



Annual enrollment is here!

Annual Benefits Enrollment began this week and runs through July 31. This is your opportunity to make changes to your coverage (including adding or removing dependents), which will go into effect Sept. 1, 2025.

Visit the [Annual Enrollment webpage](#) to find plan updates, rate changes, and important information and resources to support your benefits selection. There you will also find a full list of annual enrollment events and benefits fairs, including:

In-person benefits fairs

- [Today, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.](#) South Campus, McDermott Lecture Halls, D1 Corridor
- [July 23: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.](#) Clements University Hospital, Lecture Hall 2.138

Information tables

- [July 17: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.](#) UTSW RedBird
- [July 22: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.](#) Brookriver
- [July 24: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.](#) UTSW Frisco

Additionally, the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) will offer a [hybrid learning session](#) on July 17, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., in the Tom and Lula Gooch Auditorium on South Campus.

There will also be two live “Ask a Benefits Rep” webinars:

- [July 22: 12:30-1:30 p.m.](#)
- [July 29: 11 a.m.-noon](#)

Have questions or want more information? Reach out via [email](#) or call the Benefits team at 214-648-9830 with any questions.

[Full Annual Enrollment details](#)



Important: What you need to know about digital accessibility requirements

The Department of Justice’s new rule regarding digital accessibility isn’t just a legal requirement – it’s about making sure everyone can fully participate in our digital world. Whether someone uses a screen reader, navigates with a keyboard, or needs clearer content layout, accessibility affects people every day.

To comply, UT Southwestern will require all websites, documents, and apps to meet these new accessibility mandates by April 24, 2026. This helps ensure that all users, regardless of ability, can engage with our content effectively. Compliance with digital accessibility rules is a shared responsibility among the UTSW community.

Training is key to getting this right. Upcoming sessions are scheduled for:

- [Today, July 16, at noon](#)
- [July 31 at 9 a.m.](#)

Additionally, there will be an [accessibility Q&A on July 18 at 9 a.m.](#) You’re encouraged to [submit your questions](#) and vote on those submitted by others.

To further support your learning and success with this initiative, UTSW has also launched a [comprehensive website](#) designed to help ensure we meet our legal obligations and provide ongoing guidance.

If you’re unsure how to get started or have questions, email the [Digital Accessibility team](#). You can also join the [Digital Accessibility Teams channel](#) to collaborate, learn, and access all the shared knowledge on this initiative.

[Explore UTSW’s digital accessibility website](#)



Rooted in Ghana, driven by purpose: The unscripted story of Dr. Dickson

Born and raised in Ghana, **Douglas Dickson, M.D.**, Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, came to the U.S. with just \$50 and a dream to pursue medicine.

Despite having to leave medical school seven times due to financial hardship and even experiencing homelessness, he never gave up. Today, he is a respected orthopedic spine surgeon at UT Southwestern, known for his meticulous approach and compassionate care.

Dr. Dickson credits his success to perseverance, his support system, and an unshakable sense of calling. To give back to his homeland, he regularly returns to Ghana to perform complex surgeries. He believes every challenge has shaped him into the surgeon, husband, and father he is today.

Discover the man behind the scalpel in the latest episode of “UTSW Unscripted,” a mini docuseries that offers an intimate look at the authentic stories of UT Southwestern physicians and researchers.

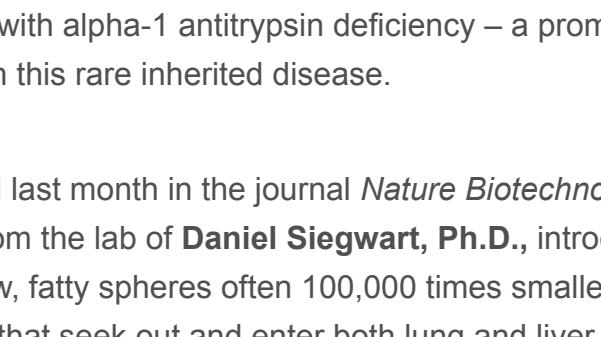
[Watch Dr. Dickson’s story of resilience](#)

UTSW in the News

UT Southwestern’s clinical and scientific experts are often featured in the news, with media outlets turning to us for our insights and perspectives. “UTSW in the News” highlights some of those stories.

Dallas Morning News

[Rescued by fat bubbles: UTSW scientists treat rare genetic disease with designer molecule](#)



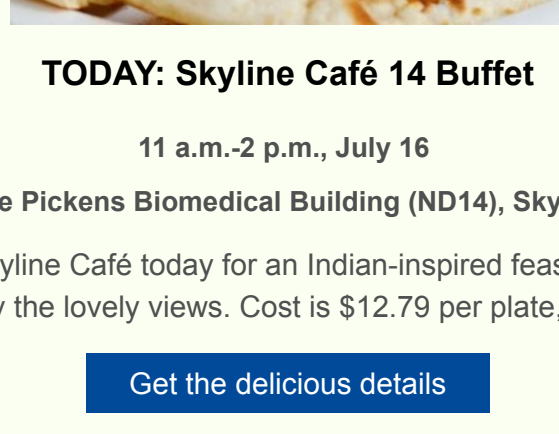
Tiny fat bubbles carrying gene therapy have successfully repaired DNA in the lungs and liver of animals with alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency – a promising leap toward treating humans with this rare inherited disease.

In a [paper](#) published last month in the journal *Nature Biotechnology*, researchers at UT Southwestern from the lab of **Daniel Siegwart, Ph.D.**, introduced lipid nanoparticles (hollow, fatty spheres often 100,000 times smaller than the thickness of a piece of paper) that seek out and enter both lung and liver cells.

This is significant because lipid nanoparticles tend to gather naturally in the liver versus other organs and tissues. Dr. Siegwart is excited about the potential of using selective organ targeting lipid nanoparticles to tackle other genetic diseases, including cystic fibrosis and primary ciliary dyskinesia, a rare disorder that affects the tiny, hair-like structures lining the airways.

[Read the full article](#)

Insider Guide



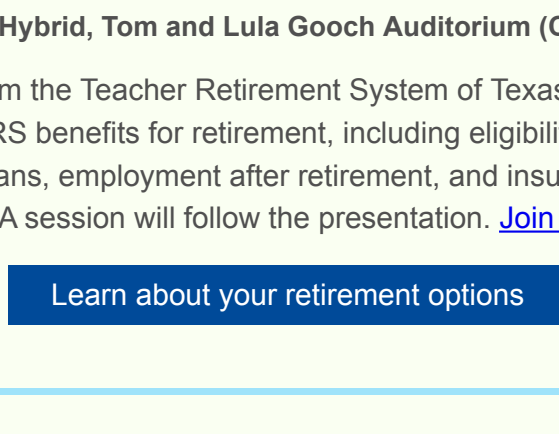
TODAY: Skyline Café 14 Buffet

11 a.m.-2 p.m., July 16

T. Boone Pickens Biomedical Building (ND14), Skyline Café

Head to the ND14 Skyline Café today for an Indian-inspired feast. Savor classic Indian flavors and enjoy the lovely views. Cost is \$12.79 per plate, not including tax.

[Get the delicious details](#)



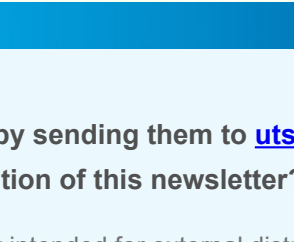
Teacher Retirement System of Texas retirement benefits presentation

11 a.m.-1 p.m., July 17

Hybrid, Tom and Lula Gooch Auditorium (C)

A representative from the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) will provide a general review of TRS benefits for retirement, including eligibility, tiers, calculation of benefits, retirement plans, employment after retirement, and insurance, through a hybrid event. A brief Q&A session will follow the presentation. [Join the event virtually.](#)

[Learn about your retirement options](#)



UTSW Events Calendar

Looking for your daily dose of happenings?

The UTSW Events Calendar is updated every day.

[Click to 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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