

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS**

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## **UT System Campuses to Celebrate Research Achievements and Challenges**

### ***Public Invited to Programs on Nanomedicine, Imaging, Biotechnology***

RICHARDSON, Texas (Nov. 20, 2006) — UT Metroplex Days is an opportunity for the faculty, staff and students of the three Dallas-Fort Worth area University of Texas System campuses, along with the public, to share their successes and vision for the future.

UT Dallas, UT Arlington and UT Southwestern Medical School each will host a day of activities and seminars on their campuses by world-class speakers Nov. 29-Dec. 11. The programs also will offer opportunities for biological and engineering scientists to interact and develop new contacts and collaborations, including outreach to industry and the private sector.

Dr. Duncan MacFarlane, UT Dallas' associate dean for interdisciplinary programs, said participants won't just passively absorb information but rather be stimulated to "think in completely new ways about the problems in front of them."

"It's a celebration of what we as scientists know and what we don't know," MacFarlane said. "This conference is about looking into the unknown."

UT Southwestern and UT Arlington have offered students a joint degree plan in biomedical engineering for 27 years. Now UT Dallas has received planning authority to join the program from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, so the UT Metroplex Days is also a tribute to that future collaboration, MacFarlane said.

UT Southwestern will kick off the series on Nov. 29 with a lecture by Dr. Doug Lauffenburger, professor of biological engineering and biology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. UT Arlington will host the second day, Dec. 4, focusing on bioimaging, genomics and bioinformatics.

On Dec. 11, UT Dallas will address nanomedicine and feature presentations by:

- Dr. James Anderson, professor of pathology, macromolecular science and biomedical engineering at Case Western Reserve University
- Dr. Mauro Ferrari, professor of nanotechnology at the Brown Foundation Institute of Molecular Medicine for the Prevention of Human Diseases at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
- Dr. Shuming Nie, assistant professor and the Georgia Cancer Coalition and eminent scientist in the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology and Emory University

An additional, "virtual day," Dec. 6, will feature presentations by Dr. Robert S. Langer, MIT's Germeshausen professor of chemical and biomedical engineering, and Dr. W. Mark Salzman, chairman of the department of biomedical engineering at Yale University. The UT Dallas lectures and virtual day activities will take place in the Texas Instruments auditorium of the Engineering and Computer Science building on the Richardson campus. University visitors can get directions to the building and parking information at the guard booth inside the main campus entrance on Campbell Road.

Attendance to all events is free and includes lunch, except for on the virtual day, as well as transportation between the campuses. However, participants must register at [www.utmetroplexdays.org](http://www.utmetroplexdays.org) by Nov. 22.

"This is a valuable public service to the intellectual environment of D/FW," MacFarlane said.

### **About UT Dallas**

The University of Texas at Dallas, located at the convergence of Richardson, Plano and Dallas in the heart of the complex of major multinational technology corporations known as the Telecom Corridor®, enrolls

more than 14,500 students. The school's freshman class traditionally stands at the forefront of Texas state universities in terms of average SAT scores. The university offers a broad assortment of bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs. For additional information about UT Dallas, please visit the university's web site at [www.utdallas.edu](http://www.utdallas.edu).

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