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Texas A&M leases Round Rock space for clinical campus

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Texas A&M University System's Health Science Center has leased more than 5,000 square feet of space in Round Rock for a clinical campus.

Texas A&M has signed a lease at Old Town Square, an office complex off of I-35 in Round Rock, for an interim campus, according to Dr. Nancy Dickey, vice chancellor for health affairs and president of the system's Health Science Center.

The university is in ongoing discussions with the Avery Family for about 50 acres west of FM 1460 and south of County Road 112. Earlier, the Avery family said they planned to donate 15 acres to the university as a gift.

Dickey says she hopes that land negotiations with the Averys will wrap up by the end of the first quarter 2008, and construction will begin on a permanent campus in early 2009.

Meanwhile, Texas A&M will move into its temporary home in the next few weeks. The location will house administrative offices and student support space.

About 16 third-year medical students will begin training at the Round Rock center this summer. The students will spend a majority of the time training at area hospitals and clinics.

The university has signed affiliation agreements with St. David's HealthCare, **Seton Family of Hospitals**, Scott & White -- all of which have hospitals open or planned in Williamson County -- and Lone Star Circle of Care, a community clinic with locations in Georgetown, Round Rock and Granger.

"We are in conversations with physicians in those facilities that will come on board as teaching faculty," Dickey says. "We are also in the process of recruiting nationally-known faculty for all three campuses."

Dickey says the short-term goals for the Round Rock campus include attaining accreditation for its clinical curriculum and filling it out its faculty.

"Truly, our short-term goal is to implement high-quality personalized clinical medical education at our clinical sites, integrate clinical faculty with our existing curriculum and stay on top of the education process as we add new sites -- and keep funding issues in mind as we do," Dickey says.

The university would ultimately like to see the Round Rock campus become a medical school offering four years of medical education, Dickey says, but that is "a more distant goal."

As Texas A&M gets its clinical campus off the ground, the **University of Texas System** is weighing a medical school branch in Austin.

Last month, the Austin Business Journal reported that The University of Texas' Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas is considering establishing a medical school branch in Austin and is now conducting a feasibility study. For more:
austin.bizjournals.com/austin/stories/2007/12/24/story1.html.

Courtesy of JB Goodwin