

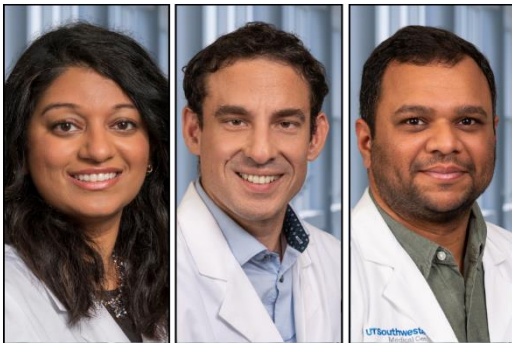
medicine minute

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

kudos

HONORS

Three Faculty Members Selected as IDSA Fellows



Anusha Govind, M.D., Theodoros Kelesidis, M.D., Ph.D., M.Sc., and Siddharth Kogilwaimath, M.D., have been selected Fellows of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA). Candidates for fellowship must demonstrate significant service to the profession, and have local, regional, or national impact.

Dr. Govind (left), an Assistant Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine, is originally from India. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in biology from Austin College in Sherman, where she graduated *cum laude*. She earned her medical degree at the

Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine in College Station and completed both her residency in internal medicine and fellowship in infectious diseases at the Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia.

Dr. Govind joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2020.

Dr. Kelesidis (center), an Associate Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine, is originally from Greece. He earned his medical degree at the University of Athens Medical School and completed a residency in internal medicine at St. Elizabeth's Medical Center in Boston. He then received advanced training in infectious diseases through a fellowship at the University of California, Los Angeles, where he also completed a doctorate in microbiology, immunology, and molecular genetics and a master's degree in clinical and translational research.

Dr. Kelesidis joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2023.

Dr. Kogilwaimath (right), an Associate Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine, was born in India and grew up in Brunei. He began his medical training at International Medical University in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and received his medical degree from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He then obtained internal medicine residency training at Memorial University of Newfoundland in St. John's, and advanced training in infectious diseases at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg.

Dr. Kogilwaimath joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2024.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Louissaint Selected for Editorial Fellowship Program



Jeremy Louissaint, M.D., an Assistant Professor in the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases, has been selected to participate in JAMA Network Open's Editorial Fellowship program.

The program aims “to engage a cadre of promising early-career faculty in the editorial process to advance research and scholarship that addresses the needs of all communities and to expand diversity among editorial board members and researchers reviewing manuscripts across the scientific community,” says **Monica Vela, M.D.**, Professor of Medicine and Director of the Hispanic Center of Excellence at the

University of Illinois College of Medicine and Associate Editor of JAMA Network Open. “Our hope is that upon completion of the program, [fellows] will be prepared to apply to serve on editorial boards of peer-reviewed journals.”

Dr. Louissaint holds a bachelor's degree in neuroscience and psychology from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. He earned his medical degree at Cornell Medical College in New York City. He completed internal medicine residency training at Washington University in St. Louis, followed by fellowships in gastroenterology and hepatology at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and transplant hepatology at Columbia University Medical Center in New York City.

Dr. Louissaint joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2022.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Wilden, Harmjanz Receive Medical Student Awards



Alexa Wilden, M.D., a 2024 graduate of UT Southwestern Medical School and recipient of the Department's Hemphill-Gojer Award in Internal Medicine, has received the **Ho Din Award**, the highest medical student honor given at UT Southwestern. She also received the Vanatta, Hesser, Schmalstieg Excellence in Tutoring Award.

The Ho Din Award, bestowed by Southwestern Medical Foundation, is presented annually to a recipient with the skills of a great physician. Established in 1943, it comes with a medal, certificate, and \$20,000 scholarship.

Although she initially planned to specialize in oncology, Dr. Wilden soon discovered general internal medicine was her calling.

“With general internal medicine, you get to treat almost everybody,” she says. “It’s just the place I can become the doctor I want to be.”

Dr. Wilden is scheduled to begin internal medicine residency training at UT Southwestern in June.

To view a video of Dr. Wilden responding to being named the Ho Din Award recipient, click [here](#). To read a profile in CenterTimes Plus, click [here](#).



Valentina Harmjanz, M.D., a 2024 graduate of UT Southwestern Medical School, has received the **Lorraine Sulkin-Schein Medical Student Award in Geriatric Medicine**.

Dr. Harmjanz credits a high-school experience volunteering at an assisted living facility with sparking her interest in geriatric medicine, an interest she further developed alongside **Jessica Voit, M.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Geriatric Medicine, when she volunteered for UT Southwestern's Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP) while in college.

"This experience was truly life-changing," she says.

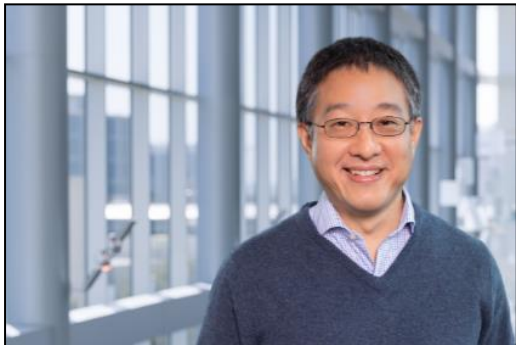
While attending medical school, Dr. Harmjanz served as a leader in HELP and the Geriatrics Interest Group. After residency training in family medicine, she plans to practice as an outpatient primary care physician.

To read a profile in CenterTimes Plus, click [here](#). To read about other Internal Medicine medical student awards recipients, click [here](#).

research roundup

DISCOVERIES

Hoshida Targets Abnormal Lipid to Improve Liver Cancer Treatment



Yujin Hoshida, M.D., Ph.D., a Professor in the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases and Director of the Liver Tumor Translational Research Program, and colleagues have discovered a novel immunotherapy approach targeting abnormal membranous phosphatidylserine (PS), a lipid that is present in virtually all cancer cells. Their findings, reported in [Nature Communications](#), could lead to substantial improvement in medical therapy response and survival for patients with hepatocellular carcinoma, the major histological type of liver cancer.

"Liver cancer is one of the deadliest cancer types due to the still limited efficacy of currently approved medical therapies," Dr. Hoshida says. "Treatment response rate is still suboptimal even with the latest immune-based chemotherapies. Thus, new strategies to improve immuno-therapy response are urgently needed."

Immune checkpoint inhibitors targeting PD-1/L1, a protein that prevents T cells from killing cancer cells, have shown only modest success as single agents, the authors write. They hypothesized that adding a PS-targeting agent could enhance immunotherapy activity without increasing toxicity rates. For the single-arm phase 2 trial, the researchers evaluated frontline bavituximab, a PS-targeting antibody, plus pembrolizumab, an anti-PD-1 drug, in patients with unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma.

"Analysis of baseline tumor specimens revealed potential predictors of response, including depletion of B cells, presence of fibrotic tissue, and expression of immune checkpoints in stroma," Dr. Hoshida says. "We hope this opens a path for the new cancer immunotherapy strategy directed to abnormal PS, which is present in multiple cancer types."

Other authors from Internal Medicine: David Hsieh, M.D., Haaris Beg, M.D., Radhika Kainthla, M.D., Jay Lohrey, M.D., Syed Kazmi, M.D., Courtney Katz, M.A., Asim Hassan, Naoto Kubota, and Amit Singal, M.D.

Dr. Hoshida holds the H. Ray and Paula Calvert Chair in Gastroenterology Oncology.

Dr. Singal is a Dedman Family Scholar in Clinical Care and holds the Willis C. Maddrey, M.D. Distinguished Chair in Liver Disease.

To learn more about the Liver Tumor Translational Research Program, visit the [Hoshida Lab site](#).

FROM THE NEWSROOM

Drug Targeting Clear Cell Renal Cell Carcinoma Shows Promising Approach



A phase one clinical trial led by **James Brugarolas, M.D., Ph.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology and Director of the Kidney Cancer Program, has shown that a short interfering RNA (siRNA) drug directed to tumor cells effectively disrupted HIF2 α , a key driver of clear cell renal cell carcinoma (ccRCC).

Dr. Brugarolas and colleagues from several institutions published their findings in [Clinical Cancer Research](#) to illustrate the potential of siRNA for cancer therapy.

Developed by Arrowhead Pharmaceuticals, the drug targets HIF2 α mRNA blocking the production of the HIF2 α protein. The drug's unique guidance system promotes delivery to tumor cells through an interaction with a protein (integrin $\alpha\beta 3$) on the surface of ccRCC cells, enhancing its uptake and therapeutic potential.

Dr. Brugarolas holds The Sherry Wigley Crow Cancer Research Endowed Chair in Honor of Robert Lewis Kirby, M.D.

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

alumni news

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Former Fellow Named President of UT Tyler



Julie V. Philley, M.D., Executive Vice President for Health Affairs and Vice Provost at UT Health Science Center at Tyler and former Chair of its Department of Medicine, has been appointed by the UT System Board of Regents as the next President of the University of Texas at Tyler.

Originally from Overton, Texas, near Tyler, Dr. Philley holds a bachelor's degree from Texas Woman's University. She earned her medical degree from UT Health Houston's McGovern Medical School and completed internal medicine residency training at Johns Hopkins University/Sinai Hospital. She then received advanced training through a fellowship in pulmonary

and critical care medicine at UT Southwestern.

To read the announcement of Dr. Philley's appointment, click [here](#).

in case you missed it

LEADERSHIP

Wang Named Physician-in-Chief of Clements University Hospital



Thomas Wang, M.D., a Professor and Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine, has been appointed to serve as the inaugural Physician-in-Chief of Clements University Hospital. Dr. Wang will continue his current role as Chair, while also partnering in new ways with University Hospital and Health System leadership, as well as Division Chiefs to strengthen and grow clinical service lines, specifically those that involve Internal Medicine and its subspecialties.

As Physician-in-Chief, Dr. Wang will also work with affiliated and network hospitals to organize Internal Medicine services at those sites and support recruitment and retention initiatives.

To read the announcement in the Health System News Roundup, click [here](#). (Access may be restricted.)

Articles and Videos Featuring Internal Medicine Colleagues

- [The Gifts of Life She will Cherish this Mother's Day: A New Kidney and Unexpected Baby](#) (Via *CenterTimes Plus*, with **Swee-Ling Levea, M.D.**)
- [Innovation for Every Age: Texas Primary Care Physicians Improve Access for Older Patients](#) (Via TMA Publications, with **Deborah Freeland, M.D.**)

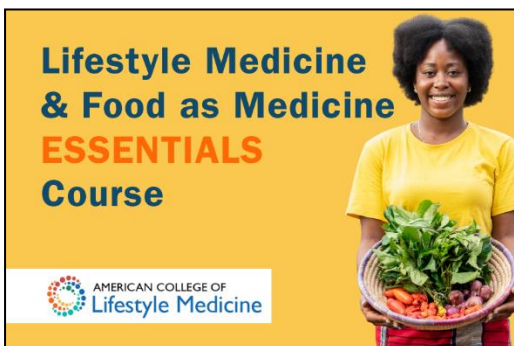


Internal Medicine News Portal
Click for more Department news and updates

of interest

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

ACLM Offers Free Course on Lifestyle Medicine



The American College of Lifestyle Medicine (ACLM) is offering a free CME/CE course as an introduction to the specialties of lifestyle medicine and food as medicine. Participants who successfully complete the course will receive 5.5 CME/CE credit hours.

“Chronic diseases are the leading cause of death and disability in the U.S. and a source of frustration for health care professionals and patients alike,” says **Bethany Agusala, M.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine and Medical Director of the William T. and Gay F. Solomon General Internal Medicine Clinic. “Health care

professionals often feel ill-equipped to curb the epidemic levels, while symptom management creates a vicious and extended disease cycle for the patient. UT Southwestern has partnered with the ACLM to alter the dynamic.”

The online course consists of three modules:

- Introduction to Lifestyle Medicine
- Food as Medicine: Nutrition for Prevention and Longevity
- Food as Medicine: Nutrition for Treatment and Risk Reduction

Enroll by selecting REGISTER NOW at the [ACLM website](#), logging in or creating an ACLM account, and entering the promo code **ESS-UTSW** at check out.

The complimentary offer expires on September 1, 2025.

this week

CULTURAL APPRECIATION

Celebrate Asian and Pacific Island Heritage Today at Noon



We take time throughout the month of May to celebrate Asian and Pacific Islander heritage, and recognize the **750 Internal Medicine faculty, staff, and trainees** who are of Asian or Pacific Islander descent. May was chosen because the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States on May 7, 1843. Then, on May 10, 1869, the golden spike was driven into the First Transcontinental Railroad, which was completed using Chinese labor. The month was officially designated by President George H.W. Bush in 1990.

Today at noon, the Office for Institutional Opportunity will host a [celebration of Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month](#) in the T. Boone Pickens Auditorium (NG3.112). The hybrid event will feature a cultural lion dance performance, remarks by **Shawna Nesbitt, M.D., M.S.**, a Professor in the Division of Cardiology and Vice President and Chief Institutional Opportunity Officer, and a keynote address by **Saad Omer, M.B.B.S., Ph.D.**, Dean of the Peter O'Donnell Jr. School of Public Health.

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

INTERNAL MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS

Vaughan, DiPersio Visit on 40th Anniversary of Their Chief Resident Years



Douglas E. Vaughan, M.D., Director of the Potocsnak Longevity Institute and Irving S. Cutter Professor of Medicine Emeritus at Northwestern University, will present the [Internal Medicine Grand Rounds](#) lecture on **Friday, May 17, at 8 a.m. in D1.502**. His topic: "Human Evolution in the 21st Century: A Novel Genetic Variant Reveals a Contemporary Heterozygous Advantage."

Dr. Vaughan earned his medical degree from UT Southwestern, where he also received internal medicine residency training and served as Chief Resident with **John DiPersio, M.D., Ph.D.** He then completed additional training

through a cardiology fellowship at Brigham & Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston.

His research focuses on coronary artery disease as well as the biological processes that drive aging, including the plasminogen activator system.

In September 2023, Dr. Vaughan concluded 15 years of service as Chair of the Department of Medicine at Northwestern University, the school's largest department, with approximately 531 full-time faculty, 550 staff, and 332 health system clinicians or contributed services faculty.



John DiPersio, M.D., Ph.D., a Professor of Medicine, Pediatrics and Pathology/Immunology and Director of the Center for Gene and Cellular Immunotherapy at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, will deliver the [Hematology and Oncology Grand Rounds](#) lecture on **Thursday, May 16, at noon in NM03.930**. His topic: “Gene Therapy for the Treatment of T Cell Malignancies.”

Dr. DiPersio earned his medical degree and a doctorate in microbiology at the University of Rochester in New York. He completed internal medicine residency training at UT Southwestern, where he served as Chief Resident along with

Douglas E. Vaughan, M.D. He then received additional training through a hematology and oncology fellowship at the University of California, Los Angeles.

His research focuses on leukemia and stem cell biology, including identification of genetic abnormalities in human leukemias, cellular therapy, and stem cell transplantation.

In 2022, Dr. DiPersio concluded 22 years of service as Chief of Oncology and Deputy Director of the Siteman Cancer Center.

Noteworthy Lectures & Events

- **Tuesday, May 14, 2 p.m.:** [2024 Wellness Week Presentation](#) by **Dr. Bethany Agusala** (General Internal Medicine) – “Lifestyle Medicine: The Foundation of Physical Wellness”
- **Wednesday, May 15, 8 a.m.:** [Geriatrics Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Sarah Zamamiri** (Palliative Medicine) – “Management of Refractive Hiccups”
- **Wednesday, May 15, 8 a.m.:** [GI Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Tiffany Wu** (Mayo Clinic) – “Digital Opportunities for Care in Alcohol-Associated Liver Disease”
- **Wednesday, May 15, 2 p.m.:** [2024 Wellness Week Presentation](#) with **Jaime Harry** (Faculty Counseling & Supportive Services) and **April Brooks** (Employee Relations) – “Setting and Maintaining Healthy Boundaries”
- **Thursday, May 16, Noon:** [Hematology & Oncology Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. John DiPersio** (Washington University) – “Gene Therapy for the Treatment of T Cell Malignancies”
- **Thursday, May 16, Noon:** [Pathology Seminar Series](#) with **Dr. Mai Hoang** (Massachusetts General Hospital) – “Merkel Cell Carcinoma: An Update”
- **Thursday, May 16, Noon:** [Renal Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Peihsuan Tsai** (Nephrology) – “Green Nephrology: Eco-friendly Haemodialysis Prescription”
- **Thursday, May 16, 2 p.m.:** [2024 Wellness Week Presentation](#) with **Erica Sutton-Butler** (Her Healing Space) – “Balancing Act: Navigating Parenting Guilt with Competing Priorities, Boundaries, and Asking for What We Need”
- **Friday, May 17, Noon:** [Lunch & Learn Webinar](#) with **Erin Williams** (Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center) – “Understanding Clinical Trials in Cancer Care”
- **Friday, May 17, 1 p.m.:** [Endocrine Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Karen Feghali** (Nephrology) – “The Impact of Weight Loss on Disorders of Mineral and Metabolism”
- **Friday, May 17, 2 p.m.:** [2024 Wellness Week Presentation](#) with **Laura Kirk** (Ambulatory Services) and **Jaime Harry** (Faculty Counseling & Supportive Services) – “Communication Strategies to Enhance Individual and Team Fulfillment”



Internal Medicine Events Calendar

[Click to view additional events](#)

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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