



MEDIA ADVISORY / INVITATION

- **WHAT:** 4th International Conference on Cancer Health Disparities and UTRGV School of Medicine Research Symposium
- **WHEN:** Saturday, February 28, to Sunday, March 1, 2026
- **WHERE:** Courtyard by Marriott South Padre Island, 6700 Padre Boulevard South Padre Island, Texas, USA, 78597
 - [Click here for map location](#)

UTRGV School of Medicine gathers global cancer researchers for international conference in the Rio Grande Valley

By Heriberto Perez-Zuniga

RIO GRANDE VALLEY, TEXAS – FEB. 23, 2026 – In the Rio Grande Valley, cancer research is influenced by the communities it serves.

It is shaped by conversations between doctors and patients, the experiences of families and the collective determination of communities striving for better health outcomes for future generations. These real-life narratives guide the UTRGV School of Medicine's research mission, serving as a reminder that behind every study lies a community looking for answers.

To address these challenges, the UTRGV School of Medicine will host its 4th International Conference on Cancer Health Disparities and UTRGV School of Medicine Research Symposium from February 28 to March 1, 2026.

The two-day annual symposium brings together national and international researchers, clinicians, and students to share knowledge and explore the latest advancements in cancer research and care. This year's conference will highlight emerging discoveries, innovative therapies and collaborative strategies aimed at improving patient outcomes.

In addition to sessions focused on cancer, the symposium will address other significant health concerns affecting the Rio Grande Valley, such as diabetes, behavioral health and neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's.

As part of its mission to advance healthcare in South Texas, the UTRGV School of Medicine launched the symposium to raise awareness of pressing health issues and to strengthen research partnerships across institutions and disciplines.

"Our goal is to learn what is happening across the globe and share what we are discovering here in the Valley so we can move science forward together," said Dr. Subhash Chauhan, director of the UTRGV School of Medicine's South Texas Center of Excellence in Cancer Research.

"Cancer research is a global effort. When we learn from each other's successes and challenges, we accelerate progress and bring better solutions to our communities."

RESEARCH SHOWCASE

The symposium will feature oral and poster presentations from faculty, medical students, postdoctoral researchers and healthcare professionals. Highlights include:

- Research presentations from Valley-based and global scientists.
- Student and resident research showcases.
- Discussions on cancers affecting underserved communities.
- Opportunities for collaboration between international and local researchers.
- Conversations on prevention, early detection and emerging treatments.

The event underscores UTRGV School of Medicine's commitment to mentoring the next generation of physician-scientists.

The symposium is open to researchers, healthcare professionals, students and community members interested in cancer and emerging medical research.

For more information, please visit the [UTRGV School of Medicine Research Symposium website](#).

ABOUT UTRGV

Celebrating its 10th anniversary during the 2025-2026 academic year, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley is on a mission to transform the Rio Grande Valley, the Americas, and the world. As one of the country's largest Hispanic-Serving Institutions and Seal of *Excelencia* certified, UTRGV has earned national recognition for its academic excellence, social mobility, and student success since opening in Fall 2015. Ranked among the Best Colleges for your Tuition (and Tax) Dollars in 2025 by *Washington Monthly* (7 nationally; 1 in Texas), UTRGV continues to break enrollment records, launch new academic and athletics programs and progress toward achieving R1 research status. Additionally, UTRGV holds the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification, awarded in 2020 and 2025, reflecting its commitment to strengthening community ties and addressing local challenges.

The only university in Texas with schools of Medicine and Podiatric Medicine, UTRGV's regional footprint spans South Texas – with locations, teaching sites, and centers established in Edinburg, Brownsville, Rio Grande City, McAllen, Weslaco, Harlingen, Laredo, Port Isabel and South Padre Island.

MEDIA CONTACTS

Heriberto.Perez02@UTRGV.edu

UTRGV School of Medicine Internal Communications Content Specialist

Melissa.Vasquez@UTRGV.edu

UTRGV Interim Director of News and Media Relations / 956-665-8926