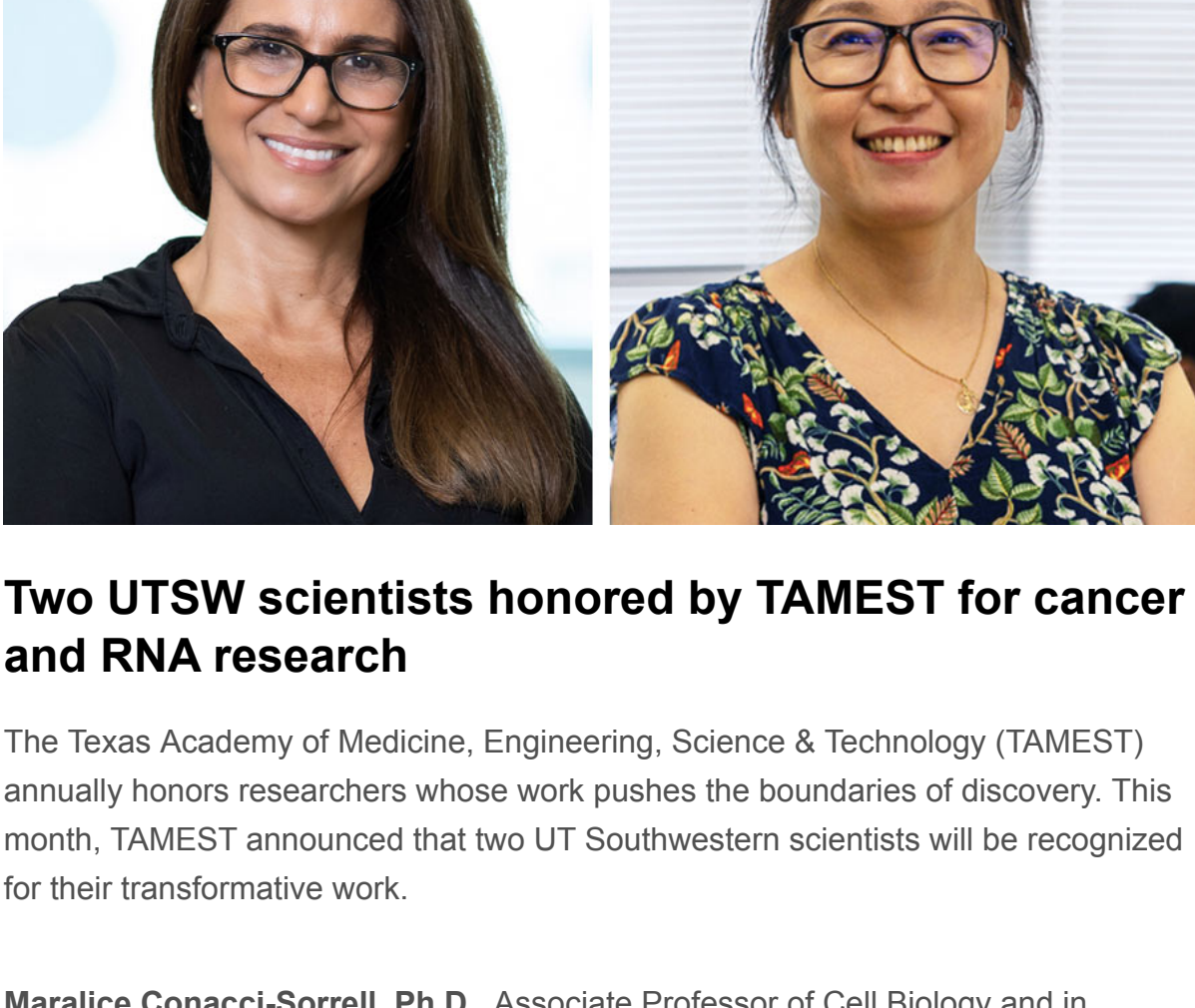




Two UTSW scientists honored by TAMEST for cancer and RNA research

The Texas Academy of Medicine, Engineering, Science & Technology (TAMEST) annually honors researchers whose work pushes the boundaries of discovery. This month, TAMEST announced that two UT Southwestern scientists will be recognized for their transformative work.

Maralice Conacci-Sorrell, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Cell Biology and in Children's Medical Center Research Institute at UT Southwestern, will be honored with the **2026 Mary Beth Maddox Award and Lectureship**, which celebrates women scientists introducing bold ideas to cancer research. Dr. Conacci-Sorrell's work reveals how tumors hijack nutrients to grow – and how those weaknesses can be exploited to stop untreatable cancers.

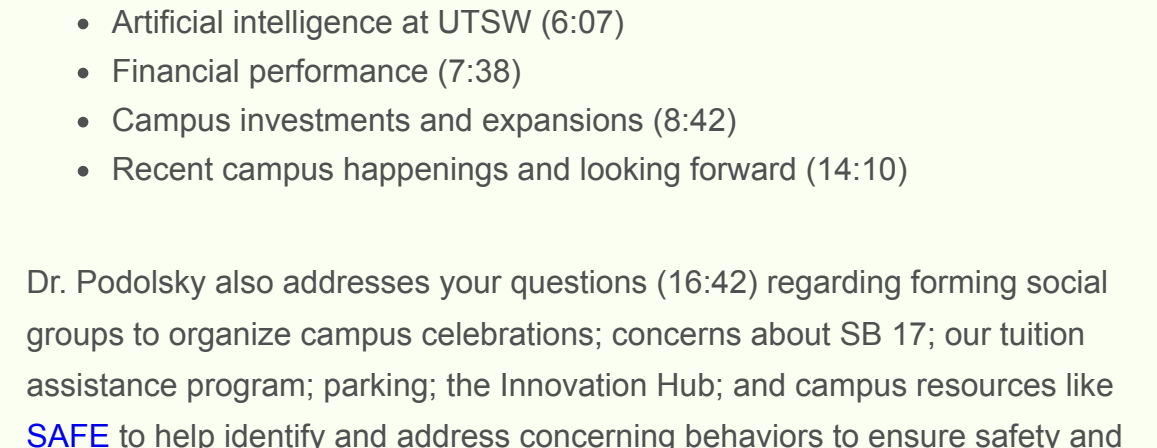
Yunsun Nam, Ph.D., Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics, will receive the **2026 Edith and Peter O'Donnell Award in Biological Sciences** for decoding how RNAs and proteins interact to regulate genes. Her discoveries could open doors to RNA-based therapies for cancer and other diseases.

[More on Dr. Conacci-Sorrell's Award](#)

[More on Dr. Nam's Award](#)

#ICYMI: President's Briefing

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



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

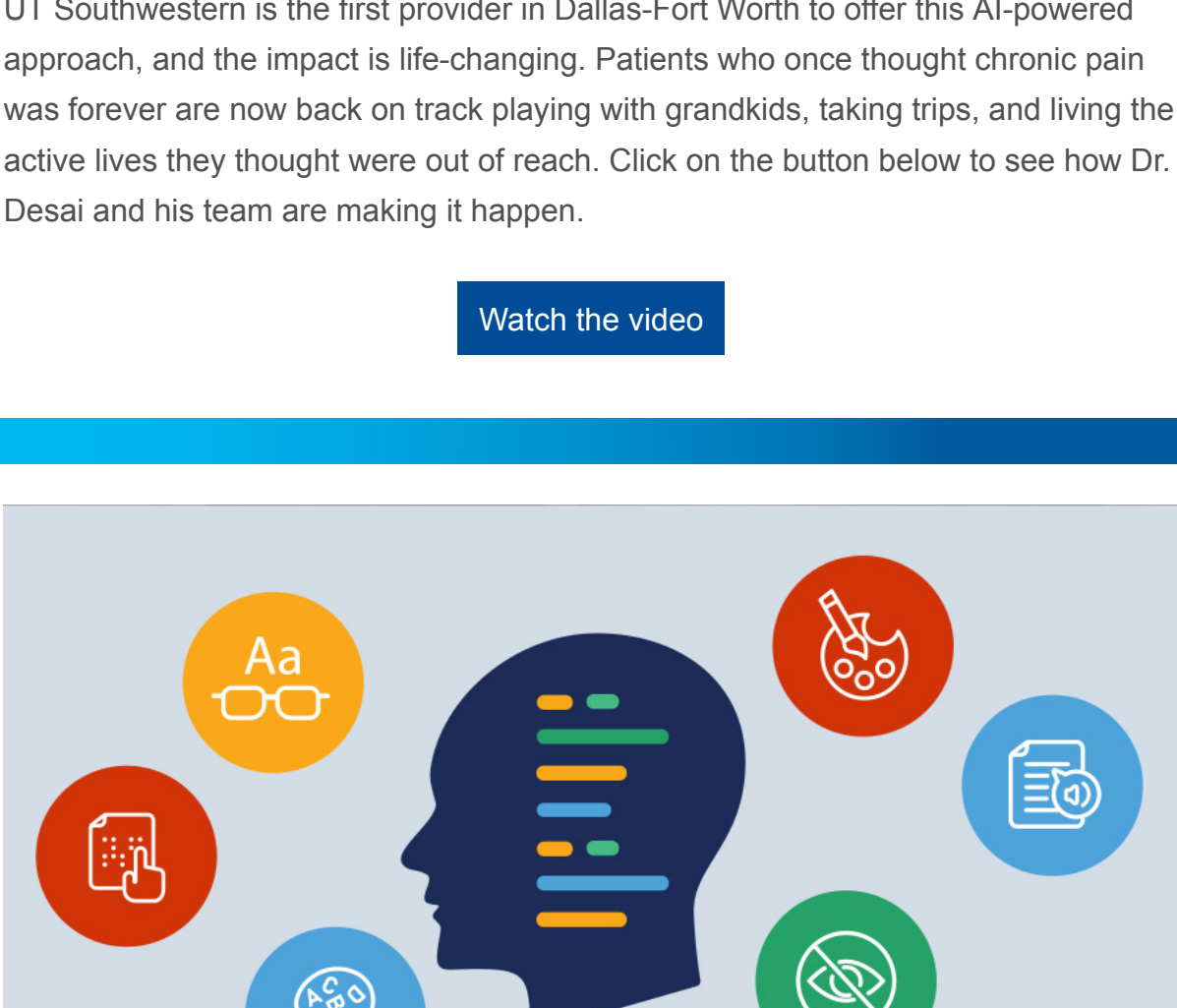
Below are key topics with timecodes to indicate where they occur in the recording.

- Recognitions of campus colleagues (0:26)
- Matters of government affairs (2:46)
- Artificial intelligence at UTSW (6:07)
- Financial performance (7:38)
- Campus investments and expansions (8:42)
- Recent campus happenings and looking forward (14:10)

Dr. Podolsky also addresses your questions (16:42) regarding forming social groups to organize campus celebrations; concerns about SB 17; our tuition assistance program; parking; the Innovation Hub; and campus resources like [SAFE](#) to help identify and address concerning behaviors to ensure safety and support for everyone.

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.

[Listen to the briefing](#)



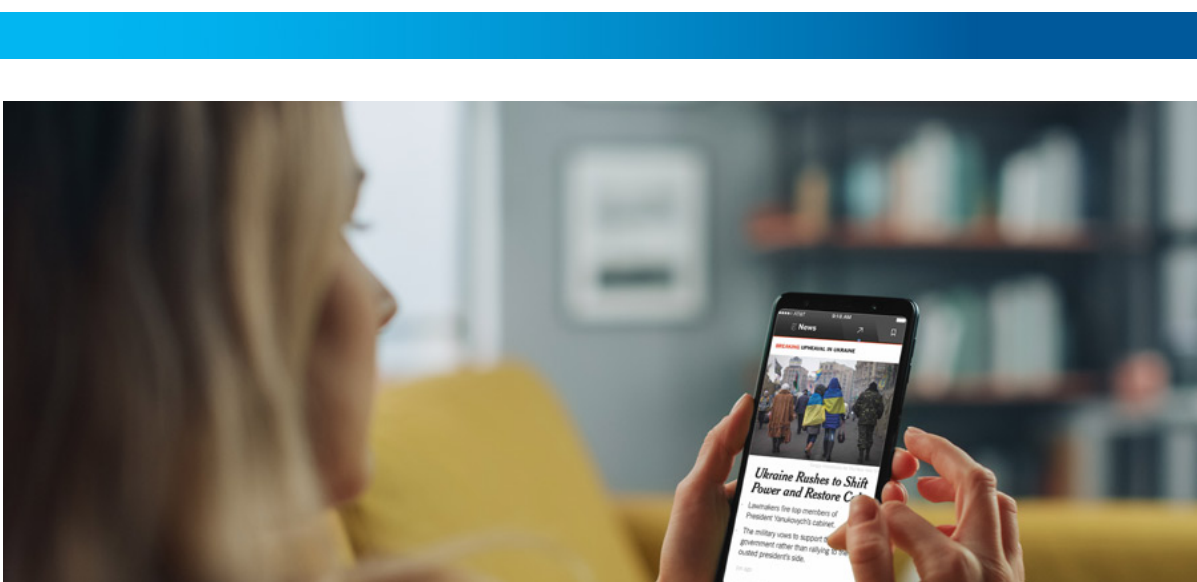
Science in 60+: Back on track

Back pain can feel like a roadblock, especially for those living with scoliosis or degenerative disc disease. But at UT Southwestern, spine surgeons led by **Ronak Desai, M.D.**, are paving a new path forward with some seriously cool tech.

Using artificial intelligence (AI) and 3D printing, they take scans to meticulously measure the spine for patient-specific titanium implants, customized like a key that fits perfectly into a lock, to correct abnormal spinal curvature and improve spinal fusion outcomes. Research shows these tailored implants (created by a third-party company) lead to faster recovery and better long-term results compared to traditional options.

UT Southwestern is the first provider in Dallas-Fort Worth to offer this AI-powered approach, and the impact is life-changing. Patients who once thought chronic pain was forever are now back on track playing with grandkids, taking trips, and living the active lives they thought were out of reach. Click on the button below to see how Dr. Desai and his team are making it happen.

[Watch the video](#)



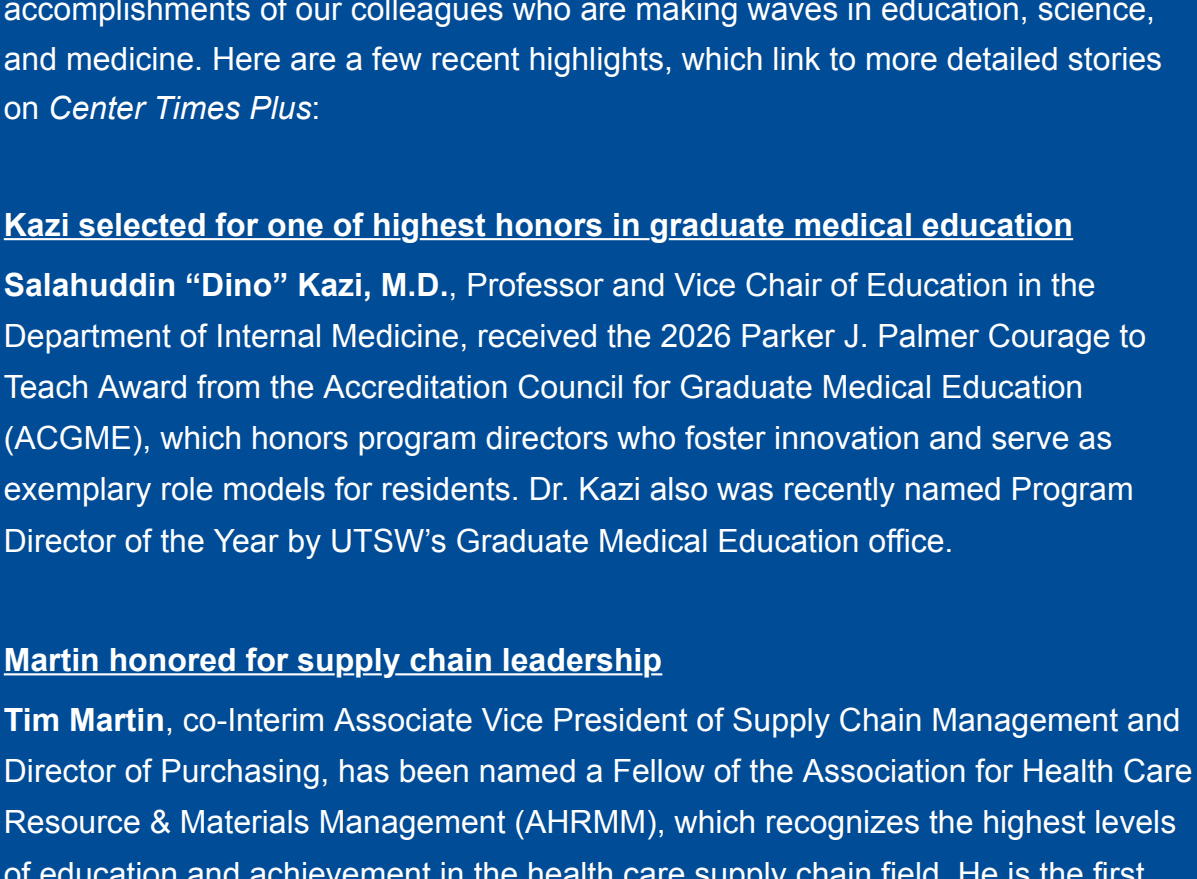
Accessibility tip: Use alt text to make images in your content meaningful to everyone

In our ongoing effort to learn and implement digital accessibility best practices, it is important for content creators (primarily employees who create Microsoft Word and PowerPoint documents and web content) to use alternative (alt) text for images to ensure their work is inclusive and reaches the widest possible audience.

Alt text is a hidden tag on images that screen readers interpret for vision-impaired users. Content creators must use alt text appropriately to ensure accessibility. **Each application has its own process for inserting alt text**, but in general, keep in mind:

- **Accurate descriptions:** These provide concise and accurate information about the image. Alt text should convey the meaning and purpose of the image, not just a literal description.
- **Functional images:** If an image is purely decorative, leave the alt text blank (alt="").
- **Complex images:** For complex images like charts or graphs, provide a longer description in the accompanying body text or link to a separate page with a full explanation.
- **Skip “Image of”:** Screen readers already announce the image, so there's no need to start with “Image of.” You can mention if the image is a specific type, like a chart, headshot, or infographic.

For more details and valuable tips on alt text and more, check out the [Accessibility Companion](#) and visit the [Digital Accessibility website](#).



Campus library has perks for everyone

In addition to its vast science research resources, the UT Southwestern Health Sciences Digital Library and Learner Center offers employees and learners free, digital-only subscriptions to [The New York Times](#) and [The Wall Street Journal](#).

Another free, popular tool is the [Pronunciator](#) language application, which provides a fun way to learn more than 300 languages via personalized courses, chat, and more.

Visit the [Library webpage](#) today for details about these and other valuable materials.

If you have questions, please contact libask@utsouthwestern.edu.

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*:

Kazi selected for one of highest honors in graduate medical education

Salahuddin “Dino” Kazi, M.D., Professor and Vice Chair of Education in the Department of Internal Medicine, received the 2026 Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), which honors program directors who foster innovation and serve as exemplary role models for residents. Dr. Kazi also was recently named Program Director of the Year by UTSW's Graduate Medical Education office.

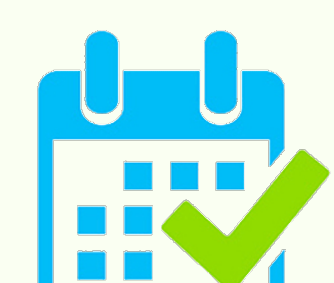
Martin honored for supply chain leadership

Tim Martin, co-Interim Associate Vice President of Supply Chain Management and Director of Purchasing, has been named a Fellow of the Association for Health Care Resource & Materials Management (AHRMM), which recognizes the highest levels of education and achievement in the health care supply chain field. He is the first from UTSW to hold this designation.

Trivedi, O'Suilleabhain honored for transformative volunteer service

Jaya Trivedi, M.D., and **Padraig O'Suilleabhain, M.D.**, both Professors of Neurology, are joint recipients of the Loehr Lifetime Achievement Award from Woven Health Clinic, a Dallas-area community clinic where they have volunteered for more than a decade. The award honors their lasting impact in medical research, high-quality patient care, and inspirational leadership.

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



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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