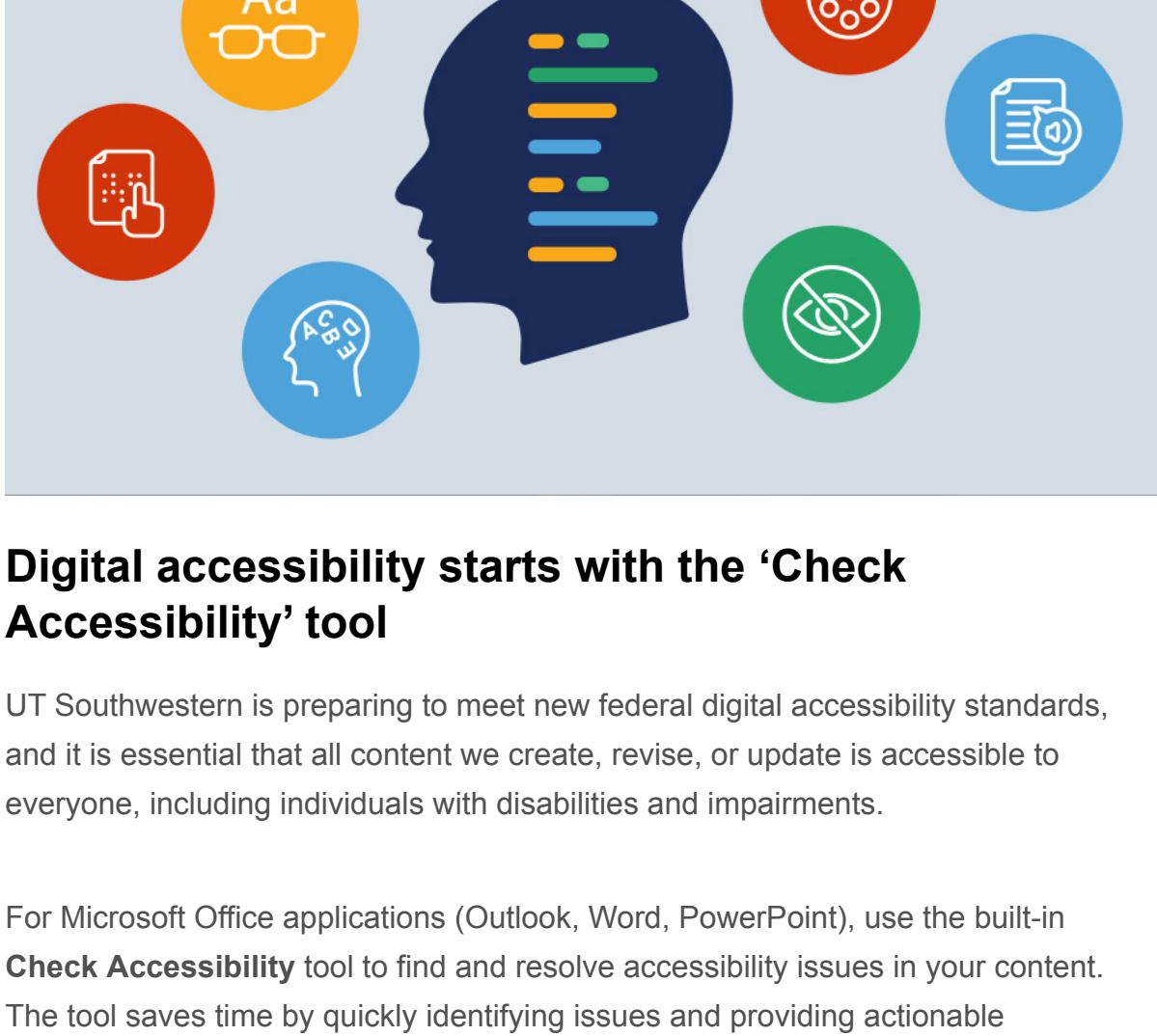




Digital accessibility starts with the ‘Check Accessibility’ tool

UT Southwestern is preparing to meet new federal digital accessibility standards, and it is essential that all content we create, revise, or update is accessible to everyone, including individuals with disabilities and impairments.

For Microsoft Office applications (Outlook, Word, PowerPoint), use the built-in **Check Accessibility** tool to find and resolve accessibility issues in your content. The tool saves time by quickly identifying issues and providing actionable recommendations to help ensure documents, emails, and presentations meet accessibility standards.

Note that using the tool alone is not sufficient to guarantee accessibility. Documents must also be thoroughly checked against the [accessibility guidelines for content creators](#).

Where to find the Check Accessibility tool

- **Word and PowerPoint:** in the toolbar under “Review”
- **Outlook (MacOS):** in the “Edit” pulldown menu
- **Outlook (Windows):** depending on version, in the toolbar under “Message” or “Review”

[Full digital accessibility guidelines](#)

African American Alliance

BUSINESS RESOURCE GROUP

Asian-Pacific Islander Alliance

BUSINESS RESOURCE GROUP

EquallyAble Alliance

BUSINESS RESOURCE GROUP

First Nations Intertribal Alliance

BUSINESS RESOURCE GROUP

Hispanic-Latino Alliance

BUSINESS RESOURCE GROUP

LGBTQIA Alliance

BUSINESS RESOURCE GROUP

Veterans Alliance

BUSINESS RESOURCE GROUP

Women's Alliance

BUSINESS RESOURCE GROUP

Grow together: Join the BRG Mentorship Program

The Office for Institutional Opportunity is gearing up for the 2026 Business Resource Group (BRG) Mentorship Program, and now is the time to sign up to be a mentor or mentee.

The 12-month program runs from January to December and offers partnerships between colleagues across all departments to promote personal and professional development. Mentors don’t need to be BRG members but must have manager/supervisor experience. Mentees should be active BRG members.

All UTSW employees are welcome to join a BRG. More information is available on the BRG [website](#).

Sign up below no later than Dec. 5.

If you have any questions regarding the BRG Mentorship Program, please [email](#) the Office for Institutional Opportunity.

[Mentor Sign-up](#)

[Mentee Sign-up](#)

Compliance guidance for the giving season

With the holidays rapidly approaching, the UT Southwestern Office of Institutional Compliance & Audit Services would like to remind the campus community of policies regarding gifts, donations, contributions, and internal fundraising.

While we appreciate the spirit of the season, UTSW employees should not:

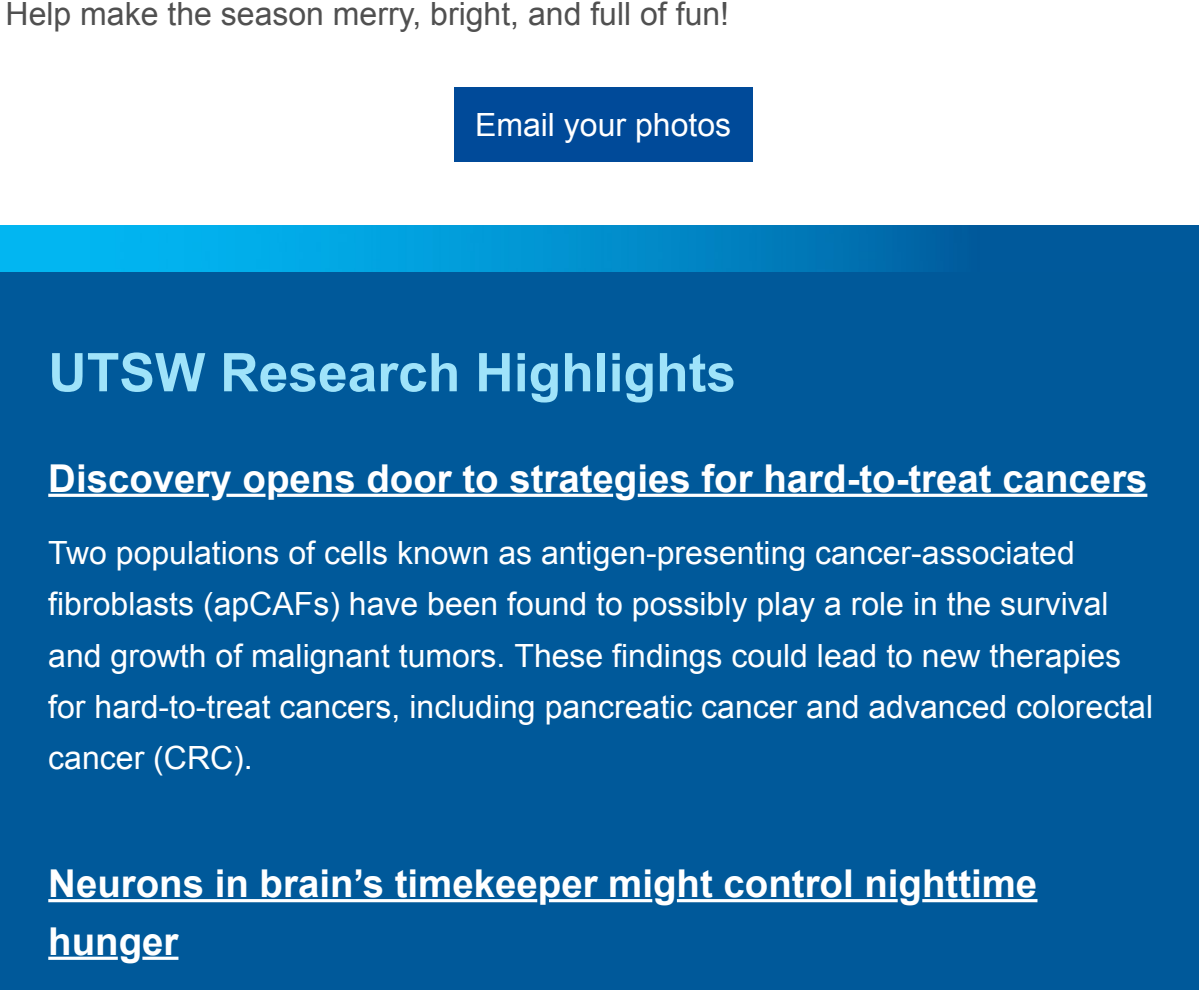
- Sell goods at work (e.g., holiday bake sales)
- Accept holiday gifts from vendors or donors
- Request contributions for holiday office parties
- Ask an employee to purchase or contribute to a gift for another employee (e.g., Secret Santa, raffles, etc.)
- Request or require individuals to donate or contribute funds for group purchases
- Collect items to raise funds for outside organizations
- Solicit donations to outside organizations or other employees (e.g., GoFundMe donations)
- Instruct donors to send gifts directly to an employee

UT Southwestern’s ethics policy regarding influence also prohibits employees from accepting or soliciting any gift, favor, service, or loan that might influence employees in their official duties. Within reason, employees are expected to know when something is being offered with the intent to influence the employee’s official conduct. Improper acceptance of a gift may constitute a criminal offense under certain circumstances.

Please see:

- [FSS-102: Solicitation](#)
- [FIM-601: Gifts – Solicitation, Acceptance, Processing, and Acknowledgment](#)
- [FIM-601P-01: Procedure for Receipt of Gifts](#)
- [ETH-101: UT Southwestern Ethics Policy](#)

If you become aware of potential violations of these policies, please contact the Office of Institutional Compliance & Audit Services Compliance Hotline at 877-507-7319, [email](#), or visit [MyComplianceReport.com: Compliance and Ethics Reporting](#).



Holiday cheer spotlight: Let it shine!

The Employee Advisory Council (EAC) is hosting a campuswide Holiday Cheer Challenge now through Dec. 17, and they’d love you to join the festive fun.

Whether it’s your decked-out office space, your most over-the-top ugly holiday sweater, or your team’s celebrations, they want to see it! (Friendly reminder: Please consult the [holiday decorating safety webpage](#) for important guidelines.)

Submit your seasonal snapshots for a chance to win UTSW-themed prizes.

Winners will be announced via email Dec. 22, and your photos might be featured on UTSW’s social media channels and the [EAC SharePoint site](#).

Help make the season merry, bright, and full of fun!

[Email your photos](#)

UTSW Research Highlights

[Discovery opens door to strategies for hard-to-treat cancers](#)

Two populations of cells known as antigen-presenting cancer-associated fibroblasts (apCAFs) have been found to possibly play a role in the survival and growth of malignant tumors. These findings could lead to new therapies for hard-to-treat cancers, including pancreatic cancer and advanced colorectal cancer (CRC).

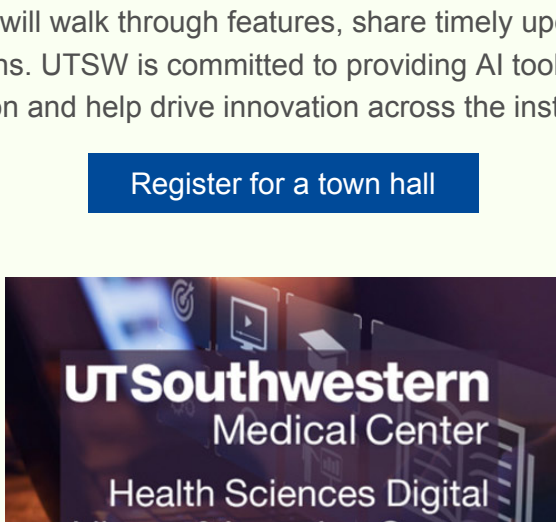
[Neurons in brain’s timekeeper might control nighttime hunger](#)

Researchers found activating specific neurons in the brain’s circadian center, responsible for regulating feeding and metabolism, caused mice to eat more during their rest period and led to weight gain. The discovery could lead to new strategies to help people lose weight, including night-shift workers, who have a higher prevalence of obesity.

[Stressors damage kidneys by mutating mitochondrial DNA](#)

Scientists have discovered that even after appearing to heal, kidney damage leads to lasting mutations in mitochondrial DNA, weakening kidney cells and making the organ less resilient to future stressors. Over time, this reduces kidney function and may contribute to chronic disease and aging. These findings could lead to new treatments for acute kidney injury and chronic kidney disease and may explain some facets of aging in other organs and tissues.

Insider Guide



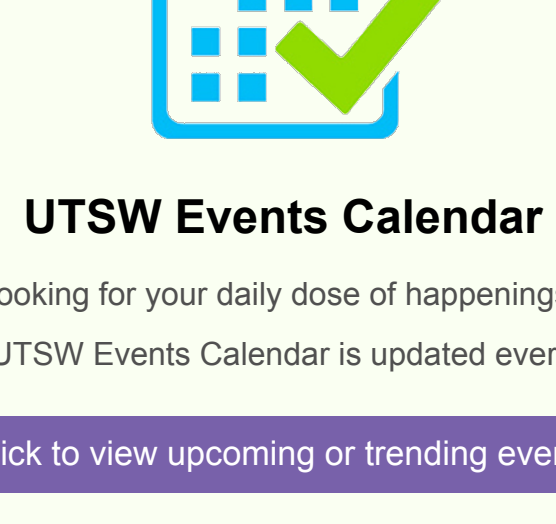
AI Town Hall

11 a.m., Nov. 18

Virtual

To prepare for the upcoming rollout of enterprise-level artificial intelligence (AI) tools at UT Southwestern, a series of AI Town Halls is being presented to faculty, staff, and learners. The sessions will walk through features, share timely updates, and address your feedback and questions. UTSW is committed to providing AI tools that truly support our mission and help drive innovation across the institution.

[Register for a town hall](#)



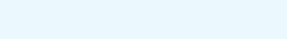
Show Me the Money: Finding Funding Opportunities through the Library

Noon-1 p.m., Nov. 20

Virtual

Looking for funding for your research? Join the UT Southwestern Health Sciences Digital Library and Learning Center for a session on discovering funding opportunities. Learn how to use the Grants and Funding Guide, and explore tools like Pivot and Candid to search and manage grants effectively. Registration is required. If you are unable to attend this session, you can sign up for [individual training](#).

[Get the details](#)



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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