

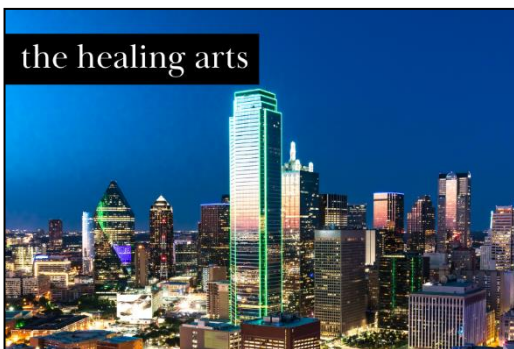
medicine minute

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

kudos

HUMANITIES

Resident-initiated Literary Journal Now Available



The fourth edition of [The Healing Arts](#), a publication of original prose, poetry, photography, music, and art, is now available.

This year's theme, "Medicine in Dallas: A Mosaic of Perspectives," explores the shared experience of living and practicing medicine in the diverse and ever-changing city of Dallas, according to the editors.

"Since its inaugural edition, The Healing Arts has served as an outlet for artistic expression and fostered introspection and growth," the editors say. "It is always a pleasure to showcase the talent of our department."

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Matulevicius to Participate in Drexel University's Leadership Program



Susan Matulevicius, M.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Cardiology and Associate Dean of Faculty Wellness, has been accepted into the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) program at Drexel University. The intensive, one-year fellowship provides extensive coaching, networking, and mentoring opportunities aimed at expanding the national pool of qualified women candidates for leadership in academic medicine, dentistry, public health, and pharmacy.

Originally from New Jersey, Dr. Matulevicius holds a bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering from Duke University and a medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania. She

completed internal medicine residency training at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania before completing fellowships in cardiology and advanced cardiac imaging at Parkland Health.

Dr. Matulevicius joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2009.

INFLUENCERS

Mora's Service Highlights Interests in Health Equity, Vulnerable Patients



Adan (Adam) Mora Jr., M.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, has been appointed to the Health Equity Task Force of the American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST).

"We were extremely impressed by Dr. Mora's contributions to reproductive justice and gender affirming care," says **Jack Buckley, M.D., M.P.H.**, CHEST President-Elect.

Dr. Mora has also joined the organization's Steering Committee for the newly created LGBTQ+ interest group.

The goal of the interest group is "to provide a space where CHEST members can exchange resources, seek support, provide mentorship, gain knowledge, and share perspectives that broadly relate to LGBTQ+ health and lived experiences," says **Doreen Addrizzo-Harris, M.D.**, CHEST President.

"I have done work in the space of health equity and with vulnerable patients," Dr. Mora says. "As I continue to work in this space and being relatively new to UTSW, I want to highlight these two issues and continue to build and expand my network."

A native Texan, Dr. Mora holds a bachelor's degree in biology and chemistry from St. Mary's University in San Antonio. He earned his medical degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, where he also completed internal medicine and pediatrics residency training, followed by advanced training in pulmonary and critical care medicine.

Dr. Mora joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2023.

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:

- **Alice Garza** – Clinic Staff Supervisor, Internal Medicine Subspecialty Clinic
- **Kasia Harrah** – Lead Clinical Research Coordinator, Hematology & Oncology
- **Zeena Hashem** – Research Assistant II, Digestive & Liver Diseases
- **Brandon Rivera** – Research Associate, Endocrinology
- **Jennifer Rubio** – Certified Medical Office Assistant, Internal Medicine Subspecialty Clinic
- **Roseann Sheomangal** – Sr. Administrative Assistant II, Endocrinology
- **Demetry Sorrells** – Grants & Contracts Specialist, Research Administration

research roundup

PUBLICATIONS

Shankar and Colleagues Describe Drug to Reduce Fatty Liver Disease



Kripa Shankar, Ph.D., an Instructor in the Hypothalamic Research Center, and colleagues have described the effects of a new drug compound on fatty liver disease and obesity in mice. Their findings, reported in [Molecular Metabolism](#), could lead to a new treatment for metabolic dysfunction-associated fatty liver disease (MAFLD), obesity, and high cholesterol.

“We sought to determine the therapeutic potential of a long-acting LEAP2 (liver-expressed antimicrobial peptide 2) analog to treat MAFLD in mice,” the authors say. “Administration of the compound markedly reduced liver weight, hepatic triglycerides, plasma ALT, hepatic microvesicular steatosis, hepatic lobular

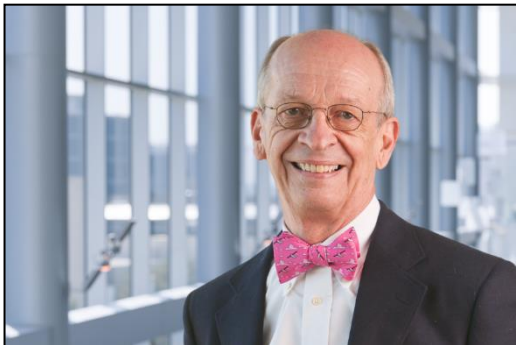
inflammation, NASH activity scores, and prevalence of higher-grade fibrosis. These changes were accompanied by prominent reductions in body weight, without effects on food intake, and reduced plasma total cholesterol.”

This study represents the first investigation into the effects of both LEAP2 deletion and LEAP2 analog administration in a MAFLD mouse model, offering valuable insights into the role of LEAP2 in MAFLD and obesity. “Additionally, the findings of prominent effects of a novel long-acting LEAP2 analog contribute significantly to the advancement of therapeutic interventions targeting metabolic diseases,” says **Jeffrey Zigman, M.D., Ph.D.**, a Professor in the Center for Hypothalamic Research, and the study’s lead author.

Read the full interview transcript on the [Medicine Matters](#) site. To learn more about Dr. Zigman’s research, visit the [Zigman Lab site](#).

DISCOVERIES

Lee, Rule and Collaborators Identify Cell that Repairs Liver Tissue



William Lee, M.D., a Professor in the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases, and **Jody Rule, Ph.D.**, a Clinical Research Manager, contributed to a study that pinpoints a type of cell responsible for repairing damaged liver tissue. Their research, published in the journal [Nature](#), could spur the development of new therapies that harness the liver’s unique capacity to regenerate following damage.

The research team included scientists from the Universities of Birmingham and Cambridge, University College London, and the Acute Liver Failure Study Group (ALFSG) network, which originated at UT Southwestern in 1998 and became the

longest-running network in the National Institutes of Health’s Liver Section. Dr. Lee served as the study group’s Principal Investigator.

To learn more about the Acute Liver Failure Study Group, visit the [ALFSG lab site](#).

in case you missed it

NEWSROOM

Combined Therapy Makes Headway for Liver Cancer



A drug that targets a protein known as phosphatidylserine boosted the response rate for patients with hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) receiving immunotherapy without compromising their safety, according to results of a phase two clinical trial conducted by UT Southwestern. The findings, published in [Nature Communications](#), show the potential benefits of augmenting immunotherapy for this and other forms of cancer.

“This study shows the promise of improving the success of cancer immunotherapies by targeting other immunomodulating proteins simultaneously,” says study leader **David Hsieh**,

M.D., an Assistant Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology and a member of the Experimental Therapeutics Research Program of the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center at UT Southwestern.

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



Internal Medicine News Portal
Click for more Department news and updates

personnel updates

PROMOTION

Anders to Become Manager of Department Operations for Radiology



Whitley Anders, M.S., the Department’s manager of Faculty Affairs, has accepted a promotion to Manager of Department Operations for the Department of Radiology.

After serving for four years as the Department’s Assistant Faculty Coordinator, she was promoted to Faculty Coordinator, a position she held until a reorganization, when she became supervisor of a team of faculty coordinators. She advanced to her management role in September 2023.

Ms. Anders holds a bachelor’s degree in biology from Texas A&M University and a master’s degree in health care administration from the University of Texas at Arlington. She joined the Department in 2016 and transferred to the Chair’s staff in 2017.

Her last day in the Department is May 10.

hot jobs in internal medicine

Looking to advance your career? Want to refer a friend? Check these job openings:

- [Department Facilities Administrator](#)
- [Project Manager, IM Faculty Affairs](#)

this week

INTERNAL MEDICINE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Patel to Speak on Immunoregulation of Metabolism Today at Noon



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.”

Dr. Patel focuses his research on hepatic metabolism and its regulation by the immune system. He leads a research group that utilizes genetic, epigenetic, and proteomic approaches, combined with detailed physiological studies, to understand the complex mechanisms that causally link inflammation to metabolic dysfunction in obesity and fatty liver disease.

To attend virtually, click [here](#). To learn more about Dr. Patel’s research, visit the [Patel Lab site](#).

INTERNAL MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS

Harvard’s Mannstadt to Speak on Parathyroid Hormone-Related Treatments on May 10



Michael Mannstadt, M.D., an Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Endocrinology at Harvard Medical School, will present the [Internal Medicine Grand Rounds](#) lecture on Friday, May 10, at 8 a.m. in D1.502. His topic: “Breaking New Ground in Parathyroid Hormone-related Treatments.”

Dr. Mannstadt earned his medical degree from Jena University in Germany. He then completed internal medicine residency training followed by a clinical fellowship in endocrinology, diabetes, and metabolism at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Dr. Mannstadt’s clinical interests include disorders of mineral metabolism and bone diseases. His research concentrates on the basic and translational aspects of parathyroid hormone with a particular interest in hypoparathyroidism.

Noteworthy Lectures & Events

- **Wednesday, May 8, 7:30 a.m.:** [Cardiology Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Tiffany Powell-Wiley** (National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute) – “Centering Community Engagement to Address Cardiometabolic Disparities: An Interdisciplinary Approach”
- **Wednesday, May 8, Noon:** [Gastrointestinal Research Conference](#) with **Dr. Youngmin Lee** (Vanderbilt University) – “Hepatic Stellate Cells – From Foes to Friends?”
- **Thursday, May 9, 8 a.m.:** [Infectious Diseases & Geographic Medicine Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Khalil Ghanem** (Johns Hopkins University) – “The Challenges of Managing Adults with Syphilis”
- **Friday, May 10, 1 p.m.:** [Endocrinology Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Jane Lee** (Endocrinology) – “Subcutaneous Continuous Hydrocortisone Infusion for Treatment of Adrenal Insufficiency”



Internal Medicine Events Calendar

[Click to view additional events](#)

save the date

PROFESSIONAL ENRICHMENT

Faculty Wellness Retreat Scheduled for June 7



The Office of Faculty Wellness will host its second annual Faculty Wellness **Retreat on Friday, June 7, 2024, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.** at Pegasus Park. The in-person, CME-certified event will focus on maximizing professional efficiency and include workshops, facilitated discussions, and networking opportunities to advance a culture of wellness at UT Southwestern. The theme is “Enhancing Efficiency, Embracing Trust to Maximize Professional Fulfillment.”

The keynote address will be delivered by **Jody Hoffer Gittel, Ph.D.**, a Professor at Brandeis University’s Heller School for Social Policy and Management. She is known for having

developed the Relational Coordination theory – coordinating highly interdependent work through shared mutual values and based upon high-quality relationships and communication.

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

LEADERSHIP LECTURE SERIES

Ahn to Speak on Transformational Communication on June 13



The Leadership Lecture Series concludes on **Thursday, June 13, at noon** with a presentation by **Christina Ahn, Ph.D.**, Leadership Coach in the Office of Women’s Careers. Her topic: “Transformational Communication Using Coaching Skills.”

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

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

Look for the next *Medicine Minute* on **Tuesday, May 21, 2024**.
Share feedback and news items with us at IMNews@UTSouthwestern.edu

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