility at the Health Science Center and for endowments to enable faculty recruitment and retention.

#### 2004

- May – The \$50 million Children’s Cancer Research Institute, supported by a \$200 million endowment from the state tobacco settlement, is dedicated to study the basic biology of cancer in children with an eye to understanding cancer in general.
- May – A gift from the Robert J. and Helen C. Kleberg, Jr. Foundation establishes the Kleberg Medical Scholars Program to support clinical research of residents at the Regional Academic Health Center.
- June – The Regional Academic Health Center celebrates its exemplary first graduating class of residents and interns in Harlingen.
- September – The titanium rib, a device to save the lives of children whose lungs could not grow because of chest wall deformities, is approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The Health Science Center aided the clinical research that resulted in FDA approval.

#### 2005

- May – The Sam and Ann Barshop Institute for Longevity and Aging Studies building is dedicated on the Texas Research Park Campus.
- September – Health Science Center faculty and students take a lead role in San Antonio shelters providing refuge for victims of Hurricane Katrina.
- October – President Cigarroa leads a celebration of virtual health education projects funded by a \$5 million grant from the AT&T Foundation.

- October – The Fourth Annual Presidential Distinguished Lecture is delivered by world-renowned heart surgeon Dr. Denton Cooley of the Texas Heart Institute in Houston.
- November – The University of Texas System Board of Regents approves the Health Science Center’s request to proceed with the financing and construction of a state-of-the-art ambulatory clinic to be known as the Medical Arts and Research Center.
- November – President Cigarroa and School of Medicine leaders formally open the \$5 million Clinical Skills Center, where aspiring physicians and other health professions students learn the art of physical examination, patient history-taking and bedside manner.

## 2006

- March – President Cigarroa leads the groundbreaking of the second campus building in Laredo.
- April – Leaders dedicate the Regional Academic Health Center Medical Research Division at Edinburg.
- July – President Cigarroa and Gov. Rick Perry announce \$60 million in tuition revenue bonds to partially fund construction of a 200,000-square-foot facility. The South Texas Research Facility will be located in the South Texas Medical Center.
- July – President Cigarroa tells Rio Grande Valley leaders that the second Harlingen building of the Regional Academic Health Center is “a firm and enduring commitment to the people of the Valley.” The building, including a Veterans Administration-leased health care center, is under construction with dedication planned for 2007.
- August – President Cigarroa announces that the Board of Regents has authorized \$263 million in capital and other projects at the Health Science Center.
- October – School of Medicine leaders break ground on the \$100 million Medical Arts and Research Center (MARC), the new home of the multispecialty practice group of Health Science Center faculty physicians. The MARC is expected to be completed in the summer of 2009. It will provide 250,000 square feet of ambulatory clinic space, subspecialty expertise and electronic medical records to provide the finest care for patients.
- October – The Health Science Center receives \$4.1 million from the Texas Emerging Technology Fund and \$4.1 million from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency to establish the Comprehensive Facility for Animal Imaging Research, part of the university’s Research Imaging Center.

- October – President Cigarroa is elected to the Institute of Medicine of The National Academies, independent advisers to the nation on science, engineering and medicine.

## 2007

- January – Bill Greehey, then chairman of Valero Energy Corp. and now chairman of NuStar Energy L.P., announces that the Greehey Family Foundation is giving \$25 million for research of children’s cancer, care and survivorship of children with chronic illnesses, and faculty and capital expansion. The Greehey Academic and Research Campus and the Greehey Children’s Cancer Research Institute are renamed for the Greeheys.
- April – A thousand members of the community attend a celebration of the Greehey gift.
- August – Valero Energy Corp. Bill Klesse announces the company is donating \$5 million for transplantation, oral health, medical humanities and ethics, and the M.D./Ph.D. program.
- September – The first Health Science Center gala honors longtime Development Board Chair Jocelyn Straus with establishment of a chair in trauma research in the Straus family’s name.
- October – New branding that includes a color logo and the tagline “We make lives better” is initiated on Health Science Center campuses and in the community.
- December – After the due diligence and approval of The University of Texas System Board of Regents and the Board of Governors of the Cancer Therapy & Research Center (CTRC), the CTRC becomes part of the Health Science Center in the School of Medicine.

## 2008

- January – President Cigarroa announces a \$25 million gift by Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long of Austin to establish an endowment fund supporting scholarship, research and teaching.
- January – President Cigarroa begins a one-year term as chairman of the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce.
- May – More than 400 attend a campus ceremony in honor of the Longs. The central campus is officially renamed the Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long Campus.
- May – The Health Science Center is awarded a \$26 million Clinical Translational and Science Award (CTSA). The Health Science Center joins 38 other leading centers

around the nation in this National Institutes of Health program. The CTSA goal is to move science ideas and findings in the laboratory to clinical research trials to public health solutions in communities.

- September – At the second Health Science Center gala, Gov. Dolph Briscoe Jr. announces a \$5 million gift for cardiology and women’s health initiatives. This brings his total giving to \$9 million.
- October – President Cigarroa announces that faculty external awards surpassed \$200 million in a 12-month span for the first time. Awards from National Institutes of Health (NIH) reached \$107 million. The external awards total for fiscal year 2008 is 18 percent higher than the previous fiscal year, and the NIH increase is 28 percent.