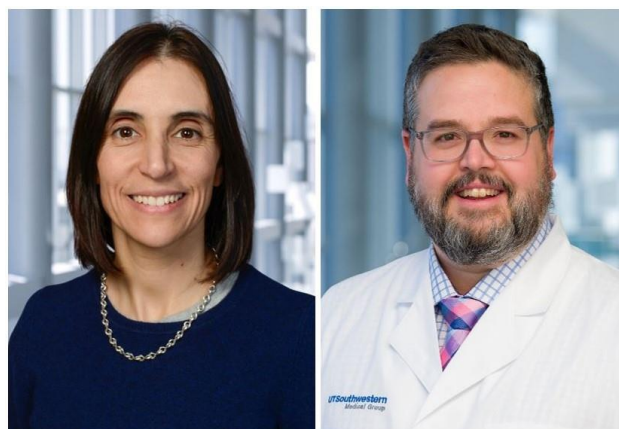


Dear Colleagues,

Building on UT Southwestern's long tradition of nurturing physician-scientists through the Perot Family Scholars Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP), we are establishing the Physician-Scientist Development Office. It will support not only our MSTP students in their career development, but also M.D. and M.D.-Ph.D. trainees in our Physician Scientist Training Programs (PSTP) as well as young faculty seeking to pursue research as part of their career path.

We are delighted to announce the appointments of **Denise Marciano, M.D., Ph.D.**, as Director of the MSTP, and **Rodney Infante, M.D., Ph.D.**, as inaugural Director of the Physician-Scientist Development Office, effective Sept. 1.

As the new Director of the MSTP, Dr. Marciano will play a pivotal role in shaping the program's future, bringing bold vision and deep expertise to elevate its national and international presence. She will drive innovative research collaborations, forge strategic partnerships, and create a nurturing environment for groundbreaking discoveries.



In the inaugural role of Director of the Physician-Scientist Development Office, Dr. Infante will lead the strategic design, implementation, and oversight of comprehensive programs that support the development of physician-scientists across the academic continuum – from undergraduate students to junior faculty. He also will direct the campuswide M.D. Scientist Training Program (MDSTP), with a focus on structured mentorship, targeted career development workshops, and expanded research opportunities.

Dr. Marciano is an Associate Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine and a member of its Division of Nephrology. She also has faculty appointments in the Department of Cell Biology, the Hamon Center for Regenerative Science and Medicine, and the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center. She joined UT Southwestern in 2011.

An expert in kidney disease, Dr. Marciano studies the cellular and molecular mechanisms that drive kidney development and regeneration. Her research has been supported by national organizations and government agencies, such as the March of Dimes and the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Dr. Infante is an Associate Professor in the Center for Human Nutrition at UT Southwestern, with secondary appointments in the Departments of Molecular Genetics and Internal Medicine, where he is a member of the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases. He is also a member of the Simmons Cancer Center. Dr. Infante joined our faculty in 2017.

He specializes in general gastroenterology and cancer cachexia, studying the molecules and mechanisms that cause cachexia-associated adipose wasting related to oncologic, liver, infectious, and rheumatologic diseases. His research has been continuously supported by the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT), the NIH, and the Burroughs Wellcome Fund, among others.

Both Dr. Marciano and Dr. Infante have been deeply involved in educational activities in our Medical and Graduate Schools. They are American Society for Clinical Investigation inductees and will continue their productive research programs, dedicating 40% to 50% of their time to the new roles.

Founded over 50 years ago, the UT Southwestern MSTP program has been led by eminent physician scientists Jean Wilson, M.D., Michael Brown, M.D., and Andrew Zinn, M.D., Ph.D. We would like to express our appreciation to Samir Parikh, M.D., Professor of Internal Medicine and Chief of the Division of Nephrology for his service as Chair of the Search Committee for the MSTP Director, and to all the Search Committee members for the dedication and insights they brought to this national search.

As active members of various groups within our research community and practicing physicians, Dr. Marciano and Dr. Infante embody the collaborative scientific culture of UT Southwestern. Their vision and leadership will chart a new era of physician-scientist training and development.

Sincerely,

Sherry Huang, M.D.
Vice Provost and Senior Associate Dean for Education

W. P. Andrew Lee, M.D.
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
Dean, UT Southwestern Medical School