

UT Southwestern Town Hall

State of the Campus Address

Hosted by
President
Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.

Save the date: President's Town Hall

Please join the live, one-hour State of the Campus Address and Town Hall at noon Wednesday, **March 11**, hosted by UT Southwestern President **Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.**

Learn about key priorities, topics such as artificial intelligence, and what's ahead for our institution, including new campus life initiatives.

Have a question for Dr. Podolsky or any of our Executive Vice Presidents? Share those with us via [email](#) as they will help inform the conversation and the live Q&A session.

The Town Hall will be accessible via livestream, and a link will be provided prior to the event. A recording will be available shortly afterward.

[Register to attend](#)

Empowering recovery, finding hope after brain injury

You're invited to attend the Hope After Brain Injury (HABI) Conference, an annual community-based event that aims to share the latest literature and resources on living with and managing long-term traumatic brain injury. The free conference, hosted by UT Southwestern, HABI, and Baylor Scott & White on **March 7**, is also intended to provide social and community support for survivors and their care partners.

This year's theme is "Creating Balance Between Acceptance, Emotions, and Energy."

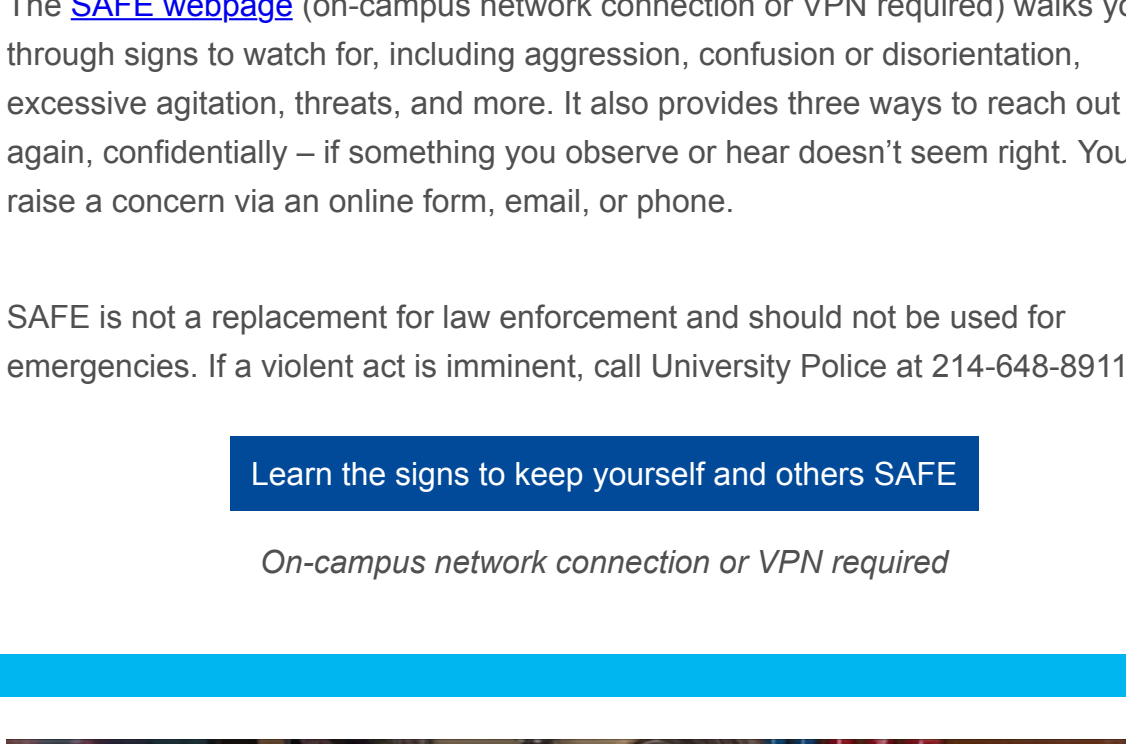
Topics will include:

- Mental health
- Caring for the caregiver
- Roundtable discussion
- How the brain works
- Music therapy

Details:

- 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Saturday, March 7
- West Campus Building 3
- Attend in person or via Zoom

[Sign up today](#)



SAFE: A resource worth revisiting

We periodically share this reminder because it's important for everyone to be aware of SAFE, which is designed to improve security and safety on campus. SAFE offers confidential ways to report concerning or violent behavior exhibited by staff, faculty, learners, trainees, contractors, or vendors.

This reporting tool enables proactive, compassionate intervention by a specially trained, multidisciplinary team of mental health professionals, University Police, administrative leaders, and others skilled in providing social support and community resources to individuals who may need them.

The [SAFE webpage](#) (on-campus network connection or VPN required) walks you through signs to watch for, including aggression, confusion or disorientation, excessive agitation, threats, and more. It also provides three ways to reach out – again, confidentially – if something you observe or hear doesn't seem right. You can raise a concern via an online form, email, or phone.

SAFE is not a replacement for law enforcement and should not be used for emergencies. If a violent act is imminent, call University Police at 214-648-8911.

[Learn the signs to keep yourself and others SAFE](#)

On-campus network connection or VPN required

A tailored treatment that helped save a patient's heart

As Sherri Merchant celebrates turning 50 during Heart Month, the Arlington resident has much to be thankful for.

A case of strep throat at age 12 led to lifelong medical challenges, including epilepsy, lupus, kidney disease, and a heart murmur. Decades later, when a rare blood disorder made the heart surgery she needed nearly impossible, doctors at UT Southwestern came up with a customized plasma exchange that helped save her life.

Sherri underwent a mitral valve replacement procedure in September 2023 that required the expertise of a multidisciplinary team at UTSW because of her multiple health problems.

"She seemed too young, functional, and healthy to not give every effort at finding a way forward," said Sherri's cardiovascular surgeon, **Christopher Heid, M.D.** "The valve surgery wasn't the complicated part. The challenge was navigating her nuanced medical conditions to get her safely to and through surgery."

As a special education teacher in Fort Worth, Sherri is exceedingly grateful she's been able to return to the classroom.

"I thank God every day for opening that door," she said. "And for the people at UT Southwestern who walked through it with me."

[Discover the solution that made her surgery possible](#)

Da Nine Hester-Harris' mission in medicine

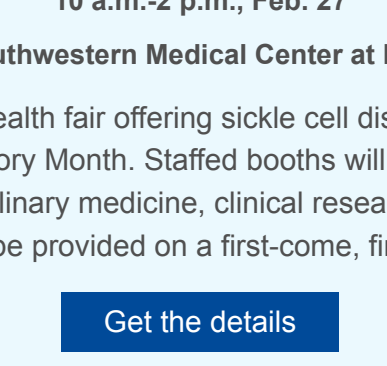
One moment can shape a career. For nurse practitioner **Da Nine L. Hester-Harris, D.N.P., APRN, ANP-BC**, it was the experience of caring for her young son during his asthma struggles and realizing how much was missing – notably, medical professionals who could relate to her and teach her how to care for him. That experience lit a fire in her to become both a clinician and to champion health literacy as a cornerstone of her work.

This Black History Month, discover how Dr. Hester-Harris is using her voice, her story, and her career as an advanced practice provider to inspire the next generation and improve health literacy in our community.

Plus: Don't forget about the [Black History Month Celebration](#) taking place today, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., on South Campus, D1.600.

[See what drives her work](#)

Insider Guide



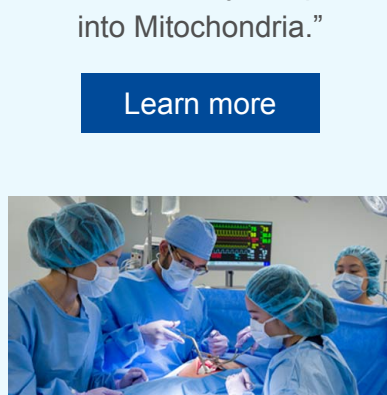
Sickle Cell Wellness Health Fair

10 a.m.-2 p.m., Feb. 27

UT Southwestern Medical Center at RedBird

Join UT Southwestern for a health fair offering sickle cell disease resources and education in recognition of Black History Month. Staffed booths will feature UTSW departments specializing in sickle cell, culinary medicine, clinical research, and more. Breakfast and lunch will also be provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

[Get the details](#)



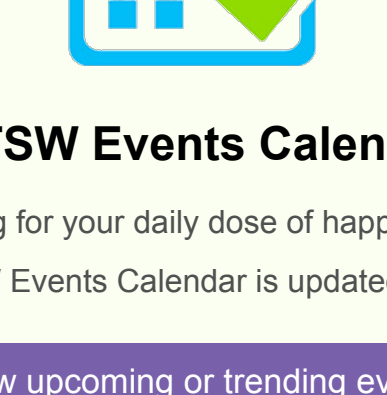
Biophysics Seminar Series: Eunyong Park, Ph.D.

Noon-1 p.m., March 5

T. Boone Pickens Biomedical Building (ND), ND8.218

The Department of Biophysics hosts a seminar series in which senior leaders and rising stars discuss their latest work and spend a day meeting with faculty, postdocs, and students. Seminars are held on the first Thursday of each month. The March speaker, **Eunyong Park, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor in the Departments of Molecular & Cell Biology at the University of California, Berkeley, will present "Principles of Protein Import into Mitochondria."

[Learn more](#)



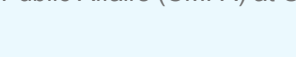
Charles Morris Ginsburg Simulation-Based Quality Improvement and Research Forum

7 a.m.-4 p.m., April 22

T. Boone Pickens Auditorium, NG3.112

This daylong, hybrid forum brings together health care professionals, educators, and students to explore innovation in medical simulation through research presentations, discussion, and hands-on learning experiences.

[Register today](#)



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](#).

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