Established in 1891 as the University of Texas Medical Department, the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) has grown from one building, 23 students and 13 faculty members to one of the nation’s leading university health sciences centers. Today, UTMB numbers approximately 3,000 students, more than 500 residents and 12,000 employees (including 1,000 faculty).

Its 84-acre Galveston campus is home to four health sciences schools (Medicine, Nursing, Health Professions and Graduate Biomedical Sciences), three institutes for advanced study, a major medical library, and one of only two national laboratories dedicated to the safe study of infectious threats to human health. There are more than 25,000 living UTMB alumni, with 4,500 graduates practicing medicine in Texas, the highest number from any of the state’s medical schools.

UTMB offers the full range of primary and specialized medical care through its network of Galveston-based hospitals and more than 80 clinics at 40 sites, including a standalone specialty care center located on the university’s 65-acre mainland campus.

UTMB is a component of the University of Texas System and, as the state’s first academic health center, has been defining health care in Texas for generations by providing a diverse and highly skilled health professions work force, advancing the understanding and treatment of illness and injury, and serving as a leading source of medical care for patients from throughout the state.

Although UTMB is located in the greater Houston metropolitan area and is a member of its world-famous Texas Medical Center, the university’s history and culture are inextricably linked with its island home. On September 13, 2008, UTMB and Galveston together faced Hurricane Ike, a storm that inflicted more than $1 billion of damage to campus facilities but also cleared the way to a most promising future. The storm forced a statewide conversation about UTMB’s importance to the region, and the critical need not only to re-build the institution but also to commit to its growth and revitalization.

In the storm’s wake:
• a new leadership team was forged,
• the university ended two consecutive fiscal years with a positive margin to reinvest in its mission,
• enrollment reached an all-time high,
• UTMB researchers received a prestigious Clinical and Translational Science Award,
• the clinical enterprise expanded its activities to the mainland with great success,
• state leaders committed more than $1 billion to UTMB, including funding to build a long-needed new hospital bed tower,
• the organization embarked on a $450 million capital campaign, which is already halfway to a successful conclusion, and
• UTMB’s culture has become much more entrepreneurial, focused on innovation and growth, buoyed by exceptional community support, and committed to national recognition.

The university’s research strengths in microbial diseases and vaccines are world-renowned, and planning for comparably regarded programs in other selected areas is under way. Collaborations with other Texas Medical Center organizations continue to grow, and will be important in order for UTMB to realize its full potential. The university’s undergraduate medical education program is among the most successful in the nation in producing a diverse and well-prepared group of new health professionals each year.

The University of Texas Medical Branch, the oldest academic health center in Texas, has conferred more than 34,000 degrees throughout its 120-year history. UTMB is a proud member of the Texas Medical Center, collaborating with other great Houston-area medical institutions.

UTMB employs about 12,000 people statewide, including more than 1,000 faculty members. Nearly 3,000 health sciences students and more than 500 residents are enrolled in fall 2011, the largest enrollment in the history of the institution. Its annual
budget for fiscal year 2011 exceeds $1.7 billion, and UTMB researchers were awarded grants and contracts totaling more than $125 million in fiscal year 2011. Its clinical enterprise, which currently includes John Sealy Hospital in Galveston and a network of about 80 clinics at more than 40 sites on and off the island, had more than 735,000 patient visits and 29,000 inpatient admissions in fiscal year 2011.

The Academic Enterprise

Opened in 1891, UTMB’s School of Medicine combines a rich history of service with a forward-thinking spirit to fulfill its role as a public trust for the people of Texas and beyond. With 20 departments and three institutes, The School of Medicine is a leader in education, diversity, translational research and clinical care. Seven departments in the School of Medicine rank in the top 25 for National Institutes of Health funding.

More than 4,500 UTMB graduates are practicing medicine in Texas, the highest number from any Texas medical school. Counted among UTMB graduates are 31 Texas Medical Association presidents, three American Medical Association presidents and three Texas Nursing Association presidents.

UTMB’s problem-based medical school curriculum is considered highly innovative, and UTMB is currently working with a number of Texas universities to develop a new curriculum that will take a student from high school to an M.D. in six years. A new education building is being planned, although it is not presently funded. Graduate medical education is financed by the hospital, but the program reports to the Dean. The medical school received a seven-year accreditation from LCME four years ago. UTMB takes tremendous pride in the diversity of its student body; the School of Medicine’s undergraduate medical education program ranks in the top 10 among medical school nationally in graduating Hispanic and African-American doctors.

UTMB’s Faculty Group Practice includes more than 600 physicians providing specialty care and primary care for the entire family, including state-of-the-art preventive, diagnostic and treatment services. As an academic medical practice, many UTMB physicians are also teachers and researchers working toward the continued improvement of the practice of medicine.

The School of Nursing, established in 1890, is the oldest nursing school in the Southwest. As the first university-affiliated school of nursing west of the Mississippi, UTMB’s School of Nursing has set the standard for progressive nursing education.

The Baccalaureate Nursing Program offers the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree and has three tracks: the BSN-Traditional, the Accelerated BSN (BACC 2), and the RN-BSN Track.

The school also boasts the oldest MSN program in Texas, with a focus on excellence in clinical practice, education, and research. The program owes its success to diversity, flexibility, excellent clinical resources and a highly experienced faculty. The Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) program is a new master's degree specialty program scheduled to begin in spring 2012. The CNL program will promote a high level of evidence-based clinical practice, with a focus on patient quality and safety, along with knowledge of leadership skills, clinical informatics, and health system operations.

UTMB’s Nursing PhD Program is completely online, using synchronous and asynchronous delivery, with only one required on-campus visit (five days) each year. There are two entry levels: BSN to PhD and MSN to PhD. The School of Nursing currently offers two tracts in the BSN to PhD level: Education and Leadership. The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program has recently been approved and the school is currently accepting applications. Students eligible for admission into the program will have an MSN-prepared nurse practitioner area of specialization.

The School of Health Professions, which currently enrolls 750 students and is ranked sixth in the nation in NIH funding, offers baccalaureate degrees in Clinical Laboratory Sciences and Respiratory Care, master's degrees in Occupational Therapy (ranked #17 in the nation by US News & World Report) and Physician Assistant Studies (ranked #11 by US News & World Report), and a professional doctorate in Physical Therapy (ranked #24 by US News & World Report). In addition to designing and implementing innovative ways to deliver instruction to students at distant locations, the school continuously explores opportunities to expand its program offerings and interprofessional learning.

The Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, with 385 students enrolled in 2011, comprises 11 graduate programs: seven based in departments of the School of Medicine, one in the School of Nursing, one in the Institute for the Medical Humanities, and two that are interdisciplinary.

The graduate programs and degrees are:

- Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (M.S., Ph.D.)
- Cell Biology (M.S., Ph.D.)
- Human Pathophysiology and Translational Medicine (M.S., Ph.D.)
The university has been doing business as “UTMB Health” since fall 2010, following an extensive rebranding initiative and recognized need to ensure that the university’s mission—improving health—is clear to all UTMB serves. Although applicable to the academic enterprise, which trains future health professionals and undertakes groundbreaking research to improve diagnosis and treatment, the mark is widely used throughout the UTMB Health System.

The Health System and the Faculty Group Practice provide a comprehensive range of services throughout the lifespan, in campus- and community-based facilities. The Health System operates hospitals in Galveston, as well as one of only three Level I trauma centers serving all ages in populous Southeast Texas. The Trauma Center serves a nine-county region of approximately 1.25 million people. In addition, the Health System recorded 29,000 inpatient admissions and 735,000 outpatient visits in fiscal year 2011.

Programs of clinical excellence include: women’s and children’s health, burns and trauma care, cardiology, cancer, asthma, diabetes and metabolic diseases, and geriatrics.

Major Health System facilities include:

- Among its network of clinics in the rapidly growing Bay Area in north Galveston County, UTMB Health recently opened the Multispecialty Center and Stark Diabetes Center, which offers a wide range of primary and specialty medical care with a focus on disease management. UTMB’s Specialty Care Center, also in the Bay Area, is a standalone facility on a 65-acre campus that offers outpatient specialty care and surgical services including: advanced imaging, breast health and imaging, Center for Obesity and Metabolic Surgery, Orthopedic and Rehabilitation Center, Outpatient Surgical Center, Pelvic Health and Continence Center, Surgical Specialty Care Clinic and a vascular lab.

- John Sealy Hospital in Galveston is a 12-story, 414-bed general care teaching hospital that is undergoing modernization to serve patients, faculty and staff well into the future. John Sealy includes a “hospital within a hospital” for children, comprising 26 pediatric acute care beds and four pediatric intensive care beds.

- The University of Texas System Board of Regents recently approved construction of the $438 million Jennie Sealy Hospital. When complete in 2016, it will feature 13 floors, 20 state-of-the-art surgical suites, 246 family-centered patient rooms (including shell space for an additional 64 beds to be completed as volumes dictate), a 54-bed intensive care unit, and areas for visiting and consultations with caregivers. Site preparation has begun, and UTMB will break ground on the new hospital in April 2012.

In addition, UTMB operates a network of Regional Maternal and Child Health clinics throughout East, Southeast and South Texas, and currently operates a Texas Department of Criminal Justice Hospital on its Galveston campus. An affiliated Shriners Hospital for Children–Galveston is adjacent to the UTMB campus and serves pediatric burn patients. UTMB clinical and research faculty with expertise in burns and wound-healing maintain privileges at the Shriners Hospital.

Notable programs, institutes and centers of excellence

UTMB is known for its excellence in aging, neuroscience, cardiology, cancer, asthma, burns, and infectious diseases/vaccines. UTMB research on the universal flu vaccine has received much attention in our region and is just one example of the myriad ways in which UTMB scientists are making strides in improving health worldwide.

Among many notable institutes and centers that facilitate research and clinical advances are:

Institute for Translational Sciences (ITS):

The Institute is the academic home of a five-year, $24 million Clinical Translational Sciences Award (CTSA) from the National Institutes of Health/National Center for Research Resources. Through its CTSA award, the institute seeks to facilitate translational research as a rigorous discipline, develop translational research training programs at all levels in the graduate continuum, effectively conduct and bridge step 1 translational research to steps 2 and 3, and interface productively with the national CTSA consortium. In particular, this CTSA helps UTMB build teams of researchers with diverse skills who can work effectively toward positive health outcomes. These teams also
serve as exemplary learning environments for the next generation of translational investigators. UTMB’s General Clinical Research Center (GCRC) resides within the CTSA and is part of a national network of centers with a primary mission to provide a research infrastructure for clinical investigators who receive grant support from other NIH components or from other Federal agencies. The GCRC has more than 45 consecutive years of funding.

Institute for the Medical Humanities (IMH): The Institute is committed to moral inquiry, research, teaching, and professional service in medicine and health care. Members engage in research on ethical and legal problems in clinical practice and biomedical research; and on philosophical, historical, visual, literary, and religious dimensions of medicine and health care. This broad-gauged inquiry provides the foundation for the activities of the Institute faculty in medical and graduate teaching, clinical ethics consultation, and health policy analysis locally and in state, national, and international academic and public forums.

Institute for Human Infections and Immunity (IHII): UTMB’s world-class infectious disease research programs are breaking new ground in understanding the nature of infectious diseases, and are working to translate new research concepts into products aimed at controlling emerging infectious diseases and mitigating their effects on society. IHII programs are the hub of infectious disease research at UTMB. The institute’s mission is to coordinate, facilitate and enhance the activities of UTMB’s research centers and programs that focus on advancing the fields of infection and immunity.

Sealy Center for Vaccine Development (SCVD): Established in 2001, the SCVD numbers more than 70 faculty from 12 medical departments and incorporates the expertise of more than 100 cutting-edge UTMB research programs. The center’s mission is to create, perfect and promote the most effective and safest disease prevention strategies by fostering collaborative and programmatic research and facilitating the translation of laboratory findings to clinical care. Examples of diseases and pathogens for which vaccine development research and/or clinical trials are being conducted include: parasitic and respiratory diseases, arboviruses, sexually transmitted diseases, rickettsiae, hemorrhagic fevers, and enteric bacteria. SCVD members also examine influences on vaccine acceptance and uptake, and address issues relevant to the development of public policies governing health care. In addition, the center facilitates education and training in vaccinology for graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and physicians.

Galveston National Laboratory: Within a state-of-the-art facility, an extraordinary group of scientists are engaged in efforts to translate research ideas into products aimed at controlling emerging infectious diseases and defending our society against bioterrorism. The GNL is a national resource that complements and enhances UTMB’s decades of prominence in biomedical research and provides a world renowned resource for training researchers in infectious diseases. As one of only two National Bioccontainment Laboratories constructed with funding awarded in October 2003 by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases/National Institutes of Health (NIAID/NIH), the GNL provides much needed research space and specialized research capabilities to develop therapies, vaccines, and diagnostic tests for naturally occurring emerging diseases such as SARS, West Nile encephalitis and avian influenza – as well as for microbes that might be employed by terrorists. Products likely to emerge from research and investigations within the GNL include novel diagnostic assays, improved therapeutics and treatment models, and preventative measures such as vaccines. The GNL is the only national laboratory in Texas.

Western Regional Center of Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases Research (WRCE): The WRCE serves the national imperative for the development of improved countermeasures against potential bioterror threats and naturally occurring infectious diseases. The center was established in 2003, when UTMB was selected by the National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID/NIH) as the lead institution for Region VI, which includes Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. The academic institutions in the WRCE possess a remarkable depth and breadth of scientific expertise related to critical, high-level biocontainment facilities and a consortium of scientists who cooperate and collaborate from traditionally competing institutions. These investigators, some of them world-renowned, are engaged in basic and applied research that is leading to the development of advanced diagnostic methods for many Category A, B, and C agents, as well as vaccines for bacterial and viral threats. The WRCE emergency preparedness activity interfaces with regional state departments of health to support an effective emergency response in the event of an outbreak.

Sealy Center on Aging: The center facilitates communication and collaborative scholarship among researchers at UTMB related to aging. A specific goal is to build bridges between basic scientists and clinicians who share common
interests in aging. The center sponsors a variety of activities directed toward fostering, strengthening and expanding efforts in aging research, education and community service at UTMB. It is home to The Claude Pepper Older Americans Independence Center, which seeks to identify predictors of physical function and recovery from illness in hospitalized geriatric patients; identify potential treatments to improve function and accelerate recovery; determine the efficacy of treatments in clinical trials in geriatric patients; and increase the number of investigators involved in geriatric research. UTMB is one of 15 Pepper Centers located throughout the United States and funded by the National Institute on Aging.

**UTMB NHLBI Proteomics Center:**
Serving as the home for one of seven newly awarded national Proteomics Centers funded by the NHLBI, the Biomolecular Resource Facility at UTMB brings the power of multiple analytical technologies to proteomics research. The UTMB NHLBI Center for Airway Inflammation consists of a multi-disciplinary team of scientists and physician-scientists to study protein expression associated with signaling pathways important in airway inflammation. In addition, the Center is engaged in the development of innovative technologies for application to proteomics research. It is the result of an NHLBI initiative to establish centers to enhance and develop innovative proteomics technologies and apply them to biological questions relevant to heart, lung, blood, and sleep health and disease.

**UTMB Cancer Center:**
Established in 2005, the center strives to coalesce all ongoing efforts in cancer research, clinical care, education and prevention into a larger cancer center effort with multidisciplinary, multi-departmental and multi-institutional components to provide the most up-to-date and compassionate care for the cancer patient.

**The University of Texas System**
Established by the Texas Constitution in 1876, The University of Texas System consists of nine academic universities and six health institutions and is one of the nation’s largest systems of public higher education, and one that strives for excellence in productivity, efficiency and transparency.

The 15 independent UT System institutions together exemplify a diverse learning community that fosters innovation, ignites inquiry and values responsible stewardship. System institutions continuously work to ensure Texas students have access to unparalleled educational opportunities that allow them to thrive and grow. Every day, UT health institutions provide world-class health care that enables Texas residents to live longer and healthier lives, and System staff, students and faculty conduct innovative research that leads to groundbreaking discoveries.

**Health Institutions:**
- UT Southwestern Medical Center
- UT Medical Branch at Galveston
- UT Health Science Center at Houston
- UT Health Science Center at San Antonio
- UT MD Anderson Cancer Center
- UT Health Science Center at Tyler

**Academic Institutions:**
- UT Arlington
- UT Austin
- UT Brownsville
- UT Dallas
- UT El Paso
- UT Pan American
- UT Permian Basin
- UT San Antonio
- UT Tyler

**Galveston**
Founded in 1836, Galveston Island is located on the Texas Gulf Coast, just 45 miles southeast of Houston. With a population of approximately 50,000, Galveston has the amenities of a larger city, but the friendly feel of a small town. With 32 miles of beach, Galveston attracts approximately 5 million visitors annually and hosts special annual events, including the largest motor cycle rally of its kind, Mardi Gras, Dickens on the Strand, historic home tours, and the Lone Star Triathlon & 70.3 Ironman Competition. Visitors generate an estimated $800 million economic impact annually. Galveston is home to six historic districts with over 60 structures listed as representing architectural significance in the National Register of Historic Places, and it is home to the 1877 Tall Ship Elissa. The Island has a multifaceted economic base with expanding job markets in tourism (including a growing cruise ship industry), health care, marine-related fields and other areas. American National Insurance Company, one of the largest life insurance companies in the United States, is based in Galveston. Education and banking also are job fields that contribute to the strong, diverse economy.