



MEDIA ADVISORY/INVITATION

- **WHAT:** Ribbon-cutting for the UT Health RGV Cancer and Surgery Center
- **WHEN:** Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2025, at 10 a.m.
- **WHERE:** UT Health RGV Cancer and Surgery Center, 1400 N. Commerce Center St., McAllen, Texas

UT Health RGV Cancer and Surgery Center: Ribbon-cutting launches new era in cancer care for the Rio Grande Valley

By Saira Cabrera

RIO GRANDE VALLEY, TEXAS – OCT. 3, 2025 – For years, families in the Rio Grande Valley battling cancer faced a painful dilemma: travel more than 130 miles for specialized treatment or forgo care. That changes this fall.

On Wednesday, Oct. 8, UT Health RGV will officially open the Cancer and Surgery Center, a pioneering facility set to transform healthcare in South Texas. The state-of-the-art center is already serving patients and offers comprehensive services, including cancer treatment, outpatient surgery, advanced imaging, rehabilitation and research.

Leaders from UTRGV, the School of Medicine and UT Health RGV will join patients, families and community members for a ceremonial ribbon-cutting at 10 a.m.

"This is about giving our community access to the very best care, close to home," said Dr. Everardo Cobos, interim dean of the UTRGV School of Medicine and hematologist-oncologist at UT Health RGV. "We're assembling a first-class team that is committed to transforming care in the Valley."

REMOVING BARRIERS

The center combines services rarely found together in the region:

- **Cancer Care:** Medical and surgical oncology, hematology, diagnostics, and infusion therapy.

- ***Orthopedic and Sports Medicine:*** Features surgeons and physicians specializing in various areas – hand and foot and ankle – along with on-site imaging and outpatient rehabilitation services.
- ***Outpatient Surgery:*** Sports medicine, gastroenterology, oncology and orthopedic procedures.
- ***Diagnostic Imaging:*** MRI 3T, CT, mammography and Hidalgo County's only Automated Breast Ultrasound (ABUS), with PET/CT launching soon.
- ***Rehabilitation and Lab Services:*** On-site lab and complete rehabilitation programs.
- ***Clinical Research and Training:*** Expanding opportunities for trials and medical education in the Valley.

For cancer survivor Cassie Luevano from Edinburg, the facility symbolizes relief. She and her mother made numerous trips to Houston for treatment.

"Today is a historical moment for the Valley," she said. "Hopefully, many more families will be helped here and become cancer-free."

MORE THAN MEDICINE

The ribbon-cutting underscores the Valley's growing role in academic medicine and healthcare innovation. The new center not only delivers high-level care but also serves as a training ground for future physicians, residents and fellows.

"This center is just the beginning," said Dr. Aamir Ahmad, orthopedic and sports medicine surgeon at UT Health RGV. "I see us becoming one of the premier academic medicine health programs in Texas."

FOR MEDIA: Please RSVP for the ceremony by contacting Saira.Cabrera@utrgv.edu. An open house of the facility and interviews will be available following the ribbon cutting.

ABOUT UTRGV

Celebrating its 10th anniversary during the 2025-2026 academic year, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) is on a mission to transform the Rio Grande Valley, the Americas and the world. 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.

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.

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