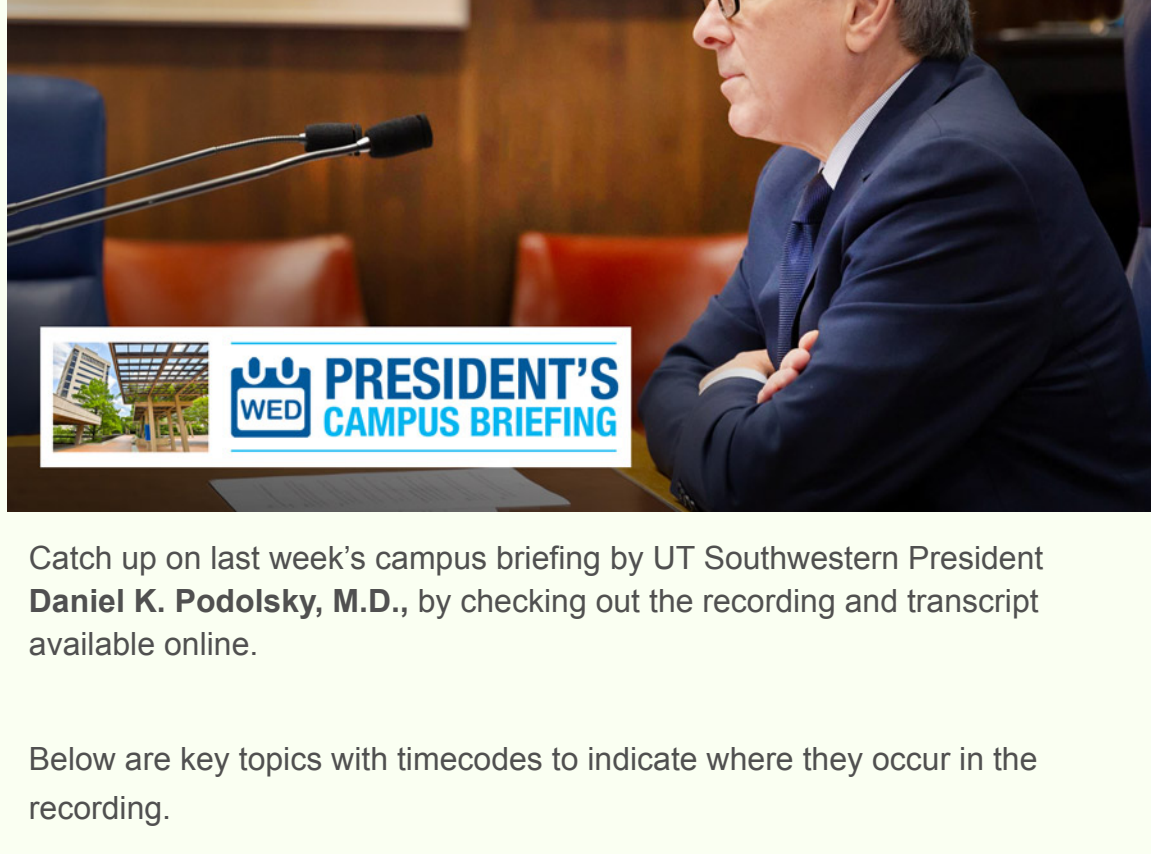


#ICYMI

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



Catch up on last week's campus briefing by UT Southwestern President **Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.**, by checking out the recording and transcript available online.

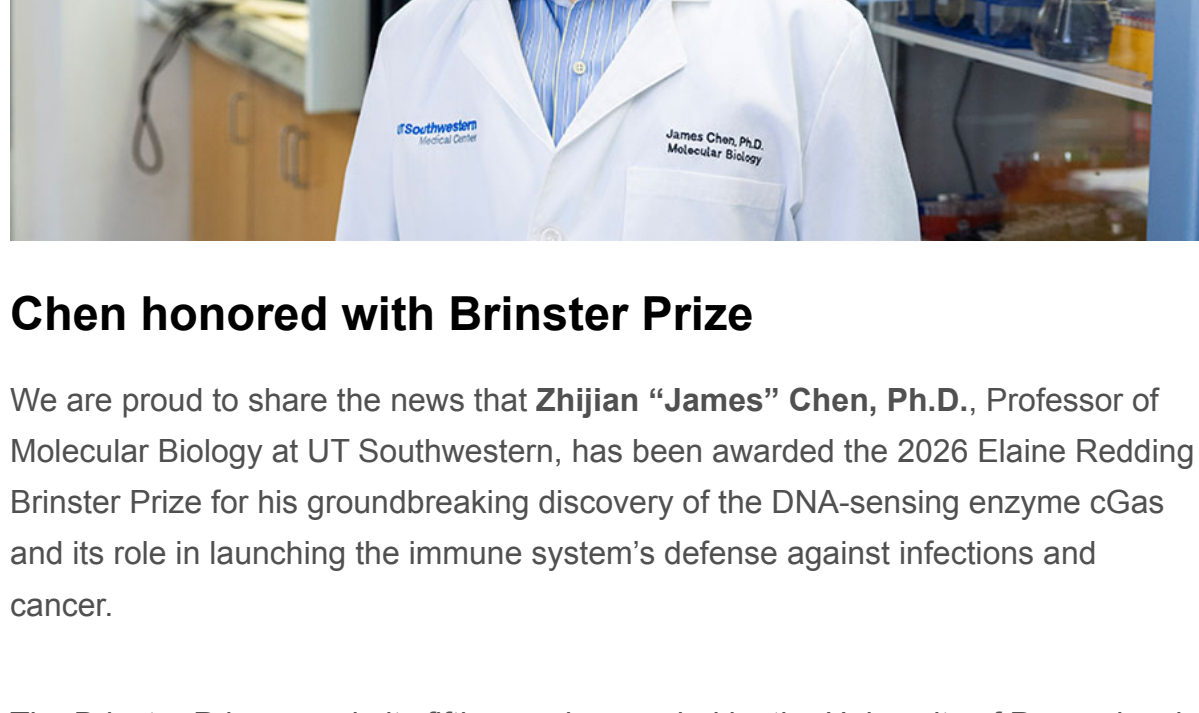
Below are key topics with timecodes to indicate where they occur in the recording.

- Search for the inaugural Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer (1:34)
- Digital accessibility under the Americans with Disabilities Act (3:10)
- Sustainability initiatives (4:54)
- Rankings and recognitions (6:11)
- Engagement surveys (8:49)
- Progress of long-standing projects (11:20)
- Coming attractions (14:03)
- Your questions (18:10)

Dr. Podolsky addresses questions from staff regarding parking, lighting and safety, institutional finances, flu vaccines and COVID-19 boosters, paid leave, and artificial intelligence training.

If you have additional questions or topic suggestions for future campus briefings, email questions@utsouthwestern.edu. Remember to use "Question for the President" as the subject line.

[President's briefing](#)



Chen honored with Brinster Prize

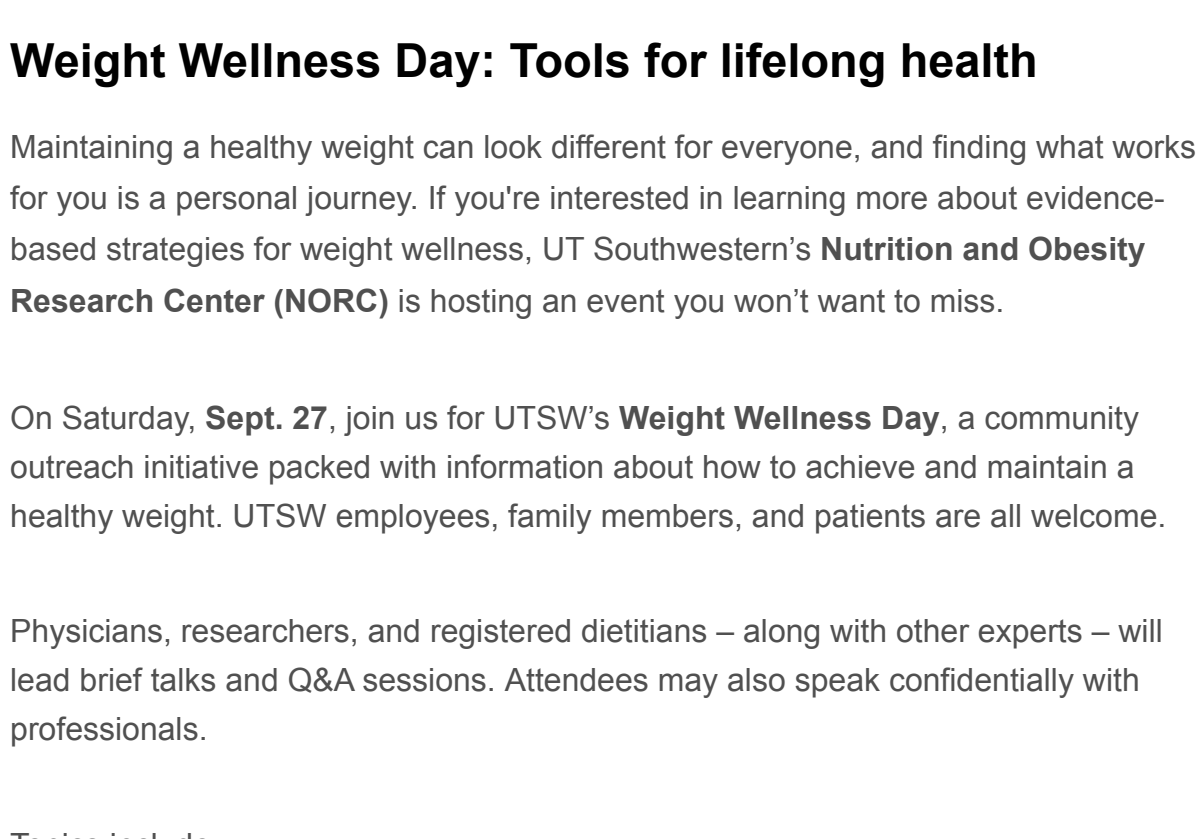
We are proud to share the news that **Zhijian "James" Chen, Ph.D.**, Professor of Molecular Biology at UT Southwestern, has been awarded the 2026 Elaine Redding Brinster Prize for his groundbreaking discovery of the DNA-sensing enzyme cGas and its role in launching the immune system's defense against infections and cancer.

The Brinster Prize, now in its fifth year, is awarded by the University of Pennsylvania to a researcher whose discoveries have made a unique impact on biomedicine. In announcing the award, Penn Medicine said Dr. Chen's work has "opened up a new area of science by showing how our immune system spots harmful DNA from germs, like bacteria and viruses, and starts fighting them."

Dr. Chen will accept the award March 18 in Philadelphia as part of the daylong Ralph L. Brinster Symposium.

"This prize is very special not only because Dr. Ralph Brinster is one of my scientific heroes, but also because it epitomizes the key role of family support in the success of a scientist," Dr. Chen said. "I myself have benefited from the strong support of my family, as well as my colleagues and mentors."

[Read the news release](#)



Weight Wellness Day: Tools for lifelong health

Maintaining a healthy weight can look different for everyone, and finding what works for you is a personal journey. If you're interested in learning more about evidence-based strategies for weight wellness, UT Southwestern's **Nutrition and Obesity Research Center (NORC)** is hosting an event you won't want to miss.

On Saturday, **Sept. 27**, join us for UTSW's **Weight Wellness Day**, a community outreach initiative packed with information about how to achieve and maintain a healthy weight. UTSW employees, family members, and patients are all welcome.

Physicians, researchers, and registered dietitians – along with other experts – will lead brief talks and Q&A sessions. Attendees may also speak confidentially with professionals.

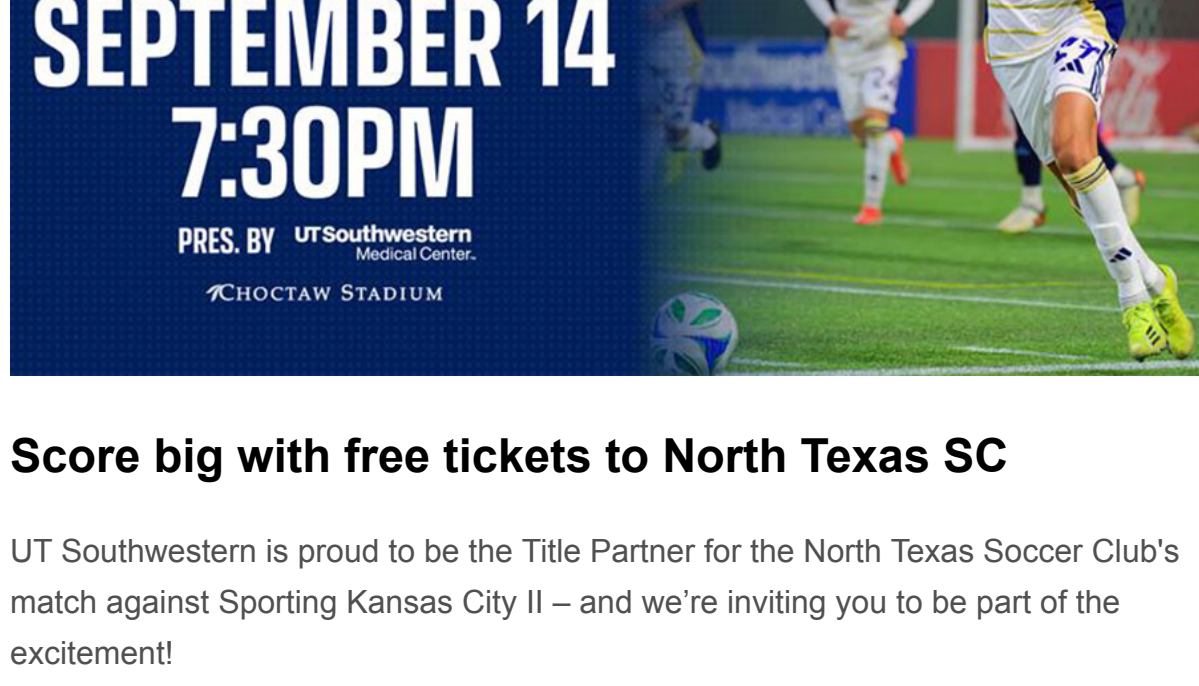
Topics include:

- Defining optimal weight and personalized strategies for weight wellness
- Discussion of GLP-1 and other anti-obesity medications
- Tools to help reach and maintain a healthy weight through nutrition and exercise

[Registration is required](#) for attendance; a complimentary lunch is included.

UTSW's NORC is one of 11 centers nationwide designated by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases and is funded by the National Institutes of Health.

[Let's talk Weight Wellness](#)



Weekend lane closure at New Pediatric Campus construction site

On Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 13-14, construction activities related to the delivery and installation of a tower crane will require closure of the westbound right lane on Paul M. Bass Way. Access to the Cancer Care Outpatient Building (NM) and North Campus Garage 2 will remain open. Drivers are encouraged to observe local signage and directions from construction personnel on site.



Score big with free tickets to North Texas SC

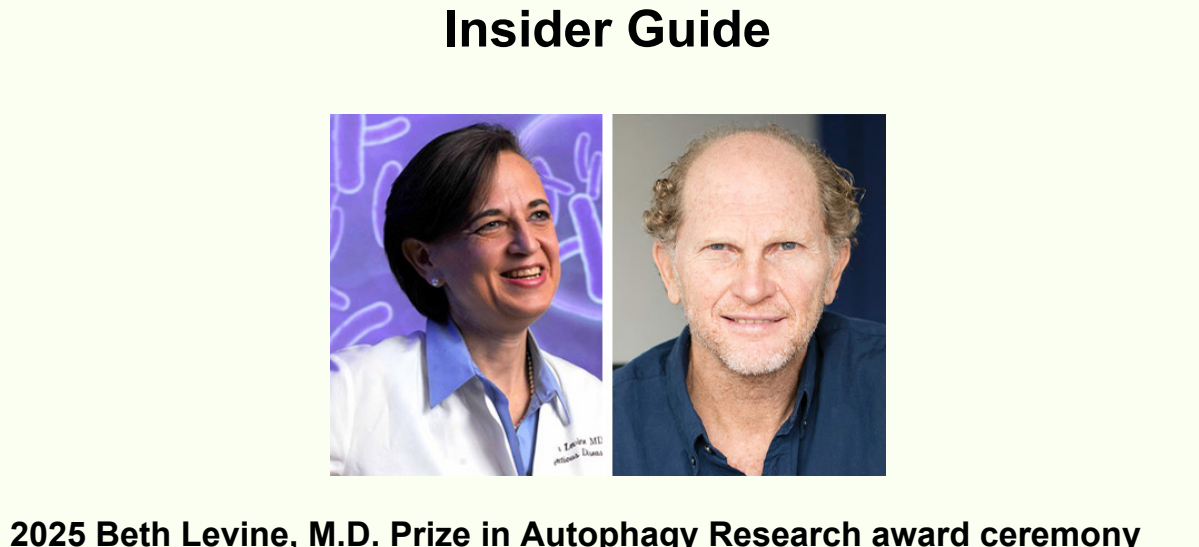
UT Southwestern is proud to be the Title Partner for the North Texas Soccer Club's match against Sporting Kansas City II – and we're inviting you to be part of the excitement!

The action starts at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 14 at Choctaw Stadium in Arlington. We're pleased to offer faculty, staff, and learners up to eight free tickets to the game.

Click the button below to claim your free tickets. For more information on discounted tickets from our other sports partners, visit [UTSW's employee discount page](#).

Questions? Reach out to the Brand team [via email](#).

[Claim your free tickets now!](#)



Make strides against ovarian cancer

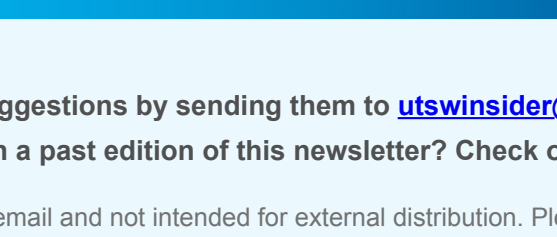
The Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center is proud to sponsor the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition (NOCC) Together in TEAL Run/Walk in Coppell on Saturday, Sept. 27, from 7 to 11 a.m. at The Sound at Cypress Waters.

This meaningful event brings together communities to honor those affected by ovarian cancer. By joining the UTSW team, you will help raise awareness, celebrate survivors, and advance the NOCC's mission to research, educate, and support.

Whether you choose to walk, run, or volunteer, your participation can make a real impact!

[Join the team](#)

Insider Guide



2025 Beth Levine, M.D. Prize in Autophagy Research award ceremony

11 a.m.-1 p.m., Sept. 15 | Tom and Lula Gooch Auditorium (C)

You're invited to honor the legacy of the late **Beth Levine, M.D.**, a pioneering UTSW scientist whose groundbreaking work laid the foundation for the field of mammalian autophagy. This year's award recipient is **Andrea Ballabio, M.D.**, an internationally recognized medical geneticist. Dr. Ballabio will deliver a lecture from 11 a.m. to noon titled "The Lysosome: From Trash Can to Control Center of Cell Metabolism," with lunch to follow for registered attendees.

[Register to attend](#)

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](#)