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## **UTSA Receives \$12.7 Million from NIH to Establish Center for Interdisciplinary Health Research**

*Funding supports UTSA's vision to become a national research university*

(September 23, 2010) ... [The University of Texas at San Antonio](#) announced today that its [College of Sciences](#) has been selected to receive a five-year, \$12.7 million [Research Centers in Minority Institutions \(RCMI\)](#) grant from the National Institutes of Health to strengthen its basic and applied health research. The funding is one of the largest NIH grants the university has received in its 41-year history.

“This NIH grant is a remarkable achievement for our College of Sciences and the RCMI team of researchers at UTSA,” said President Ricardo Romo. “This funding will give us the ability to add new laboratories and acquire the latest scientific equipment so we can continue to advance our ability to improve lives with better health.”

The RCMI program has been in place at UTSA for 10 years and is a critical component of UTSA's evolution to Tier One research status. The program has helped UTSA transform its existing scientific areas of strength into competitive health research programs. The new funding will support UTSA's evolution to Tier One by expanding resources and infrastructure as outlined in UTSA's strategic plan.

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**UTSA receives \$12.7 million NIH grant  
Add one of two**

The RCMI grant will fund faculty members whose research has great relevance to human health. In addition, it will provide funding for the most advanced scientific equipment and four staffed laboratory facilities to house the equipment. Those facilities include the new **Nanotechnology and Human Health Laboratory**, where researchers will synthesize nanomaterials for diagnostics, drug and gene delivery, tissue engineering and electron microscopy; and the enhanced **Protein Biomarkers Laboratory**, where scientists will identify and study protein biomarkers for disease diagnosis and targeted therapy, including biomarkers specific to minority populations; **Biophotonics Laboratory**, where researchers will study biological processes at the molecular level in live cells with exceptional detail; and **Computational Systems Biology Laboratory**, where researchers will simulate biological systems, live-cell imaging and protein biomarker research using high-performance computing infrastructure. (To learn more about the equipment housed in each facility, visit [UTSA's RCMI website](#).)

Over the long-term, program administrators believe UTSA's new grant will propel researchers to the point where they can make groundbreaking progress in health disparities or the differing rates at which diseases occur in various populations.

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Add two and last**

“Through the generous support of the National Center for Research Resources at the NIH, we are investing in infrastructure that will serve our researchers well many years into the future,” said Andrew Tsin, RCMI program director. “It is our hope that these tools will help us understand the mystery of why some diseases like diabetes and obesity affect certain populations more than others.”

UTSA’s RCMI program is one of only 18 RCMI programs at universities across the nation.

The University of Texas at San Antonio is one of the fastest growing higher education institutions in Texas and one of nine academic universities and six health institutions in the UT System. As a multicultural institution, UTSA aims to be a national research university providing access to educational excellence and preparing citizen leaders for the global environment.

UTSA serves more than 30,300 students in 65 bachelor’s, 49 master’s and 21 doctoral degree programs in the colleges of Architecture, Business, Education and Human Development, Engineering, Honors, Liberal and Fine Arts, Public Policy, Sciences and Graduate School. Founded in 1969, UTSA is an intellectual and creative resource center and a socioeconomic development catalyst for Texas and beyond. More information online at [www.utsa.edu/today](http://www.utsa.edu/today).