

Panel Highlights UTSW Cancer Prevention, Genetics Programs

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The Southwestern Medical Foundation co-hosted an event with Nancy Wiener Marcus called Leading the Conversation on Health, “What’s Next? Cancer Genes, What Should I Know?” at Dallas’ Old Parkland campus. The evening featured UT Southwestern Medical Center leaders as well as an expert panel focused on its new Pancreatic Cancer Prevention and Cancer Genetics programs.

UT Southwestern President Dr. Daniel K. Podolsky introduced the panel with information about UT Southwestern’s Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center—the only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center in North Texas.

The panel itself was moderated by Dr. Carlos Arteaga, director of the Simmons Cancer Center. Arteaga, who also serves as associate dean of oncology programs, shared base-level information on genes, and the differences between inherited DNA and cancer DNA. He also discussed how genetics counseling services now are helping guide patients who are at higher risk for pancreatic cancer.

Participating in the panel discussion were UT Southwestern’s Dr. Theodora Ross, director of the Cancer Genetics Program, and Dr. Nisa Kubiliun, medical director of endoscopy services and gastroenterologist at the Pancreatic Cancer Prevention Program.

Attendees learned more about the Simmons Cancer Center’s expertise in caring for patients with cancer, as well as patients with a risk of cancer. Comprehensive Cancer Centers like Simmons, they heard, allow patients to benefit from multidisciplinary specialists in preventive care, including geneticists and radiologists, in addition to specialists in cancer and post-cancer treatment and care.

The Leading the Conversation on Health series was established by the Southwestern Medical Foundation in 2013 to share thought leadership and new information about progress in medical education, biomedical research, and innovative patient care. Marcus underwrote the event.