

medicine minute

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

personnel updates

MEDICAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Odedosu Becomes Assistant Dean for Student Affairs



Kehinde Odedosu, M.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine, has been appointed Assistant Dean for Student Affairs.

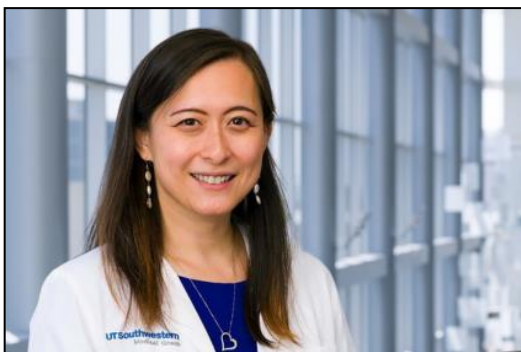
In her new role, she will assist in the development and management of strategies to recruit, retain, and support medical students; assist with counseling and mentoring; assist in development of programs and policies; and advise undergraduate students on medical student admission policies.

Since joining the UT Southwestern faculty in 2010, Dr. Odedosu has led many educational and clinical efforts,

including serving as the Parkland Medicine Consult Service and University Hospital Perioperative Clinic Director. She was promoted to co-director of the Internal Medicine Clerkship after serving as the SubInternship director. Nationally, she directs the Alliance of Academic Medicine's annual meeting through her role as Vice Chair of the Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine planning committee.

CLINICAL RESEARCH

Zhang Appointed Associate Director of Clinical Research



Tian Zhang, M.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology and Director of its Clinical Research program, has been appointed Associate Director of Clinical Research at the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center.

In her new role, Dr. Zhang will oversee all clinical research activities within the NCI-designated comprehensive cancer center, including achieving clinical trial enrollment metrics, fostering the translation of scientific discoveries to the clinic, and meeting clinical trial needs of patients.

"My goal is to make UT Southwestern the destination for cancer clinical trials in North Texas," Dr. Zhang says. "Our patients come from far away and they deserve the best care and options."

Dr. Zhang was recruited to UT Southwestern in 2021 with a CPRIT Rising Star recruitment award; she has since conceived and implemented more than 10 clinical trials and currently serves as leader for the multi-disease and precision oncology (MPOP) disease-oriented training in the Cancer Center.

“Dr. Zhang is an outstanding clinical trialist and translational investigator focused on the clinical development of novel therapeutics and evaluating biomarkers in genitourinary (GU) malignancies,” says **Carlos L. Arteaga, M.D.**, Director of the Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center and Associate Dean of Oncology Programs. “She has worked closely with a GU multidisciplinary team to provide data-driven clinical care for her patients with kidney, prostate, and bladder cancers.”

Dr. Zhang plans to focus on translating promising preclinical science into clinical trials, liaising with industry partners to bring the best molecules to cancer research, and writing investigator trials that will be meaningful to our patient populations.

“I’m grateful to Dr. Arteaga for the opportunity to contribute at this higher level, and to **Dr. Suzanne Conzen** for making space for me as Director of Clinical Research in the Division of Hematology and Oncology last year,” Dr. Zhang adds. “We have some good initiatives to continue forward.”

Dr. Arteaga holds the Annette Simmons Distinguished University Chair in Breast Cancer Research.

Dr. Conzen is Professor of Internal Medicine and Chief of Hematology and Oncology. She holds the Andrea L. Simmons Distinguished Chair in Cancer Research.

MEDICAL EDUCATION

Abraham Named Head of Fashena College



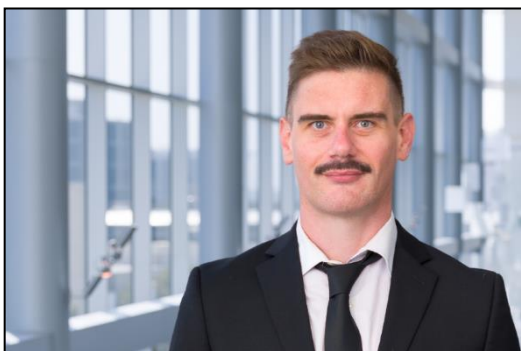
Reeni Abraham, M.D., an Associate Professor in the William T. and Gay F. Solomon Division of General Internal Medicine and Associate Vice Chair for Undergraduate Medical Education, has been named Head of Fashena College, one of six Academic Colleges in the medical school. Academic Colleges are small learning communities that bring together experienced faculty leaders with small groups of students to observe and mirror the professional skills, behaviors, and attitudes of a highly experienced physician. The college is named in honor of **Gladys J. Fashena, M.D.**, a pioneer in pediatric cardiology and one of the first clinical faculty members at UT Southwestern.

“Dr. Abraham has been a Mentor and a loyal supporter of the Academic Colleges for over a decade,” says **Gary Reed, M.D.**, a Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine and Associate Dean of Quality, Safety, and Outcomes Education. “She has been particularly dedicated to the professional identity development of our students. As an Associate Director of Colleges, she has applied this dedication to curricular developments in Check-In Rounds and in the clinical phase of training. She has also made a significant impact on medical education at an institutional and national level through her work on UME and GME transitions.”

Dr. Reed holds the S.T. Harris Family Distinguished Chair in Internal Medicine and the Eva A. Rosenthal Professorship in Internal Medicine.

AMBULATORY CLINICS

Schellinger to Serve as Endocrine Clinic Manager



Jeff Schellinger, M.C.N., RD, CSOWM, LD, a Senior Program Coordinator in the Weight Wellness Program, has accepted the position of Clinic Manager for the Endocrine Clinic and Weight Wellness Program.

“Jeff has distinguished himself not only as an outstanding registered dietitian, but also as a skilled operations manager, process and program developer, and EMR workflow enhancement expert,” says **Perry Bickel, M.D.**, Associate Professor of Internal Medicine and Chief of Endocrinology. “Within Weight Wellness, he has optimized workflows, created

a patient registry, re-engineered patient scheduling, created and implemented program-specific standing medical orders and MyChart questionnaires, and facilitated collaborative research projects. For his accomplishments, Jeff has been recognized with the UTSW Medical Center Diana and Richard C. Strauss Service Excellence Award in 2021 and with the UTSW School of Health Professions Clinical Nutrition Scholar Award in 2015 and 2016.”

Mr. Schellinger holds a bachelor’s degree in biology with a chemistry minor, and a bachelor’s degree in music from the University of Houston, where he graduated *cum laude*. He received his master’s degree in clinical nutrition from UT Southwestern’s School of Health Professions.

Dr. Bickel holds the Daniel W. Foster, M.D., Distinguished Chair in Internal Medicine.

RECENT JOB CHANGES

Staff Members, Faculty Take on New Roles



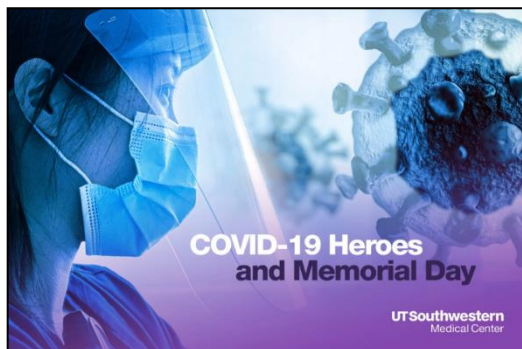
We congratulate the following faculty and staff members who recently took on new positions within the Department:

- **Samuel Alvarez Arguedas, Ph.D.** – Assistant Instructor, Infectious Diseases & Geographic Medicine
- **April Brewer** – Clinic Staff Supervisor, Internal Medicine Subspecialty Clinic
- **Isabelle Carroll** – Clinical Research Coordinator I, General Internal Medicine
- **Marco Galvan** – Research Technician II, Center for Hypothalamic Research
- **Zena Hubby** – Ambulatory Nurse Supervisor, Internal Medicine Subspecialty Clinic
- **Claire King** – Certified Medical Office Assistant, Internal Medicine Subspecialty Clinic
- **Ernesto Llano, M.D.** – Instructor, Digestive & Liver Diseases
- **Jessica Peters** – Sr. Research Associate, Nephrology
- **Mayra Salazar** – Sr. Administrative Associate, Rheumatic Diseases
- **Steven Wyler, Ph.D.** – Instructor, Center for Hypothalamic Research

kudos

RECOGNITION

Divisions, Care Providers Highlighted During COVID Remembrance



Jonathan Efron, M.D., Executive Vice President for Health System Affairs, highlighted the work of clinicians and researchers in the divisions of Hospital Medicine, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, and Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine, in addition to Infection Prevention and Control teams during a recognition event to mark the first COVID-19 Heroes and Memorial Day on March 4. The day was established by the Texas Legislature to commemorate the first positive test result for COVID-19 reported in Texas.

To view the COVID-19 Response Teams Program Development Award video shown during the event, click [here](#).

AWARDS

Barker, Desai Honored by Society of General Internal Medicine



Two faculty members from the William T. and Gay F. Solomon Division of General Internal Medicine have been honored by the Southern chapter of the Society of General Internal Medicine for their leadership and excellence in clinical education.

Blake Barker, M.D., an Associate Professor and Associate Dean of Students, received the Leader in General Internal Medicine award, which recognizes his achievements and “significant contributions to [the organization], as well as his role in advancing generalism.”

“That’s an apt description of Dr. Barker,” says **Joshua Liao, M.D.**, Professor of Internal Medicine and Chief of General Internal Medicine. “He is a dedicated educator and mentor.”

Shivani Desai, M.D., an Assistant Professor and Director of Primary Care Education for the Internal Medicine Residency Program, received the award for Excellence in Clinical Education, which recognizes clinician educators who have “demonstrated innovation and excellence in teaching and/or in clinical care delivery.”

“The award is a testament to Dr. Desai’s work in helping oversee the resident clinical training sites and develop the program’s ambulatory medicine curriculum,” Dr. Liao says.

Dr. Liao holds the Walter Family Distinguished Chair in Internal Medicine in Honor of Albert D. Roberts, M.D.

faculty development

CAREER NAVIGATION

COMPASS Provides Resources and Structure for Faculty Mentoring



Because mentoring is key to career development, the Department has formed COMPASS (Community for Mentorship, Productivity, Success, and Satisfaction), which provides a mentoring framework and resources to support Mentoring Leads who are building division programs to help faculty be more successful. Under the direction of **Sharon Reimold, M.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Cardiology and Vice Chair of Clinical Affairs and Faculty Development, COMPASS is headed by **Sonja Bartolome, M.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, and **Una Makris, M.D.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Rheumatic Diseases. It focuses on developing division

programs that encourage individualized pathways for faculty success, while also assisting with promotion, career satisfaction, recruitment, and retention.

To learn more about COMPASS and to access mentoring resources and information, visit [Mentorship Central](#) on MEDpoint.

need to know

TRAINEES

Resident Schedule Migrates to QGenda

The Internal Medicine Residency scheduling platform has been migrated from Amion to QGenda. While the current resident schedule in Amion will still be available online, it will not be actively updated. The calendar for the academic year beginning in July will be built exclusively in QGenda.

No login is required if using UTSW or Parkland networks. Work is underway with the QGenda team to provide login for those who do not use their UTSW credentials (i.e., in the clinic at the VA Medical Center).

To access the resident schedule, click [here](#).

in case you missed it

NEWSROOM

Horton and Colleagues Explain How an Experimental Drug Reverses Fatty Liver Disease



Jay Horton, M.D., a Professor of Internal Medicine, Director of the Center for Human Nutrition and Director of the Nutrition and Obesity Research Center, and colleagues recently published [a study in *Cell Metabolism*](#) of a drug in clinical trials that could be used as a treatment for metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD).

“We’ve uncovered a new fundamental mechanism of regulation of fat synthesis in the liver,” Dr. Horton says.

Currently, the only effective treatment for MASLD is weight loss, which can be difficult for many patients to achieve. The experimental drug inhibits an enzyme called diacylglycerol acyltransferase 2 (DGAT2) and has been shown to reduce liver fat and improve liver function. The DGAT2 inhibitor is now expected to move into phase three trials, bringing it closer to clinical use.

Dr. Horton holds the Distinguished University Chair in Human Nutrition, the Center for Human Nutrition Director’s Endowed Chair, and the Scott Grundy Director’s Chair.

To read the UTSW press release, click [here](#).

this week

INTERNAL MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS

Gunasekaran to Discuss Global Diabetes Program on March 8



Uma Gunasekaran, M.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Endocrinology, will present the [Internal Medicine Grand Rounds](#) lecture on **Friday, March 8, at 8 a.m. in D1.502**. Her topic: “Parkland’s Global Diabetes Program: 10 Years of Collaboration, Growth, and Success.”

Originally from Memphis, Tennessee, Dr. Gunasekaran earned her medical degree at the George Washington University School of Health Sciences in Washington, D.C. She completed internal medicine residency training at Mt. Auburn Hospital in Cambridge Massachusetts, where she was Chief Resident, and then completed advanced training through a fellowship in endocrinology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville.

Dr. Gunasekaran joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2014.

Noteworthy Lectures & Events

- **Wednesday, March 6, 8 a.m.:** [Geriatrics Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Tara DuVal** (Hospital Medicine) – “Long-Term Outcome of SARS-CoV-2 in the Geriatric Population”

- **Wednesday, March 6, 8:30 a.m.:** [Hematology & Oncology Recruitment Seminar](#) with **Dr. Farhad Khimani** (Moffit Cancer Center) – “GVHD Prevention: Current Landscape and Future Strategies”
- **Wednesday, March 6, 4 p.m.:** [University Lecture Series](#) with **Dr. Anne Brunet** (Stanford Medicine) – “Mechanisms of Aging and Longevity”
- **Thursday, March 7, 8:30 a.m.:** [2024 McGarry Symposium](#)
- **Thursday, March 7, 4 p.m.:** [History of Women in Science and Medicine at UT Southwestern](#) with **Drs. Julie Mirpuri** (Pediatrics) and **Danielle Robertson** (Ophthalmology)



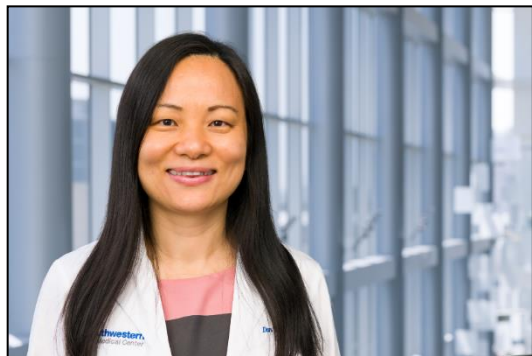
Internal Medicine Events Calendar

[Click to view additional events](#)

on the horizon

INTERNAL MEDICINE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Tong to Present Research on HFpEF on March 19



Dan (Amanda) Tong, M.D., Ph.D., an Assistant Professor in the Division of Cardiology, will present the [Internal Medicine Research Conference](#) on **Tuesday, March 19, at noon in E6.200**. Her topic: “Bad Blood and Mad Atria – New Players in the HFpEF.”

Originally from China, Dr. Tong received her medical degree from Tongji Medical College in Wuhan. She then received her doctorate from the University of Western Ontario in Canada. She completed internal medicine residency training at the University of Iowa and advanced training in cardiology through a fellowship at UT Southwestern.

As a physician-scientist, her research and clinical interests are focused on cardiovascular conditions that are tightly associated with metabolic diseases, particularly heart failure with preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF) and atrial fibrillation.

Dr. Tong joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2021.

Lunch will be provided to those who [register](#) in advance.

To attend virtually, click [here](#).

RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Experts to Speak on Urolithiasis at Mineral Metabolism Event

The third **Pak Symposium on Mineral Metabolism Research** is scheduled for **Friday, April 5, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** in the T. Boone Pickens Auditorium (NG3.112). The focus of this year’s conference will be urolithiasis, a condition that occurs when kidney stones pass into the urinary tract.

Fredric L. Coe, M.D., a Professor of Medicine at the University of Chicago, will present the keynote address: “Interactions Between Crystal Deposits, Inflammation and Renal Physiology in Pathogenesis of Calcium Renal Stones.”

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

UPDATE IN INTERNAL MEDICINE

Annual CME Conference Scheduled for April 13

Update in Internal Medicine

April 13, 2024



The annual Update in Internal Medicine CME Conference is scheduled for **Saturday, April 13, from 7:45 a.m. to 3 p.m.** The course, under the direction of **Brad Cutrell, M.D.**, and **Vlad Zaha, M.D., Ph.D.**, will offer state-of-the-art, practical advice on common conditions and new developments in women's health, vascular medicine, thyroid nodule and cyst management, central nervous system infections, and much more.

The one-day live event will again be offered as a hybrid learning experience, with synchronous in-person and online presentations in addition to pre-recorded on-demand content.

The presentations will be available for up to one year after the conference, totaling 18 units of CME credit and the opportunity to apply for MOC within the timing requirements of the ABIM rules.

To learn more or to register for the event, click [here](#).

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

Annual GI Symposium Scheduled for April 20

What's New in GI 2024

"What's New in GI," a one-day, in-person CME course on **Saturday, April 20**, will provide attendees with practical information that can be applied today in their clinical practice.

Discussions will include the latest updates on recognizing symptoms and using current data to establish diagnoses and formulate appropriate treatment plans for the management of gastrointestinal diseases.

Directed by **Neha Patel, M.D.**, and **David Fudman, M.D.**, the course will include several other Internal Medicine faculty members.

Look for the next *Medicine Minute* on **Tuesday, March 12**.
Share feedback and news items with us at IMNews@UTSouthwestern.edu

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