

# ACADEMIC CONNECTIONS

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

Aug. 21, 2026

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to announce the appointment of **Aditee Ambardekar, M.D., M.S.Ed.**, as the inaugural Director of our Office of Educational Excellence, effective Sept. 1. The new office will provide centralized support for faculty across our four schools in curriculum innovation, learner assessment, and instructional design, while leveraging technologies and learning analytics to enhance teaching. Dr. Ambardekar will also partner with the Office of Faculty Development to introduce coordinated faculty development pathways.

Dr. Ambardekar is Professor of Anesthesiology and Pain Management and Program Director for the Anesthesiology Residency, which trains 89 residents each year. She also serves as Assistant Designated Institutional Official, partnering across Graduate Medical Education to strengthen accreditation readiness and institutional compliance.

With more than 15 years of progressive leadership in health professions education, Dr. Ambardekar has taught faculty development programs and mentored educators whose work has led to grants, publications, and academic promotion.



After earning her medical degree from the University of Maryland School of Medicine, she pursued an internship at George Washington University Hospital. She completed her anesthesiology residency at the University of Pennsylvania, followed by a fellowship in pediatric anesthesiology at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. She also holds a master's degree in education from the Graduate School of Education at the University of Pennsylvania. Her research interests include clinical studies to improve care for burn-injured children and medical and simulation-based education.

Upon joining UTSW in 2014, Dr. Ambardekar focused on revamping the anesthesiology curriculum for undergraduate medical education. She has been actively involved with simulation programs for undergraduate, graduate, and continuing medical education learners. At a national level, she has held leadership positions including Chair of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education Anesthesiology Review Committee.

Earlier this year, Dr. Ambardekar was recognized by the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation with a Piper Professor Award, which honors outstanding college educators in Texas. She is also an alumna of Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (2026), an elected member of the Kenneth I. Shine Academy (2020) and the Southwestern Academy of Teachers (2017), and a recipient of the UT System Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award (2017).

Dr. Ambardekar brings the expertise and strategic vision required to launch the Office of Educational Excellence and strengthen our educational mission. Please join us in congratulating her on this new role.

Sincerely,

**Sherry C. 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