



# The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School

Associate Chair for Research and Innovation  
Dell Medical School, University of Texas at Austin  
Austin, Texas

## THE SEARCH

The Department of Internal Medicine (Department) at the University of Texas Dell Medical School (Dell Med) is seeking an experienced and dynamic candidate for the integral position of Associate Chair for Research and Innovation (ACRI). The ACRI will play a pivotal role in shaping and driving the Department's research strategy, acting as a strategic partner with the Department Chair and Vice Dean for Research. This individual will be at the forefront of guiding the Department's research direction, ensuring its alignment with Dell Med's mission to define the future of health.

As part of one of the nation's leading research universities, Dell Med is revolutionizing academic medicine and healthcare delivery from its foundations—launching new models of education and training, driving new discoveries in biomedical research, and improving patient and public health in the communities it serves. Dell Med is committed to doing this through partnership and collaboration within the University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin), as well as the broader network of the University of Texas System, Colleges, and Schools. Dell Med also serves as a cornerstone for the UT Medical Center, a world-class academic medical center where patients benefit from the convergence of pioneering research, integrated care, and the care of physicians trained to lead the future of medicine.

This is a transformative opportunity to shape the future of medical research within a rapidly expanding academic medical center in one of the most dynamic and innovative cities in the United States. Reporting to the Department Chair, the ACRI will provide leadership over the full spectrum of the Department's research activities, including but not limited to promoting high-impact research that positions Dell Med as a leader in discovery, translation, and implementation; endorsing and approving clinical trials and research protocols; overseeing funding and grant management activities; serving as a mentor to guide the career development of early career researchers; facilitating the transition from smaller awards to larger ones; supporting Departmental efforts to sustain long-term research programs; and providing promotion and tenure assistance for research-focused faculty.

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The ideal candidate will be a visionary leader capable of navigating a rapidly evolving environment while fostering a culture of excellence, collaboration, and innovation in both research and patient care. The ACRI will also work closely with the Chief Administrative Officer, Chief Operating Officer, VP for Medical Affairs/Chief Business Officer, Vice Deans, Associate Deans, Assistant Deans, Department Chairs, and DMS Center and Institute Directors.

Applicants for this position should possess a medical degree from an accredited medical school, be board-certified in Internal Medicine, be eligible for appointment as a tenured professor within the Department, have a track record of overseeing their own research portfolio with competitive external funding, be eligible for a Texas medical license, and have a substantial record of leadership and achievement in clinical oversight and academic medicine. Dell Med is especially interested in qualified candidates who can contribute to excellence within the learning health system.

Dell Medical School has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist with this search. Inquiries, nominations, and applications should be directed in confidence to the firm listed at the end of this document.

## ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

By virtue of its public mission, culture of innovation, location, size, and rich history, UT is one of the highest-impact universities in the world. As the top public university in Texas and the flagship of [The University of Texas System](#), UT is an influential catalyst for scientific, economic, and societal progress throughout the state. Founded in 1883, the University has a main campus that spans 431 acres and a community of almost 54,000 students, 3,500 faculty members, and more than 15,000 staff members. UT has been a member of the Association of American Universities (AAU) since 1929. AAU's member universities earn the majority of competitively awarded federal funding for research and collectively help shape policy for higher education, science, and innovation; promote best practices in undergraduate and graduate education; and strengthen the contributions of leading research universities to American society.

See the [Appendix](#) at the end of the document for more information about UT.

## ABOUT THE UT MEDICAL CENTER AND DELL MEDICAL SCHOOL

The University of Texas Medical Center (UTMC), anchored by the Dell Medical School, is defining the future of health. [Announced in August 2023](#), and with planning and implementation currently underway, UTMC will cement Austin as a premier destination for health care alongside other major Texas cities. With two new, state-of-the-art hospitals – A UT specialty hospital and a cancer center being built by MD Anderson – plus the academic and research expertise of UT Austin, the UT Medical Center will provide the integrated, top-tier care that is a hallmark of academic medicine.

## UT Medical Center

Guiding the development of UTMC is its strategic plan, Health Starts Here. The plan identifies the strategic priorities of today while serving as a roadmap for the future: a world-class academic medical center that sets the standard for excellence in integrated, multidisciplinary patient care, pioneers research with meaningful impact, leads innovation in medical education, and catalyzes life sciences entrepreneurship. The plan is aligned with UT Austin's [strategic vision](#) to become the highest-impact research university in the world and gives shape to the University's initiative to improve health and well-being. The plan includes specific objectives to advance the delivery of exceptional care, empower opportunities for health, train physicians and healthcare professionals to lead the future of health, drive discovery across disciplines, and accelerate transformative innovation and entrepreneurship.

## Dell Medical School

[Dell Medical School](#) is on a mission to revolutionize how people get and stay healthy. It pursues innovation in the redesign of healthcare delivery, excellence in healthcare research, and programs in interdisciplinary and interprofessional education. It is the fifth medical school in the UT System and the first medical school established in nearly five decades by a member of the Association of American Universities, an organization of leading public and private research universities.

Occupying new facilities on the UT Austin campus, Dell Med sits just blocks away from the State Capitol Building. There is additional research space at the Dell Pediatrics Research Institute, adjacent to Dell Children's Medical Center. Inpatient teaching hospitals affiliated with the School include Dell Seton Medical Center (a Level 1 trauma center) and Seton Medical Center Austin. Other teaching hospitals are the Ascension Seton Shoal Creek at Austin, treating a wide range of mental illnesses, and the Dell Children's Medical Center, a 248-bed free-standing full-service pediatric hospital with level one trauma designation and a full complement of pediatric subspecialties. Clinical services are organized using a mixed, integrated model with University, Seton, and private community physicians participating in patient care.

## ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

The [Department of Internal Medicine](#) works with its academic and community partners to achieve Dell Medical School's mission and prepare physician leaders for the distinct challenges of 21<sup>st</sup>-century health and medicine. The Department is one of the largest at Dell Med and is on a strong growth trajectory with ambitious plans to grow the number of physicians, expand research capacity, and enhance clinical care of the Department. The Blue Ridge ranking for the Department in 2024 was #39, and leadership is committed to expanding research efforts and increasing this ranking.

The Department is home to 21 categorical residents per year, which includes a Primary Care Track and a Distinctions Track in Care Transformation, plus five preliminary interns in Medicine. Dell Seton Medical Center (DSMC) is a 220-bed, safety net, Level 1 Trauma Center, and serves as the inpatient training facility

for this program. In September 2021, Dell Med's IM program deployed a resident-staffed team to Ascension Seton Medical Center Austin (SMCA) Hospital. SMCA is a full-service hospital with 24/7 emergency care and a comprehensive Level 1 Stroke Center. SMCA also has a Level IV Trauma Center.

The Department has an outpatient clinical footprint at UT Health Austin (the Dell Medical School Faculty Practice), Ascension practices, the Central Texas VA, and CommUnity Care (a Central Texas FQHC). Inpatient services are provided at Dell Seton Medical Center and, to a lesser extent, Seton Medical Center Austin. Clinical revenue reached \$17.9 million last year. The Department houses a highly competitive, ACGME-approved residency program consisting of five preliminary positions and 21 categorical positions per year. There are also approved fellowships in Cardiovascular Disease, Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology, Hospital Medicine Fellowship in Quality and Safety, Hospital and Palliative Medicine, Interventional Cardiology, Gastroenterology and Hepatology, and Pulmonary and Critical Care.

The Department consists of 11 divisions overseen by division chiefs who report to the Department Chair. Divisions include:

Division of Cardiology

Division of Hospital Medicine

[Division of Dermatology & Dermatologic Surgery](#)

[Division of Infectious Diseases](#)

[Division of Endocrinology](#)

Division of Medical Oncology

[Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology](#)

[Division of Nephrology](#)

[Division of General Internal Medicine](#)

[Division of Pulmonology & Critical Care](#)

[Division of Geriatrics & Palliative Care](#)

[Division of Rheumatology](#)

Dell Medical School expects to grow by several hundred physicians over the next seven years to meet the needs that the new UT Medical Center will create. About half of these new hires will be in the Department of Internal Medicine, offering the ACRI a pivotal opportunity to shape and define the Department's research agenda through strategic, large-scale recruitment. This role will be central to setting the focus and direction of innovative research initiatives, driving discovery, and advancing healthcare delivery in Austin and Central Texas for years to come.

## Research Areas

The Department has a growing [research portfolio](#), with an expectation for significant growth over the next five to ten years. Current research in the Department is focused on late-stage translational, clinical, and health services research in the following areas:

Atrial Fibrillation	Inflammatory Bowel Disease
Cancer Screening and Prevention	Melanoma
Chronic Kidney Disease	Obstructive Lung Disease
Cirrhosis & Hepatocellular Carcinoma	Substance Use Disorders
Fibromyalgia & Long COVID	

The Department's research efforts also support broader institutional goals to establish UT Medicine as the premier leader in research discovery, translation, and implementation. These goals are ambitious and include envisioning research programs that set the standard for the highest impact on scientific discovery and health, establishing a pipeline of training and mentorship to produce the next generation of exceptional research leaders, and developing state-of-the-art research infrastructure to drive scientific and health-related discovery. Opportunities in realizing these goals include accelerating computational health through advanced data and analytics, leading the development of novel digital health and applied AI technologies, enhancing and expanding comprehensive research training programs, expanding biostatistical and bioinformatic expertise, and strengthening pipelines to accelerate the Austin biomedical ecosystem, to name a few.

## Department Leadership



**Dr. Paul Mueller, M.D., MPH**, holds the Dr. Lowell Henry Lebermann Endowed Chair in Internal Medicine at Dell Med. Before this, he was a professor at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science, where he chaired the Division of General Internal Medicine and served as regional vice president in Southwest Wisconsin, managing two hospitals and eight clinics. His 29-year tenure at Mayo Clinic included chairing the Ethics Council.

Dr. Mueller earned his MD and MPH from Johns Hopkins University, where he also completed his residency and served as assistant chief of service. His clinical practice focuses on primary care and general internal medicine. U.S. News & World Report recognized him as a “Top Internist,” and he has received numerous teaching awards.

His research explores ethical issues in life-sustaining technologies, especially implantable cardiovascular devices. He has mentored many scholars, holds the first endowed professorship in biomedical ethics at Mayo Clinic, and has over 140 peer-reviewed publications. Dr. Mueller is a fellow of the American College of Physicians and the Hastings Center and has held editorial roles with leading medical journals.

## ABOUT THE POSITION

Reporting to the Chair of the Department, the Associate Chair will oversee the full spectrum of research activities within the Department. They will play a central role in shaping and driving a forward-looking research agenda that launches the next generation of biomedical discoveries and patient care advancements. The ACRI will be a key leader in facilitating effective collaboration and communication between faculty, the department Chair, and the Vice Dean for Research. They will ensure alignment of research needs, strategy, accomplishments, and ongoing projects. The specific roles and responsibilities of the ACRI include:

### Leadership, Strategy, and Impact

- Represents the department and Department Chair in all research matters.
- Serves as the point of contact between the department, including the Department Chair and investigators, and the Office of the Vice Dean for Research to inform guidelines, policies, and strategic directions.
- Promotes high-impact research to improve health and healthcare throughout Central Texas.
- Aligns departmental research efforts to establish UT Medicine as the premier leader in research discovery, translation, and implementation.
- Works with ACRs and research leaders in other departments to develop and execute Dell Med's research strategy.
- Facilitates and enables joint research efforts and team science across Dell Med departments, UT Austin Colleges and Schools, and outside partners.
- Oversees collecting, assembling, and presenting departmental research benchmarks and impact.
- Identifies and communicates departmental research accomplishments to leadership, communications, and other stakeholders as appropriate.

### Resource Management, Operations, and Infrastructure

- Represents the department at all required meetings organized by the Office of Research.
- Endorses and approves departmental clinical trials, IRB, biosafety, and IACUC applications and protocols. This includes assessing projects' feasibility and resource needs.
- Shares responsibility with departmental investigators and the Office of Research to ensure all research activities adhere to ethical standards, regulatory requirements, institutional policies, and scientific integrity.

- Coordinates, at a departmental level, responses to issues of non-compliance and collaborates with relevant internal and external regulatory bodies to address compliance issues and facilitate research integrity.
- Identifies and communicates departmental resource needs, including enhancing and maintaining departmental research infrastructure and space, to the Office of the Vice Dean.
- Ensures faculty use appropriate channels of approval and negotiation for all sponsored projects, whether federal, industry, or donor-sponsored.
- Assists in the oversight of systems design to facilitate stewardship of departmental and common resources.

### **Funding and Grant Management**

- Assists in identification and targeted dissemination of funding opportunities to departmental faculty.
- Determines Dell Med or partner feasibility, deadlines, and appropriate resourcing for extramural funding applications.
- Ensures departmental awareness and compliance with application guidelines, deadlines, and reassurances for proposals.
- Ensures research faculty follow all notification guidelines for sponsored project administration and are involved in communication regarding missed deadlines.
- Identifies early career researchers and ensures mentorship and tracking to facilitate successful transition to R stage.
- Identifies and tracks later career researchers and encourages resources and collaborations necessary to transition from smaller R awards to R01, from R01 to P and U awards, and to sustain programs of research as needed.
- Facilitates organization of works in progress, review of proposals, and other events to facilitate the success of the department's research program. Can include mock reviews.

### **Personnel Management**

- Oversees departmental mentorship of early career research faculty.
- Assists with strategic recruitment and onboarding of departmental research faculty during this time of tremendous growth.
- Provides promotion and tenure assistance for research-focused faculty.
- Oversees stewardship for student, resident, and postdoctoral fellow research.
- Participates in research matchmaking for students.
- Identifies potential research collaborators across Dell Med departments, UT Austin Colleges and Schools, and outside partners and facilitates partnerships with collaborators.

## QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

- MD or DO degree; board certified.
- Academic rank commensurate with experience. Rank of Associate Professor or Professor (preferred).
- Meets qualifications for tenure-track status (preferred).
- Strong track record of research productivity, including NIH (or comparable independent) peer-reviewed funding; significant experience obtaining and administering extramural funding from a range of sponsors.
- Must have a proven track record of collaborating with, supporting, and developing multiple members of a clinical research department, including writing and administering complex grants.
- Experience in guiding and mentoring junior faculty, fellows, resident physicians, and medical students in academic activities.

## APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and CVs with cover letters should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website:

<https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/university-texas-austin-dell-medical-school/associate-chair-research-and-innovation>

Electronic submission of materials is strongly encouraged.

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*The University of Texas at Austin, as an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding nondiscrimination and affirmative action. The University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, religion, or veteran status in employment, educational programs and activities, and admissions.*

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## APPENDIX

### Collaborative Relationships

#### The University of Texas System

Headquartered in Austin, the System encompasses 15 educational institutions across the state of Texas, of which nine are universities and six are health institutions. The system has a total student enrollment of over 216,000 students and employs more than 87,000 faculty and staff. The UT Board of Regents approved the creation of the Dell Medical School and allocated \$25 million for the development of the school and \$40 million for faculty recruiting.

#### Ascension Seton

Originally founded by the Daughters of Charity in Austin in 1902, Ascension Seton is now the leading provider of healthcare services in Central Texas, serving an 11-county population of 1.9 million. The organization operates three major medical centers, three community hospitals, three rural hospitals, a behavioral health hospital, and several rehab/medical centers for well patients. Seton entered into a historic partnership with UT to increase the amount of medical education and research conducted in Central Texas. Seton operates more than 100 clinical locations.

Seton is part of Ascension, the largest nonprofit health system in the nation and the world's largest Catholic health system. Ascension's Texas ministry is comprised of Seton in Austin and Providence Healthcare Network in Waco.

#### Central Health

Created in 2004 by a vote of Travis County residents, Central Health's mission as the county's taxpayer-funded hospital district is to improve access to and delivery of quality health care to eligible residents of the county. Central Health is a separate political subdivision of the State of Texas and is governed by a nine-member volunteer Board of Managers. In partnership with Seton Healthcare Family, Central Health develops and maintains a network of healthcare services in an organization called the Community Care Collaborative to meet the needs of the underserved and ensure a single standard of care for all eligible residents. Central Health will purchase services from the Dell Medical School for the population it serves, resulting in \$35 million in annual revenue to support the medical school.

### Hospital Network

#### Dell Seton Medical Center at The University of Texas

[Dell Seton Medical Center at The University of Texas](#), a 211-bed teaching hospital, opened in downtown Austin in 2017. It is a full-service hospital with 24/7 emergency care and a Level I Trauma Center for adults. The medical center is a destination for specialty care, including heart and vascular health, stroke care,

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brain and spine conditions, radiology, and neurorehabilitation. Seton offers a wide range of minimally invasive procedures, imaging, lab tests, and rehabilitation services, all on one campus. Built, owned, and operated by Seton Healthcare Family, a member of Ascension, the largest nonprofit health system in the U.S. and the world's largest Catholic health system, the new facility accommodates more patients than its predecessor and can be expanded in the future. The medical center is the primary teaching hospital for Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin. Seton, which has borne most of the costs for graduate medical education in Austin since 2005, is committed to continuing this support in partnership with UT.

### **Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas**

[Dell Children's](#), a Level 1 Trauma Center and a Level IV NICU, provides inpatient, PICU, NICU, and ER sites as well as required subspecialty and elective experiences. Dell Children's provides general and highly subspecialized pediatric care to a 46-county referral area.

### **Ascension Seton Medical Center Austin**

[Ascension Seton Medical Center Austin](#) is the area's largest medical-surgical acute care center and a full-service hospital with 24/7 emergency care and Comprehensive Level 1 Stroke Center. The medical center is a destination for specialty care, including heart and vascular health, stroke care, lung and esophageal cancers, maternity services, and women's health. The OB-GYN maternity care teams at the Birthing Center deliver a personalized birthing experience and advanced neonatal care for sick babies. We offer a wide range of minimally invasive procedures, imaging, lab tests, and rehabilitation services, all on one campus.

### **About The University Of Texas at Austin**

In addition to its main campus near downtown, UT extends to the J.J. Pickle Research Campus in north Austin, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in south Austin, the McDonald Observatory in West Texas, the Marine Science Institute in Port Aransas, and several cultural and historic sites across the state.

The University's graduate programs in accounting, petroleum engineering, geology, Latin American history, and sociology of population rank No. 1 in the United States. Additionally, UT has many academic programs ranked in the top 25 nationally, and the number continues to rise every year. At the graduate level, 55 programs rank among the top 10, representing 12 of the University's colleges and schools. Almost 40 other programs rank in the top 25. The Times Higher Education World University Rankings for 2024 lists the University as the 50<sup>th</sup> best university in the world, while U.S. News & World Report ranks UT as seventh among American public universities. UT is among the top producers of doctoral degrees in the nation, and its alumni and faculty have included Nobel laureates, MacArthur Fellowship recipients, and other prestigious awardees from academies, foundations, and organizations from across the nation and around the world.

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UT offers more than 150 undergraduate degree programs and 230 graduate programs across its 19 colleges and schools in the sciences, arts, humanities, and professions:

- [Cockrell School of Engineering](#)
- [College of Education](#)
- [College of Fine Arts](#)
- [College of Liberal Arts](#)
- [College of Natural Sciences](#)
- [College of Pharmacy](#)
- [Dell Medical School](#)
- [Graduate School](#)
- [Jackson School of Geosciences](#)
- [LBJ School of Public Affairs](#)
- [McCombs School of Business](#)
- [Moody College of Communication](#)
- [School of Architecture](#)
- [School of Civic Leadership](#)
- [School of Information](#)
- [School of Law](#)
- [School of Nursing](#)
- [School of Undergraduate Studies](#)
- [Steve Hicks School of Social Work](#)

The University of Texas at Austin's research strengths related to health sciences includes biomedical engineering, nanoscience and nanotechnology, cell and molecular biology, immunology and infectious disease, neuroscience, advanced computing, computer science, computational biology and bioinformatics, chemistry, public health, sociology, psychology, health care delivery systems, health economics and law, and health care policy. The University has well-established professional schools of Nursing, Pharmacy, and Social Work to prepare healthcare providers for the future to work collaboratively, and there is a growing biotechnology industry with a strong culture of entrepreneurship in Central Texas. There are more than 150 interdisciplinary research units and programs. Most are located at the UT Austin main campus, but some, such as the Texas Advanced Computing Center, are at the 476-acre J.J. Pickle Research Campus, located about 10 miles north of the main campus.

## Austin, Texas: The Live Music Capital of the World

Austin, the capital of Texas, is located in Central Texas along the Colorado River with three large lakes located within the city limits. It is the 11th most populous city in the United States and the third fastest growing large city in the nation. Austin is the anchor city of the Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos MSA, which had a Gross Domestic Product of \$86 billion in 2010.

Austin's economy is diverse and recognized as a major center for high-tech. Austin serves as the corporate headquarters for Fortune 500 companies such as Oracle, Dell Technologies, Whole Foods Market, Tesla, and many successful tech startups. Austin also hosts research and development offices for major technology-oriented companies such as Amazon, AMD, Apple, and Google, which have established their operations in Austin in large part to draw from the highly skilled talent the University produces. The region's rapid growth earned it the distinction as Forbes number one large city for jobs in 2012 and Forbes No. 14 city for "Best Places for Business and Careers." Austin is also emerging as a hub for pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies and is home to approximately 85 of them. U.S. News & World Report

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consistently ranks Austin among its [Best Places to Live in America](#), and Expedia recently ranked it No. 1 in its [21 Super-Cool U.S. Cities list](#).

Residents of Austin, referred to as “Austinites,” enjoy an immense array of art, culture, and leisure activities. Austin’s official slogan is “The Live Music Capital of the World,” and the city has a vibrant live music scene with more music venues per capita than any other U.S. city. Austin’s music scene centers around the many nightclubs on 6th Street and an annual film/music/interactive festival known as South by Southwest (SXSW). There are dozens of smaller theater venues around the city, as well as public art and performances in area parks. Numerous museums exist, including the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum, which houses documents and artifacts related to the Johnson administration, including LBJ’s limousine and a re-creation of the Oval Office during his presidency.

For outdoor and sports enthusiasts, Austin has an abundance of parks and recreation sites. Given the mild climate year-round, residents regularly enjoy walking, swimming, rock climbing, kayaking, mountain biking, and hiking. Austin is known as the most bike-friendly city in Texas. There are over 80 miles of bike lanes in Austin, and over two percent of commuters get to work by bike. Many Austinites support the athletic programs of The University of Texas at Austin, known as the Texas Longhorns, where they play home games in the state’s second-largest sports stadium that seats over 101,000 fans.

Austinites take great pride in protecting the natural environment, and the city is well known as a “clean air city” because of its stringent no-smoking ordinances that apply to all public places and buildings, including restaurants and bars. In 2010, the FBI ranked Austin as the second safest major city in the U.S. Researchers at Central Connecticut State University ranked Austin as the 16th most literate city in the United States in 2008.

Austin is a very friendly and inviting place to live, work, and raise a family. The Austin area has 29 public school districts, 17 charter schools, and 69 private schools. Numerous higher education institutions, in addition to The University of Texas at Austin, are located throughout the area including but not limited to St. Edward’s University, Austin Community College, and Concordia University. There are ample housing options to meet every taste and level of affordability.

For additional information on The University of Texas at Austin and the City of Austin, please visit the following websites:

<http://www.utexas.edu>

<http://www.austinchamber.com/index.php>