

# THE HEALTH INSTITUTES of TEXAS

## A Bench-to-Bedside Solution for the People of Texas

*“TEXAS FACES AN IMPENDING CRISIS regarding the health of its population, which will profoundly influence the state’s competitive position nationally and globally. The health of Texas, economically, educationally, culturally and socially depends on the physical and mental health of its population. Quality of life for individual Texans and the communities in which they live depends critically upon health status.”*

—“CODE RED: THE CRITICAL CONDITION OF HEALTH IN TEXAS” 2006 REPORT

Infant mortality. Aging and Alzheimer’s Disease. Diabetes. Obesity. Musculoskeletal disease. Cardiovascular disease. Ethnically disproportionate illness. All are problems that rob the productivity and quality of life of Texans each day, and strain our personal pocketbooks as well as the healthcare system as a whole.

These longstanding health issues affect all of us and will not go away until a comprehensive, focused and seamless approach is taken to tracking, testing and treatment.

At the UNT Health Science Center, we are uniquely structured to bring such a bench-to-bedside attack against disease. Our expertise in public health, interdisciplinary scientific research and clinical care education and delivery gives us the singular ability to translate public health information and basic research into new models of provider training and care delivery. Our size gives us the nimbleness to collaborate expeditiously.

To optimize the health of Texans, we propose formation of **THE HEALTH INSTITUTES OF TEXAS** at the UNT Health Science Center, a concept blending three unique and complementary centers.

First, researchers, caregivers and policy makers must be armed with critical information such as demographics, mortality and morbidity, and health care utilization in order to proactively map health issues. Cost-effective solutions will require creation of integrated databases for analyzing, trending and forecasting data. The **TEXAS CENTER FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES** will provide our public health experts this all-important information repository to target the exact existence of serious socio-economic and ethnic health disparities, as well as the emergence of new diseases.

Second, we must use this new information to help fill in the gaps of our existing biomedical scientific knowledge and then directly apply this resulting research to our communities. The **TEXAS CENTER FOR TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH** will build on our research strengths in Alzheimer’s and aging, health disparities, diabetes, obesity, musculoskeletal medicine, cardiovascular disease, and infant mortality through new interdisciplinary and collaborative investigations and

partnerships. As a result, for example, we hope to develop unique drug discoveries for therapeutic development and testing with the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT).

Finally, we must be able to take the knowledge discovered in the first two centers and use them to build new models of provider training and care delivery. Utilizing the latest in information technology and simulation, the **TEXAS CENTER FOR PRIMARY AND RURAL CARE** will provide support to comprehensive medical training in Corpus Christi and Fort Worth. In addition, new models of care will improve access to quality care in rural and underserved communities throughout Texas.

All three centers working together will provide the continuous feedback necessary to determine if a solution in theory works in reality.

The Institutes concept is a natural progression for our organization, expanding on our key organizational strengths. We already have highly regarded public health programs in health surveillance, epidemiology, and health disparities. Our research enterprise has grown over 80 percent in the past five years and has the highest return on investment in Texas with a federal-to-state expenditure ratio of 73 to 1. Our integrative model actually preceded the National Institutes of Health “roadmap” initiative mandating collaborative, interdisciplinary research. Our Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine is ranked 28 among the 145 medical schools in the country, recognized for innovative programs in primary care and rural medicine.

To make the Institutes concept a reality, we estimate it will cost the state \$16.7 million for fiscal year 2008, one-third the total cost. The second third will come from re-focusing current activities and existing organizational resources. The remainder will come from private funding.

By building on our unique structure and solid foundation, the Health Institutes of Texas can create the much-needed solutions for the health issues we face. We ask your support to achieve our goal of improving the lives of Texans and thereby the future of the state.



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HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER