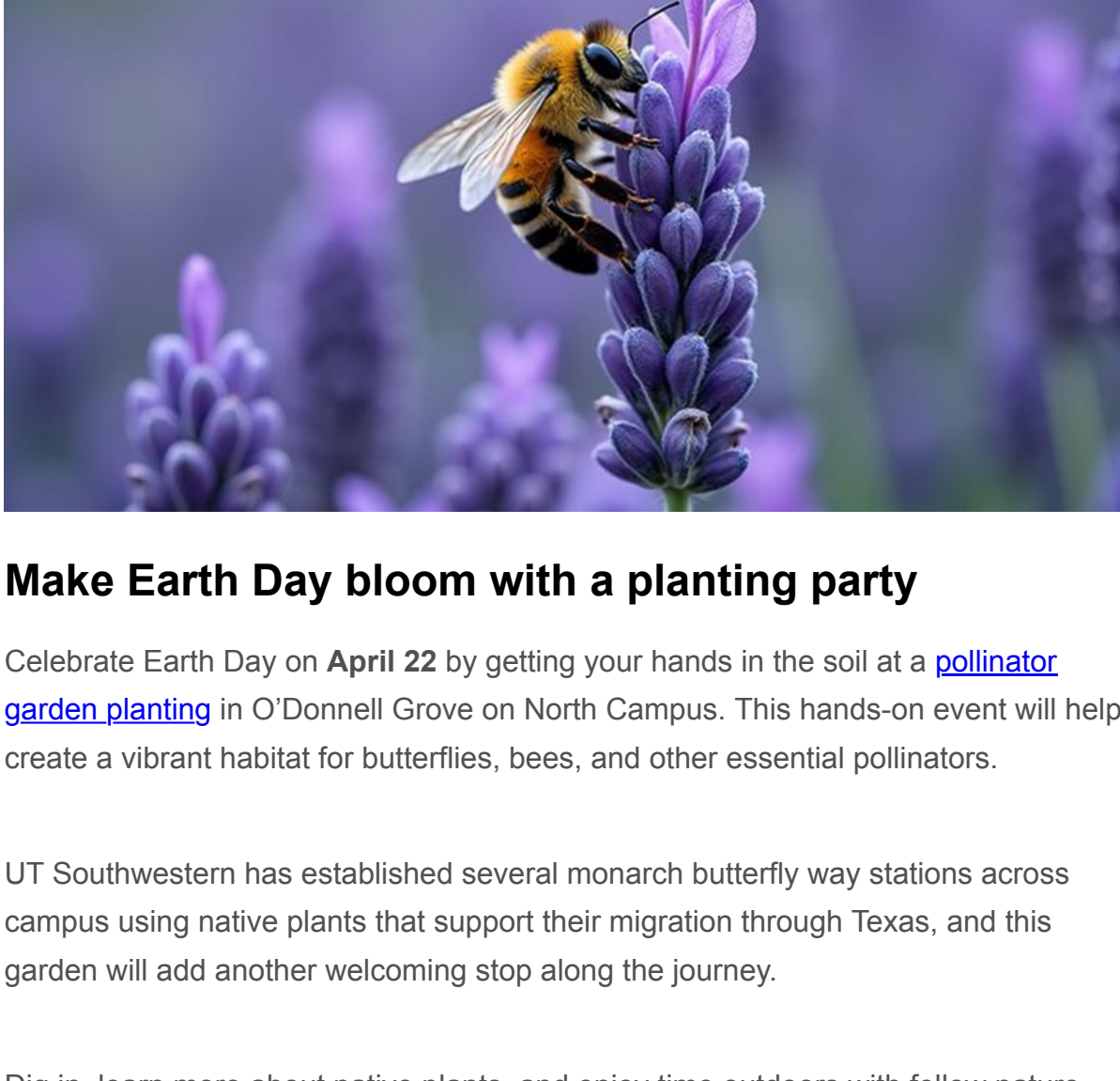




Make Earth Day bloom with a planting party

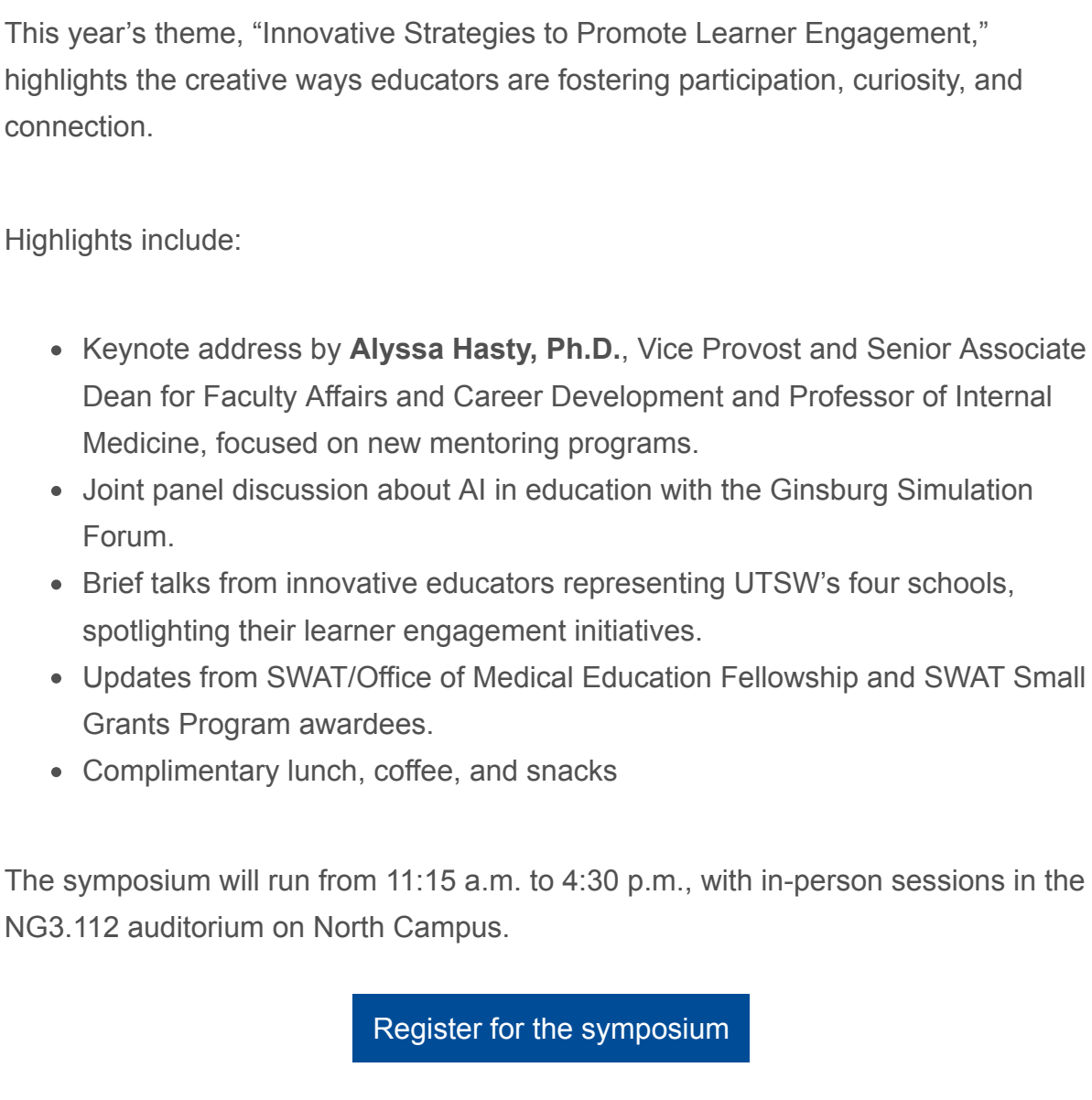
Celebrate Earth Day on **April 22** by getting your hands in the soil at a [pollinator garden planting](#) in O'Donnell Grove on North Campus. This hands-on event will help create a vibrant habitat for butterflies, bees, and other essential pollinators.

UT Southwestern has established several monarch butterfly way stations across campus using native plants that support their migration through Texas, and this garden will add another welcoming stop along the journey.

Dig in, learn more about native plants, and enjoy time outdoors with fellow nature lovers. If your schedule allows, come join us from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. No experience necessary – just bring your enthusiasm!

This planting is part of a monthlong lineup of Earth Month activities happening across campus throughout April. [Explore the full schedule](#), and join the fun. Contact the [Sustainability team](#) with any questions.

[Register and “bee” there!](#)



Gilman Educational Symposium to explore what’s next in learner engagement

What does meaningful learner engagement look like in today’s academic health environment – and what will it need to look like for the future? This year’s [Alfred G. Gilman Symposium on Education](#) explores how UT Southwestern educators are pushing beyond traditional teaching models to create learning experiences that are relevant and responsive to change.

Hosted by the UT Southwestern Academy of Teachers (SWAT), the symposium – now in its 15th year – will take place on **April 22**. Faculty, staff, and learners are encouraged to attend this hybrid event.

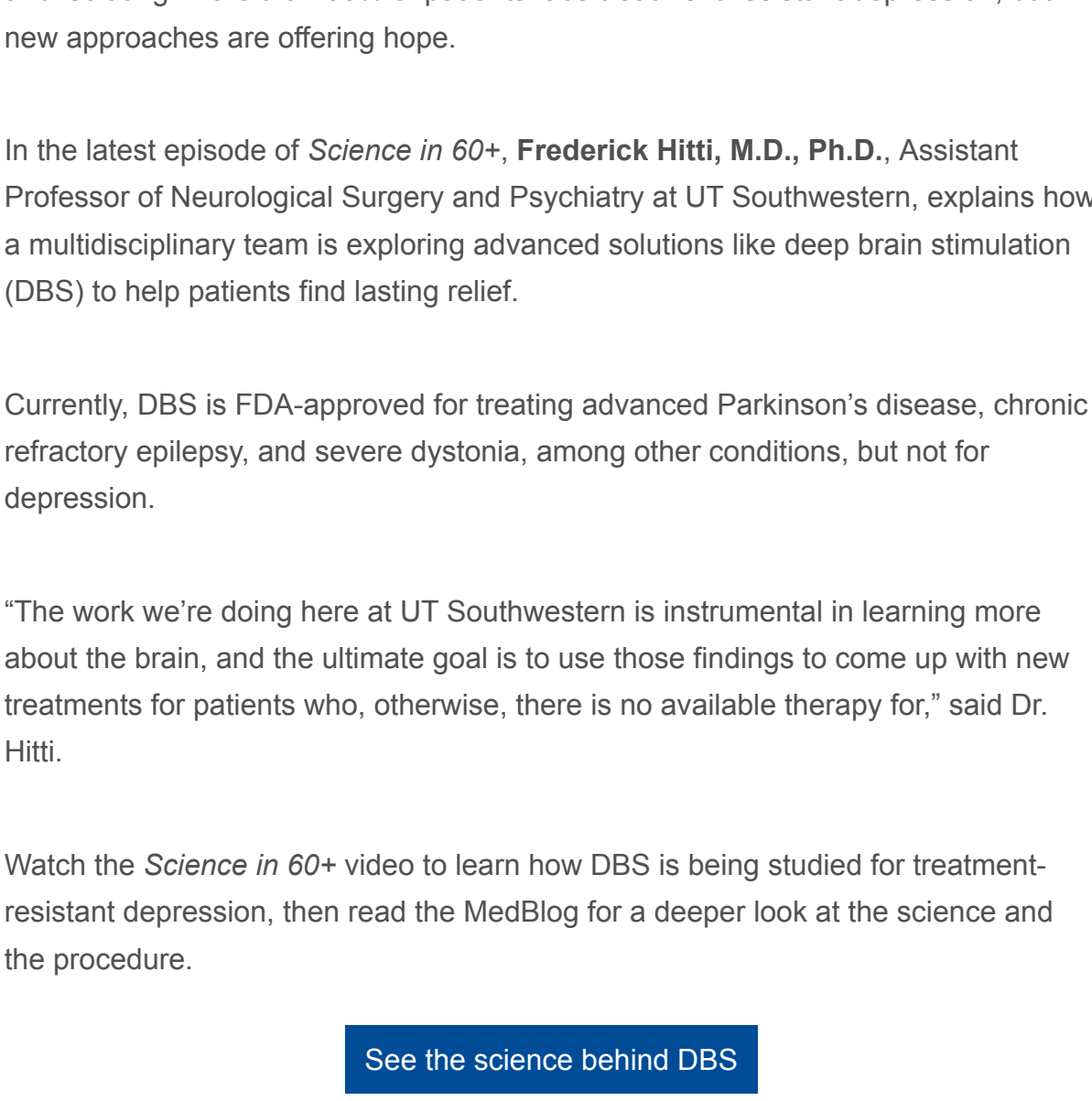
This year’s theme, “Innovative Strategies to Promote Learner Engagement,” highlights the creative ways educators are fostering participation, curiosity, and connection.

Highlights include:

- Keynote address by **Alyssa Hasty, Ph.D.**, Vice Provost and Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Career Development and Professor of Internal Medicine, focused on new mentoring programs.
- Joint panel discussion about AI in education with the Ginsburg Simulation Forum.
- Brief talks from innovative educators representing UTSW’s four schools, spotlighting their learner engagement initiatives.
- Updates from SWAT/Office of Medical Education Fellowship and SWAT Small Grants Program awardees.
- Complimentary lunch, coffee, and snacks

The symposium will run from 11:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with in-person sessions in the NG3.112 auditorium on North Campus.

[Register for the symposium](#)



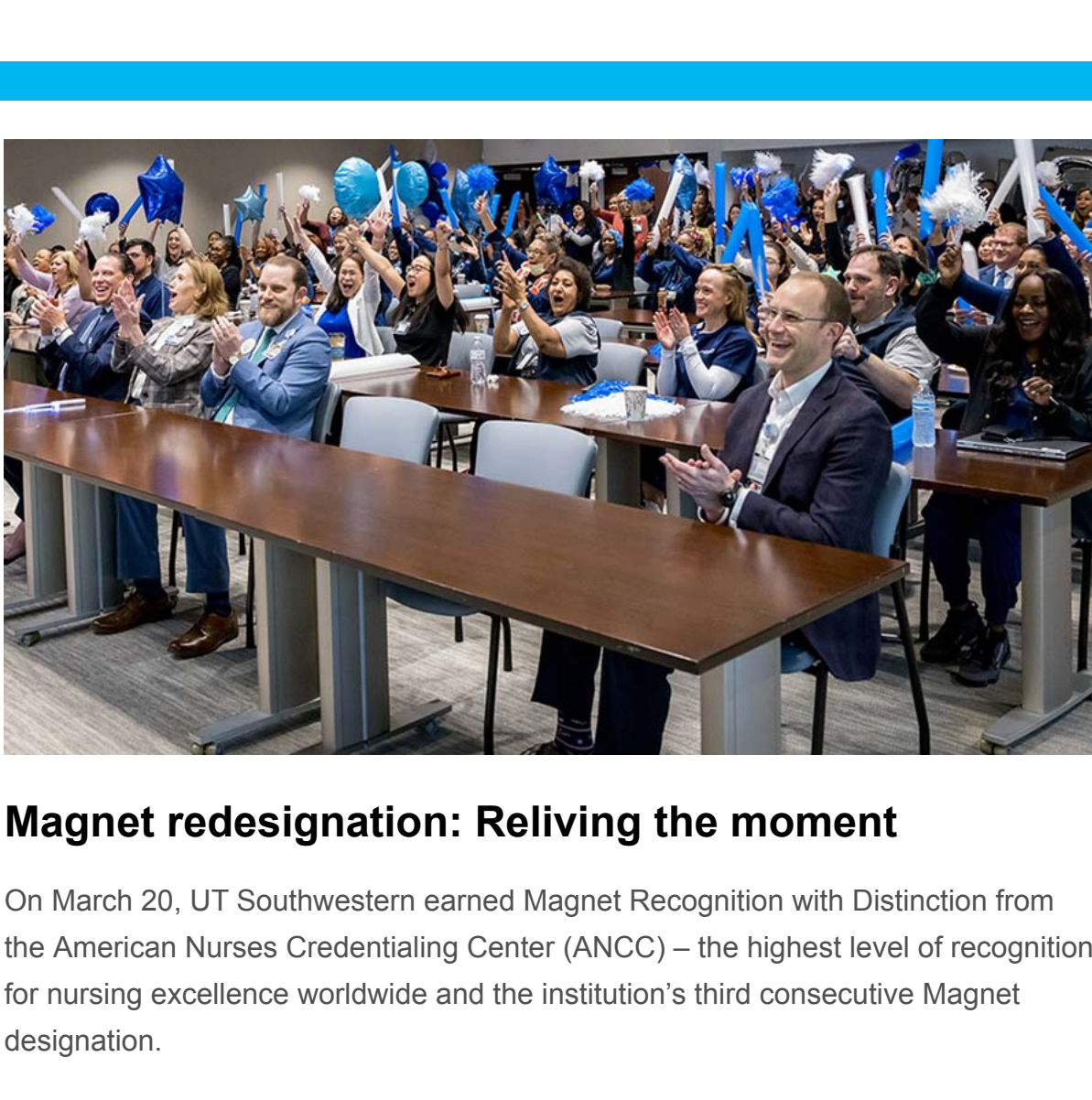
Saddle up for Boots’ Rodeo Birthday Bash

The UTSW community is invited to a special rodeo-themed birthday honoring Dallas Trinity FC (DTFC) mascot Boots on **April 19** at the Cotton Bowl, when DTFC takes on the Carolina Ascent.

The celebration will feature a fun fan zone plus appearances from Boots and mascot friends from across DFW, making it a can’t-miss afternoon of soccer, spirit, and campus pride. Use the form below to request up to six tickets for the game.

Looking for more ways to cheer on our sports partners? Visit the UT Southwestern [employee discount page](#) for additional offers. Reach out to the [Brand team](#) with any questions.

[Lasso your free tickets](#)



Science in 60+: A bright future for depression treatment

When depression doesn’t respond to medication or therapy, it can feel discouraging and isolating. More than 30% of patients face treatment-resistant depression, but new approaches are offering hope.

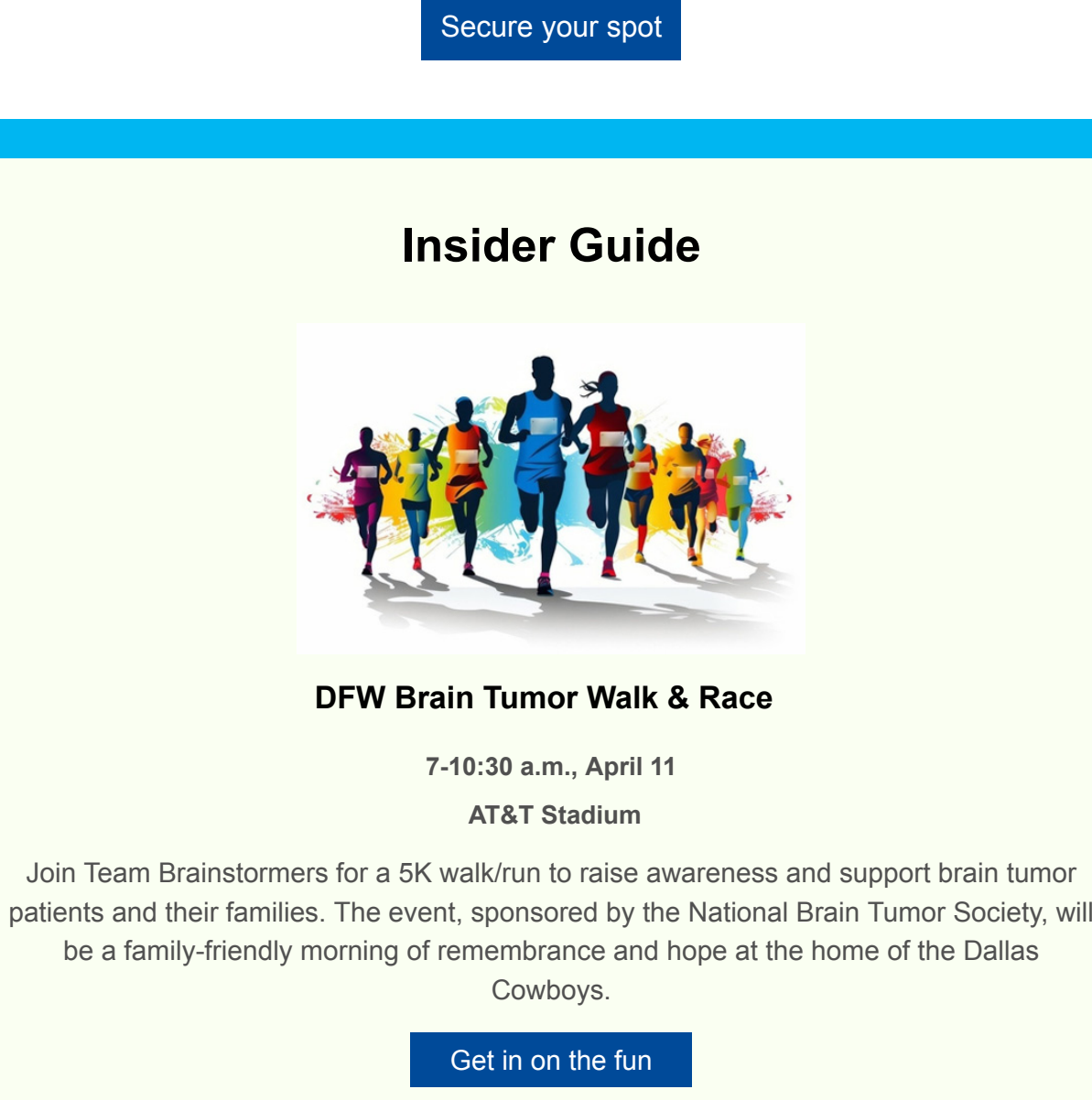
In the latest episode of *Science in 60+*, **Frederick Hitti, M.D., Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Neurological Surgery and Psychiatry at UT Southwestern, explains how a multidisciplinary team is exploring advanced solutions like deep brain stimulation (DBS) to help patients find lasting relief.

Currently, DBS is FDA-approved for treating advanced Parkinson’s disease, chronic refractory epilepsy, and severe dystonia, among other conditions, but not for depression.

“The work we’re doing here at UT Southwestern is instrumental in learning more about the brain, and the ultimate goal is to use those findings to come up with new treatments for patients who, otherwise, there is no available therapy for,” said Dr. Hitti.

Watch the *Science in 60+* video to learn how DBS is being studied for treatment-resistant depression, then read the MedBlog for a deeper look at the science and the procedure.

[See the science behind DBS](#)



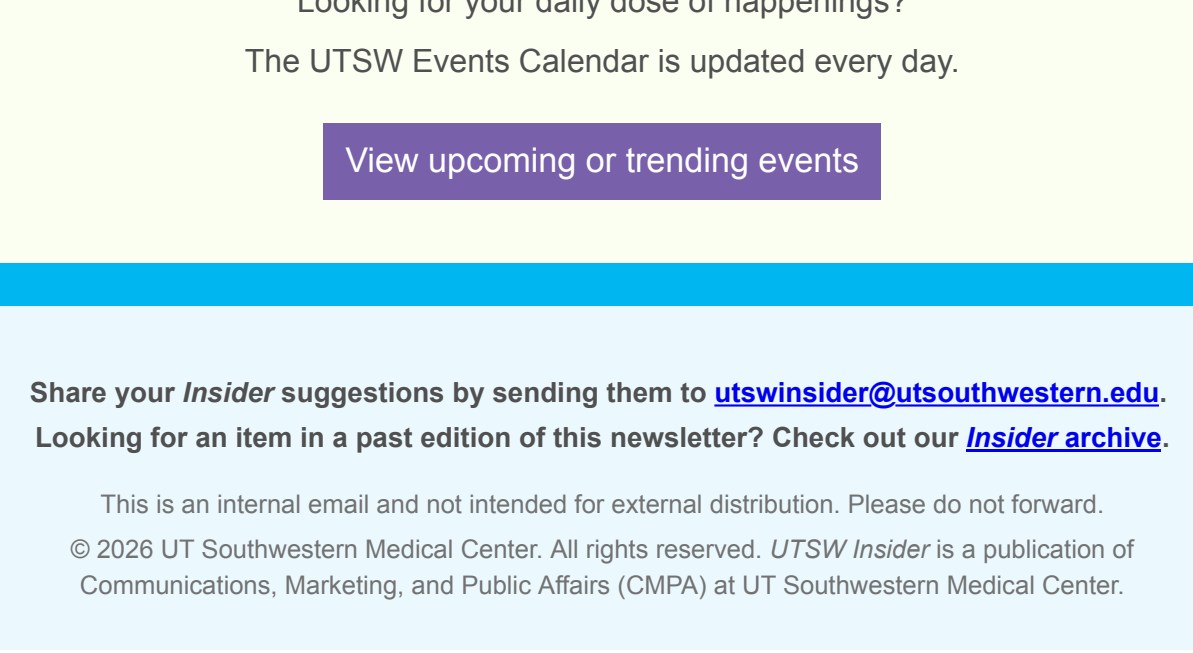
Apply for SWAT Small Grants and Fellowships

The SWAT Small Grants and SWAT/Office of Medical Education (OME) Fellowship Programs are accepting applications for 2026 education-research projects related to UTSW schools’ education priorities.

The [SWAT Small Grants Program](#) is open to faculty and trainees working in collaboration with a UT Southwestern faculty member. Selected projects may receive up to \$3,500 in funding.

For larger initiatives that include faculty career development, the [SWAT/OME Fellowship Program](#) offers up to \$20,000 per award, including up to 10% salary support.

Applications are due May 1 for Small Grants and May 15 for Fellowships.



Magnet redesignation: Reliving the moment

On March 20, UT Southwestern earned Magnet Recognition with Distinction from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) – the highest level of recognition for nursing excellence worldwide and the institution’s third consecutive Magnet designation.

Center Times Plus takes you inside the room as nurses, leaders, and staff gathered to await the anticipated call – and captures the instant the news was delivered. The recap also includes a video recording of the announcement, along with photos that reflect the celebratory atmosphere that followed: cheers, applause, hugs, and a shared sense of pride among the nursing community.

Thank you to our nursing community and to all who supported this achievement through their dedication and teamwork.

[Watch the moment and see highlights](#)

Learn what’s next in liver care

Explore current and emerging approaches to liver disease and transplantation at the 2026 UT Southwestern Liver Disease and Transplant Symposium. This engaging educational program will be held Saturday, **April 11**, in person and virtually, at UT Southwestern Monty and Tex Moncrief Medical Center in Fort Worth. This activity has been submitted to award Nursing Continuing and Professional Development (NCPD) contact hours.

UTSW faculty will share practical, evidence-based insights, including case-based discussions on severe alcohol-associated hepatitis (SAAH) and metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD), updates on transplant protocols for liver cancers, and emerging therapies shaping the future of care.

[Secure your spot](#)

Insider Guide

DFW Brain Tumor Walk & Race

7-10:30 a.m., April 11

AT&T Stadium

Join Team Brainstormers for a 5K walk/run to raise awareness and support brain tumor patients and their families. The event, sponsored by the National Brain Tumor Society, will be a family-friendly morning of remembrance and hope at the home of the Dallas Cowboys.

[Get in on the fun](#)

BME Distinguished Seminar Series featuring James Duncan, Ph.D.

11 a.m.-noon, April 27

Hybrid, TI Biomedical Engineering and Sciences Building, EA1.116

The Department of Biomedical Engineering at UTSW is hosting **James Duncan, Ph.D.**, Chair of the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Yale University, for a special seminar. Dr. Duncan will present “Neuroimage Analysis in Autism: From Model-Based Estimation to Data-Driven Learning.” For those unable to attend in person, a livestream is available.

[Learn more about the talk](#)

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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