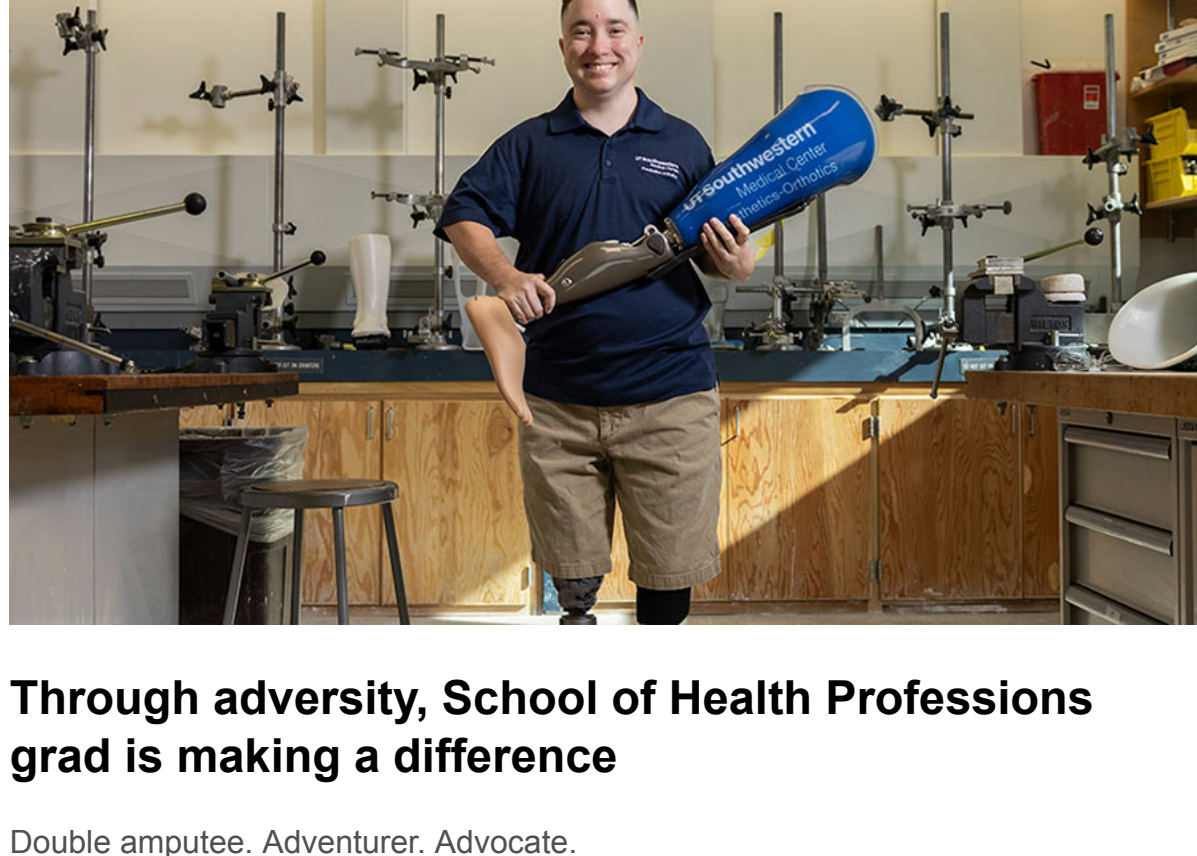




Through adversity, School of Health Professions grad is making a difference

Double amputee. Adventurer. Advocate.

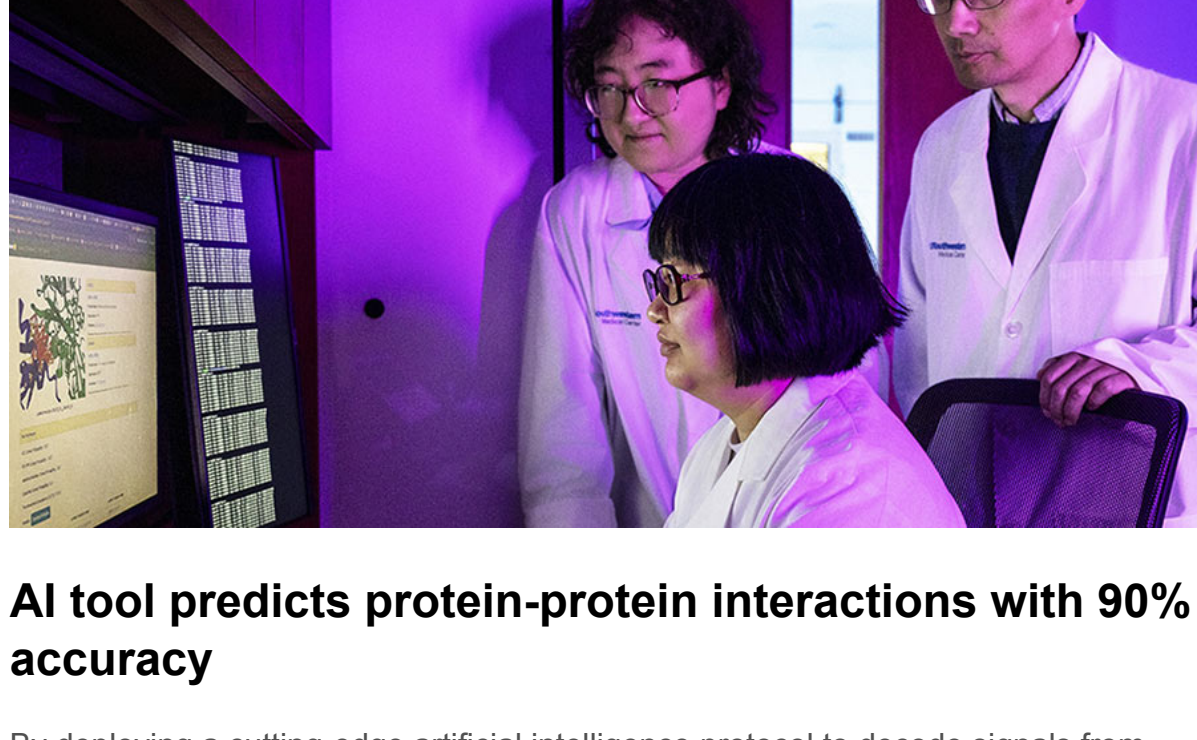
Riley Phipps has faced challenges most of us can't imagine. Instead of letting them define his limits, he turned them into fuel for helping others.

Losing his legs wasn't the end; it marked the start of a new chapter that's been guided by purpose and resilience. Today, nothing brings him more joy than helping others walk their own paths.

"I use my prosthetics to do incredible things I never imagined as a child," he said. "When you've faced hardship and come out stronger, you can't help but care deeply for those who are struggling. My goal in life is to reduce suffering as much as possible and to make sure my patients know I'm their biggest advocate."

From rock climbing and scuba diving to earning his Master of Prosthetics-Orthotics from UTSW's School of Health Professions, Riley is redefining what's possible and paving the way for others to do the same.

[Read Riley's amazing story](#)



AI tool predicts protein-protein interactions with 90% accuracy

By deploying a cutting-edge artificial intelligence protocol to decode signals from more than 21,000 species, UT Southwestern researchers have unlocked a powerful new way to pinpoint proteins that interact with each other, opening doors to deeper insights into life's molecular machinery.

"Protein-protein interactions (PPIs) are important in nearly all biological functions," said **Jing Zhang, Ph.D.**, a postdoctoral researcher in the Eugene McDermott Center for Human Growth and Development and lead author of the study, published in *Science*. "Our predicted interactions should help to explain the mechanisms of genetic disorders."

This is just a small step toward the ambitious goal of identifying all PPIs happening in a cell and modeling how all proteins come together to build the cells and the organisms.

[Discover more about this important research](#)



Practical steps to prevent fall-related fractures this winter

Falling is one of the leading causes of injury-related doctor visits among older adults year-round, and falls increase significantly when the temperatures drop, often resulting in significant fractures.

However, many falls can be avoided with proactive steps such as reducing risk factors around the home, building physical strength, and even participating in preventive physical therapy. These are detailed in a MedBlog by **Kelechi Okoroha, M.D.**, Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Chief of the Division of Sports Medicine at UTSW.

[Tips to keep you steady](#)

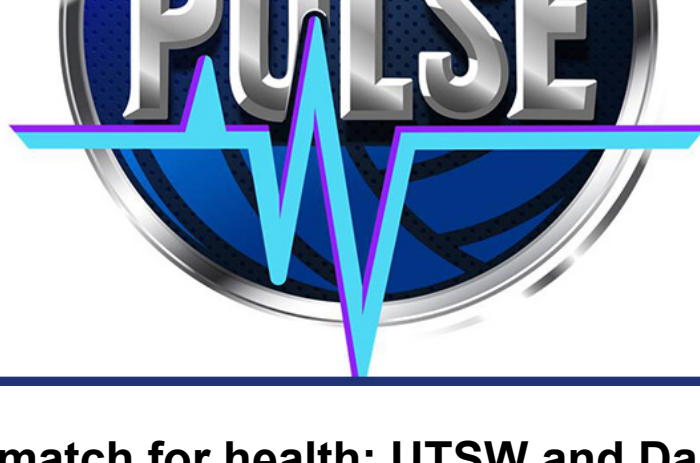


Last call to apply to the M.S.H.I. program

The **Jan. 15** deadline to apply for the fall 2026 cohort of the Master of Science in Health Informatics (M.S.H.I.) program at the Peter O'Donnell Jr. School of Public Health is quickly approaching. An M.S.H.I. degree equips students with the necessary education and experience to pursue meaningful informatics careers at the intersection of health care and technology.

Designed with working professionals in mind, the program provides evening classes and flexible full-time or part-time formats so you can enhance your career on a timeline that works best for you.

If you're ready to take the next step, [visit the website](#) and [apply today](#). If you have questions, you can also reach out to the [M.S.H.I. team](#).



A winning match for health: UTSW and Dallas Pulse team up

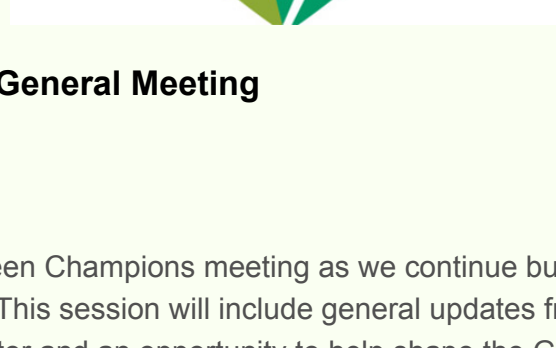
The Dallas Pulse, North Texas' first pro women's volleyball team, will make their Major League Volleyball season debut Jan. 10, squaring off against the Indy Ignite. The match will be at Frisco's Comerica Center, with UT Southwestern proudly cheering on the team.

Discounted tickets to the first game of the new season are available from Dallas Pulse, and you can claim yours by using the link below. Visit the [Employee Discounts page](#) for more information on discounted tickets from our other sports and fitness partners.

As the Official Health Care Partner of Dallas Pulse, UT Southwestern will collaborate with the team to advance health and fitness causes, focusing on women and children in the community through upcoming initiatives. Please contact the [Brand team](#) with questions.

[Claim your seats!](#)

Insider Guide

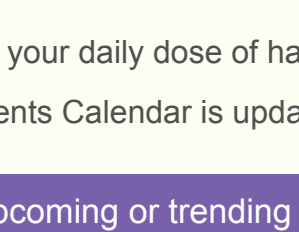


Green Champions General Meeting

Noon-1 p.m., Jan. 14
Virtual

Join us for our next Green Champions meeting as we continue building a culture of stewardship at UTSW. This session will include general updates from the campus Sustainability Coordinator and an opportunity to help shape the Green Champions' priorities for the year. All are welcome to get involved.

[Learn more](#)



UTSW Events Calendar

Looking for your daily dose of happenings?

The UTSW Events Calendar is updated every day.

[View upcoming or trending events](#)

Share your *Insider* suggestions by sending them to utswinsider@utsouthwestern.edu. Looking for an item in a past edition of this newsletter? Check out our [Insider archive](#).

This is an internal email and not intended for external distribution. Please do not forward.
© 2026 UT Southwestern Medical Center. All rights reserved. *UTSW Insider* is a publication of Communications, Marketing, and Public Affairs (CMPA) at UT Southwestern Medical Center.