



# John P. and Kathrine G. McGovern Medical School History

Established by the Texas Legislature in June 1969, the first class of 19 students entered in 1970. By 1979, class sizes of 200 were legislatively supported through state formula funding. From a new school with no buildings or students, to one of the nation's outstanding centers of academic medicine, The John P. and Kathrine G. McGovern Medical School at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) continues to develop into one of the leading centers of excellence devoted to medical education, research, quality patient care, and community outreach. Take a moment to review a brief summary of milestones that tell the unfolding story of McGovern Medical School.



**JANUARY 1968**  
Original affiliation agreement is signed between the Hermann Hospital Estate and The University of Texas Board of Regents, making Hermann Hospital the primary teaching facility for the proposed University of Texas Medical School at Houston.




**APRIL 1970**  
Cheves McCord Smythe, MD, is appointed first dean of the new school.

**JUNE 1971**  
The first entering class of 32 students to complete all studies in Houston is welcomed at orientation.

**OCTOBER 1972**  
George Bush, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, dedicates the John H. Freeman Building.

**SEPTEMBER 1973**  
Construction of Phase II (523,760 gross-sq. ft.) begins for the Medical School Building, connecting the Freeman Building with Hermann Hospital.




**DECEMBER 1974**  
Charles Berry, MD, is named the first president of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

**DECEMBER 1975**  
Robert L. Tuttle, MD, is named dean of the UT Medical School at Houston.

**AUGUST 1976**  
The first flight of Hermann Life Flight®.


**AUGUST 1977**  
The first weekend orientation retreat for new students is hosted by second-year students.

**JUNE 1978**  
Roger Bulger, MD, is named the second president of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.



**MAY 1981**  
The first alumni day event is held.

**AUGUST 1982**  
James "Red" Duke, Jr., MD, professor of surgery, airs the first televised program that would eventually evolve into an internationally syndicated health segment for television.




**APRIL 1985**  
Louis A. Faillace, MD, becomes acting dean.

**AUGUST 1985**  
Texas Research Institute for Mental Sciences (TRIMS) becomes the UT Mental Sciences Institute (MSI).


**MARCH 1986**  
Webber Plaza is dedicated in honor of deceased dean, Dr. Frank Webber.

**SEPTEMBER 1987**  
John C. Ribble, MD, is named interim president of the UT Health Science Center by UT Chancellor Hans Mark to serve the dual role of president and dean.




**JANUARY 1990**  
The affiliation between the UT Medical School and Harris County Hospital District (Lyndon B. Johnson's General Hospital) is approved.

**NOVEMBER 1994**  
University Care Plus (UCP) is created as the management services organization for the school's clinical practice. UCP is later renamed UT Physicians.



**JULY 1995**  
Cheves McCord Smythe, MD, is appointed dean pro tem.


**AUGUST 1996**  
The annual White Coat Ceremony is introduced for new students.



**DECEMBER 1998**  
The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine is awarded to the chair of the Department of Integrative Biology and Pharmacology, Ferid Murad, MD, PhD, for his research detailing the biological properties of nitric oxide.

**FEBRUARY 2000**  
The UT System Board of Regents approves \$50 million in Permanent University Funds to launch planning and fundraising for three new buildings, including a Medical School research building.

**JUNE 2001**  
Tropical Storm Allison unleashes million gallons of rain runoff into the basement of the Medical School Building, causing an estimated \$205 million in damages. Memorial Hermann Hospital is forced to close for the first time in 70 years.

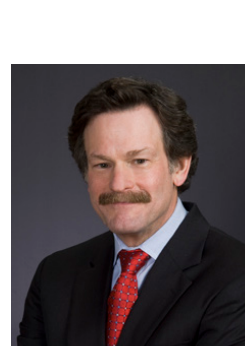


**SEPTEMBER 2004**  
After more than three years of construction following the devastation of Tropical Storm Allison, the ground floor of the UT Medical School reopens to student, faculty, and administrative functions.

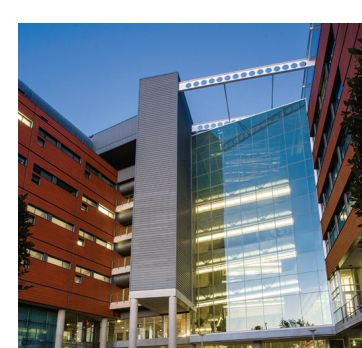
**MARCH 2005**  
Demolition of the John Freeman Building begins to make way for the six-story Replacement Research Facility.

**JULY 2006**  
The Medical School's curriculum is enhanced through the opening of the Surgical and Clinical Skills Center and the John P. McGovern, MD, Center for Health, Humanities, and the Human Spirit.

**AUGUST 2007**  
The UT Medical School welcomes its largest class, 230 students, to address national physician shortage concerns.




**AUGUST 2008**  
Larry R. Kaiser, MD, is named president of the UT Health Science Center at Houston.



**FEBRUARY 2010**  
The UT System Board of Regents approves a plan for the UT Health Science Center, UTHealth.

**JANUARY 2011**  
The Brown Foundation Institute of Molecular Medicine for the Prevention of Human Diseases joins the UTHealth Medical School as a research institute.



**OCTOBER 2015**  
Barbara J. Stoll, MD, is named dean of the UTHealth Medical School.

**AUGUST 2016**  
The Medical School introduces an extensive curriculum revision, integrating medical science with systems of care and introducing clinical experience in the first year.

**SEPTEMBER 2019**  
Yearlong 50th Celebration kicks off.

1970

1975

1980

1985

1990

1995

2000


2005

2010

2015

**MAY 1969**  
The Texas Legislature approves the UT Medical School at Houston.

**JUNE 1969**  
Gov. Preston Smith signs House Bill 80 into law at Texas Medical Center ceremonies in the Sammons Auditorium of the Jesse H. Jones Library Building.





**SEPTEMBER 1970**  
The first class of 19 students is selected and enrolls at UT campuses in three cities.

**AUGUST 1971**  
John H. Freeman Building construction begins.

**NOVEMBER 1972**  
The Medical School joins The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston organizational structure.


**DECEMBER 1973**  
The first class of 22 medical students graduates from the original class of 19 (includes three transfer students).


**JUNE 1976**  
The nearly completed Medical School Building, connecting the John H. Freeman Building and Hermann Hospital, is devastated by flood.

**MARCH 1977**  
Phase II construction of the Medical School Building is completed.

**SEPTEMBER 1977**  
The first four-year class admitted (class size, 150). The three-year curriculum is phased out with the graduation of the 1976 entering class.

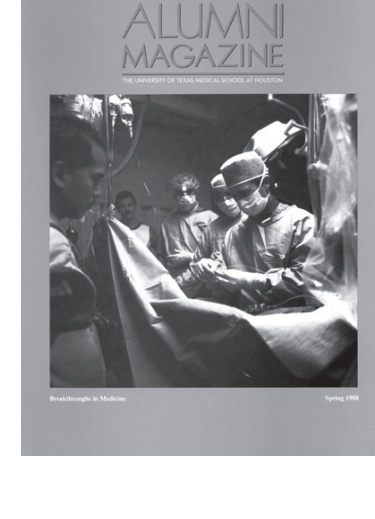


**JUNE 1978**  
Phase III construction of the new Medical School Building (which began in 1975) is completed.




**JUNE 1981**  
Ernst Khobbi, PhD, is named the third dean.

**OCTOBER 1982**  
The first issue of The Alumni Magazine is published.




**FEBRUARY 1984**  
Positron Diagnostic and Research Center, later re-named Cyclotron, opens.




**JULY 1985**  
C. Frank Webber, MD, is named the fourth dean.

**JANUARY 1986**  
John C. Ribble, MD, becomes the fifth dean, having served as associate dean for academic affairs since 1978.




**APRIL 1986**  
The first group of students travel to China with Henry Strobel, PhD, as part of the ongoing senior program.

**AUGUST 1989**  
M. David Low, MD, PhD, is appointed the third president of the UT Health Science Center.




**SEPTEMBER 1994**  
Problem-based Learning (PBL) is incorporated into the second-year curriculum.




**APRIL 1996**  
L. Maximilian Buja, MD, is named the sixth dean of the UT Medical School.

**NOVEMBER 1997**  
The merger of Hermann Hospital with Memorial Healthcare System is approved and named the Memorial Hermann Healthcare System.




**MARCH 2001**  
James T. Willerson, MD, is named president of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

**JUNE 2004**  
Stanley G. Schultz, MD, is named dean of the UT Medical School, having served as interim dean since June 2003.




**SEPTEMBER 2004**  
The University of Texas Health Science Center purchases the Hermann Professional Building and renames it The University of Texas Health Science Center Professional Building.




**JUNE 2006**  
Jerry S. Wolinsky, MD, is named interim dean of the UT Medical School.

**OCTOBER 2006**  
The National Institutes of Health awards \$36 million to establish the Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences.




**SEPTEMBER 2007**  
Giuseppe N. Colasurdo, MD, is named dean of the UT Medical School.

**JANUARY 2008**  
The Medical School Expansion Facility, home to four stories of laboratory research space and a two-story vivarium, opens.



**NOVEMBER 2010**  
The Medical School marks its 40th anniversary of academic excellence with a school-wide celebration in Webber Plaza.

**OCTOBER 2012**  
Giuseppe N. Colasurdo, MD, is named president and the Alkek-Williams Distinguished Chair of UTHealth.



**OCTOBER 2015**  
A transformational gift from the McGovern Foundation renames school to John P. and Kathrine G. McGovern Medical School, placing a renewed emphasis on humanism, ethics, research, and scholarship.

**DECEMBER 2016**  
The inaugural McGovern Day in recognition of the John P. McGovern Foundation's transformational gift to UTHealth.

