

medicine minute

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

kudos

HONORS

Zigman Receives Founders Award from Obesity Society



Jeffrey Zigman, M.D., Ph.D., a Professor in the Division of Endocrinology, has received the George A. Bray Founders Award from the Obesity Society. Awardees are recognized for significant contributions that advance the scientific or clinical basis for understanding or treating obesity.

Dr. Bray, an obesity researcher and Professor of Medicine emeritus at Louisiana State University Medical Center, founded the Obesity Society in 1982. The organization, which has about 2,500 members, publishes the scientific journal *Obesity* and hosts an annual Obesity Week event.

"This recognition holds tremendous meaning for me," Dr. Zigman says. "It would not have been possible without the creativity, dedication, and hard work of the talented students, postdocs, and staff who have been part of my lab over the years, as well as the inspiring and supportive colleagues and mentors by my side."

Dr. Zigman holds the Kent and Jodi Foster Distinguished Chair in Endocrinology, in Honor of Daniel Foster, M.D.; the Mr. and Mrs. Bruce G. Brookshire Professorship in Medicine; and the Diana and Richard C. Strauss Professorship in Biomedical Research.

To learn more about Dr. Zigman's research, visit the [Zigman Lab site](#).

RECOGNITION

Odedosu Receives Alliance Award for Program Development



Kehinde Odedosu, M.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine and Co-Clerkship Director, has received the Educational Program Development Award from the Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine (CDIM), part of the Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine. The award recognizes a CDIM member who has made significant contributions to the development of an outstanding educational program in areas such as curriculum development, ambulatory educational programs, inpatient educational programs, and community medicine education.

In addition to serving as Assistant Dean for Student Affairs in the Office of Empowerment & Engagement, Dr. Odedosu is also a Pritchard College Mentor. She joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2010.

Singh Receives Best Poster Award During Postdoc Appreciation Week



Omprakash “Om” Singh, Ph.D., a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Zigman lab, received the Poster Presentation award from the UT Southwestern chapter of the National Postdoctoral Association at the conclusion of Postdoc Appreciation Week on Sept. 20.

“What a way to end the week,” says **Joel Elmquist, D.V.M., Ph.D.**, a Professor of Internal Medicine and Director of the Center for Hypothalamic Research and Vice Chair of Research. “Well deserved and a great honor for the Center!”

Originally from India, Dr. Singh, center, holds a master’s degree in zoology from the University of Lucknow, where, as a research fellow, he studied the regulation of circadian and seasonal responses in birds. He earned his doctorate while working in the Singru lab at the National Institute of Science Education and Research, where he traced the evolution of TRHergic modulation of energy balance. He then joined the Zigman lab, where he examined the role of ghrelin in the metabolic responses to exercise endurance.

In 2023, Dr. Singh received the Donald W. Seldin Research Symposium Award for Basic Science.

Dr. Elmquist holds the Carl H. Westcott Distinguished Chair in Medical Research; and the Maclin Family Distinguished Professorship in Medical Science, in Honor of Dr. Roy A. Brinkley.

research roundup

FUNDING

Garg Receives \$2.6M to Support Lipodystrophy Research



Abhimanyu Garg, M.D., a Professor in the Division of Endocrinology, has received a \$2.6 million grant to support his investigation into the autoimmune basis of acquired lipodystrophies from the National Institute of Diabetes, Digestive and Kidney Diseases, part of the National Institutes of Health.

“The loss of adipose tissue in patients with acquired generalized and partial lipodystrophies is considered to be autoimmune-mediated but the underlying pathogenic autoantibodies and autoimmune mechanisms involved remain largely unknown,” Dr. Garg says. “We intend to identify

autoantibodies directed against adipocyte specific antigens in patients with acquired generalized and partial lipodystrophies and study how these autoantibodies cause loss of adipocytes from specific regions.”

Dr. Garg is considered a leading expert worldwide on lipodystrophy treatment and research. He was the first researcher to test the hormone leptin as a treatment for lipodystrophy as part of a clinical trial that started at UT Southwestern in 2000. In 2014, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the drug form of leptin for the treatment of generalized lipodystrophy.

“Recently, in collaboration with Dr. Mark S. Anderson from the University of California-San Francisco, we provided compelling evidence for the association of autoantibodies to perilipin 1 (PLIN1) in patients with acquired generalized lipodystrophies (AGL), specifically those with history of panniculitis and/or autoimmune diseases,” Dr. Garg adds. “However, 63 percent of patients with AGL in our cohort as well as those with acquired partial lipodystrophies did not have the PLIN1 autoantibody, suggesting other

autoantibodies or additional autoimmune mechanisms may be involved. Thus, elucidation of novel autoantigens and their role in adipocyte biology and the underlying autoimmune mechanisms in acquired lipodystrophies may provide novel biomarkers as well as targets for developing new therapies for lipodystrophies.”

Dr. Garg holds the Distinguished Chair in Human Nutrition Research.

To learn more about Dr. Garg's research, visit the [Garg Lab site](#).

GRANTS

Shiloh Receives \$3.5M to Fund Tuberculosis Study



Michael Shiloh, M.D., Ph.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine, has received a \$3.5 million grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, part of the National Institutes of Health, to fund his investigation into the interaction of tuberculosis with upper airway mucosal cells.

“We aim to characterize the earliest events in the interaction of this major human pathogen with the airway mucosal cells at the cellular and molecular level,” Dr. Shiloh says. “The work aims to develop a finely mapped cellular atlas of the airway mucosal immune system, and to test novel hypothesis about

how a rare cell type called a microfold cell affects early immunity to airway pathogens. Such information will advance studies not only of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* but could also be applied to other airway pathogens like *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (the major cause of bacterial pneumonia) and viruses like influenza and SARS-CoV2.”

At a time when infections acquired via the airway are on the rise, including tuberculosis, developing a better understanding of how the earliest contact events impact the human immune system and whether pathogens can successfully establish infection or are controlled is considered essential to developing new therapies or vaccines.

Dr. Shiloh holds the James P. Luby, M.D. Professorship in Infectious Diseases.

To learn more about Dr. Shiloh's research, visit the [Shiloh Lab site](#).

education and training

WEBINAR

Introduction to Residency's Health Equity Track Set for Sept. 28



Daniel Maxwell, M.D., an Assistant Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine and Track Director of the Internal Medicine Residency's Health Equity Track, will conduct an informational webinar on **Saturday, Sept. 28, at 2 p.m. CST** via Zoom.

A hybrid webinar specifically for UT Southwestern medical students will be held on **Monday, Sept. 30, at 5:30 p.m.** in G5.240 and via Zoom.

The webinar will include discussions of mentorship from the O'Donnell School of Public Health; diverse training across the three hospital sites; and immersive clinical experiences in refugee health, jail health, and more.

Recruitment of up to 15 initial applicants is underway.

To register for the webinar, click [here](#). To learn more about the track, click [here](#).



Internal Medicine News Portal
Click for more Department news and updates

in case you missed it

MEDBLOG

Gerber Calls for Increasing Access to Cancer Clinical Trials



Clinical trials present some of the most hopeful new treatments for people with cancer. Unfortunately, many individuals miss out on these potentially life-saving therapies.

“Trials may call for extra medical appointments that can be hard for people who can’t afford to take time off work or arrange for childcare,” writes **David Gerber, M.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology and Co-director of the Experimental Therapeutics Program. “They sometimes involve extra travel, which can quickly become expensive if you don’t live near where you are receiving treatment. Even after patients are accepted into a clinical trial, which itself can

be a challenging process, navigating the system can be daunting.”

UT Southwestern is committed to enhancing access to clinical trials, especially among minority groups, and has secured four grants to make clinical trials more accessible to underserved communities.

Dr. Gerber holds the David Bruton, Jr. Professorship in Clinical Cancer Research.

To read Dr. Gerber’s MedBlog post, click [here](#).

need to know

INTERNAL MEDICINE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Research Conference to Become Weekly Event



Building on the success of the Internal Medicine Research Conference, this year will see an expansion of this activity.

Beginning in October, the conference will be held every Friday from noon to 1 p.m. The research conference is led by **Joel Elmquist, D.V.M., Ph.D.**, and **Ezra Burstein, M.D., Ph.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases and Director of the Jean Wilson Society.

“The conference cycle is structured as a rotating set of activities that include works in progress by our PSTP trainees, research talks by rising stars as well as senior investigators in

our Department, as well as invited speakers coming from other departments or other institutions,” Dr. Burstein says. “Please come and be part of this exciting activity.”

Dr. Burstein holds the Berta M. and Dr. Cecil O. Patterson Chair in Gastroenterology.

special events

HEALTHCARE OBSERVANCES

UTSW Celebrates Advanced Practice Providers



APP (Advanced Practice Provider) Celebration Week, held annually during the fourth week of September, recognizes the contributions of APPs throughout healthcare, including 147 who are in the Department of Internal Medicine.

The week serves as an opportunity to recognize and celebrate providers who are certified and licensed to assess, diagnose, treat, and manage illnesses, prescribe medications, perform clinical procedures, and conduct clinical research in management of the whole individual. This important group of providers (nurse practitioners, physician assistants, clinical nurse specialists, certified registered nurse anesthetists, and

certified nurse midwives) elevate the fields of medicine and nursing to ensure patients receive safe, high-quality, evidence-based care. Their expertise, dedication, and impact on patient care promotes collaboration and professional development within the advanced practice community.

This year, UT Southwestern is hosting the fourth annual National APP Week. To learn more about the event, click [here](#).

happening today

UNIVERSITY EVENTS

New Faculty Research Forum Takes Place Today

Frankie Heyward, Ph.D., and **Kartik Rajagopalan, M.D., Ph.D.**, are among 14 recently appointed Assistant Professors representing 11 departments and two schools who will present an overview of their work at the [New Faculty Research Forum](#) today, **Sept. 24, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** in the T. Boone Pickens Conference Center (NG3.112).

Dr. Heyward, an Assistant Professor in the Center for Hypothalamic Research, and Dr. Rajagopalan, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, are scheduled to speak during Session 4, from 2:20 to 3:20 p.m.

To view the complete program, click [here](#).

this week

INTERNAL MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS

Vanderbilt's Katherine Cahill to Lecture on Sept. 27



Katherine Cahill, M.D., an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Allergy, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine and Medical Director of Clinical Asthma Research at Vanderbilt University Medical Center will deliver the [Internal Medicine Grand Rounds](#) lecture on **Friday, Sept. 27, at 8 a.m. in D1.502**. Her subject: "Asthma with Metabolic Comorbidity: Management Challenges and Novel Treatment Options."

Dr. Cahill holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Pepperdine University in Malibu, California, and a medical degree from Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. She completed residency training at Beth Israel Deaconess

Medical Center and fellowship training at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, all in Boston.

Dr. Cahill's research interests are focused on the mechanisms of adult asthma with a primary interest in severe asthma phenotypes including aspirin-exacerbated respiratory disease (AERD) and obesity-associated asthma. She has published seminal work on the development of new therapies, including the use of tyrosine kinase inhibitors in severe asthma, and is pioneering work on the clinical benefit and anti-inflammatory effects of GLP-1R agonist therapies such as liraglutide and semaglutide in respiratory disease.

Noteworthy Lectures & Conferences

- **Wednesday, Sept. 25, 8 a.m.:** [Geriatrics Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Ambarish Pandey** (Cardiology) – “Rx Reboot: Tackling the Challenge of Polypharmacy Among Older Adults with Heart Disease”
- **Thursday, Sept. 26, 8 a.m.:** [Infectious Diseases Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. David Beckham** (Infectious Diseases & Geographic Medicine) – “Emerging Arbovirus Infections: What's Here and What's Next?”
- **Thursday, Sept. 26, 11 a.m.:** [DAPHI Seminar Series](#) with **Dr. Hongtu Zhu** (University of North Carolina) – “Revolutionizing Medical Data Analysis - Uniting AI and Statistics for Breakthroughs and Challenges”
- **Friday, Sept. 27, Noon:** [Hematology & Oncology Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Matt Hancock** (Hematology & Oncology) – “Non-factor Treatments for Bleeding Disorders”
- **Monday, Sept. 30, Noon:** [Human Genetics Lecture Series](#) with **Dr. Vladimir Seplyarskiy** (Harvard Medical School) – “Statistical Models of Mutagenesis and their Applications in Human Genetics”



Internal Medicine Events Calendar
[Click to view additional events](#)

reminders

LEADERSHIP LECTURE SERIES

Smith to Speak About Emotional Intelligence on Oct. 7



The Leadership Lecture Series resumes on **Monday, Oct. 7, at noon** with a presentation by **Lauren Smith, B.B.A.**, Senior Organizational Development Consultant. Her topic: “Emotional Intelligence.”

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: 921 7162 3737

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

Annual Liver Conference Set for Dec. 7



The Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases will host its 8th Annual Update on Liver Diseases on **Saturday, Dec. 7**, at the Renaissance Dallas Hotel.

The annual course, co-directed by **Amit Singal, M.D.**, and **Indira Bhavsar-Burke, M.D.**, will update providers on a diverse range of topics including evaluation of liver tests, non-invasive markers of fibrosis, viral hepatitis, autoimmune liver disease, alcohol and metabolic associated fatty liver disease, cirrhosis, portal hypertension, primary liver cancer and liver transplantation. The conference focuses on recent advances, publications and expert opinions. In addition to didactic

lectures, case presentations are included to make the activity interactive and practical.

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

follow-up

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Weight Wellness Day Draws Over 300 Participants



The Nutrition and Obesity Research Center welcomed more than 300 participants to the second annual Weight Wellness Day on Saturday, Sept. 14. Under the leadership of **Jeffrey Zigman, M.D., Ph.D.**, faculty and staff presented sessions throughout the day, including **Jaclyn Albin, M.D.**, **Jaime Almandoz, M.D., M.B.A.**, **Melissa Schoemaker, M.D.**, and **Hillary Trevino, M.S.N., APRN, FNP-BC.**

To learn more about the Nutrition and Obesity Research Center, visit the [NORC website](#).

correction

An announcement in the Sept. 17 edition incorrectly identified the date for the upcoming Leadership Lecture Series presentation by Lauren Smith as Wednesday, Oct. 2. She will speak about emotional intelligence on Monday, Oct. 7.

When we learn of a mistake, we acknowledge it with a correction. If you spot an error, please let us know at IMNews@UTSouthwestern.edu.

Look for the next *Medicine Minute* on **Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2024**.
Share feedback and news items with us at IMNews@UTSouthwestern.edu

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