

medicine minute

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

kudos

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Seldin Symposium Award Recipients Announced



At the conclusion of the Foster Fellows presentations during the April 26 Internal Medicine Grand Rounds, attendees selected **Haitao Xu, M.D., M.S.**, as the 2024 Seldin Scholar. For his project, “PBRM1 as a Predictive Therapeutic Biomarker for Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma to the Pancreas,” Dr. Xu was mentored by **James Brugarolas, M.D., Ph.D.**

Awards for Best Clinical Vignettes were presented to **Mauricio Ostrosky Frid, M.D., Ph.D.**, who was mentored by **Kamalanathan Sambandam, M.D.**, for his project, “Hydroxocobalamin (Cyanokit)-Associated AKI with Calcium Oxalate Crystalluria in Patients Receiving Solid Organ

Transplant”; **James Roberts, M.D.**, who was mentored by **Haidy Galous, M.D.**, for his project, “Disseminated Cutaneous Tophi as Initial Presentation for Gout: A Case Report”; and **Sanaa Tejani, M.D.**, who was mentored by **Rachel Bonnema, M.D.**, for her project, “Vitamin A Deficiency and Decompensated Cirrhosis: An Insightful Connection.”

Syed Rizvi, M.D., received the award for Research in Quality Care and Education at Parkland Memorial Hospital for his project, “Adverse Social Determinants of Health in a Low-Income Population Hospitalized with Heart Failure.” He was mentored by **Ambarish Pandey, M.D.**

The Social Impact Award was presented to **Tyler Wall, M.D.**, who was mentored by **Kara Goss, M.D.**, for his project, “Role of Race and the Childhood Opportunity Index in Predicting Lung Function Outcomes Among Adolescents and Adults Born Premature.”

Basic Science Awards went to **Baijie Xu, Ph.D.**, who was mentored by **Chen Liu, Ph.D.**, for his project, “Orthopedia Regulates Melanocortin 4 Receptor Transcription and Human Obesity Risk; and **Amanda Clark, M.D.**, who was mentored by **Samir M. Parikh, M.D.**, for her project, “Maternal NAD⁺ Deficiency Contributes to Reduced Fetal Nephron Endowment.”

To view a slide show of the symposium and its various events, click [here](#).

RECOGNITION

Bajaj Achieves Platinum-Level Competence in QI Program



Puneet Bajaj, M.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Rheumatic Diseases and Department Quality Officer, has achieved the platinum competence level in quality improvement, education, project leadership, and scholarship in UT Southwestern's [Academy for Performance Excellence](#) (APEX), part of the Quality, Safety & Outcomes Education program.

"The award cites his work on several campus-wide and clinic-level QI projects as well as the fact that he co-chairs the Department's Quality, Process Improvement, and Outcomes Committee," says **David Karp, M.D., Ph.D.**, Professor and

Chief of the Division of Rheumatic Diseases. "In addition to roles here at UT Southwestern and previously at Southwestern Health Resources, Dr. Bajaj chairs the Research and Publications Sub-Committee of the Registries and Health Information Technology Committee of the American College of Rheumatology. He also serves on the Pre-Rulemaking Measure Review Committee of the Partnership for Quality Measurement that provides recommendations for selection of quality and efficiency metrics by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)."

Dr. Bajaj received his medical training at Madurai Medical College in India. He then obtained a master's degree in public health from Florida International University and completed internal medicine residency training at the University of Alabama. He later received advanced training through a fellowship in rheumatology at Stony Brook University.

He joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2014.

ACCOLADES

Merola Honored by Psoriasis Foundation



Joseph Merola, M.D., M.M.Sc., Professor and Chair of Dermatology, Professor of Internal Medicine in the Division of Rheumatic Diseases, and Professor in the Peter O'Donnell Jr. School of Public Health, was recently honored by the National Psoriasis Foundation at its annual Commit to Cure Gala.

"Dr. Merola has shared countless hours of his time with health care providers around the world, working tirelessly to raise the standard of treatment and care for people living with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis," according to the organization.

Dr. Merola is triple board-certified in dermatology, internal medicine, and rheumatology. Prior to joining the UT Southwestern faculty in 2023, he was Vice Chair of Dermatology and Founding Director of the Unit for Clinical Trials and Innovation at the Brigham and Women's Hospital, where he also directed the Center for Skin and Related Musculoskeletal Diseases.

Dr. Merola holds the Mary Kay Inc. Distinguished Chair in Dermatology.

research roundup

PUBLICATIONS

Joshi and Colleagues Release Findings on Cardiac Calcium Scoring



Parag Joshi, M.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Cardiology, and colleagues recently published a review of an emerging clinical area – using incidentally found coronary calcium on chest CT scans to screen individuals for heart disease.

“Millions of people a year have CT scans and this ‘free’ information about heart disease risk has many potential applications,” says **Amit Khera, M.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Cardiology and a contributing author.

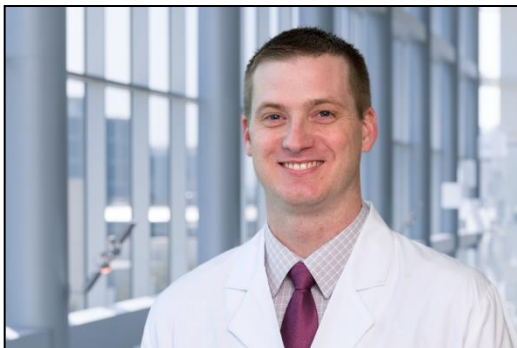
Additional UT Southwestern authors include Shyon Parsa, M.D., Natalie

Hoeting, M.D., Anjali Rao, M.D., Ann Marie Navar, M.D., Ph.D., Anand Rohatgi, M.D., Fernando Kay, M.D., Ph.D., and Suhny Abbara, M.D.

To read the article in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, click [here](#).

AWARDS

Newton Receives Early Career Award from American Thoracic Society



Chad Newton, M.D., M.S.C.S., an Assistant Professor in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine and Associate Director of the Interstitial Lung Disease Program, has been selected to receive the Early Career Achievement Award from the American Thoracic Society’s Assembly on Clinical Problems. The award is given to individuals who have made outstanding scientific contributions in clinical, translational, or laboratory-based research relevant to clinical problems early in their career.

Dr. Newton earned his bachelor’s degree at the University of North Texas in Denton, where he graduated *cum laude*. He

received his medical degree at UT Southwestern, where he also completed a residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in pulmonary and clinical care medicine, serving as both Chief Resident and Chief Fellow. He also earned a master’s degree in clinical and translational research sciences.

He joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2017.

alumni news

LEADERSHIP

Former Resident Appointed Interim Regional Chair



Sarah Kiani, M.D., an Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine and Program Director of the Internal Medicine Residency at Texas Tech Health Science Center (TTHSU) at the Permian Basin, has been appointed Interim Regional Chair of Internal Medicine.

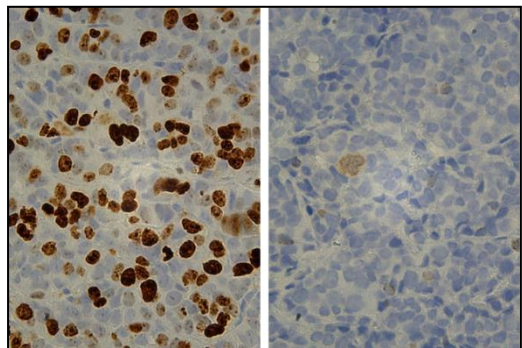
Dr. Kiani received her medical education at Aga Khan University in Karachi, Pakistan. She then completed internal medicine residency training at UT Southwestern.

While at UT Southwestern, Dr. Kiani received the Internal Medicine Clerkship Senior Resident Teaching Award.

in case you missed it

NEWSROOM

Blocking Gene May Halt the Growth of Breast Cancer Cells



Shutting down a gene called PRMT5 stopped metastatic estrogen receptor-positive (ER+) breast cancer cells from growing after they acquired resistance to a standard therapy known as CDK4/6 inhibitors, UT Southwestern Medical Center researchers showed in a new study. Their findings, published in [Nature Communications](#), could lead to new strategies to treat metastatic ER+ breast cancer, the most common subtype that is responsible each year for the most deaths from this disease.

“Combining an anti-estrogen therapy with a drug that inhibits PRMT5 could eventually offer a new way to treat patients resistant to CDK4/6 inhibitors, who often have few options left,” says **Chang-Ching “Albert” Lin, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor in the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center and in the Department of Internal Medicine. Dr. Lin co-led the study with **Carlos L. Arteaga, M.D.**, Professor and Director of the Simmons Cancer Center and Associate Dean of Oncology Programs at UTSW. Dr. Lin is a former postdoctoral researcher in the Arteaga Lab.

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

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

Articles and Videos Featuring Internal Medicine Colleagues

- [Taking Aim at Graft-Versus-Host Disease After Stem Cell Transplant](#) (Via MedBlog, with **Julio Alvarenga Thiebaud, M.D.**)
- [Keeping Hospital Clean Job of Every Dallas VA Employee](#) (Via VA News, with **Jeffrey Hastings, M.D.**)
- [Medical Students Receive Endowed Scholarships](#) (Via Medicine Matters, with **Kehinde Odedosu, M.D.**, **Rachel Bonnema, M.D.**, **Nicole Oakman, M.D.**, **Ahmad Anshasi, M.D.**, **Jessica Campbell, M.D.**, and **Stephanie Brinker, M.D.**)
- [Cancer Cell-immune Cell Interactions Predict Immunotherapy Response](#) (Via UTSW Newsroom, with **Isaac Chan, M.D., Ph.D.**)



Internal Medicine News Portal
Click for more Department news and updates

personnel updates

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Loewen Promoted to Assistant Director of Finance



Bart Loewen, M.B.A., has been promoted to Assistant Director of Finance after serving one year as Manager of Financial Analysis.

Mr. Loewen holds a bachelor's degree in finance from Illinois State University and a master's degree in healthcare administration from Baylor University.

Prior to joining UT Southwestern in 2023, he oversaw a \$10 million nonprofit responsible for adolescent substance use prevention and treatment service. His healthcare experience includes financial leadership of large hospice organizations

with locations and agencies throughout North Texas.

hot jobs in internal medicine

Looking to advance your career? Want to refer a friend? Check this job opening:

- [Department Facilities Administrator](#)
- [Database Analyst](#) (Department Administration)

noteworthy

O'DONNELL SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Application Deadline for MPH Program Extended to May 1

Applications for the [O'Donnell School of Public Health](#)'s master's degree program will close on Wednesday, May 1, 2024. For those who are interested, the program is flexible and can be completed over the course of three years. The Executive MPH path is designed for busy professionals. UT Southwestern's tuition reimbursement program will cover a significant portion of the tuition. Questions can be directed to [May Lau, M.D., M.P.H.](#), Associate Dean of Student Affairs.

To apply, click [here](#).

this week

LEADERSHIP LECTURE SERIES

Smith to Speak on Accountability on May 2



The Leadership Lecture Series resumes on **Thursday, May 2, at noon** with a presentation by **Lauren Smith, B.B.A.**, Senior Organizational Development Consultant. Her topic: "Accountability."

All lectures are virtual, informal, and brown bag. Faculty, APPs, administrators, and trainees are welcome to attend.

To attend the virtual event, click [here](#). Meeting ID: 953 1006 9878; Passcode: 094386

INTERNAL MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS

Harvard's Karen Costenbader to Lecture About Lupus on May 3



Karen H. Costenbader, M.D., M.P.H., a Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Director of the Lupus Program at Brigham and Women's Hospital, will present the [Internal Medicine Grand Rounds](#) lecture on **Friday, May 2, at 8 a.m. in D1.502**. Her topic: "Risky Business: Elevated Cardiovascular Risk in Lupus."

Dr. Costenbader received her medical degree from Harvard Medical School, a Master's degree from Cambridge University in England, and a Master's in Public Health from Harvard School of Public Health. She completed her internal medicine internship and medical residency at the Massachusetts

General Hospital in Boston, as well as training in rheumatology at both the Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Dr. Costenbader is a rheumatologist and epidemiologist at Brigham and Women's Hospital, where she is Director of the Brigham and Women's Hospital Lupus Program, the inaugural incumbent of the Michael E. Weinblatt, M.D., Distinguished Chair in Clinical Rheumatology, and Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. She specializes in the treatment of systemic lupus erythematosus and related connective tissue diseases. Her clinical and translational research investigates risk factors associated with the development of systemic lupus erythematosus and outcomes among those with lupus.

Noteworthy Lectures & Events

- **Tuesday, April 30, Noon:** [Pathology Seminar Series](#) with **Dr. Hongo Chi** (St. Jude Children's Research Hospital) – "Integrating Systems Immunology with Metabolism and Cancer"
- **Wednesday, May 1, 8 a.m.:** [Geriatrics Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Errisha Richardson** (Geriatric Medicine) – "The Captivating Connection Between Rheumatoid Arthritis and Multimorbidity"
- **Wednesday, May 1, Noon:** [Excellence in Immunology Lecture Series](#) with **Dr. Megan Baldrige** (Washington University) – "Viral Interference in the Intestine"
- **Thursday, May 2, 8 a.m.:** Infectious Diseases & Geographic Medicine Grand Rounds with **Dr. Daniel Maxwell** (Infectious Diseases & Geographic Medicine) – "The Birds and the Bees (and the Fish): Non Human Use of Antibiotics as a Driver of the Antimicrobial Resistance Crisis"
- **Thursday, May 2, Noon:** [Moss Heart Center Seminar Series](#) with **Dr. Luke Szweda** (Cardiology) – "Daily Rhythms in Cardiac Metabolism: A Tale of Mice and Men"
- **Thursday, May 2, Noon:** [PROVIDES Seminar Series](#) with **Dr. Manu O. Platt** (National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering) – "Strokes with Sickle Cell Disease: Dynamic Interplay Between Biomechanical and Biochemical Stimuli"
- **Thursday, May 2, Noon:** [Vertically Integrated Programs in Cancer Faculty Panel](#) – "Code and Care: AI in Modern Medicine"



Internal Medicine Events Calendar

[Click to view additional events](#)

reminders

INTERNAL MEDICINE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Patel to Present Research on Immunoregulation of Metabolism on May 7



Suraj Patel, M.D., Ph.D., an Assistant Professor in the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases, will present the Internal Medicine Research Conference on **Tuesday, May 7, at noon in E2.502**. His topic: "Immunoregulation of Metabolism."

Originally from New Jersey, Dr. Patel holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical and aerospace engineering from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, where he graduated *magna cum laude*. He then received master's and doctoral degrees in bioengineering and immunology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard Medical School, before

pursuing his medical degree at Rutgers University. Dr. Patel then completed internal medicine residency training at UT Southwestern, before receiving advanced training through a fellowship program in gastroenterology at Massachusetts General Hospital, while simultaneously conducting a research fellowship in endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC). Afterward, he remained at BIDMC to become a member of the clinical faculty.

Dr. Patel joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2021.

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

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

Look for the next *Medicine Minute* on **Tuesday, May 7**.
Share feedback and news items with us at IMNews@UTSouthwestern.edu

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