U.S. News & World Report recognizes 11 Baylor Scott & White Health hospitals

Baylor Scott & White Health has the most nationally ranked medical centers of any health care system in Texas in this year’s U.S. News & World Report Best Hospitals list:

- The Heart Hospital Baylor Plano is ranked #16 nationally for cardiology & heart surgery.
- Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas is ranked #29 nationally for gastroenterology & GI surgery and #41 for ear, nose, & throat. High-performing medical specialties recognized as being in the top 10% of the nation include cancer, diabetes & endocrinology, geriatrics, nephrology, neurology & neurosurgery, orthopedics, and pulmonology. This is the 25th year that the medical center has been on the list.
- Scott & White Medical Center – Temple is ranked #44 in the nation for ear, nose, & throat. High-performing medical specialties recognized as being in the top 10% of the nation are gastroenterology & GI surgery and pulmonology.
- Baylor Scott & White All Saints Medical Center – Fort Worth is ranked #47 nationally for gastroenterology & GI surgery and #41 for ear, nose, & throat.

In addition, Baylor Scott & White Medical Center – Plano is ranked “high performing” in the top 10% of the nation in orthopedics.

Eleven Baylor Scott & White Health medical centers were recognized in U.S. News’ Best Regional Hospitals category, either by being ranked or by being rated “high performing” in common procedures and conditions:

- Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas is ranked #2 in the Dallas metropolitan area and #3 in Texas. The hospital is rated high performing in aortic valve surgery, heart bypass surgery, congestive heart failure, colon cancer surgery, COPD, hip replacement, knee replacement, and lung cancer surgery.
- Scott & White Medical Center – Temple is ranked #7 in the state of Texas. The hospital is rated high performing in congestive heart failure, colon cancer surgery, COPD, and knee replacement.
- The Heart Hospital Baylor Plano is ranked high performing in abdominal aortic aneurysm repair, aortic valve surgery, heart bypass surgery, congestive heart failure, and lung cancer surgery.
- Baylor Scott & White Medical Center – Plano is tied for #9 in the Dallas metro area and tied for #23 in the state of Texas. The hospital is rated high performing in colon cancer surgery and COPD.
- Baylor Scott & White Medical Center – Grapevine is tied for #9 in the Dallas metro area and tied for #23 in the state of Texas. The hospital is rated high performing in heart failure, colon cancer surgery, and COPD.
- Baylor Scott & White Medical Center – Irving is tied for #9 in the Dallas metro area and tied for #23 in the state of Texas. The hospital is rated high performing in congestive heart failure, COPD, and knee replacement.
- Baylor Scott & White All Saints Medical Center – Fort Worth is ranked #15 in the Dallas metro area and #34 in the state of Texas.
- Baylor Jack and Jane Hamilton Heart and Vascular Hospital is rated high performing in abdominal aortic aneurysm repair and congestive heart failure.
- Baylor Scott & White Medical Center – Round Rock is rated high performing in hip replacement.
- Baylor Medical Center at Uptown is ranked high performing in hip replacement.

“I am proud of the exceptional care teams at Baylor Scott & White that deserve this recognition for the outstanding care they provide millions of Texans each year,” said Jim Hinton, president and CEO, Baylor Scott & White Health. “These rankings and ratings underscore the trust patients place in Baylor Scott & White medical centers, whether they are seeking care for common conditions or highly specialized treatments.”

Baylor Scott & White Health and United Surgical Partners International join in ownership of Texas Spine & Joint Hospital

Baylor Scott & White Health and United Surgical Partners International (USPI) announced a new partnership with Texas Spine & Joint Hospital in Tyler, Texas. As of August 1, 2017, Texas Spine & Joint is officially part of the Baylor Scott & White statewide network.

“We are excited by the opportunity to partner with USPI and this great group of physicians to serve the people of Tyler, Smith County, and all of East Texas,” said Jim Hinton, president and CEO, Baylor Scott & White Health. “We believe this is an excellent way to expand our high-value integrated delivery network into new communities throughout the state.”

As the integration process continues, bringing the hospital into the Baylor Scott & White system will further enable physicians and other caregivers to provide increasingly coordinated care to patients. Providers will be able to more easily access quality clinical resources, including a large network of specialty medical expertise.

UPCOMING CME PROGRAMS

The A. Webb Roberts Center for Continuing Education of Baylor Scott & White Health is offering the following programs:

2nd Annual Dr. Matthew L. Davis Trauma Symposium, October 27, 2017, at the Frank W. Mayborn Civic and Convention Center, Temple, Texas
Cardiology Update for Primary Care, December 1–2, 2017, at the Westin at the Domain in Austin, Texas
44th Annual Williamsburg Conference on Heart Disease, December 3–5, 2017, at Williamsburg Conference Center, Williamsburg, Virginia

For more information, visit http://cmebaylor.org/conferences.
Baylor Scott & White Health, Texas Home Health form joint venture

As health care continues to evolve, high-quality care is increasingly important in the home setting. With that in mind, Baylor Scott & White Health, the largest not-for-profit health care system in Texas, and Texas Home Health, an AccentCare, Inc. company and leader in post-acute health care, have formed a new home health joint venture company, Texas Home Health Group, effective August 1, 2017.

Texas Home Health Group operates in Baylor Scott & White’s footprint including the Dallas-Fort Worth area and much of North and Central Texas. The newly formed joint venture delivers home health services to 57 counties from eight locations: Brenham, College Station, Huntsville, Marble Falls, McKinney, Taylor, Temple, and Waco. Staff and care team members from the legacy Texas Home Health and Baylor Scott & White Health Home Care agencies have joined the new joint venture, with operations being managed by Texas Home Health.

New centers seek early detection and prevention for esophageal cancer

An innovative new program dedicated to treatment and prevention of esophageal diseases is allowing clinicians and researchers to collaborate directly on patient care.

Funded by the National Institutes of Health and Baylor Scott & White Research Institute, the Center for Esophageal Research and its associated Center for Esophageal Diseases at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas offer a unique program that investigates the full spectrum of research on conditions such as gastroesophageal reflux disease and Barrett’s esophagus.

“What’s most exciting about the centers is the collaboration between a productive lab and a patient-oriented clinical care team to really explore how we can better the lives of patients living with esophageal diseases,” said Vani Konda, MD, director of clinical operations for the Center for Esophageal Diseases.

With both bench and bedside components, physicians are provided more opportunities for translational research, and researchers can gain a better understanding of disease states over time. Equipped with advanced clinical and laboratory equipment and a patient-oriented care team, the centers have the necessary resources to conduct comprehensive research designed to uncover early detection and prevention methods—a critical step in reducing the rising incidence of esophageal cancer.

“Baylor Scott & White Health offered an opportunity to really develop these clinical and research centers that go hand in hand. That’s what’s unique about this—the ability to really make inroads into these diseases,” said Stuart Spechler, MD, chief of gastroenterology at Baylor University Medical Center.

RECENT GRANTS

- **Mandatory estimates of vaccine effectiveness against medically attended, PCR-confirmed influenza in West South Central US**
  - Principal investigator: Manjusha Gagliani, MD
  - Sponsor: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
  - Funding: $800,000
  - Award period: 8/1/2017–7/31/2018

- **Core apt measure of PCR-based influenza vaccine effectiveness in inpatient adults**
  - Principal investigator: Manjusha Gagliani, MD
  - Sponsor: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
  - Funding: $450,000
  - Award period: 8/1/2017–7/31/2018

- **Familial and early onset colorectal cancer**
  - Principal investigator: Ajay Goel, PhD
  - Sponsor: National Institutes of Health
  - Funding: $372,400
  - Award period: 8/1/2017–7/31/2018

- **Development of microRNA biomarkers for noninvasive detection of colorectal cancer**
  - Principal investigator: Ajay Goel, PhD
  - Sponsor: National Institutes of Health
  - Funding: $349,917
  - Award period: 7/1/2017–6/30/2018

- **Role of acid in the development of Barrett's esophagus**
  - Principal investigator: Rhonda Souza, MD
  - Sponsor: National Institutes of Health
  - Funding: $265,574
  - Award period: 5/23/2017–7/31/2018

- **Reflux-induced epithelial-mesenchymal transition in benign Barrett's esophagus**
  - Principal investigator: Rhonda Souza, MD
  - Sponsor: National Institutes of Health
  - Funding: $254,143
  - Award period: 5/26/2017–8/31/2017

- **Endoscopic, histologic, and molecular characterization of esophageal wound healing after radiofrequency ablation of Barrett's esophagus**
  - Principal investigator: Rhonda Souza, MD
  - Sponsor: National Institutes of Health
  - Funding: $251,545
  - Award period: 5/2/2017–4/30/2018

- **Pharmacometric optimization of second-line drugs for MDR tuberculosis treatment**
  - Principal investigator: Tawanda Gumbo, MD
  - Sponsor: University of Cape Town/National Institutes of Health
  - Funding: $149,104
  - Award period: 2/15/2017–1/31/2018

- **Quantifying infectiousness of undiagnosed tuberculosis cases and impact of enhanced community-based active case finding strategy using novel diagnostic tools: a randomized controlled trial**
  - Principal investigator: Tawanda Gumbo, MD
  - Sponsor: Civilian Research & Development Foundation
  - Funding: $72,065
  - Award period: 4/22/2016–4/19/2018

- **SUSTAIN for better health and health care for older adults**
  - Principal investigator: Alan Stevens, PhD
  - Sponsor: Texas A&M University Health Science Center/Department of Health and Human Services
  - Funding: $50,000
  - Award period: 8/1/2016–7/31/2018

- **Physically realistic virtual surgery**
  - Principal investigator: Ganesh Sankaranarayanan, PhD
  - Sponsor: Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute/National Institutes of Health
  - Funding: $48,225
  - Award period: 7/1/2015–8/31/2017

- **Affect regulation training for alcohol use disorder: a stage II efficacy trial**
  - Principal investigator: Suzy Gulliver, PhD
  - Sponsor: Research Foundation for the State University of New York/National Institutes of Health
  - Funding: $13,343
  - Award period: 4/1/2017–3/31/2018

- **Development of microRNA biomarkers for noninvasive detection of colorectal cancer**
  - Principal investigator: Ajay Goel, PhD
  - Sponsor: National Institutes of Health
  - Funding: $349,917
  - Award period: 7/1/2017–6/30/2018
PHILANTHROPY NOTES

■ Pancreatic cancer patients seeing promising results in AGAP Trial at Baylor

For many patients with inoperable pancreatic cancer, hope is fleeting. The 5-year survival rate for pancreatic cancer hovers around 5%, the lowest of all cancers. But a new clinical trial at Baylor Charles A. Sammons Cancer Center in Dallas is giving hope to a group of pancreatic cancer patients. Thus far, all patients enrolled in the AGAP Trial at Baylor have seen their tumors shrink from an inoperable state to an operable one.

According to Carlos Becerra, MD, the principal investigator for the study, one of the most interesting findings is that all of these patients have had negative margins on pathology post-surgery. There’s been so much enthusiasm around the trial that, after launching in January 2016, researchers reached their enrollment goal of 16 patients by the year’s end. They also recently received approval to increase the number of participating patients to 20. The increase will enhance the study’s statistical power. “This trial has invigorated the pancreas team here at Baylor,” said Scott Celinski, MD, another principal investigator for this study.

The researchers are also collecting samples from patients in the trial to study biomarkers that can possibly be used to detect pancreatic cancer at an earlier stage. Currently, most patients are not diagnosed until the disease is advanced.

All of this work is funded entirely by philanthropy, specifically a grant from the Jeanne Shelby Fund for Cancer Research at Communities Foundation of Texas. When the donor who established this fund first met with Baylor Scott & White researchers 2 years ago, she said her desire was to fund a clinical trial that would “provide options for pancreatic cancer patients who had no other options left.” Now, preliminary data are showing that the clinical trial she funded may help her fulfill that goal.

■ Jamie Lee Curtis to speak at 18th annual Celebrating Women luncheon

Emmy and Golden Globe award-winning actress, New York Times best-selling author, and advocate in the fight against breast cancer Jamie Lee Curtis will be the featured speaker at the 18th annual Baylor Health Care System Foundation Celebrating Women luncheon on Thursday, October 26, at the Hilton Anatole Hotel in Dallas.

At age 40, Jamie Lee experienced the same terrifying fear that hundreds of thousands of women face each year: the fear that she may have breast cancer. Thankfully, she said, “everything turned out fine, but it brought me very close to understanding how lucky I am to have access to all these resources and great doctors.”

Jamie Lee has a history of involving herself in causes she cares about in an effort to give back. The fight against breast cancer is no different. “You get involved because of your heart,” she said. “For me, there is no more important work—besides being a good mom to my kids—than using my celebrity to get more exposure for a specific cause such as this.”

Each year, approximately 1200 passionate men and women attend the Celebrating Women luncheon in a show of support for Baylor’s efforts to fight the disease in North Texas. Since the first Celebrating Women luncheon in 2000, more than $28 million has been raised to help Baylor Scott & White Health fight breast cancer in North Texas.

■ Hope is closer to having a home than ever before

The American Cancer Society selected Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas as the location of its newest Hope Lodge, a home-like facility that offers free accommodations for cancer patients who have to travel long distances for their care. Baylor Scott & White Health has donated the use of prime real estate, valued at $4 million, to the American Cancer Society for this initiative. This location will also serve as the regional headquarters for the American Cancer Society. Funding for Hope Lodge Dallas relies solely on philanthropic support, and approximately $25 million is needed for capital expenses, annual programming, and operations. To date, more than $14 million has been raised thanks to generous support from numerous donors. Dallas–Fort Worth is one of the largest metropolitan areas in the country without a Hope Lodge, and this facility fills a huge need.

■ Boone Powell Sr. Luncheon highlights Arts in Medicine program

Throughout history, pictures, stories, dances, music, and drama have been central to healing. Research indicates that music can decrease pain, nausea, and anxiety; lower blood pressure; and stabilize heart rates. According to JaeJeung So, art therapist at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas, art therapy also has a healing effect: “With serious illnesses, patients feel they have little control over their diseases and/or their lives. Art therapy allows them to gain a degree of freedom by putting on canvas what words can’t explain, literally allowing them to see what they are feeling.”

Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas, with the assistance of several generous friends, is helping to connect patients with the healing power of arts. The Arts in Medicine program at Baylor Dallas is a philanthropically funded initiative created to integrate music, visual arts, performing arts, and research to promote healing and to enhance the lives of patients, families, visitors, clinicians, and employees.

The Arts in Medicine program was the featured topic at the eighth annual Boone Powell Sr. Society Luncheon in May. This society was created to honor those who have made commitments to Baylor Health Care System Foundation through a planned gift or in their estate plans, and more than 100 members and guests gathered at this year’s recognition luncheon. Special guests included Paula Walker, who donated $1 million in 2015 to fund the core patient components of the Arts in Medicine initiative, and Harriet Jeffers, who is leaving a $500,000 bequest for the program.

The program included a panel discussion led by Foundation President Rowland K. Robinson with James Fleschman, MD, chief of surgery at Baylor Dallas; Kelly Crayton, RN, nurse manager at Baylor T. Boone Pickens Cancer Hospital; Tony Arant, certified music practitioner; JaeJeung So, art therapist; and Sara Chigani, music therapist. The panelists shared personal stories of the changes they’ve seen in patients though the healing power of arts and music. From reduced anxiety following a double mastectomy, to advances in speech and language treatment, music can help patients cope with the emotional and physical strains of their treatment and procedures.

For information on how you can support these or other initiatives at Baylor Scott & White Health – North Texas, please contact Baylor Health Care System Foundation at 214.820.3136.
University Medical Center. While esophagus problems are common, not many programs offer specialized training in this area, so it provides an educational opportunity for future gastroenterologists.

- Baylor Scott & White – Grapevine, Tarrant County EMS teams adopt Pulsara

Patients experiencing a heart attack or stroke can benefit from a new communication technology, Pulsara, a smartphone app implemented by 11 northeast Tarrant emergency medical services (EMS) teams and Baylor Scott & White Medical Center – Grapevine.

The hospital is the first in the Baylor Scott & White Health system and the first in Tarrant County to implement smartphone technology to support care for these patients. The app allows EMTs in the field who recognize symptoms of a stroke or heart attack to simply tap a button on their smartphones. This tap notifies the hospital team that an ambulance is on its way with a critical patient. As the paramedic enters more information, such as the patient’s medical history and vital signs, every team member receives a secure update. To date, the hospital has used the technology for a possible 115 myocardial infarctions and 117 strokes.

- Brain and Spine Center at Baylor Scott & White Medical Center – Plano opens

A new center dedicated to brain and spine services has opened at Baylor Scott & White Medical Center – Plano. The Brain and Spine Center offers comprehensive care within both medical and surgical specialties. Some of these services are brain tumor surgery, movement disorders and epilepsy treatment, neuromodulation, complex spine surgery, minimally invasive spine surgery, peripheral nerve disorders treatment, and headache and stroke care.

“Our community has indicated they want to have these highly specialized services available here in Plano,” said Jerri Garison, president, Baylor Scott & White – Plano. “We built a strong team of physicians and specialty certified nurses to care for patients with these complex neurological and neurosurgical diseases.”

The neurosurgeons and neurointerventional radiologists on the medical staff at Baylor Scott & White – Plano specialize in minimally invasive surgical techniques. The hospital uses the StealthStation surgical navigation system, which enables neurosurgeons to precisely track the location of surgical instruments throughout a procedure. The StealthStation system introduces an advanced version of Stealth technology—a combination of hardware, software, tracking algorithms, image data merging, and specialized instruments to help guide them during surgical procedures such as biopsy, tumor resection, and deep brain stimulation lead placement. A new epilepsy monitoring unit is part of the hospital’s expansion of its intensive care unit to 32 beds from 16 beds. Four beds in the new unit will be dedicated to epilepsy monitoring.

- Researchers show curcumin protects against chemoresistant pancreatic cancer

Curcumin is known for its powerful anti-inflammatory and antioxidant benefits, but a new study by researchers at Baylor Scott & White Research Institute reveals an additional benefit: its potential to overcome chemoresistance in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC), a common but aggressive form of cancer in the pancreas.

The study, “Curcumin sensitizes pancreatic cancer cells to gemcitabine by attenuating PRC2 subunit EZH2, and the IncRNA PVT1 expression,” was published in Carcinogenesis. Previous research demonstrated the advantages of taking curcumin preventatively, but this is the first study of its kind to demonstrate benefits of curcumin as an adjunct to chemotherapy.

Resistance to chemotherapeutic drugs is a major challenge in caring for patients with PDAC, the fourth leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the US. Patients may respond to chemotherapy initially, but as cancer stem cells form, the body can develop drug resistance. Now, researchers have developed an improved understanding of the molecular events underlying the development of pancreatic stem cells and the role that curcumin—the main component of turmeric—plays in overcoming resistance to vital chemotherapy drugs.

“By treating certain cells with small doses of curcumin, we were able to reverse the pathways that lead to chemoresistance,” said Ajay Goel, PhD, director of gastrointestinal research and translational genomics and oncology at Baylor Scott & White Research Institute and author of the study. “This is an important breakthrough that could lead to better prognosis and longer lives for patients with chemoresistant pancreatic cancer.”