

medicine minute

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

noteworthy

HONORS

Cutrell Inducted into Shine Academy



In recognition of his outstanding teaching, the UT System's Kenneth I. Shine, M.D., Academy of Health Science Education is inducting **James "Brad" Cutrell, M.D.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine, as a new member during its annual Innovations in Health Science Education conference, scheduled for Feb. 20-21 in Austin.

"It is truly an honor to be inducted into the Shine Academy, which includes many of the best educators from across the UT System," says Dr. Cutrell. "It is especially exciting to join this group, since this is a vibrant organization actively engaged in

innovation in the education space. I look forward to participating in this work and bringing what I learn back to UT Southwestern to enhance our educational programs here."

Established in 2005, the academy is named after Kenneth I. Shine, former UT System executive vice chancellor of health affairs. Dr. Shine, who retired in 2013, championed many UT System-led enhancements in health care education and research, and served as interim chancellor for the UT System in 2008.

More than 207 UT System educators have been inducted into the academy, including 35 current and former faculty members from UT Southwestern. Nominations for membership may come from the President, Dean, Vice Dean, or Faculty Senate at any of the eight health institutions in the UT System.

Dr. Cutrell earned his medical degree, completed internal medicine residency training UT Southwestern, where he also served as Chief Resident and completed advanced training through the Infectious Diseases fellowship program, which he now directs. He also serves as co-director of the annual Updates in Internal Medicine course.

HUMAN GENOME PROJECT

Munshi Co-leads Cardiometabolic Focus Group for IGVF Consortium



Nikhil Munshi, M.D., Ph.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Cardiology and a co-principal investigator for UT Southwestern's [Impact of Genomic Variation on Function \(IGVF\) Consortium](#), was part of a writing group that recently published a white paper in [Nature](#) detailing the aims of the consortium.

UT Southwestern is a research partner in the \$185 million National Institutes of Health (NIH) initiative to build on findings of the Human Genome Project. The UTSW team includes principal investigators **W. Lee Kraus, Ph.D.**, a Professor and Director of the Cecil H. and Ida Green Center for Reproductive

Biology Sciences, and **Gary Hon, Ph.D.**, an Associate Professor in the Green Center.

Thirty research sites across the U.S.—including Harvard, Stanford, and Yale universities—collaborate in the IGVF Consortium to study noncoding regions of the human genome that are known to contribute to genetic diseases such as congenital heart disease, autoimmune disease, and blood disorders. Dr. Munshi co-leads the cardiometabolic focus group for the entire consortium, along with Tom Quertermous, M.D., a Professor of Medicine at Stanford University.

Dr. Munshi is interested in what light the project can shed on congenital heart disease.

"If we can determine all of the coding and noncoding elements in the genome that impact a particular developmental pathway, then those could become candidates for disease-associated mutations," he says. "By generating catalogs of tens of thousands of functional variants, we don't have to search the billions of base pairs to find where the disease-causing mutations might lie. We can really focus the search on these tens of thousands of variants. It really gives us an encyclopedia to narrow the search."

*Drs. Munshi and Hon will serve as course directors for a workshop assessing genome function with Perturb-Seq, a technique that uses single-cell RNA sequencing and CRISPR, on **Wednesday, Feb. 12, from 9 a.m. to noon in G9.102**. To register for the workshop, and for more information, click [here](#).*

kudos

INFLUENCERS

Mauricio Featured on AHA Science News



Assistant Professor **Rina Mauricio, M.D.**, was recently featured in a video on the American Heart Association's Science News site for serving as the Writing Group Chair for the AHA's scientific statement, "[Assessing and Addressing Cardiovascular and Obstetric Risks in Patients Undergoing Assisted Reproductive Technology](#)."

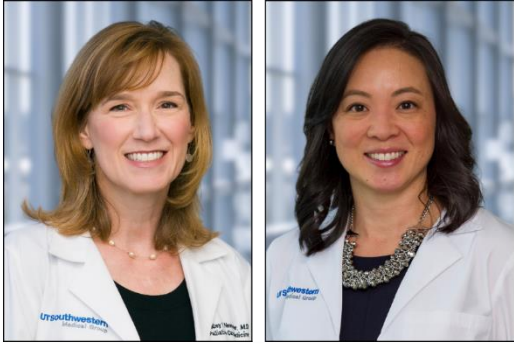
Dr. Mauricio was joined by Writing Group Vice Chair Arthur Jason Vaught, M.D., an Assistant Professor of Gynecology and Obstetrics at Johns Hopkins, to announce the publication of the scientific statement. They discussed the assisted reproductive technology process, its associated risks, and the essential role

of a multidisciplinary team in assessing and managing the long-term health of patients who are undergoing the process.

To read more and view the video, click [here](#).

PUBLICATIONS

Sulistio, Colleagues Create Tool to Align ICD Shock Status with Care Goals



Implantable cardioverter defibrillators (ICDs) are crucial for saving lives in at-risk patients, leading to strong recommendations for their use. However, as patients' health and care goals change, it's important to discuss deactivating the devices to avoid patients' experiencing painful shocks—and unnecessary suffering—at the end of life. Unfortunately, these discussions are not common, particularly in diverse populations with less access to care. To address this, **Kelley Newcomer, M.D.**, left, an Assistant Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine, **Melanie Sulistio, M.D.**, right, a Professor in the Division of Cardiology, and colleagues developed a 7-minute video in both English and Spanish to better align ICD

status with patients' care goals, an initiative they detail in [Circulation](#).

The authors discuss interrelated challenges faced by patients with ICDs, including the patchwork of providers and practice settings they encounter.

"This decision-aid is meant as one tool," the authors say. "Patient care does not exist in a vacuum, and improvements require coordinating with partners and systems within which interventions take place."

In concordance with this work, Dr. Sulistio has launched a UT Palliative Cardiology clinic that maps care according to patient wishes and according to possibility. She also sees patients in the Parkland Heart Failure clinic and initiates primary palliative goals of care discussions. These conversations address barriers, and the time constraints posed in traditional heart failure and cardiology clinics.

"Through these efforts," the authors say, "we hope to augment the provision of much-needed ICD goals of care discussions in the outpatient setting, and one day offer a means to measure associated outcomes as well as teach these important patient conversations to medical students and trainees."

*Additional UTSW authors include **Sarah Godfrey, M.D., M.P.H.**, a Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellow in the Division of General Internal Medicine; **Jingwen Zhang, M.D.**, a PGY-2 resident; **Nakul Patel, B.S.**, a third-year medical student; **Christopher Viamontes, M.D., M.A.**, a PGY-3 resident; **Nainesh Shah, M.D.**, a Clinical Associate Professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine; and **Megan Kelly, N.P.**; a nurse practitioner in Patient Financial Services. **Christine L. Chen, M.D.**, the study's lead author, received her medical degree from UT Southwestern and is currently an Internal Medicine resident at the Mayo Clinic.*

research roundup

COVID-19 RESEARCH

Have You Been Exposed to Someone With Newly Diagnosed COVID-19?

A research team led by **Theodoros Kelesidis, M.D., Ph.D.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine, is seeking participants for a research study of a new drug that may protect people from viral infection. Participants will be randomly assigned to either receive the study drug or a placebo for seven days. Participants will be tested for COVID-19 four times and will be compensated up to \$200 for completing all study procedures.

To qualify for the study, candidates must have had contact with someone who has received a diagnosis of COVID-19 within the previous four days (96 hours).

For more information, [email Dr. Kelesidis](#) or call/text **310-740-4828** to contact a member of the study team.



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in case you missed it

PODCASTS

Levine Discusses Exercise on NPR's 'The People's Pharmacy'



Benjamin Levine, M.D., a Professor in the Division of Cardiology and Director of the Institute for Exercise and Environmental Medicine at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas, discussed "Finding Your Exercise Prescription for Life," on ["The People's Pharmacy" podcast](#).

Dr. Levine's research with the Dallas Bed Rest and Training Study revealed that just three weeks of bed rest can be more detrimental to fitness than 30 years of normal living. Many daily hygiene activities—like showering, washing dishes, and changing clothes—may not be enjoyable, but they make us feel better. In the podcast, Dr. Levine argues we should view

physical activity similarly. By incorporating it into our daily routines instead of treating it as a special event that needs extra planning, we can significantly enhance our health.

Dr. Levine holds the Distinguished Professorship in Exercise Sciences at UT Southwestern and the S. Finley Ewing Chair for Wellness and the Harry S. Moss Heart Chair for Cardiovascular Research at Texas Health Presbyterian Dallas.

News and Digital Media Featuring Internal Medicine Colleagues

- [Reaching Her Peak, One Step at a Time](#) (via *CenterTimes Plus*, with **Roopa Vemulapalli, M.D.**)
- [Girod, Parikh Elected for Membership in Physician Honor Society](#) (via *CenterTimes Plus*, with **Carlos Girod, M.D.**, and **Samir M. Parikh, M.D.**)

this week

PROMOTION & TENURE WORKSHOPS

Peterson to Participate in Panel Discussion of Criteria for Promotion



Gail Peterson, M.D., a Professor in the Division of Cardiology, will participate in a panel discussion on criteria evaluated for promotion on the Clinician-Educator and Clinician Tracks on **Wednesday, Jan. 29, at noon**.

The virtual event will cover topics such as building a regional and national reputation, and evaluation of teaching, clinical, and educational excellence. Additional panelists are **Venkatesh Aiyagari, M.D.**, a Professor of Neurological Surgery in the Division of Neurocritical Care, and **Bradley Barth, M.D., M.P.H.**, a Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology.

To register for the virtual event and save it to your Outlook calendar, click [here](#).

Noteworthy Lectures & Conferences

- **Tuesday, Jan. 28, 3 p.m.:** [63rd Annual Medical Student Research Forum](#) with **Dr. Rodney Infante** (Digestive & Liver Diseases)
- **Wednesday, Jan. 29, 8 a.m.:** [Geriatrics Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Manju Mathew** (Geriatric Medicine) – "Deprescribing Controlled Substances in Older Adults"
- **Wednesday, Jan. 29, 9 a.m.:** [Nephrology Works in Progress](#) with **Dr. Yoshi Muto** (Nephrology) – "Defining Cellular and Molecular Complexity in Kidney Diseases by Multimodal Single Nucleus Analysis"

• **Thursday, Jan. 30, Noon:** [Nephrology Journal Club](#) with **Dr. Pranav Prakash** (Nephrology) – “Rapid vs Slow Sodium Correction: Time to Revisit the Old Debate?”

NOTE: Due to newly implemented travel restrictions for federal employees, the Internal Medicine Grand Rounds lecture by **Dr. David Au** scheduled for **Friday, Jan. 31**, has been postponed.

reminders

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](#).

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Tenth Annual Seldin Symposium Set for March 28



Abstracts for the 10th annual **Donald W. Seldin Research Symposium** can be submitted now through **Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025**, using the online submission form. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

The symposium is scheduled for **Friday, March 28, 2025**. It will feature poster presentations ranging from basic science and clinical investigations to quality improvement and medical education, a keynote address by **David Altshuler, M.D., Ph.D.**, executive vice president and chief scientific officer of Vertex Pharmaceuticals, and the Seldin-Smith Physician Scientist Lecture by **Benjamin Izar, M.D., Ph.D.**, an Assistant

Professor of Medicine in the Division of Hematology and Oncology at Columbia Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons.

For more details about the Seldin Symposium, click [here](#).



Internal Medicine Events Calendar

[Click to view additional events](#)

correction

An announcement in the Jan. 21 edition indicated that all faculty, staff and learners would be required to sign and submit an electronic consent form to authorize the university to use their image and likeness. UT Southwestern requires authorization only for individuals who are not university employees or learners.

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, Feb. 4, 2025**.
Share feedback and news items with us at IMNews@UTSouthwestern.edu

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