

medicine minute

Tuesday, August 6, 2024

announcements

RESIDENCY PROGRAM

New Health Equity Track Set to Launch July 2025



The Internal Medicine Residency program has been approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) to begin offering a Health Equity track in July 2025, under the direction of **Daniel Maxwell, M.D.** (pictured), an Assistant Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine.

Recruitment of up to 15 residents will begin in September. The track will welcome a total of 45 residents over three years. The addition of the new track will bring the complete program size to 241, making it the nation's second largest internal medicine training program after Mount Sinai in New York.

"The Health Equity Track goes beyond traditional clinical training," says **Salahuddin "Dino" Kazi, M.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Rheumatic Diseases, Vice Chair of Education, and Program Director of the Internal Medicine residency. "Residents will engage in Quality Improvement projects, gain a deep understanding of healthcare systems, and address social determinants of health. This innovative track is designed to cultivate leaders who can drive change and promote health equity through public health initiatives facilitated by a partnership with the O'Donnell School of Public Health."

Dr. Maxwell holds a bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, where he graduated *magna cum laude*. He earned his medical degree at the University of Alabama School of Medicine and completed internal medicine residency training at UT Southwestern, where he served as Chief Resident. Following deployment as a Command Surgeon in the U.S. Army and stateside work in emergency medicine, he served as an Aurora Fellow at Yambio State Hospital in South Sudan. He then returned to UT Southwestern and gained advanced training through fellowships in infectious diseases and critical care medicine.

In 2018, Dr. Maxwell earned a Meritorious Service Medal for his achievements during his military deployment. He joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2023.

To learn more about the training track, click [here](#).

kudos

SERVICE

Utay Appointed to NIH Panel that Oversees HIV Antiviral Guidelines



Netanya Utay, M.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine and Clinical Chief of Infectious Diseases at Parkland Health, has been appointed to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Panel on Antiretroviral Guidelines for Adults and Adolescents.

Dr. Utay earned her medical degree at Baylor College of Medicine and completed internal medicine residency training at the University of Washington. She then gained advanced training in infectious diseases through a fellowship at the National Institutes of Health.

She specializes in HIV and other infectious diseases. Dr. Utay's research interests include comorbidities in people with HIV and the role of chronic inflammation in promoting disease.

Dr. Utay joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2021.

RECENT JOB CHANGES

Staff Members Take on New Roles



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

- **Sneha Deodhar** – Clinical Research Manager, Digestive & Liver Diseases
- **Ross Gordon** – Certified Medical Office Assistant, Internal Medicine Subspecialty Clinic
- **Anand Jain** – Clinical Research Assistant I, Cardiology
- **Connor Lawrence** – Research Assistant I, Hypothalamic Research
- **Camille Merrick** – Research Associate, Infectious Diseases & Geographic Medicine
- **Samantha Mireles** – Administrative Associate, Hypothalamic Research
- **Amila Nanayakkara** – Assistant Instructor, Infectious Diseases & Geographic Medicine
- **Brianna Segura** – Certified Medical Office Assistant, Internal Medicine Subspecialty Clinic
- **Kyle Vu** – Research Assistant II, Nephrology

research roundup

HEALTH EQUITY

Bhalla Receives American Lung Association Catalyst Award



Sheena Bhalla, M.D., an Assistant Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology, has received a Catalyst Award from the American Lung Association to support her project, “Examining Epigenetic Determinants of Racial Disparities in Lung Cancer Screening.”

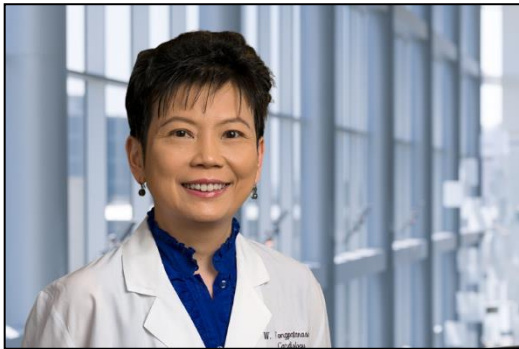
Originally from Florida, Dr. Bhalla holds a bachelor’s degree in brain and cognitive science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She earned her medical degree at the University of Florida College of Medicine in Gainesville. She completed internal medicine residency training and a fellowship in medical oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in

New York.

Dr. Bhalla joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2021.

PUBLICATIONS

Vongpatanasin, Colleagues Publish Findings on Hypertension



Wanpen Vongpatanasin, M.D., a Professor in the Hypertension Section of the Division of Cardiology, and colleagues recently published a study highlighting “[Trends in Primary Aldosteronism Screening Among High-Risk Hypertensive Adults](#),” in the *Journal of the American Heart Association*.

“Primary Aldosteronism (PA) is a major secondary form of hypertension that is associated with a disproportionately increased cardiovascular risk beyond blood pressure,” the authors wrote. “We show that trends of PA screening among at-risk patients have not significantly changed, despite the

release of guidelines. Our data demonstrates stagnant temporal trends in PA screening, indicating the overall rates of PA screening in at-risk patients remain persistently suboptimal.”

Among the study’s co-authors were **John Giacona, Ph.D., PA-C**, an Assistant Professor in the School of Health Professions, and **Ann Marie Navar, M.D., Ph.D.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Cardiology.

Dr. Vongpatanasin also contributed to an American Heart Association scientific statement on “[Renal Denervation for the Treatment of Hypertension](#),” which appears in the journal *Hypertension*.

“Despite the widespread availability of both pharmacological and lifestyle therapeutic options [for treating hypertension], blood pressure control rates across the globe are worsening,” the authors wrote. The article describes renal denervation, a catheter-based procedure recently approved by the FDA, that ablates the renal sympathetic nerves, as an additional treatment for uncontrolled blood pressure in selected patients. The article provides a roadmap for proper selection of candidates for the procedure that considers ruling for secondary causes of hypertension, which should be conducted by a team of hypertension specialists and proceduralists, such as interventional cardiologists.

Dr. Vongpatanasin directs the Hypertension Fellowship program. She joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 1999.

Dr. Vongpatanasin holds the Fredric L. Coe Professorship in Nephrolithiasis Research in Mineral Metabolism and the Norman and Audrey Kaplan Chair in Hypertension.

education and training

FELLOWSHIPS

GI Fellow to Present Plenary Session at Annual Conference



Osama Hamid, M.D., a first-year fellow in the Gastroenterology Fellowship program, has been selected to present a plenary session at the American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) Annual Scientific Meeting in October. His topic: “Respiratory Syncytial Virus Vaccine is Associated with Better Outcomes in Inflammatory Bowel Disease Patients over 60 Years Old: A U.S. Propensity-Matched Study.”

Dr. Hamid received his medical education at the University of Khartoum and completed internal medicine residency training at Case Western Reserve University. He conducted research while at the Cleveland Clinic under the mentorship of Miguel

Reguero, M.D., Chief of Cleveland Clinic’s Digestive Disease Institute.

COMMUNICATIONS

Narayan Participates in Media Elective at ABC News



Aman Narayan, M.D., a resident in the Health Systems Track, is using his elective rotation to participate in the ABC News Medical Unit Resident Elective for Resident Physicians, a program designed to provide experience and expertise in communicating important health knowledge to the general public, at the television network’s headquarters in New York City.

“One of our main responsibilities is to write study summaries and distill newsworthy headlines for a general audience,” says Dr. Narayan. “The summaries might be featured as segments on national or local news, depending on what producers want

to cover. Other tasks include fact checking any medical related news article, segment script, or posts before ABC officially airs them. We also sometimes write literature reviews or do background research on more transient health issues.”

Dr. Narayan says the rotation has been “super fun,” and he will soon be pitching and writing stories.

“I am so appreciative of the help and support I’ve received with this elective,” he says, “especially Dr. Kazi, for securing the funding.”

faculty updates

TRANSITIONS

Chu to Assume Leadership Role at University of Iowa



Eugene Chu, M.D., an Associate Professor and Chief of Hospital Medicine at Parkland Memorial Hospital, has accepted an appointment as Associate Chief Medical Officer overseeing adult inpatient clinical operations at the University of Iowa Health Care's University Hospital.

"Dr. Chu has presided over a period of both remarkable growth in clinical and academic programs, as well as unprecedented challenges during the acute phase of the COVID pandemic," says **Thomas Wang, M.D.**, Professor and Chair of Internal Medicine. "I wish him the greatest success as he transitions to his new role."



Internal Medicine News Portal
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in case you missed it

NEWSROOM

EMS Training on Key Skills Improves Heart Attack Survival



Emergency medical services (EMS) agencies that adopt four or more critical best practices have higher rates of survival among patients experiencing cardiac arrest than their peers, a nationwide study found. The study, co-led by **Saket Girotra, M.D.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Cardiology and published in [JAMA Cardiology](#), identified seven key practices related to simulation training, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and transport that were associated with favorable neurological survival for out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA).

"EMS agencies play a vital role in pre-hospital care for cardiac arrest patients, but survival rates vary widely across the U.S.,"

Dr. Girotra says. "Our goal was to identify the EMS practices most strongly associated with better neurological survival. We also wanted to understand how high-performing EMS agencies organize and deliver cardiac arrest care in their communities."

To read the article in the UTSW Newsroom, click [here](#).

Articles and Videos Featuring Internal Medicine Colleagues

- [Incidence of 17 Cancers on the Rise in Younger Generations, Major New Study Says](#) (Via ABC News, with **Aman Narayan, M.D.**)
- [Targeting Protein Has Potential to Treat Leukemia, Lymphoma](#) (Via UTSW Newsroom, with **Bruce Beutler, M.D.**)

need to know

RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Resident Website Migrated to MEDpoint

The [Resident Resource website](#) has been migrated to MEDpoint, concluding Phase 2 of the MEDpoint project. A companion mobile application, available to residents only, has also been deployed.

Phase 3 of the MEDpoint build-out will introduce custom dashboards and other personalized content unique to each user. It is scheduled to roll out on **Monday, Sept. 1, 2025**.

To submit a service request, use the [MEDpoint Service Request form](#).

this week

HEALTH EQUITY SPEAKER SERIES

Ohuabunwa to Speak about Name Diversity in Healthcare on Aug. 7



The [Internal Medicine Health Equity Committee summer lecture series](#) continues on **Wednesday, Aug. 7, at noon**, with a presentation by **Emmanuel Ohuabunwa, M.D.**, an Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine. His topic: “What’s in a Name.”

Dr. Ohuabunwa earned his medical degree at Yale University, where he also completed emergency medicine residency training. He also holds a master’s degree in business administration from the Yale School of Management.

Dr. Ohuabunwa speaks nationally on dealing with ethnically distinct names and the importance of celebrating name diversity in health care.

He joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2021.

This lecture is co-presented by the Health Systems Training Track. To join the lecture via Zoom, click [here](#). Meeting ID: 204 076 0455 (No passcode needed).

INTERNAL MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS

Schneider to Discuss Pain Management on Aug. 9



Sarah Schneider, M.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine, will present the [Internal Medicine Grand Rounds](#) lecture on **Friday, Aug. 9, at 8 a.m.** in D1.502. Her topic: “Staying Afloat in a Sea of Pain.”

Originally from Houston, Dr. Schneider holds a bachelor’s degree in molecular biology from the University of Texas at Dallas. She earned her medical degree at Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine in Bryan and completed internal medicine residency training at the Mayo School of Graduate Medical Education in Rochester, Minnesota.

Dr. Schneider joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2017.

Noteworthy Lectures & Conferences

- **Thursday, Aug. 8, 8 a.m.:** [Infectious Diseases & Geographic Medicine Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Leah Cohen** (Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine) – “Antibiotics and Cystic Fibrosis”
- **Friday, Aug. 9, Noon:** [Hematology & Oncology Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Philip Mack** (Mount Sinai Health System) – “The Intersection of SARS-CoV-2 and Lung Cancer”



Internal Medicine Events Calendar

[Click to view additional events](#)

Look for the next *Medicine Minute* on **Tuesday, Aug. 13, 2024**.
Share feedback and news items with us at IMNews@UTSouthwestern.edu

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