

medicine minute

Tuesday, October 8, 2024

announcements

FACULTY UPDATE

Roche Appointed Professor Emeritus of Internal Medicine



Vivienne Roche, M.D., has been named a Professor Emeritus of Internal Medicine.

Dr. Roche joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 1999 and retired after 24 years of service in 2023. Since her retirement, she has remained active by teaching the Frontiers in Aging course, which she developed for fourth-year medical students.

In 2016, Dr. Roche was elected to the UT Southwestern Academy of Teachers. In 2019, she was elected to the Kenneth I. Shine, M.D., Academy of Health Science Education. In 2022, a Professorship in Geriatric Medicine, in Honor of

Vivienne Roche, M.D., currently held by **Namirah Jamshed, M.D.**, was established in recognition of Dr. Roche's contributions to medical education and clinical care.

Dr. Roche earned her medical degree at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. She completed residencies in internal medicine at Dublin, Ireland; at Perth, Western Australia; at Saint Joseph Hospital in Denver; and at UT Southwestern. She received advanced training in geriatric medicine through a fellowship at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Grants Available for Nutrition and Obesity Research



UT Southwestern's [Nutrition and Obesity Research Center](#) (NORC) is soliciting proposals for Pilot and Feasibility Grants to support early career investigators conducting research in nutrition, obesity, and obesity-related disorders. Up to four \$50,000 awards will be granted. Awardees will also receive prorated costs for use of NORC Metabolic Core Facilities. Funding is for one year, with awards commencing on Jan. 1, 2025.

To view grant details, click [here](#).

To submit a grant application via email by **Monday, Nov. 11**, click [here](#).

kudos

LOCAL RECOGNITION

Annual List of Area's Best Doctors Includes 68 Internal Medicine Faculty



Each year, *D* magazine highlights the region's best doctors as chosen by their peers. Votes are tallied and sorted by the magazine's editorial staff, with remaining votes vetted by an anonymous panel of doctors.

This year, 68 faculty members with primary or secondary appointments in Internal Medicine were listed among the area's best physicians.

To see the complete list of this year's results, and all the top physicians dating to 2001, click [here](#). To view the full-size, printable composite, visit [MEDpoint](#) (UTSW login credentials required).

INFLUENCERS

Jain Presents Plenary Talk at Cystic Fibrosis Conference



Raksha Jain, M.D., M.S.C.I., a Professor in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine and Medical Director of the Cystic Fibrosis Program, spoke about fertility and pregnancy among people with cystic fibrosis during a plenary session at the North American Cystic Fibrosis Conference last month in Boston.

Dr. Jain's research focuses on new treatments for cystic fibrosis and gender disparities in airway diseases. She oversees multicenter clinical trials related to cystic fibrosis and conducts her own clinical and molecular scientific research.

She also serves as Chair of the Sexual Health, Reproduction, and Gender Researching Working Group through the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Therapeutics Development Network.

Dr. Jain joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2010.

Dr. Jain holds the Dedman Family Scholar in Clinical Care.

GLOBAL HEALTH

Rashdan Completes Medical Mission to Syria



Sawsan Rashdan, M.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology, recently returned from a weeklong medical mission to Syria with the [Syrian American Medical Society](#) (SAMS).

"Twenty-four physicians from the U.S. and the U.K. provided needed medical care in oncology, cardiology, endocrinology, various pediatric specialties, and retinal surgery," she reports. "In total, the team conducted 1,367 consults and 277 surgical procedures and other interventions. We focused on medical education, holding 37 sessions and training 737 individuals.

We also launched a lung cancer screening program in

northwest Syria—the first of its kind in the region—which is supported by the Global Health Seed Grant I received from the UT Southwestern Global Health Office."

Dr. Rashdan serves as a member of the SAMS foundation board of directors, which is responsible for making decisions that affect the health care of millions of patients living in Syria and other conflict zones.

RECENT JOB CHANGES

Faculty, Staff Take on New Roles



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

- **Samantha Bourque** – Clinical Research Assistant II, Digestive & Liver Diseases
- **Malay Chaklader** – Instructor, Cardiology
- **Jan-Bernd Funcke** – Instructor, Touchstone Diabetes Center
- **Li Li** – Instructor, Hypothalamic Research
- **Jake Lichterman** – Instructor, Instruction Administration
- **Guadalupe Perez** – Sr. Population Research Project Assistant, General Internal Medicine
- **Xuenan Sun** – Instructor, Touchstone Diabetes Center
- **Nancy Wang** – Sr. Research Nurse, Nephrology

research roundup

PUBLICATIONS

Shwin Reports on Giant Cell Arteritis



Kyawt Shwin, M.D., an Assistant Professor in the Division of Rheumatic Diseases based at the Dallas VA Medical Center, and colleagues recently published [a retrospective study in *Clinical Rheumatology*](#) of giant cell arteritis (GCA), a chronic disorder that causes inflammation of the arteries, usually of the head, neck, and arms. This single-site study represents the first comprehensive examination of clinical characteristics, imaging utilization, and treatment patterns over a 10-year period.

“Advancements in imaging modalities and treatment have significantly altered the landscape of diagnosing and managing patients with GCA,” the authors write. “Rheumatologists are more likely to diagnose and manage patients with a coexistent autoimmune disease, to employ more advanced imaging, and to prescribe GC-sparing treatments when compared to other specialties. Co-management among specialties may optimize management.”

Originally from Myanmar, Dr. Shwin received her medical education at the Institute of Medicine 1 in Yangon and completed internal medicine residency training at State University of New York (SUNY) Downstate Medical Center. She then obtained advanced training through a fellowship in rheumatology at the National Institutes of Health’s National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases.

Her research interests include biopsy-based studies for diagnosis and management of rheumatic diseases and cutaneous manifestations, pathogenesis, and biomarker analysis of rheumatic diseases.

Dr. Shwin joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2016.

education and training

OBSERVANCES

International Medical Graduate Physician Recognition Week Begins Oct. 16



During International Medical Graduate (IMG) Physicians Recognition Week, Oct. 16-20, the American Medical Association honors and celebrates IMG physicians who are a vital component of the physician workforce.

IMG physicians play a crucial role in the delivery of health care services. Having a disruption to the flow of IMGs who practice medicine in the U.S. would cause a tremendous change in medicine and affect the lives of patients.

Currently, 36 IMG physicians are receiving internal medicine residency training through UT Southwestern.

“Compared with U.S. medical school graduates, IMGs provide medical care to a disproportionate number of patients in underserved communities,” says **Salahuddin “Dino” Kazi, M.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Rheumatic Diseases, Vice Chair of Education, and Director of Residency Training. “So, we honor them for their determination to complete medical training and serve their patients.”

A total of 9,045 IMGs obtained first-year residency positions in accredited U.S. GME programs, an increase of 657 (7.8%) from last year, and comprising more than one-quarter of all matched applicants (25.1%).

alumni news

CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE

Matt Leveno Brings ECMO Treatment to UT Health East Texas



Matt Leveno, M.D., Medical Director of the Intensive Care Unit and Chief of Critical Care Medicine at UT Health East Texas, has introduced the Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) program, a technology that supports patients with severe heart and lung conditions by temporarily taking over their functions, allowing these organs to rest and heal.

UT Health East Texas is the first in the region to provide this life-saving treatment. Previously, East Texas patients needing ECMO had to be transferred to Dallas or Houston.

Originally from Dallas, Dr. Leveno holds a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Texas at Austin and a medical degree from UT Southwestern. He received emergency medicine residency training at Boston University before completing an internal medicine residency at UT Southwestern, where he then obtained fellowship training in pulmonary and critical care medicine.

As a member of UT Southwestern's Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine faculty from 2012 to 2023, Dr. Leveno also served as Medical Director of the Intensive Care Unit at Parkland Memorial Hospital.



Internal Medicine News Portal
Click for more Department news and updates

in case you missed it

Articles and Videos Featuring Internal Medicine Colleagues

- [How Bone Optimization, Novel Procedure Help Heal Pelvic Insufficiency Fractures](#) (via *MedBlog*, with Ananya Jhaveri, M.D.)
- [DeBerardinis appointed Director of Eugene McDermott Center for Human Growth and Development](#) (via Center Times Plus, with Helen Hobbs, M.D.)

this week

CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS

'Fiesta on the Plaza' set for Oct. 9



In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, the Office of Institutional Opportunity will present "Fiesta on the Plaza," **Wednesday, Oct. 9, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** at McDermott Plaza on South Campus.

The celebration will include food, cultural performances, and art displays.

No registration is needed. To learn more, click [here](#).

INTERNAL MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS

Hong to Speak About Hidden Systems in Clinical Care on Oct. 11



Arthur Hong, M.D., M.P.H., an Assistant Professor in the William T. and Gay F. Solomon Division of General Internal Medicine, will present the [Internal Medicine Grand Rounds](#) lecture on Friday, **Oct. 11, at 8 a.m. in D1.502**. His topic: "Revealing Hidden Systems in Clinical Care."

Originally from Seoul, South Korea, Dr. Hong holds a bachelor's degree with honors in economics from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, where he also earned his medical degree. He completed internal medicine residency training at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, and then obtained advanced training through a fellowship in general

internal medicine at the Harvard Medical School Department of Population Medicine. He also holds a master's degree in public health from the Harvard School of Public Health.

Dr. Hong joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2017.

Noteworthy Lectures & Conferences

- **Tuesday, Oct. 8, Noon:** [Ethics Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Cody J. Sanders** (Luther Seminary) – "The Ethical Potential of the Corpse"
- **Wednesday, Oct. 9, Noon:** [Excellence in Immunology Lecture Series](#) with **Dr. Tim Greten** (National Cancer Institute) – "The Immune Tumor Microenvironment in Liver Cancer"
- **Thursday, Oct. 10, 8 a.m.:** [Infectious Diseases Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Andrew Koh** (Pediatrics) – "Role of the Gut Microbiome in the Health of Cancer and Stem Cell Transplant Patients"
- **Thursday, Oct. 10, Noon:** [Renal Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Stephanie Torres Rodriguez** (Nephrology) – "FOAMed in Nephrology"

- **Friday, Oct. 11, 8 a.m.:** [Hematology & Oncology Faculty Recruitment Seminar](#) with **Dr. Syed Abbas Ali** (Johns Hopkins) – “Myeloma: A Hitchhiker’s Guide to Monumental Success (and Other Great Fairy Tales)”



Internal Medicine Events Calendar

[Click to view additional events](#)

reminders

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.

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

Look for the next *Medicine Minute* on **Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2024**.

Share feedback and news items with us at IMNews@UTSouthwestern.edu

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