

medicine minute

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

kudos

RECOGNITION

Syndrome Named After Garg for Discovering Gene Variant



Abhimanyu Garg, M.D., a Professor in the Division of Endocrinology, and **Prashant Mishra, M.D., Ph.D.**, an Associate Professor of Cell and Molecular Biology, have been recognized for their work in discovering the new gene TOMM7 variant responsible for a rare genetic disorder that cause rapid aging and a shortened lifespan.

The McKusick-Nathans Institute of Genetic Medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, which is responsible for the Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man (OMIM) database of information about human genes, genetic disorders, and their relationships, named the Garg-Mishra Progeroid Syndrome

(GMPGS) in recognition of Drs. Garg and Mishra.

GMPGS is characterized by severe dwarfism, mandibular hypoplasia, microphthalmia, hyperopia, and partial lipodystrophy.

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

To learn more about Garg-Mishra Progeroid Syndrome, click [here](#). To learn more about Dr. Garg's research, visit the [Garg Lab site](#).

FUNDING

Endowment Established to Support Pulmonary Research Program



The Susan Lay Atwell Charitable Lead Annuity Trust has made a transformational gift of \$2 million to establish an endowment that will support in perpetuity the Institute for Exercise and Environmental Medicine's (IEEM) Pulmonary Research Program led by **Tony G. Babb, Ph.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine and Cardiopulmonary Laboratory Director at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas.

The endowment will ensure continued contributions to pulmonary research in health and disease and will support a range of priorities within the pulmonary research lab, including

salaries, essential staff positions, student and postdoctoral researcher support, and seed money for novel research efforts.

Dr. Babb joined the UT Southwestern Faculty in 1992. His research interests include exercise science, cardiopulmonology, and the effects of obesity on the respiratory system in children and adults.

Dr. Babb holds the Effie and Wofford Cain Chair in Cardiopulmonary Research at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas.

INFLUENCERS

Kumbhani to Advise FDA on Circulatory System Devices



Dharam Kumbhani, M.D., a Professor in the Division of Cardiology, Director of Interventional Cardiology, and Director of the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory at Clements University Hospital, has been appointed as a consultant to the FDA's Medical Devices Advisory Committee (MDAC) for the Circulatory Systems Devices Panel. This Committee is responsible for reviewing and evaluating data on the safety and effectiveness of both marketed and investigational devices used in the circulatory and vascular systems, and provides recommendations to the Commissioner of Food and Drugs.

Dr. Kumbhani received his medical degree with honors at the University of Mumbai. He earned a master's degree in clinical epidemiology at Harvard University before completing an internship and residency in internal medicine at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and cardiovascular training at the Cleveland Clinic. He then completed fellowships in interventional cardiology and advanced structural and endovascular interventions and a postdoctoral research fellowship at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Kumbhani holds the Jim and Norma Smith Distinguished Chair for Interventional Cardiology.

research roundup

PUBLICATIONS

Makris and Colleagues Publish Findings on Opioid Use



In a randomized clinical trial involving 820 participants with moderate to severe chronic pain on long-term opioid therapy, researchers compared the effectiveness of an interdisciplinary pain team to pharmacist collaborative management. Both groups experienced similar small improvements in pain and significant reductions in opioid dosage, suggesting that primary care-based interventions can effectively and safely reduce opioid dosages.

"I was fortunate to lead two intervention teams at the Dallas VA for this study," says **Una Makris, M.D., M.Sc.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Rheumatology. "We had one of the

leading recruitment sites."

Dr. Makris' research interests include improving outcomes in medically complex older adults with chronic back pain, as well as behavioral interventions to improve physical activity among older adults with musculoskeletal pain and mental health conditions. She joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2011.

To read the study, click [here](#). Other UTSW co-authors were Sujata Bhushan, M.D., and Monica Barbosa, M.D.

AWARDS

Uzendu Awarded CRT Early Career Leader Scholarship



Anezi Uzendu, M.D., an Assistant Professor in the Division of Cardiology, has been awarded the Cardiovascular Research Technologies (CRT) Early Career Leader Scholarship and has been invited to serve as Faculty at CRT 2025.

The CRT Early Career Leadership Program aims to highlight both current and emerging clinical and academic excellence among physicians specializing in interventional cardiology and endovascular medicine.

Dr. Uzendu earned his medical degree at the University of Missouri Kansas City School of Medicine. He completed internal medicine residency training at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital and received advanced training through fellowships in cardiovascular medicine at The Ohio State University Medical Center and in interventional cardiology at Massachusetts General Hospital's Corrigan Minehan Heart Center. He also completed a research fellowship in cardiovascular outcomes at Saint Luke's Mid America Heart Institute.

Dr. Uzendu joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2023.

personnel updates

LEADERSHIP

Mosley to Serve as Director of Population Genetics and Informatics



Jonathan Mosley, M.D., Ph.D., has accepted an appointment as Director of the Program in Population Genetics and Informatics for the Department of Internal Medicine.

An accomplished investigator with expertise at the intersection of bioinformatics, clinical informatics, genetics, and epidemiology, Dr. Mosley has provided novel clinical insights regarding the utility of genetics in disease screening, diagnosis, identification of clinical inequities, and drug selection. In addition to publishing extensively in high-impact journals, he has had continuous NIH and AHA funding throughout his career.

Originally from Bangladesh, Dr. Mosley holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. He earned a master's degree in epidemiology from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore, and his M.D./Ph.D. at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. He then completed internal medicine residency training at Vanderbilt University, followed by a clinical fellowship.

Dr. Mosley currently serves as an Associate Professor of Medicine and Biomedical Informatics at Vanderbilt University. He is scheduled to join the UT Southwestern faculty in April.



Internal Medicine News Portal
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in case you missed it

UTSW NEWSROOM

Hong and Colleagues Study Utilization of EDs by People with Cancer



Oncology programs have aimed to reduce visits by people with cancer to hospital emergency departments (EDs) by providing resources like 24/7 phone triage lines and urgent care clinics. However, these resources are often underutilized.

To explore why patients visit EDs for common needs during cancer treatment, **Arthur Hong, M.D., M.P.H.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine, and colleagues interviewed patients at UTSW and at Parkland Health in both English and Spanish. The study, published in the [American Journal of Managed Care](#), revealed that many patients were unaware of the available triage lines and urgent

care clinics at both hospitals.

Parkland patients, particularly Spanish speakers, reported having less access to outpatient cancer teams for advice. Positive experiences in the ED at both UTSW and Parkland seemed to encourage patients to return in the future. The authors recommend that patient education programs should include patient perspectives to further reduce ED visits.

News and Digital Media Featuring Internal Medicine Colleagues

- [New Ideas to Treat Drug-resistant Infections Take Top Prizes at Innovation Days](#) (via *CenterTimes Plus*, with **David Greenberg, M.D.**)

need to know

GRANTS

Early Career Investigator Awards in Cancer Research Available

Applications are being solicited for support by the American Cancer Society-Institutional Research Grant and the Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center. These funds provide seed money to support early-career faculty members who have an interest in cancer research do not have external grant support.

Applicants must be at the rank of Assistant Professor or equivalent who are eligible to apply as a principal investigator for grant support from national agencies (e.g., NIH, ACS, NSF). The investigator must be within six years of their first independent research or faculty appointment and have a commitment from the institution for salary and space. Individuals with career development awards and CPRIT scholar awards are eligible. For additional information on eligibility, see the full instructions.

Up to three projects will be awarded for one year.

Funds are available to UT Southwestern faculty. Individual allocations are limited to a maximum of \$50,000 (direct costs only). The awards will run from January 1 – December 31, 2025.

Application deadline is January 10, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. in InfoReady.

To access the application and instructions, click [here](#).

this week

INTERNAL MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS

UPenn's Peter Merkel to Discuss Vasculitis on Dec. 20



Peter A. Merkel, M.D., M.P.H., a Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology and Chief of the Division of Rheumatology at the University of Pennsylvania, will deliver the [Internal Medicine Grand Rounds](#) lecture on **Friday, Dec. 20, at 8 a.m. in D1.502**. His topic: "ANCA-Associated Vasculitis: An Update for Internists."

An internationally recognized research and clinical expert in vasculitis and scleroderma, Dr. Merkel serves as the principal investigator of the NIH-sponsored Vasculitis Clinical Research Consortium, the leading research infrastructure for vasculitis clinical investigation in North America, with additional projects

worldwide. He also is a founding member of the NIH Rare Diseases Clinical Research Network.

Dr. Merkel received his medical degree from Yale University and completed residency training at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. He then acquired advanced training through a fellowship program at the Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School. He also holds a master's degree in public health from the Harvard School of Public Health.

INTERNAL MEDICINE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Zechner to Describe Phosphate Gene on Dec. 20



Christoph Zechner, M.D., Ph.D., an Assistant Professor in the Division of Endocrinology, will present the [Internal Medicine Research Conference](#) **Friday, Dec. 20, at noon in D1.502**. His topic: "Deciphering the Regulation of SLC20A1/PIT1: From Transport Activity to Cellular Phosphate Sensing."

Dr. Zechner earned his medical degree and research doctorate at the University of Freiburg, combined with a research fellowship at Yale University School of Medicine. After a medical internship at the University of Würzburg, he completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Washington University

in St. Louis and the Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute at Lake Nona. Subsequently, he moved to UT Southwestern to complete his clinical training in internal medicine and endocrinology and research training in energy and solute metabolism in the laboratory of Drs. David Mangelsdorf and Steven Kliewer as a member of the Physician-Scientist Training Program.

Dr. Zechner joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2014.

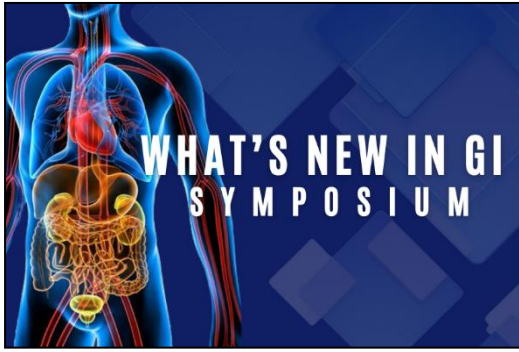
Noteworthy Lectures & Conferences

- **Wednesday, Dec. 18, 8 a.m.:** [Infectious Diseases Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Samuel Opara** (Emory University) – "Improving the Health and Wellbeing of Black Sexual Minority Men"
- **Wednesday, Dec. 18, Noon:** [Hematology & Oncology Faculty Recruitment Seminar](#) with **Dr. Shannon Ugarte** (University of Pennsylvania) – "Enhancing Access to Cancer Care: Integrative Approaches for Expanding the Cancer Diagnostic Clinic"

save the date

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

Annual GI Symposium Scheduled for Feb. 22



Faculty members from the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases will present their annual “What’s New in GI” symposium on **Saturday, Feb. 22, at the Westin Galleria Dallas.**

The one-day, in-person CME course, directed by **David Fudman, M.D., Neha Patel, M.D., and Tarek Sawas, M.D.**, is designed for gastroenterologists, GI surgeons, internal medicine physicians, family practice providers, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and other healthcare providers with an interest in gastroenterology and hepatology. Attendees will be provided with practical information that can

be applied in their clinical practice. Discussions will include the latest updates on recognizing symptoms and using current data to establish diagnoses and formulate appropriate treatment plans for the management of gastrointestinal diseases.

For more information, click [here](#).



Internal Medicine Events Calendar

[Click to view additional events](#)

Look for the next *Medicine Minute* on **Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2024.**
Share feedback and news items with us at IMNews@UTSouthwestern.edu

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