

medicine minute

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

personnel updates

ADMINISTRATION

Drazner Appointed Vice Chair for Clinical Affairs



Mark Drazner, M.D., M.Sc., a Professor in the Division of Cardiology, has been appointed Vice Chair for Clinical Affairs, effective Feb. 10. With this appointment, Dr. Drazner will assume an essential leadership role in the Department, overseeing the continued growth of its clinical enterprise while ensuring an ongoing commitment to the highest quality patient care.

Dr. Drazner currently serves as Clinical Chief of Cardiology, a role that he has held since 2016. During this period, the clinical programs in cardiology have grown in volume, breadth, and national stature. Prior to serving as Clinical Chief, Dr. Drazner

was Founder and Medical Director of the Parkland CHF clinic and, subsequently, the UTSW Medical Director of Heart Failure, LVAD, and Cardiac Transplantation.

Dr. Drazner earned his medical degree at Washington University in St. Louis. He completed internal medicine residency training at UT Southwestern, where he was Chief Resident. He then completed advanced training through fellowships in cardiology at Duke University and heart failure and cardiac transplantation at the Brigham and Women's Hospital. He also earned a master's degree in epidemiology at the Harvard School of Public Health.

He joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 1997.

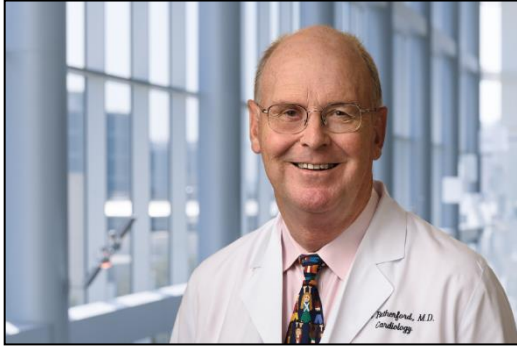
Dr. Drazner is internationally recognized for his clinical expertise, leadership, and research in the field of advanced heart failure and transplantation. Among his many honors is the Laennec Master Clinician Award, which he received in 2018 from the American Heart Association. In 2020, he earned the Patricia and William L. Watson Jr. M.D. Award for Excellence in Clinical Medicine, UT Southwestern's highest honor in clinical care. Further, he has held numerous leadership positions in national societies and professional organizations. From 2021 to 2022, he served as the President of the Heart Failure Society of America.

Dr. Drazner succeeds the late Dr. Sharon Reimold, who held the analogous role until her death in November 2024.

"I look forward to serving in this new capacity for the Department of Internal Medicine," Dr. Drazner says. "I hope to build upon the wonderful legacy of Dr. Sharon Reimold, who has been a trusted mentor for me throughout my career at UT Southwestern."

TRANSITIONS

Rutherford to Retire on Feb. 28



John Rutherford, M.D., a Professor in the Division of Cardiology and Vice President for Clinical Operations, will retire on Friday, Feb. 28, after 32 years of service at UT Southwestern.

Originally from New Zealand, Dr. Rutherford completed his medical education at Otago University Medical School, followed by residency and fellowship training at Auckland Hospital/Board Teaching Hospital. He then completed a research fellowship in cardiovascular medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, where he joined the faculty and became Co-director of the Samuel Levine Coronary Care Unit

and, later, Co-director of Clinical Cardiology.

Dr. Rutherford joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 1993 as holder of the Gail Griffiths Hill Chair in Cardiology, a title he held until 2004. At that time, he became the holder of the Jonsson-Rogers Chair in Cardiology. He served as Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs and was promoted to his current position in 2001.

An expert on the surgical and medical management of coronary artery disease, Dr. Rutherford has devoted his clinical practice to treating acute myocardial infarction, heart disease in pregnancy, chronic coronary artery disease, and general cardiology diseases. As Vice President for Clinical Operations, Dr. Rutherford initially worked on employee recognition programs such as PACT, initiating Patient Satisfaction Surveys and starting in 2004 played a role in the step-wise implementation of the electronic medical record *Epic*. In recent years he has focused on enhancing patient experiences, optimizing the way doctors and caregivers do their jobs, and improving new patient access through Patient and Physician Referral Services.

kudos

HONORS

Dalton Inducted into Shine Academy



Thomas Dalton, M.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Geriatric Medicine, will be inducted as a new member of the UT System's Kenneth I. Shine, M.D., Academy of Health Science Education during its annual Innovations in Health Science Education conference, scheduled for Feb. 20-21 in Austin.

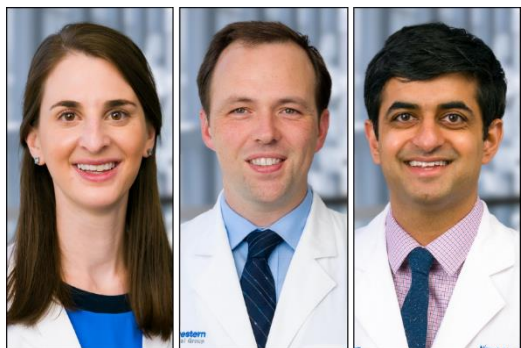
"Being inducted into the Shine Academy is a real honor," says Dr. Dalton. "I hope that it conveys my commitment to excellence in education, but I would also like to express tremendous gratitude to my mentors here at UT Southwestern that have supported me over the past 20 years and to my

colleagues and teams, without whom productive educational work would not be possible."

Established in 2005, the academy is named after Kenneth I. Shine, former UT System executive vice chancellor of health affairs and interim chancellor. Dr. Dalton will join **Avneesh Chhabra, M.D., M.B.A.**, **James "Brad" Cutrell, M.D.**, and **Elizabeth Heitman, Ph.D.**, as UT Southwestern's newest inductees.

Dr. Dalton attended medical school at UT Southwestern, where he also completed residency training in Internal Medicine. After serving an additional year as Chief Resident in Internal Medicine, he went to Duke University to complete a fellowship in Geriatric Medicine with a concentration in Medical Education. He joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2014.

Bavli, Maxwell, and Patel Accepted into IMPACT Program



Three faculty members have been accepted into the Innovative Mentorship Program for Academic Clinician Teachers (IMPACT), a competitive year-long clinician-educator development program sponsored by the Office of Faculty Development.

Natalie Bavli, M.D., left, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology; **Daniel Maxwell, M.D.**, center, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine and Associate Program Director for the Internal Medicine Residency; and **Nimesh Patel, M.D.**, right, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Cardiology, will join

seven other faculty members from other departments the 2025 cohort.

“The IMPACT program is a fantastic opportunity to launch the first longitudinal faculty development program specifically focused on coaching for clinician educators at UTSW,” says **James “Brad” Cutrell, M.D.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine, Program Director of the Infectious Diseases Fellowship, and IMPACT Co-director. “In collaboration with Dr. **Jessica Moreland** and the outstanding Office of Faculty Development team, Dr. **Indira Bhavsar-Burke** has developed an in-depth, unique curriculum and one-on-one coaching program to support some of our most talented junior faculty educators as they develop into what we hope will be key leaders for educational excellence and innovation from across the departments at UTSW.”

“I am personally very excited to see this program come to fruition and grateful for Dr. Cutrell’s leadership,” says Dr. Bhavsar-Burke, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases, Associate Program Director of the Internal Medicine Residency, Associate Program Director of the Gastroenterology Fellowship, and IMPACT Co-director.

To learn more about the IMPACT program, click [here](#).

RECENT JOB CHANGES

Staff Members Take on New Roles



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

- **Shailesh Jaiswal** – Project Manager-Clinical Research, Research Administration
- **Jayda Johnson** – Program Coordinator, Hematology & Oncology
- **Ashley Keller** – Research Programs Manager, Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine
- **Sanah Ladhani** – Clinical Assistant Professor, Hospital

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- **Lung Par** – Financial Analyst II, Department Administration
- **Adzona Rugovac** – Clinical Research Assistant I, Nephrology
- **Madhab Sapkota** – Instructor, Infectious Diseases & Geographic Medicine
- **Ruby Thapa** – Lead Clinical Research Assistant, Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine
- **Jiani Yin** – Instructor, Digestive & Liver Diseases

Mentoring Program Announced for International Medical Graduates



To support International Medical Graduates (IMGs) as they transition to the U.S. healthcare system, **Frans Serpa, M.D.**, a PGY-1 Resident and an IMG from Ecuador, has developed a mentorship program to provide IMGs with the essential resources and community support they need to succeed.

Called **IMG Connect**, the program is designed to connect IMG residents with faculty mentors to share experiences, receive personalized guidance, and participate in networking opportunities and wellness activities.

To launch the program, a special event will be held on **Wednesday, Feb. 26 from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Faculty Club**. All Internal Medicine faculty are invited to attend, particularly those who are themselves IMGs.

To RSVP for the event and complete a brief mentorship survey, click [here](#).

in memoriam

Scott Grundy, Professor, Division of Endocrinology



Scott M. Grundy, M.D., Ph.D., a Professor of Internal Medicine in the Division of Endocrinology, died on Wednesday, Jan. 29. He was 91.

Dr. Grundy joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 1981 and served as the founding director of the Center for Human Nutrition, the first such focused enterprise at an American medical school. Over the course of 32 years, he oversaw the Center's mission to offer a place where faculty could do their independent research of nutrition for the treatment and prevention of disease, provide nutritional education for health professionals, answer questions about how what humans eat

affects the body and why, and develop educational programs and consultation services for the community.

"Dr. Grundy's research has had a profound effect on scientific knowledge in multiple fields related to nutrition, metabolism, and cardiovascular risk," says **Thomas Wang, M.D.**, Professor and Chair of Internal Medicine. "He also played a pivotal role in the development of statins, a class of drugs that are now widely used in the prevention and treatment of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease."

Originally from Memphis, Texas, Dr. Grundy earned a bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, a master's degree and a medical degree from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, and a doctoral degree from The Rockefeller University in New York City.

He had more than 400 publications related to his research achievements, including the development of methods for measuring cholesterol balance and biliary lipid secretion; identifying the metabolic causes of cholesterol gallstones; defining effects of saturated and unsaturated fats on cholesterol and lipoprotein metabolism; uncovering genetic defects underlying hypercholesterolemia and other forms of dyslipidemia; identifying metabolic defects in hypercholesterolemia, hypertriglyceridemia, an hypoalphalipoproteinemia; and defining the mechanisms of action of several lipid-lowering drugs, notably fibrates and HMG CoA reductase inhibitors.

Dr. Grundy also served on the faculty at the University of California San Diego, the National Institutes of Health Phoenix Clinical Research Unit, and The Rockefeller University.

Among his many honors and achievements, he was named a Distinguished Scientist of the American Heart Association (2005) and was a recipient of the organization's Gold Heart Award (2009). In 2022, Dr. Grundy received the Pioneer in Prevention Award from the American Society for Preventive Cardiology.

"He was not only a brilliant scientist but also a dedicated mentor, physician, researcher, and leader," says **Jay Horton, M.D.**, Professor and Director of the Center for Human Nutrition. "His impact will be felt for generations to come. He will be sorely missed but never forgotten."



Internal Medicine News Portal
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need to know

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Seldin Symposium Abstract Deadline Extended

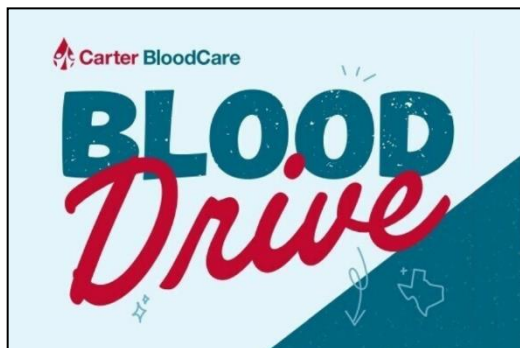
Abstracts for the 10th annual **Donald W. Seldin Research Symposium** can be submitted now through **Friday, Feb. 14, at 11:59 p.m.** using the [online submission form](#).

The symposium is scheduled for **Friday, March 28**. 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](#).

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Blood Drive Scheduled for Feb. 13



Carter BloodCare is hosting a blood drive at Clements University Hospital on **Thursday, Feb. 13, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the John and Ginny Eulich Pavilion, Room 01.701.**

A photo ID is required to donate blood.

Donors will receive a long-sleeved hoodie (while supplies last).

Appointments are encouraged and can be [scheduled here](#).

in case you missed it

FROM THE NEWSROOM

McArthur Discusses Shorter, Safer Protocol for Treating Breast Cancer



A new clinical trial has shown that a shorter, simpler, and less toxic treatment protocol for triple-negative breast cancer can achieve similar outcomes to the current standard of care. This new approach, which involves reconfiguring the timing of radiation, uses less chemotherapy and immunotherapy, resulting in significantly safer treatments with fewer side effects.

The findings, published in the [Journal of Clinical Oncology](#), suggest that this could improve patients' quality of life, says **Heather McArthur, M.D., M.P.H.**, a Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology, Clinical Director of the Breast

Cancer Program at the Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center, and co-leader of the study.

"We think it's very encouraging to achieve the same results with less chemotherapy, less immunotherapy, and less toxicity by reconfiguring the timing of the radiation that most triple-negative breast cancer patients receive," Dr. McArthur says.

To read the press release, click [here](#).

News and Digital Media Featuring Internal Medicine Colleagues

- [Study Reveals Cellular Recycling Process Key to Human Health](#) (via UTSW Newsroom, with **Ezra Burstein, M.D., Ph.D.**, and **Emre Turer, M.D., Ph.D.**)
- [Uganda Confirms Ebola Outbreak After Death of Nurse in Capital](#) (via *The Telegraph*, with **Krutika Kupalli, M.D.**)
- [Be Mindful of What You Eat and Drink at Super Bowl Parties](#) (via UTSW Newsroom, with **Bethany Agusala, M.D.**)
- [UTSW Joins Effort to Create Early Screening for Dementia](#) (via UTSW Newsroom, with **Ihab Hajar, M.D.**, and **Ramona Rhodes, M.D., M.P.H.**)

this week

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

Department Forum Scheduled for Feb. 7



Thomas Wang, M.D., Professor and Chair of Internal Medicine, will conduct a Department Forum on **Friday, Feb. 7**, at 8 a.m. in D1.502 and at designated viewing locations.

All faculty, staff, and trainees are invited to participate in the in-person event. Breakfast pastries, coffee, and juices will be available to in-person attendees.

INTERNAL MEDICINE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

PSTP Fellows to Present Lectures on Feb. 7



Cameron Landers, M.D., Ph.D., top, a Research Fellow in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, and **Pano Theodoropoulos, M.D., Ph.D.**, bottom, a Research Fellow in the Division of Hematology and Oncology, will present the [Internal Medicine Research Conference](#) on **Friday, Feb. 7, at noon in D1.502**.

Dr. Landers will present, “Role of an Antiviral Protein in Mouse Models of Respiratory Coronavirus Disease and Viremia.”

Dr. Theodoropoulos will present, “Brain-permeable NAD Mimetic IMPDH Inhibitors as a Potential Therapeutic Strategy

for Neuronal Cancers.”

Noteworthy Lectures & Conferences

- **Wednesday, Feb. 5, 8 a.m.:** [Geriatrics Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Thomas Dalton** (Geriatric Medicine) – “Exploring Strategies to Drive Down Readmission Rates”
- **Thursday, Feb. 6, Noon:** [Renal Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Cindy Corpier** (Dallas Nephrology Associates) – “Where We Are & How We Got Here: Nephrology Regulatory History”
- **Friday, Feb. 7, 1 p.m.:** [Endocrine Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. David McFadden** (Endocrinology) – “Mechanisms and Consequences of Electron Transport Chain Impairment in Thyroid Cancer”

of interest

HEART HEALTH

Student-led Running Club Special Activity on Feb. 10

The Southwestern Running Club (SWRC), a student-led organization, meets every Monday at 530 p.m. outside the Bryan Williams Student Center.

In recognition of Heart Month, the SWRC is encouraging individuals from across campus to meet at the Student Center for a walk or run across the CUH connector bridge on **Monday, Feb. 10, at 5:30 p.m.**

Questions? Contact [Travis Dowd](#) or Dr. [Amit Khara](#).



Internal Medicine Events Calendar

[Click to view additional events](#)

Look for the next *Medicine Minute* on **Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2025**.
Share feedback and news items with us at IMNews@UTSouthwestern.edu

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