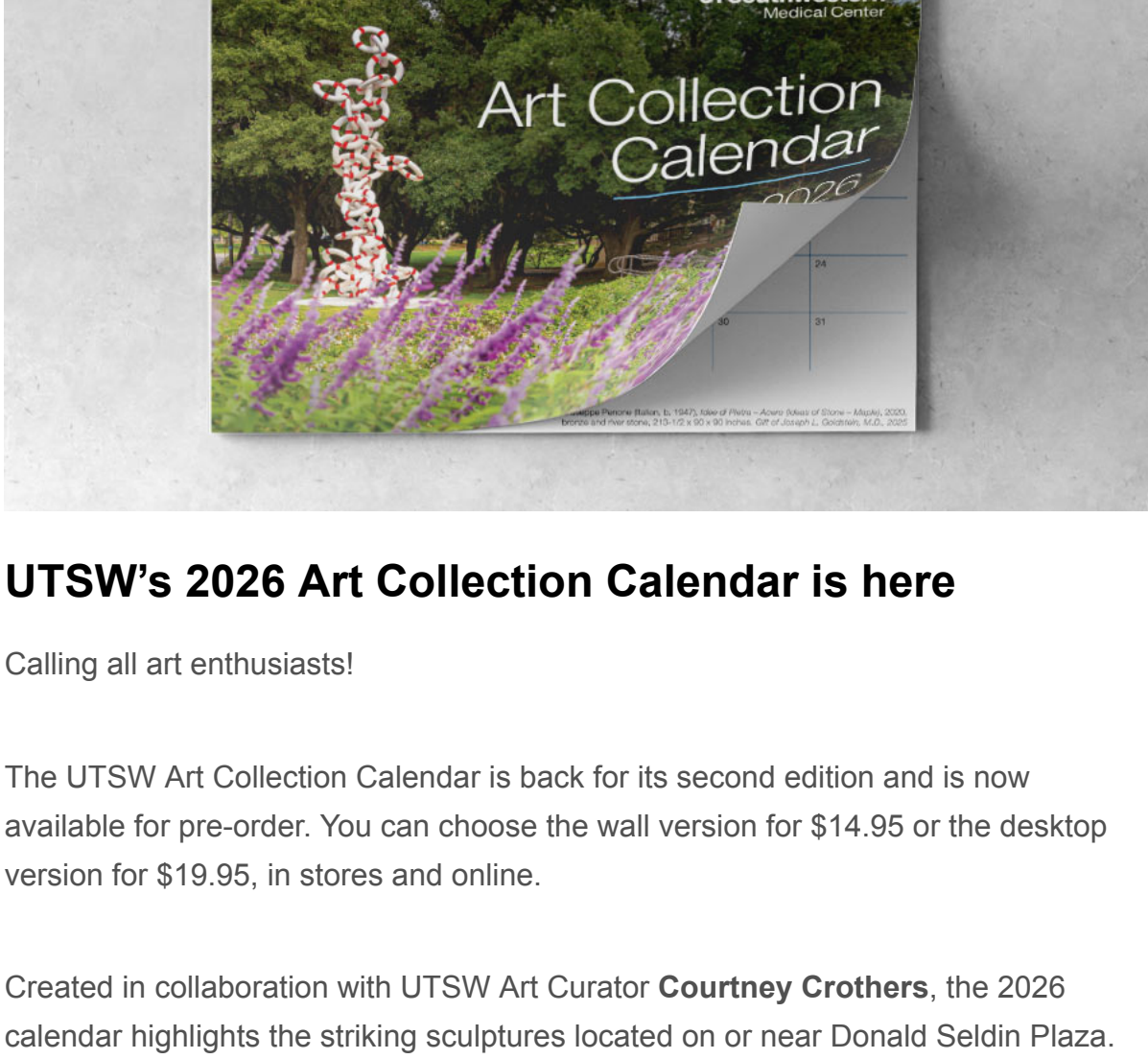




UTSW's 2026 Art Collection Calendar is here

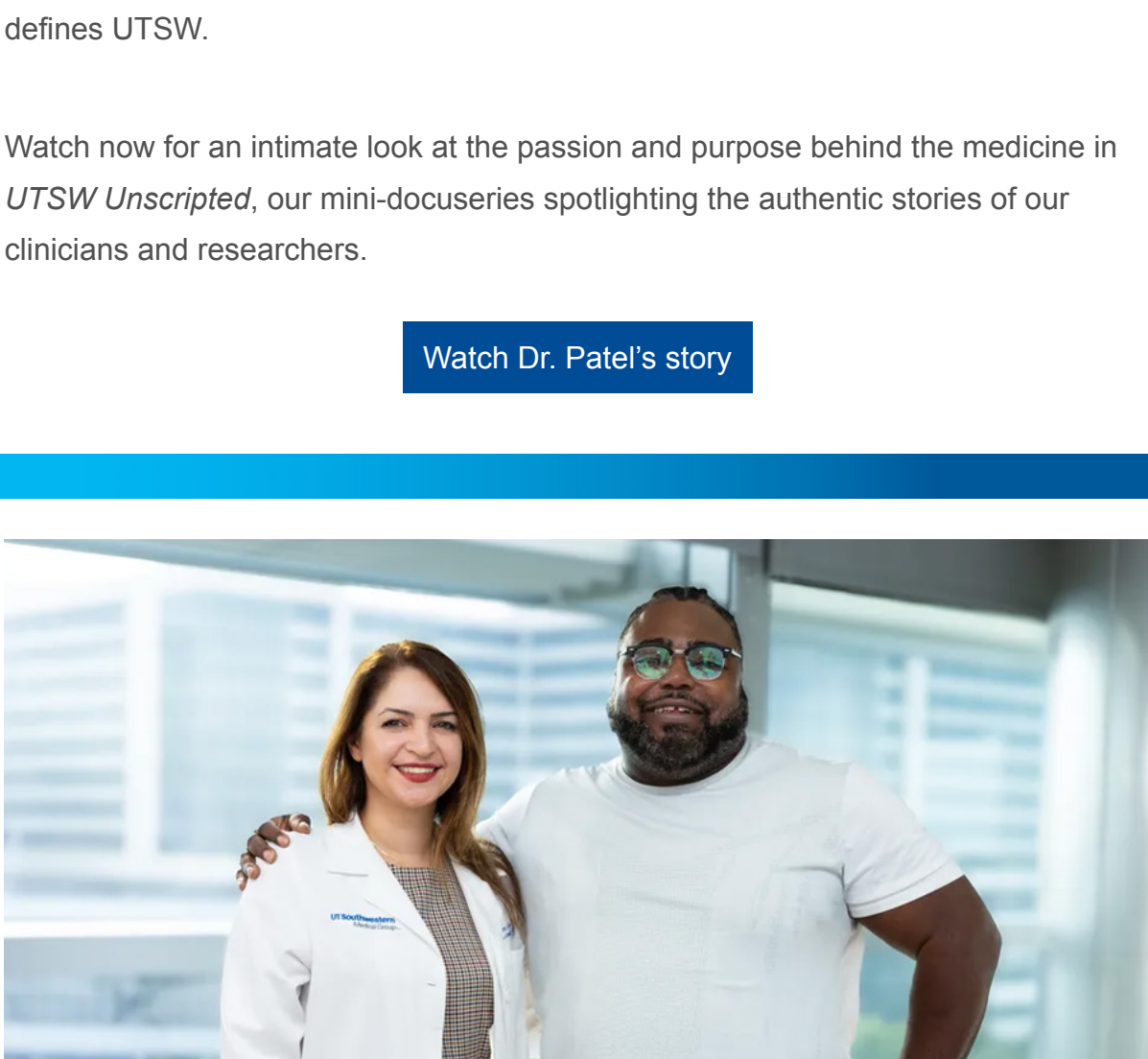
Calling all art enthusiasts!

The UTSW Art Collection Calendar is back for its second edition and is now available for pre-order. You can choose the wall version for \$14.95 or the desktop version for \$19.95, in stores and online.

Created in collaboration with UTSW Art Curator **Courtney Crothers**, the 2026 calendar highlights the striking sculptures located on or near Donald Seldin Plaza. The collection was made possible through the generosity of Nobel Laureate **Joseph L. Goldstein, M.D.**, Chair of Molecular Genetics, and features works by internationally acclaimed artists that enrich the campus with visual depth and intellectual inspiration. Each sculpture offers a unique story, inviting discovery and reflection throughout the year.

Whether you're decorating your office or making it a gift, this calendar is a timeless tribute to the healing power of creativity.

[Get yours before they're gone](#)



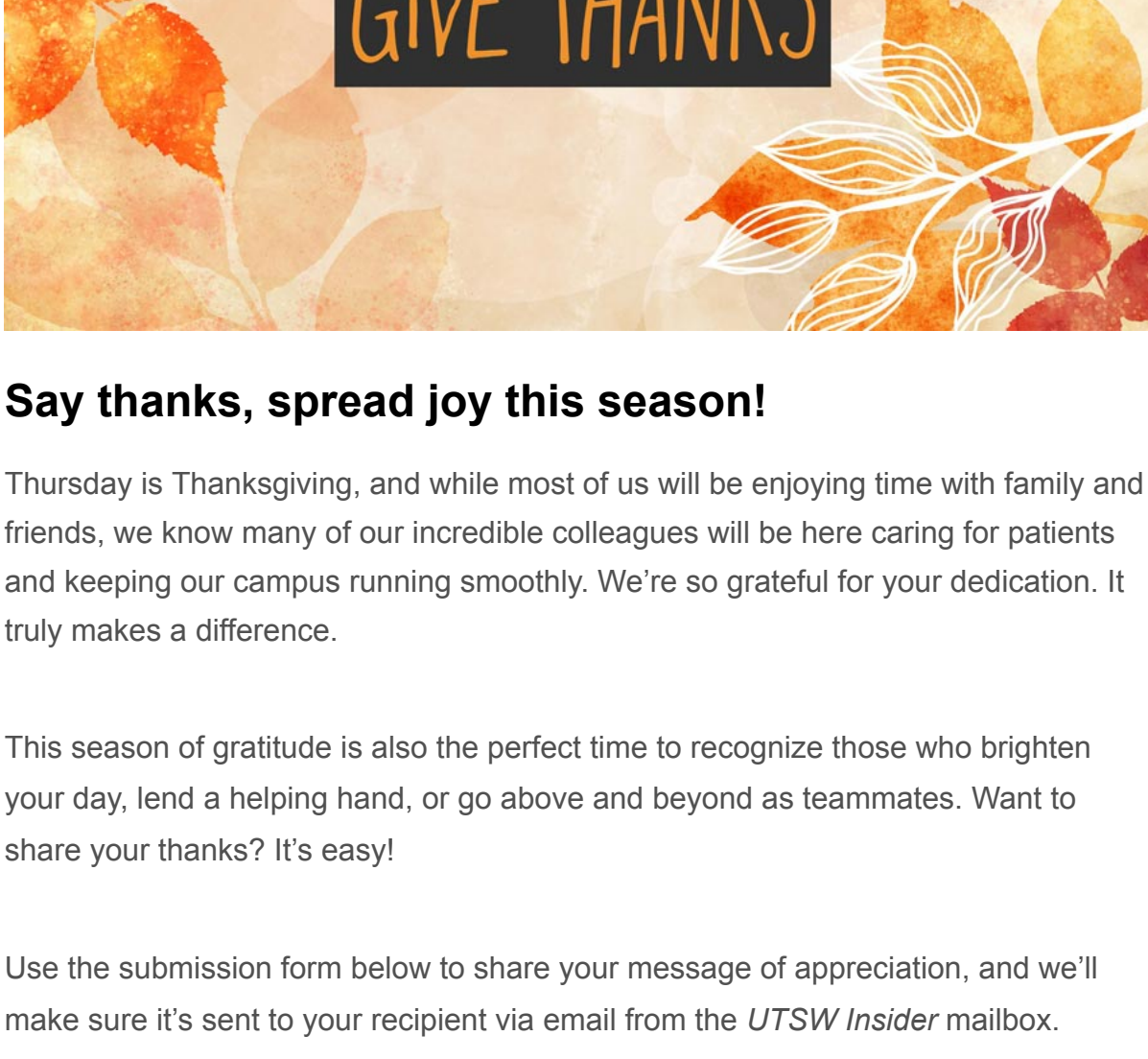
From family roots to brain tumor treatments

In the latest episode of *UTSW Unscripted*, go beyond the white coat with **Toral Patel, M.D.**, a trailblazing neurosurgeon whose story is as inspiring as the lives she touches. From growing up in a close-knit immigrant family to becoming one of UT Southwestern's leading brain tumor experts, Dr. Patel opens up about the moments that shaped her, the challenges she's overcome, and the purpose that fuels her every day.

Balancing her roles as a physician, wife, and mother of three, Dr. Patel shares how gratitude keeps her grounded and compassion guides her care. Her journey is a powerful reflection of perseverance, empathy, and the people-first culture that defines UTSW.

Watch now for an intimate look at the passion and purpose behind the medicine in *UTSW Unscripted*, our mini-docuseries spotlighting the authentic stories of our clinicians and researchers.

[Watch Dr. Patel's story](#)



Unbreakable: A veteran's journey from paralysis to remission

On his 40th birthday, Clinton Adger, a Navy veteran known for his strength and endurance, received a life-altering diagnosis: multiple myeloma, a rare and aggressive cancer of the blood plasma. The disease had already begun to erode his spine, leaving him partially paralyzed.

He began radiation therapy at the Dallas Veterans Affairs Medical Center and came to UT Southwestern the following year for an autologous stem cell transplant. That's where he met **Aimaz Afrough, M.D.**, and her team at the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center. At just 40, he was more than two decades younger than the average multiple myeloma patient and among the youngest Dr. Afrough had ever treated.

"Dr. Afrough came in and said, 'This is my team, and this is what we're going to do.' I knew right then that putting my care in her hands was the right plan," Mr. Adger said.

What followed was a grueling but inspiring climb back. Learn more about Mr. Adger's story of grit and his will to recover, not just for himself, but for his son and family, in the MedBlog linked below.

[Read about the journey](#)



Say thanks, spread joy this season!

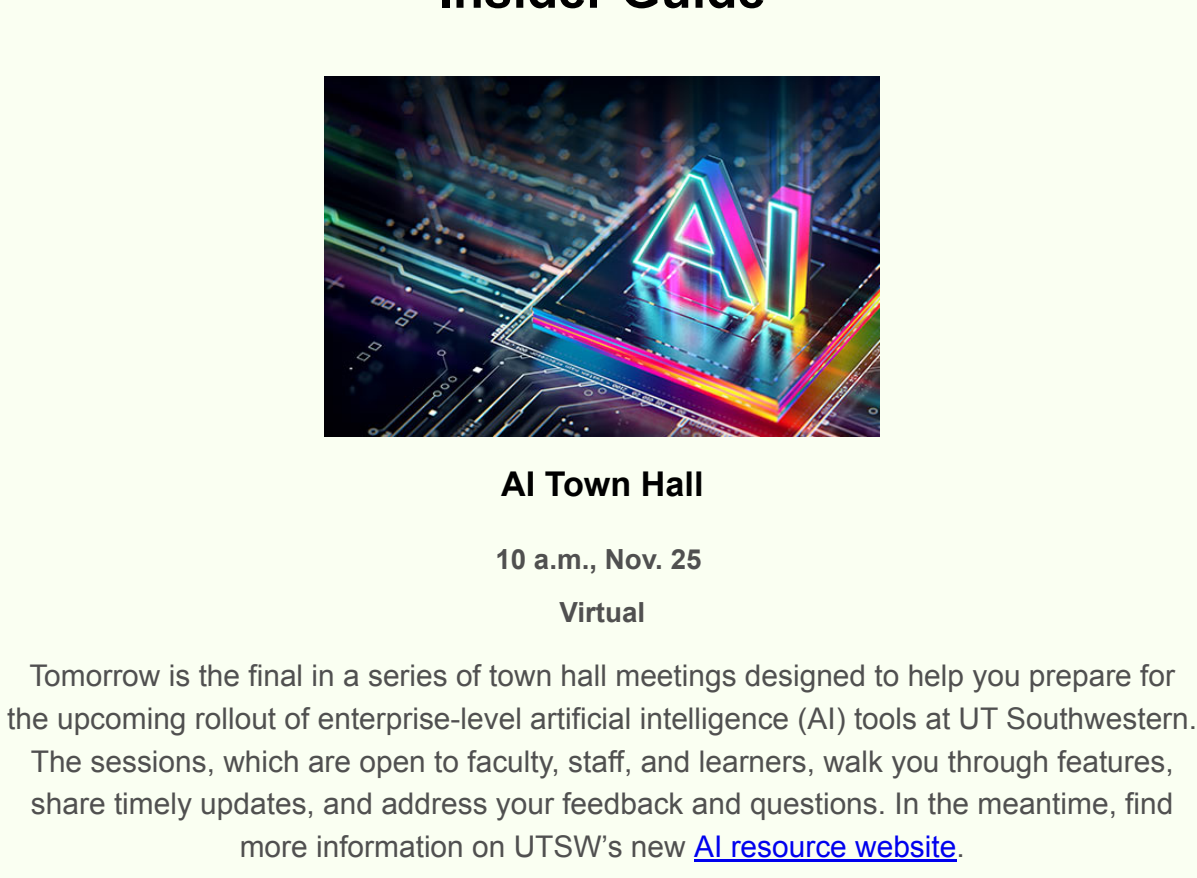
Thursday is Thanksgiving, and while most of us will be enjoying time with family and friends, we know many of our incredible colleagues will be here caring for patients and keeping our campus running smoothly. We're so grateful for your dedication. It truly makes a difference.

This season of gratitude is also the perfect time to recognize those who brighten your day, lend a helping hand, or go above and beyond as teammates. Want to share your thanks? It's easy!

Use the submission form below to share your message of appreciation, and we'll make sure it's sent to your recipient via email from the *UTSW Insider* mailbox.

Submissions will be accepted through Friday, Nov. 28.

[Send your thanks](#)



First impressions, lasting impact: Spotlighting the work of Guest and Patient Services

Visiting a hospital – whether for a routine checkup, procedure, or surgery – can feel overwhelming. But at UT Southwestern, patients and families are met with warmth and reassurance from the moment they arrive, thanks to our dedicated [Guest and Patient Services team](#). They're there to answer questions, calm nerves, and provide support from arrival to departure, making the journey less stressful and more personal.

With a dedicated team of 130 employees, Guest and Patient Services is also known by its very apt acronym: "GPS." Together, they are the friendly compass that guides seamless experiences across seven clinical buildings, two hospitals on campus, and five regional locations.

One of these professionals is **Kaylyn Smith**, Guest and Patient Services Operations Supervisor. In the Instagram video linked below, she invites you along on her busy day to discover how she and her teammates are enhancing the UTSW experience.

[See Kaylyn in action](#)

HONORS & AWARDS

HIGHLIGHTS

Spotlight on excellence

From exceptional honors to standout achievements, our UT Southwestern community continues to shine. We're thrilled to celebrate the incredible accomplishments of our colleagues who are making waves in education, science, and medicine. Here are a few recent highlights, which link to more detailed stories on *Center Times Plus*:

Hill recognized for lifetime of exceptional heart disease research

Joseph Hill, M.D., Ph.D., Director of the Harry S. Moss Heart Center and Professor of Internal Medicine, has received the Gill Heart and Vascular Institute Award for Outstanding Contributions to Cardiovascular Research and the Bohuslav Ostadal Award for Excellence in Cardiovascular Sciences. The awards honor impactful research achievements in cardiovascular biology and disease.

Zhang honored with inaugural AHA Jack Sarver Prize

Zhao Zhang, Ph.D., an Assistant Professor in the Center for the Genetics of Host Defense and of Internal Medicine, has been awarded the first Jack Sarver Prize in Basic Science from the American Heart Association for his work to understand the root cause of cardiometabolic syndromes by using a unique, unbiased, "forward genetics" approach.

Choi receives Klingenstein Fellowship Award in Neuroscience

Seungwon "Sebastian" Choi, Ph.D., an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Neuroscience, and Anesthesiology & Pain Management, has received a Klingenstein Fellowship Award in Neuroscience for his groundbreaking research of how cancer and pain circuits interact, aiming to uncover new ways to treat both pain and cancer.

Wang selected as a Fellow of the American Society for Radiation Oncology

Andrew Wang, M.D., Professor and Vice Chair for Translational Research and Commercialization in the Department of Radiation Oncology, has been named a 2025 Fellow of the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) in recognition of his impactful research, clinical innovation, and leadership in advancing cancer treatment through biomedical engineering and nanomedicine.

[More Honors & Awards stories on Center Times Plus](#)

Insider Guide

AI Town Hall

10 a.m., Nov. 25

Virtual

Tomorrow is the final in a series of town hall meetings designed to help you prepare for the upcoming rollout of enterprise-level artificial intelligence (AI) tools at UT Southwestern. The sessions, which are open to faculty, staff, and learners, walk you through features, share timely updates, and address your feedback and questions. In the meantime, find more information on UTSW's new [AI resource website](#).

[Register for Town Hall](#)

Digital Accessibility: PowerPoint for Everyone

10-11 a.m., Nov. 25

Virtual

UT Southwestern is gearing up to meet updated ADA digital accessibility standards and is offering several courses to prepare the community. This one-hour session will help you learn how to create clear, consistent, and accessible PowerPoint presentations using simple design techniques and built-in tools. For details on other application-specific training sessions, please visit [Campus Updates](#).

[Sign up](#)

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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