

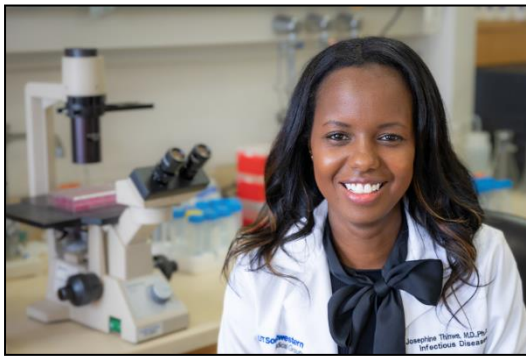
medicine minute

Tuesday, January 23, 2024

in case you missed it

RESEARCH

Study Finds Shared Pathway for Autophagy and Neurodevelopmental Disorder



An enzyme linked to a neurodevelopmental disorder has been found to play an important role in digesting viral proteins during infection, UT Southwestern researchers report.

The research, published in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, is a continuation of the work of the late **Beth Levine, M.D.**, who was Director of the former Center for Autophagy Research at UTSW and a pioneer in the field of autophagy, the natural process of cellular recycling.

“This project was birthed in her lab,” said **Josephine Thinwa, M.D., Ph.D.**, lead author of the study. “We’re trying to answer

questions that go beyond viral infection.”

To read the article in CenterTimes Plus, click [here](#).

research roundup

PUBLICATIONS

Agarwal and Colleagues Present New Findings from Lipodystrophy Study



Last fall, **Anil Agarwal, Ph.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Endocrinology, and colleagues published their findings in *iScience* that AGPAT2 (an enzyme that synthesizes glycerophospholipids) is essential for generation and differentiation of adipocytes, laying to rest the long-standing notion that AGPAT2 only synthesizes triacylglycerol (TAG).

Dr. Agarwal and colleagues have now published their latest findings in the same journal showing that when AGPAT2 is overexpressed in a wild type mouse (which has both the endogenous alleles of AGPAT2 intact), generation of pre-adipocytes and adipocytes increased, instead of increasing

the TAG in the adipose tissue, as previously expected.

“This confirms our suspicion that AGPAT2 is essential for the biosynthesis of glycerophospholipids and generation, differentiation, and likely maintenance of adipocytes but not for TAG synthesis of adipocytes,”

Dr. Agarwal says. “This study shows that investigating rare diseases like lipodystrophy can reveal new roles for enzymes in the biology of adipocytes.”

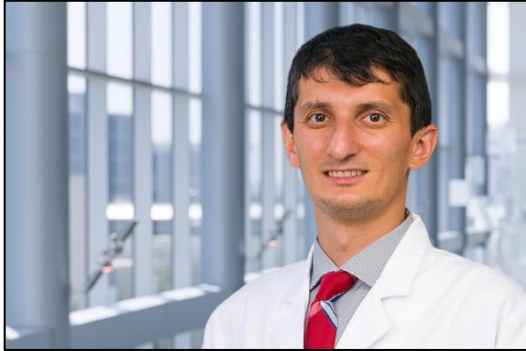
Additional authors: **Mary “Katie” Tunison, B.S., Goncalo Dias do Vale, Ph.D., Jeffrey McDonald, Ph.D., Xilong Li, Ph.D., M.B.A., Jay Horton, M.D., and Abhimanyu Garg, M.D.**

To access the publication in iScience, click [here](#).

noteworthy

PATIENT CARE

Bat Convenes Leading Experts to Discuss Rare Hematologic Disorders



Taha Bat, M.D., an Assistant Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology, and **Ahmet Toprak, B.S.**, a second-year medical student, have launched an [online conference](#) to discuss bone marrow failure cases with leading hematologic experts.

“Our goal is to educate healthcare professionals on rare hematologic disorders, as well as discuss in live sessions a comprehensive approach to disease management and pathophysiology,” says Dr. Bat.

The next conference, scheduled for **Friday, Feb. 9 at 7:30 a.m.**, will include **Ibrahim Ibrahim, M.D.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology, and **Yu-Min-Shen, M.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology, who will provide updates on rare hematological disorders from the 65th annual meeting of the American Society of Hematology.

To register for the Feb. 9 conference, click [here](#).

WEBINARS

Abraham to Participate in Town Hall on Rethinking Program Signaling



Reeni Abraham, M.D., an Associate Professor in the Wayne T. and Gay F. Solomon Division of General Internal Medicine and Associate Vice Chair for Undergraduate Medical Education, will participate in a virtual “Town Hall on Rethinking Program Signaling” sponsored by the Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine (APDIM) and the Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine (CDIM), **today at 2 p.m.**

Program Signaling is widely utilized by internal medicine residency applicants during the application cycle. In this webinar, the presenters will review the latest consensus statement by the Alliance for Academic Medicine (AAIM) about rethinking the application process and discuss proposed recommendations on tiered signaling, incorporation of the American Medical Association Alignment Check Index (ACI), and potential changes to the interview process (e.g., implementing interview caps).

To register for the webinar, click [here](#).

this week

INTERNAL MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS

Richard Baron to Discuss Medical Misinformation on Jan. 26



Richard J. Baron, M.D., President and CEO of the American Board of Internal Medicine, will present the [Internal Medicine Grand Rounds](#) lecture on **Friday, Jan. 26, at 8 a.m. in D1.502**. His topic: “Protecting the Legitimacy of Medical Expertise: Combating Misinformation in Medicine.”

Dr. Baron earned his medical degree from Yale University and holds a degree in English from Harvard College. After completing house staff training at New York University-Bellevue Medical Center he served three years in the National Health Service Corps in Tennessee.

Dr. Baron practiced general internal medicine and geriatrics for almost 30 years at Greenhouse Internists, P.C., located in Philadelphia followed by service as Group Director of Seamless Care Models at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Innovation Center, where he led efforts related to accountable care organizations and primary care. Dr. Baron also served on the board of the National Quality Forum, their Health Information Technology Advisory Committee, and the Standards Committee of the National Committee for Quality Assurance, until joining the federal government.

Noteworthy Lectures & Events

- **Tuesday, Jan. 23, 9 a.m.:** [Simmons Cancer Center Experimental Therapeutics Organoid Retreat](#) with **Dr. Calvin Kuo** (Stanford University)
- **Tuesday, Jan. 23, Noon:** [Advisory Board Webinar](#) with **Marisa Nives** and **Elizabeth Orr** – “10 Trends Impacting Health Systems Now and How to Address Them”
- **Wednesday, Jan. 24, 8 a.m.:** [Geriatrics Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Shelley Bingham** (Parkland Hospital) – “Beers: Cheers or Fears?”
- **Wednesday, Jan. 24, Noon:** [Palette of Wisdom: Navigating the Artistic Walls of UTSW](#) with **Courtney Crothers** and the **Women’s Alliance BRG**
- **Thursday, Jan. 25, 8 a.m.:** [Infectious Diseases Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Lauren Collins** (Emory University) – “How HIV, Sex, and Gender Interact to Impact Multimorbidity and Inform Strategies for Healthy Aging”
- **Thursday, Jan. 25, Noon:** [Infectious Diseases Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Maheen Abidi** (University of Colorado) – “Opening the Door on CMV and Aging in Transplant”
- **Friday, Jan. 26, Noon:** [Hematology & Oncology Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Adeel Khan** (Hematology & Oncology) – “Epidemiology of Myeloma and Hematologic Precursors”
- **Friday, Jan. 26, 1 p.m.:** [Endocrine Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Kristin Eckel-Mahan** (Endocrinology) – “Mechanisms of Circadian Restraint in Peripheral Metabolic Disease Progression”
- **Monday, Jan. 29, Noon:** [General Internal Medicine Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Jennifer Tse** (Urology) – “BPH: Common Urological Complaints Evaluation by the Internist”



Internal Medicine Events Calendar

[Click to view additional events](#)

hot jobs in internal medicine

Looking to advance your career? Check these job openings:

- [Director of Research Administration](#) (Kidney Cancer Program)

on the horizon

NETWORKING

Faculty Development Workshop Scheduled for Feb. 27



Faculty members from the departments of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics will present a faculty development and networking workshop on **Tuesday, Feb. 27, from noon to 4 p.m. in the Faculty Club**. The workshop, "A Rich Life: How to Thrive in Your Academic Career," will focus on clinician and clinician-educator faculty who are in their first seven to 10 years of service.

Led by **Jessica Moreland, M.D.**, a Professor of Microbiology and Pediatrics and Associate Dean for Faculty Development, and **Suzanne Farmer, Ph.D.**, Assistant Vice President for Organizational Development and Training, the workshop will

include an overview of faculty development programs and resources, a faculty panel representing a diverse range of career journeys, and breakout sessions with faculty facilitators.

To register for the workshop, click [here](#).

save the date

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Seldin Symposium Scheduled for April 19



The ninth annual **Donald W. Seldin Research Symposium** will take place on **Friday, April 19, 2024**. The symposium features poster presentations ranging from fundamental biology to quality improvement celebrating the collaboration between trainees and faculty. Posters will be displayed throughout the McDermott Center Plaza.

The keynote address will be presented by **William G. Kaelin Jr., M.D.**, a Professor of Medicine at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Nobel Prize laureate. The Seldin-Smith Physician Scientist Lecture will be given by **Steven E. Mansoor, M.D., Ph.D.**, an Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine in the

Division of Cardiovascular Medicine at Oregon Health & Science University.

For more details about the Seldin Symposium, click [here](#).

WELLNESS

Faculty Retreat Scheduled for June 7

UT SOUTHWESTERN



The Office of Faculty Wellness will host its second annual Faculty Wellness Retreat on **Friday, June 7 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.** at Pegasus Park. The in-person event will focus on maximizing professional efficiency, and will feature workshops, facilitated discussions, and networking opportunities to advance a culture of wellness at UT Southwestern.

Jody Hoffer Gittel, Ph.D., a Professor of Management at Brandeis University's Heller School for Policy and Management, will present the keynote address.

Look for the next *Medicine Minute* on **Tuesday, Jan. 30.**

Share feedback and news items with us at IMNews@UTSouthwestern.edu

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