UTSWInsider
EDUCATE • DISCOVER • HEAL
Monday, April 6, 2026

Celebrate innovation: COE registration is open

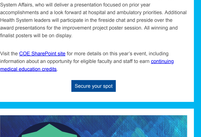
Registration for the Health System's Celebration of Excellence (COE) on May 1 is now open. Be sure to reserve your spot so you don't miss the chance to learn about the innovative ideas and improvement successes from across our clinical enterprise. Attendance is open to the entire UTSW community as well as those who work at our partner sites, including Children's Health, Parkland Health, Scottish Rite for Children, Texas Health, and the VA North Texas Health Care System.

This year's keynote speaker is **Harry S. Hertz, Ph.D., FAAAS, HFACHE**, Director Emeritus, Baldrige Performance Excellence Program, National Institute of Standards and Technology. Dr. Hertz will discuss elements of organizational excellence and change management, the Baldrige criteria for measuring performance excellence and health care quality improvement.

The eighth annual COE will also feature remarks from UTSW President **Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.**, and **Jonathan Efron, M.D.**, Executive Vice President for Health System Affairs, who will deliver a presentation focused on prior year accomplishments and a look forward at hospital and ambulatory priorities. Additional Health System leaders will participate in the fireside chat and preside over the award presentations for the improvement project poster session. All winning and finalist posters will be on display.

Visit the COE SharePoint site for more details on this year's event, including information about an opportunity for eligible faculty and staff to earn continuing medical education credits.

Secure your spot



UTSW selected for national clinician well-being initiative

UT Southwestern has been selected to join the 2026 Change Maker Accelerators, a national program led by the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) through its Action Collaborative on Clinician Well-Being and Resilience. UT Southwestern is one of 28 organizations nationwide chosen for the second cohort of this yearlong initiative to advance evidence-based strategies that support clinician well-being and address workforce burnout.

The Change Maker Accelerators program provides participating organizations with dedicated coaching, implementation support, and tools to help translate well-being commitments into measurable, sustainable action. Participants also engage in peer-to-peer learning with health systems and organizations from across the country, sharing insights and best practices.

The program builds on the NAM's National Plan for Health Workforce Well-Being, which calls for collective, system-level approaches to strengthening the health care workforce.

Meet the 2026 Accelerators

Explore nature on campus during Earth Month

Step outside and soak up some springtime sunshine with a guided campus nature walk led by Texas Parks and Wildlife urban biologist **Sam Kraschnick**. It's a great way to get moving, learn something new, and celebrate our connection to the environment – right where we live and work.

On Thursday, April 16, starting at noon at Donald Seldin Plaza on South Campus, Sam will lead attendees on a walk to uncover the surprising North Texas ecosystems thriving around us. Along the way, he'll highlight native plants and wildlife, explain why biodiversity matters, and share simple ways we can all support nature in urban spaces.

Wear comfortable shoes, bring your reusable water bottle, and get ready to see campus from a whole new perspective. Registration is required. Questions? Contact the Sustainability team.

This walk is part of a monthlong lineup of Earth Month events happening across campus throughout April. Be sure to explore the full lineup and find more ways to learn, connect, and take action.

Embrace nature with a walk

Blue and green for a lifesaving cause

Every eight minutes, someone is added to the transplant waiting list – a powerful reminder that organ donation isn't just an idea; it's a lifeline.

During April, we honor generous donors who make transplantation possible, families who say "yes" during the hardest moments, and the transplant teams who transform that generosity into hope and second chances.

Show your support by wearing blue and green on **Friday, April 10**, for National Donate Life Blue & Green Day. Share a selfie or gather your team for a group photo and send it to our transplant team by 4 p.m. that day to be featured on our social media channels. Whether you're rocking a bold pop of color or coordinating with your entire team, our participation helps spark awareness and conversation about the lifesaving impact of donation.

Learn more about how you can get involved – and help save lives – through Donate Life Texas.

Learn about joining the donor registry

Build bridges through conversation

Looking to connect across cultures and make a meaningful impact? Join the Conversation Partners program at UT Southwestern where international pediatrics and native English-speaking employees come together for language practice and cultural exchange.

Registration is open until May 4 for the summer 2026 session, which will run from May 11 through Sept. 25. Orientation sessions will be held on May 12 for English-speaking volunteers and on May 13 for international participants.

If you have questions, please contact the Office of International Affairs via email or call 214-648-0010.

Whether you want to improve your English or help others feel at home, this is a great way to build friendships and broaden your world.

Start the conversation

Walk with OBI to make a difference for brain tumor patients

Each year, more than 88,000 people in the U.S. are diagnosed with a primary brain tumor – a disease that remains the leading cause of cancer-related death in children under 14 and the second leading cause in young adults under 40.

Today, more than 700,000 people across the country are living with a brain tumor diagnosis, underscoring both the urgency and the need for continued research.

Join the Peter O'Donnell Jr. Brain Institute (OBI) on **Saturday, May 2**, for the 16th Annual Head for the Cure 5K – North Texas. The OBI team is running and walking to honor the countless individuals and families affected by this devastating disease and needs your help to make a difference!

Walk, run, make a difference

Your money, your future: Make the most of America Saves Week

Since 2007, America Saves Week has encouraged people nationwide to pause, check in on their finances, and take small, meaningful steps toward a stronger financial future. Whether you're just getting started or fine-tuning your long-term plans, this is a great time to reflect on your goals and build confidence around your money.

To support you, daily webinars will be offered throughout the week, each focusing on a key aspect of financial wellness and retirement planning.

Join as many as you like:

- April 6: How to Begin Investing for Retirement
- April 7: Is TRS Enough? and Interactive Planning for Real-Life Retirement Questions
- April 8: Retirement Questions That Could Shape Your Future
- April 9: Enhancing Your UT Retirement: The Role of the Voluntary Plan and Reaching Retirement Goals
- April 10: Money Psychology: Beyond the Numbers

If you have questions about America Saves Week or other employee wellness programs, please contact the Human Resources team at 214-648-9810 or by email.

Invest in your future

Insider Guide

Update in Internal Medicine CME Conference

8 a.m.–3 p.m., May 2 | T. Boone Pickens Medical Education & Conference Center (NG3.112)

This conference will provide primary care physicians and internists evidence-based, practical information relevant to common clinical problems, consultation questions, and advances in translational medicine.

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@southwestern.edu
Looking for an item in a past edition of this newsletter? Check out our insider archive

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