Three Perfect Days

Where you can leap over waterfalls in Mars-red Waimea Canyon

Kauai
**PROBLEM SOLVED**

Healthcare innovation is part of the DNA at the Texas Medical Center

“Everything’s bigger in Texas,” they say, and when it comes to healthcare, they may well be right. For just a few miles southwest of downtown Houston, the Texas Medical Center stands as the largest medical complex in the world, with close to 1,400 acres and 50 million developed square feet of clinical, research and academic space solely dedicated to advancing the health of people across Houston and all around the globe.

Through its 61 member institutions, the TMC has helped pioneer some of the most remarkable medical breakthroughs of the past century—and is poised to do so again as it embarks on a new era that emphasizes not only competition but collaboration, and the commercialization of research with industry partners.

Slated to break ground in 2020 and launch in 2022, TMC³ will be a 37-acre translational research campus that is hoped will help propel Houston’s standing to where it is considered the ‘third coast’ for life sciences in America. For the first time, TMC’s world-class institutions will share research space in a live-work-play environment, sparking the collisions of ideas and individuals that will result in the creation of new therapies, medical devices and digital health initiatives.

“A lot of innovation we’ve seen through time doesn’t come by people working individually but it happens in teams,” says TMC president and CEO William McKeon. “Imagine the accumulative network effect that we could have if we start to do things together—not just build buildings together but share in research and start to think about how we accelerate discovery on this campus.”

**MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER**

Serving more than 1.4 million patients since it was established as the first member institution of the TMC in the early 1940s, the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center is now widely known as one of the largest centers in the world dedicated exclusively to cancer care, research, education and prevention.

For 14 of the last 17 years, it has been ranked the number-one cancer hospital in the nation by U.S. News & World Report, while its mission to make cancer history is supported by more than $860 million in annual research. The 13 transdisciplinary teams in its Moon Shots Program are helping to accelerate the pace of discovery in more than 20 types of cancer as they harness a new research paradigm that integrates science and molecular biology with new technologies and data analysis.

“We are sitting at the threshold of unbelievable progress in cancer treatment,” says president Peter Pisters. “As we reformulate our strategy, we’ll make a broad push forward, advancing the strong areas that we have in biomedical science, but also looking at med tech and data science as other areas that we need to excel in, and the opportunity that can be created by the massive quantities of data we have assembled on the patients that we have treated at MD Anderson over the years.”

**TEXAS CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL**

Having admitted its first patient in 1954, making it younger than many of its peer institutions, Texas Children’s Hospital has quickly grown to be the nation’s largest children’s hospital, with a network of 80-plus locations that stretches as far as Austin and the Rio Grande Valley. Serving one of the fastest-growing regions in the U.S., it now sees more than 4.2 million patient encounters annually while establishing itself as a pediatric and women’s healthcare organization of international prominence.

“Our founders wanted to name this Texas Children’s Hospital, not Houston Children’s..."
Hospital,” says president and CEO Mark Wallace. “They wanted this hospital to exist for all of Texas and even the United States, and now it’s the world.

“The sturdiness of our organization allows us to be that because we are in a market where the pediatric population is accreting probably as rapidly as any other pediatric market in any state.”

Tied for third place in U.S. News & World Report’s 2019 Best Children’s Hospitals survey, Texas Children’s is also notable for pioneering research that spans more than 800 active clinical trials, as well as a number of global health initiatives that include the world’s largest pediatric HIV/AIDS program, which provides care to more than 300,000 children and their families across Romania and Africa.

MEMORIAL HERMANN HEALTH SYSTEM
One of the largest not-for-profit healthcare systems in Texas, Memorial Hermann serves the Greater Houston region with more than 26,000 employees and 300-plus care delivery sites, including its flagship hospital in the TMC.

In doing so, it has become known for high-quality care, as well as a commitment to innovation in how care is delivered. It has been named one of the country’s ‘Most Wired’ health systems for 14 consecutive years for its successful use of technology and digital tools in supporting patients and managing population health. And at the same time, it has been lauded for its programs with patients in comas or minimally conscious states, and the work done at its Children’s Heart Center to address congenital heart defects previously thought inoperable.

“We want to create a healthier community now and for generations to come,” says president and CEO David Callender, whose organization contributes more than $584 million annually through community benefit programs. “We take our responsibility as leaders of innovation very seriously. Our people don’t settle for anything less than that. They expect us to be leaders in solving problems and to set the pace in terms of improving healthcare delivery so we can improve the health of the community that we serve.”

HOUSTON METHODIST
Now a century on from the creation of The Methodist Hospital, in 1919, Houston Methodist is established as the only Texas hospital system on U.S. News & World Report’s “Best Hospitals” honor roll list.

The system has grown to more than 23,000 employees and eight hospitals, as well as a research institute that provides the anchor for around $161 million in annual research and education expenditures. That, in turn, helps feed a culture of innovation that has led to virtual reality technology that allows neurosurgeons to walk through a person’s brain ahead of surgery, and the creation of nanochannel platforms to control drug delivery for a variety of diseases, among other medical and digital advances that the organization has brought to its patients.

“Houston Methodist is a top performer in patient safety, quality, service and innovation,” says Roberta Schwartz, EVP of Houston Methodist Hospital and chief innovation officer at Houston Methodist. “In the next five years, I hope that the nation recognizes Houston Methodist as the healthcare gem of Texas and the South as we continue to improve neurological, cancer and heart care; treat the sickest of patients in need of organ transplants; and help people on their healthcare journey.”