



NEWSLETTER
12.20.2018

CLOSURES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

All UT Health San Antonio MD Anderson
Cancer Center practices will be **closed**
on the following dates:

Monday, Dec. 24

Tuesday, Dec. 25

Wednesday, Dec. 26

Tuesday, Jan. 1

As 2018 comes to a close, it is a great time to reflect on what we've accomplished this year and the plans we have for an exciting and bright future. I want to express my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for your continued dedication and commitment to our patients at the Cancer Center. I am so thankful and proud to be part of the amazing group of nurses, physicians, scientists, pharmacists, physiotherapists, laboratory technicians, medical assistants, employees and administrators who make UT Health San Antonio MD Anderson Cancer Center the very special place that it is.

We have so much to be thankful for in 2018. We celebrated a transformative \$30 million legacy gift from the Mays Family Foundation. We launched our partnership with the MD Anderson Cancer Network® and welcomed important leadership and faculty within the Institute for Drug Development and across the Cancer Center. We expanded our clinical and research teams, increased our patient satisfaction scores and made significant improvements to our patient care spaces with the addition of the new Welcome Center, Infusion Center and Family Center. We also launched our first mass media marketing campaign to elevate the Cancer Center's brand as the premier cancer care provider in San Antonio and South Texas.

Looking forward to 2019, I foresee another year of growth and excitement as we deepen our relationship with MD Anderson and focus on disease group activities, molecular diagnostics, early phase clinical trials, post-therapy care and the opening of additional multidisciplinary clinics. In addition, we will begin preparation for the renewal of our NCI Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG), from which our NCI designation is derived.

You have been unwavering in your dedication through all the changes that we have experienced over the past year. I appreciate your continued commitment to providing patient-centered, compassionate care to our patients and their families. You, your

skills and your heart give them hope for the days and years ahead. I hope you enjoy the time with your friends and loved ones this holiday season. You deserve it!

Wishing everyone a peaceful holiday season and a happy, healthy and successful 2019.



Ruben Mesa, MD, FACP
Director, UT Health San Antonio
MD Anderson Cancer Center





IN MEMORIAM: CHARLES A. COLTMAN JR., M.D.

Published On: December 6, 2018
Shared by Joe Feist

Charles A. Coltman Jr., M.D., an oncology trailblazer and co-founder of the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium, died Nov. 28. He was 88. Dr. Coltman was professor of hematology and medical oncology at UT Health San Antonio from 1977 to 2010. He joined what was known then as the Cancer Therapy & Research Center (CTRC) in 1977 and served as its medical director and later chairman through 2003. The CTRC became part of UT Health San Antonio in 2007 and is now known as UT Health San Antonio MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Dr. Coltman, along with William L. McGuire, M.D., started the Breast Cancer Symposium as a regional conference in 1978. At that first session, there were 140 attendees from around South Texas. The symposium is now an international conference spanning five days, drawing nearly 8,000 attendees each year to San Antonio. It is one of the largest breast cancer meetings in the world.

“Dr. Coltman’s profound influence on the cancer research community cannot be overstated,” said Charles D. Blanke, M.D., the current group chair of the SWOG Cancer Research Network, the organization Dr. Coltman ran from 1981 to 2005. “He was a true pioneer, seeing possibilities early – then making them happen with heart and hard work and the military bearing and precision of the Air Force officer he was.”

For 24 years, Coltman served as group chair of SWOG, the National Cancer Institute-sponsored clinical trials group that is part of the National Clinical Trials Network, the oldest and largest publicly funded cancer research network in the United States. In 1993, Coltman founded the Southwest Oncology Group Foundation, which would become a critical partner in furthering the group’s work as The Hope Foundation for Cancer Research.

As a researcher, Coltman’s primary focus was on blood cancers, and he won several awards for this work, including the Outstanding Achievement in Clinical Research Award from the Association of Community Care Centers and ASCO’s David A. Karnofsky Memorial Award.

Prior to his civilian work, Dr. Coltman was a highly decorated Air Force veteran and the chief of hematology and oncology at Wilford Hall Medical Center in San Antonio.

William L. Henrich, M.D., president of UT Health San Antonio, said Dr. Coltman helped give patients a voice in the clinical trial development process.

“Patients gained a place at the table with cancer researchers, designing clinical trials and providing advice on quality-of-life issues,” Dr. Henrich said. “Advocates also got a front-row seat in learning about the newest treatments being studied and spread this news among their peers.”

Dr. Henrich added: “With his influence locally, regionally and through the Breast Cancer Symposium, Dr. Coltman impacted the prevention and treatment of cancer care throughout the world.”

JOIN US FOR LIVING BEYOND CANCER A-Z:

A UT HEALTH SAN ANTONIO
MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER
SYMPOSIUM, ON JAN. 12, 2019.

The symposium will feature world-renowned cancer experts, including medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, surgeons and other supportive care team members. These experts will lead disease-specific breakout sessions, share insights on several different types of cancer, including the latest treatment options, and be available to answer questions.

In addition, attendees will be able to participate in breakout sessions to identify resources, tools and support mechanisms to stay physically, emotionally and mentally strong throughout their cancer journey.

Topics include: The Role of Integrative Medicine in Cancer Care, Mindfulness and Spirituality, Family of Caregivers – Wonder and Worries, Meditative Movement and more.

Cancer survivors, cancer patients, friends, family, caregivers and faculty and staff are invited to attend.

Jan. 12, 2019 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Holly Auditorium on UT Health
San Antonio’s Long campus,
7703 Floyd Curl Drive
San Antonio, TX 78229

There is no cost to attend this conference.

Register online to reserve your spot today!
[UTHealthsaMDAnderson.org/
LivingBeyondCancer](http://UTHealthsaMDAnderson.org/LivingBeyondCancer)

HOLIDAY SAFETY

Tips for a stress-free holiday season

The UT Health San Antonio Police Department urges UT Health faculty, employees, students and visitors to keep safety a top priority both on and off the job during the holidays. The busy holiday season is full of “To-Do” lists for both home and work. Hazardous travel, crowded stores, dangerous home décor and holiday parties all come with heightened stress, which can lead to accidents and injuries. Here are some suggestions on how to enjoy a safe and happy holiday.

CHRISTMAS TREE

- Keep tree away from heat sources (vents, fireplace)
- Place tree in a low traffic area
- Dispose of tree outside soon after the holiday
- Wash and store artificial trees in plastic bags
- Carefully choose a live tree that is not too dry - one without loose needles. Check a branch near the base
- Bend branches to make sure they do not break
- Preserve tree freshness by cutting a one- or two-inch diagonal slice off the bottom
- Place tree in a sturdy stand and check water level daily

LIGHTS

- Examine holiday lights before hanging them
Replace any missing bulbs or broken parts
Check lights by setting them on a nonflammable surface and plugging them in for 10-15 minutes
Look for signs of melting or smoking
- Keep lights away from curtains or flammable materials
- Make sure cords and plugs do not come in contact with water
- To prevent overheating, pinching and fraying, do not run cords under carpet, rugs, or behind furniture
- Never connect more than three sets of lights to an extension cord
- Unplug all lights before you leave the house or office or go to bed

WORKPLACE DECORATIONS

- Keep garlands and fragile glass ornaments out of reach of children
- Check older ornaments to ensure they are free of toxic materials such as lead paint

HOLIDAY FOOD

- Keep hands and work areas clean and free of contaminants
- Keep hot foods hot and cool foods cool
- Cook food thoroughly and store properly to avoid food poisoning

FIREPLACE

- Always use a fire screen
- Do not burn trash in fireplace
- Do not wear loose clothing or synthetic materials that are prone to melting when tending a fire
- Keep flue open until all embers have burned out
- Dispose of ashes in a metal container
- Make sure fire and/or candles are out before leaving or going to bed
- Keep candles away from curtains and out of reach of children
- Never place lit candles on or near a Christmas tree
- Check smoke detectors once a month

HOLIDAY TRAVELING

- Winterize your vehicle
- Carry a winter survival kit that includes warm gear, nonperishable foods and first aid items

UT Health San Antonio Police Department

7703 Floyd Curl Drive
San Antonio, TX 78229

Emergency

Campus Phone 911
Cell Phone 210-567-8911

Non-emergency

Campus Phone 72800, option 3
Cell Phone 210-567-2800, option 3
<https://www.uthscsa.edu/police/home>

