

ACADEMIC CONNECTIONS

THOUGHTS AND UPDATES FROM DR. W. P. ANDREW LEE

July 22, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

I write to share the news that **Thomas J. Wang, M.D.**, holder of the Donald W. Seldin Distinguished Chair in Internal Medicine, will step down from his position as Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine and Physician-in-Chief of William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital to become Dean of the University of Michigan Medical School, effective Sept. 15.

Dr. Wang joined UT Southwestern in February 2020 and capably led our largest department through the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, when Internal Medicine served as the primary service providing care for the vast majority of hospitalized COVID-19 patients. Under his leadership, more than 400 new faculty have joined the department, and its clinical volume and research expenditures have each grown by nearly 50%. He established the Jean Wilson Society to support physician-scientist development and significantly expanded the department's physician scientist training program. Furthermore, with the addition of several tracks, the Internal Medicine residency program has become the second largest in the country.



At the institutional level, Dr. Wang has led the UT Southwestern Clinical Chairs Committee, co-chaired the institutional 6-year Strategic Plan steering committee, and participated on the executive boards of the Medical Group and service line oversight committees. At a national level, he is the President-Elect of the Association of Professors of Medicine, the national organization of chairs of medicine founded in 1954. Dr. Wang also serves as a standing member of the FDA Endocrinologic and Metabolic Drugs Advisory Committee and the NIH Human Studies of Diabetes and Obesity study section.

After graduating *summa cum laude* from Harvard College, Dr. Wang received his medical degree from Harvard Medical School. He completed his residency and cardiovascular fellowship training at the Massachusetts General Hospital, and a post-doctoral research fellowship at the Framingham Heart Study. He was on the faculty of the Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School from 2003 to 2013, where he led a program in patient-oriented research and pursued clinical work in heart failure and transplantation. From 2013 to 2020, he served as the Director, Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, and Physician-in-Chief of the Vanderbilt Heart and Vascular Institute.

Dr. Wang's research focuses on the natriuretic peptide system, cardiovascular biomarkers, and prevention. He has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health and was named to the Highly Cited Researchers List by Clarivate/Web of Science for six consecutive years. He is an elected

member of the Association of American Physicians (2017) and the American Society of Clinical Investigation (2010).

I am pleased to announce that **Ezra Burstein, M.D., Ph.D.**, Professor of Internal Medicine and Chief of the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases, will serve as interim Chair until Dr. Wang's successor is identified. **Herbert Zeh, M.D.**, Professor and Chair of Surgery will serve as Chair of the committee that will conduct a national search for the next department chair of Internal Medicine.

The impact of Dr. Wang's tenure at UT Southwestern will be long lasting. His commitment to excellence in all areas of our mission and his ingenuity to rise to unexpected challenges have strengthened the Department of Internal Medicine. I am grateful for his service and contributions to UT Southwestern and wish him all the best in his new leadership role.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

W. P. Andrew Lee, M.D.

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
Dean, UT Southwestern Medical School

Copyright 2025 UT Southwestern Medical Center. All rights reserved.

Academic Connections is a publication of Communications, Marketing, and Public Affairs (CMPA) at UT Southwestern Medical Center.