

medicine minute

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

kudos

INNOVATIONS

UTSW Performs Rare HIV-Positive Heart Transplant



UT Southwestern has become the second hospital in the world to perform a heart transplant from a donor with HIV to a recipient with HIV. The groundbreaking procedure was joint effort between the UT Southwestern Transplant Infectious Diseases Team and the Heart Transplant Team. The transplant was made possible because of the HIV Organ Policy Equity (HOPE) Act using a research protocol approved by the UT Southwestern Institutional Review Board and the U.S. Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network.

“In the early ages of the epidemic, HIV was considered a contraindication to transplantation,” says **Ricardo La Hoz**,

M.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine and Director of the Solid Organ Transplant Infectious Diseases Program. “Pioneering work performed by **Maryjane Farr** and many others across the U.S. challenged this idea. Good outcomes from a series in South Africa involving kidney transplantation from donors with HIV to recipients with HIV provided preliminary data that the practice could mitigate some of the disparities faced by people living with HIV, as well as provide life-saving transplants.”

In the U.S., transplantation from donors infected with HIV had been banned. However, after the 2013 passage of the HOPE Act and publication of research guidance by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in 2015, the procedure became legal for people with HIV, but as research only.

“The transplant performed for this patient is a testament to the rich collaborations at UT Southwestern to help our patients,” says Dr. La Hoz. “The recipient has decided to remain anonymous and is recovering well with optimal immunologic function and HIV suppression. The Transplant Infectious Diseases and Heart Transplant teams will monitor the recipient closely.”

HONORS

O’Leary Voted Top Doc by Peers at VA North Texas



Jacqueline O'Leary, M.D., M.P.H., a Professor in the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases and Chief of Hepatology at the Dallas VA Medical Center, has been recognized by her peers with the "Top Provider Award," an honor bestowed to only one physician at the Dallas VA Medical Center annually.

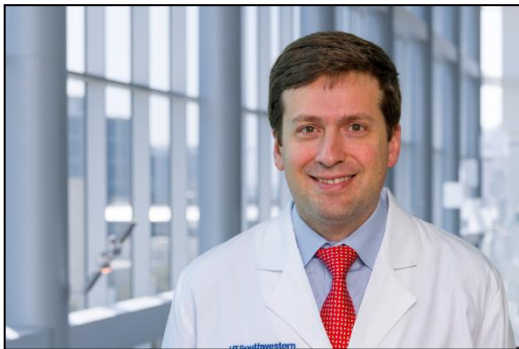
Dr. O'Leary's clinical work includes rounds in the hepatology consult service and staffing of liver clinics at the Dallas VA. In her role as Chief of Hepatology, she has led a number of initiatives, including accelerating the HCV treatment program and curing 4,000 patients in less than two years at the Dallas VA, for which she received an I-CARE award in 2018 from

Peter O'Rourke, then-Acting U.S Secretary of Veterans Affairs and VA Chief of Staff.

Originally from Newport Beach, California, Dr. O'Leary holds a bachelor's degree with honors and distinction in biological sciences from Stanford University in Stanford, California. She earned her medical degree at the University of California San Francisco. She later completed a master's degree in public health from the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston. She completed internal medicine residency training at UT Southwestern Medical Center and completed advanced training through fellowships in gastroenterology and transplant hepatology at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. She did postdoctoral research in immunology at the Center for Blood Research at Harvard Medical School and received master's degree in public health from Harvard's School of Public Health.

INFLUENCERS

Maalouf Elected to Lead Kidney Stone Experts



Naim Maalouf, M.D., a Professor in the Division of Endocrinology and Associate Director of the Charles and Jane Pak Center for Mineral Metabolism and Clinical Research, has been elected President of the ROCK (Research on Calculous Kinetics) Society, an elite group of experts in kidney stone research.

"This is the most influential society devoted to kidney stone research, says **Orson Moe, M.D.**, Professor and Director of the Pak Center. "Members include internists, nephrologists, endocrinologists, urologists, dietitians, epidemiologists, and basic scientists. The organization's annual meeting is the most

important kidney stone meeting in the world."

Dr. Maalouf holds The Frederic C. Bartter Professorship in Vitamin D Research.

Dr. Moe holds the Donald W. Seldin Professorship in Clinical Investigation and The Charles Pak Distinguished Chair in Mineral Metabolism.

To read a brief history of the ROCK Society, click [here](#).

personnel updates

LEADERSHIP

Kubiliun Appointed VP and CMO for Ambulatory Services



Nisa Kubiliun, M.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases, has been appointed Associate Vice President and Chief Medical Officer for Ambulatory Services.

In her new position, Dr. Kubiliun will work with leaders in clinical departments, outpatient clinics, quality programs, and Health System to ensure high-quality, multidisciplinary care is consistently and uniformly provided at all outpatient clinics.

Since 2014, Dr. Kubiliun has served as Medical Director of Endoscopy Services. Under her leadership, endoscopy

services experienced rapid growth, incorporating state-of-the-art techniques to enhance patient outcomes while optimizing workflows across multiple sites of service. In 2017, she assumed the role of Clinical Chief of the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases, leading a major expansion of the division into multiple regional sites.

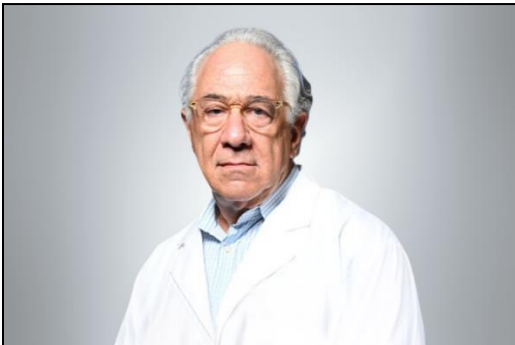
She also serves as Director of UTSW's Pancreatic Cancer Prevention Program, where she spearheads efforts in early detection and risk assessment for high-risk populations.

Dr. Kubiliun completed her medical degree at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine and residency and chief residency in internal medicine at UT Southwestern. She then completed advanced fellowship training in Gastroenterology at the University of Miami and in Interventional Gastroenterology at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Kubiliun holds the Jeremy and Nancy Halbreich Professorship in Cancer Prevention.

in memoriam

Bradley Leonard, Former Chief Resident



Bradley Leonard, M.D., M.B.A., a cardiologist who held multiple leadership roles in the D-FW community, died unexpectedly on Saturday, Feb. 1. He was 68.

Originally from Los Angeles, he graduated *magna cum laude* from Princeton University. He received his medical degree from UT Southwestern, where he also completed internal medicine residency training and served as Chief Resident. He then obtained advanced training through a fellowship program in interventional cardiology at Harvard Medical School and Beth Israel Medical Center. He also held a master's degree in business administration from the Cox School of Business at

Southern Methodist University.

After fellowship, Dr. Leonard returned to Dallas, where he practiced medicine for more than 35 years.

Dr. Leonard is survived by his wife Martha and their two children, Samuel (Chloe) Leonard, and Oliva (Jason Barnett) Leonard; a brother, Neal Leonard; and a sister, Alison Hannay.

Dr. Leonard's family will host a lunch to celebrate his life at Terry Black's BBQ on Thursday, Feb. 13, from 12-2 p.m.



Internal Medicine News Portal
Click for more Department news and updates

reminders

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**, using the [online submission form](#).

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

RESIDENT SUPPORT

Mentoring Program for International Medical Grads Kicks Off Feb. 26

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 **IMG Connect**, a mentoring program 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 at the Faculty Club on **Wednesday, Feb. 26**. All Internal Medicine faculty are invited to attend, particularly those who are themselves IMGs.

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

in case you missed it

MEDBLOG

Chong, Trivedi Offer Tips on Containing Spread of Norovirus



Norovirus is a highly contagious gastrointestinal virus that spreads through contact with infected particles from vomit or feces, often picked up from common surfaces. It causes sudden vomiting and diarrhea, which can become airborne. The U.S. reports about 2,500 outbreaks annually, with a recent surge in cases. The virus spreads rapidly in close quarters, such as schools, daycares, and cruise ships.

Despite its prevalence, norovirus remains poorly understood and difficult to treat due to constantly evolving strains. Although most people who get infected will recover within 48 hours of symptom onset, those with compromised immune

systems are at risk of developing chronic symptoms that can last for years.

Pearlie Chong, M.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine, has launched a study, funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, to understand the long-term impacts of norovirus infection in patients with impaired immunity. She recently joined **Julie Trivedi, M.D.**, also an Associate Professor in the Infectious Diseases division, to offer practical tips on how to manage norovirus symptoms and contain the spread.

To read their MedBlog post, click [here](#).

News and Digital Media Featuring Internal Medicine Colleagues

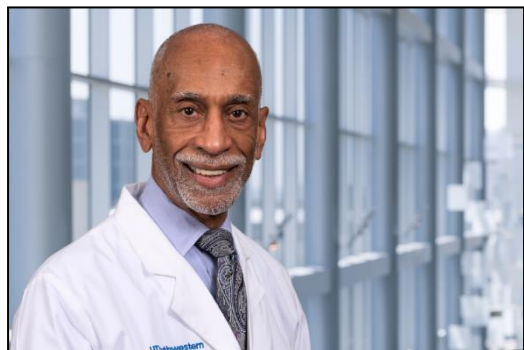
- [Kicking the Nicotine Habit: Get Free Support to Quit Smoking or Vaping](#) (via MedBlog, with **David Balis, M.D.**)
- [Preoperative Immunotherapy Could Enhance Breast Cancer Cure Rates](#) (via UTSW Newsroom, with **Heather McArthur, M.D., M.P.H.**)

- [The Physicians Really Are Healing Themselves, With Ozempic](#) (via *The New York Times*, with **Darren McGuire, M.D.**)
- [Popular Diabetes / Weight-Loss Drugs Show Additional Benefit](#) (via UTSW Newsroom, with **Shuyao Zhang, M.D.**, and **Ildiko Lingvay, M.D., M.P.H., M.S.C.S.**)
- [How My Research Focus Exposed Me to Threats and Harassment](#) (via *Nature*, with **Krutika Kuppalli, M.D.**)

this week

INTERNAL MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS

Wesson to Discuss Acid-producing Diets and Kidney Health



Donald Wesson, M.D., M.B.A., a Professor in the Division of Nephrology, will present the Internal Medicine Grand Rounds lecture on Friday, Feb. 14, at 8 a.m. in D1.502. His topic: “Do Acid-producing Diets Threaten Kidney Health?”

Originally from St. Louis, Dr. Wesson holds a bachelor’s degree in biology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He received his medical degree from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, where he also completed internal medicine residency training. He then obtained advanced training through a fellowship in nephrology at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Chicago. He also

holds a master’s degree in business administration from the University of Texas at Austin.

Prior to joining the UT Southwestern faculty in 2024, Dr. Wesson held an array of academic and administrative roles at prominent institutions throughout Texas. He served as President of Baylor Scott & White’s Health and Wellness Center, after having served as Chief Academic Officer for Baylor Scott & White Health. He was also a longtime member of the Baylor College of Medicine faculty before being named Nephrology Division Chief at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. Later, he chaired the school’s Department of Internal Medicine before being named Vice Dean of Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine in Temple.

An accomplished researcher, Dr. Wesson’s investigations over four decades have focused on kidney function and disease processes.

INTERNAL MEDICINE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Scherer to Speak About Physiology of Adipose Tissue on Feb. 14



Philipp Scherer, Ph.D., a Professor of Internal Medicine and Director of the Touchstone Diabetes Center, will present the Internal Medicine Research Conference on **Friday, Feb. 14, at noon in D1.502**. His topic: “Understanding the Physiology of Adipose Tissue: More Important than Ever Before.”

Originally from Switzerland, Dr. Scherer holds a bachelor’s degree in molecular biology and a doctorate in biochemistry from the Biocenter at the University of Basel. He completed his postdoctoral training as a Research Fellow at the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research in the laboratory of Harvey Lodish, Ph.D.

Prior to joining the UT Southwestern faculty in 2007, he served as a faculty member at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, where he became a professor in 2006.

Dr. Scherer's research focuses on adipose cells and their normal functions and roles in disease. His 1995 discovery that adipocytes produce the hormone adiponectin transformed the view of the cells, which had been regarded as simple storage sites for excess triglycerides. They are now seen as highly responsive to extracellular stimuli, playing a central role in overall energy homeostasis and essential for certain aspects of the immune system.

Noteworthy Lectures & Conferences

- **Tuesday, Feb. 11, Noon:** [Foster Visiting Lectureship in Medical Ethics](#) with **Dr. Amy McGuire** (Baylor College of Medicine) – “Are We Ready for Psychedelic Medicine?”
- **Wednesday, Feb. 12, 6:30 a.m.:** [Anesthesiology & Pain Management Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Elizabeth Whitlock** (University of California San Francisco) – “Cognitive Change after Surgery for Older Adults: How We Got Here, and How to Move Forward”
- **Wednesday, Feb. 12, 8 a.m.:** [Geriatrics Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Sarah Wingfield** (Geriatric Medicine) – “Updates in Perioperative Care of Older Adults”
- **Wednesday, Feb. 12, 9 a.m.:** [Capra Interdisciplinary Healthcare Symposium](#) with keynote presentation by **Dr. Eric Peterson** (Cardiology) – “Advancements in Healthcare and Education AI at UT Southwestern”
- **Wednesday, Feb. 12, 9 a.m.:** [Nephrology Works in Progress](#) with **Amogh Vaidya** (Biomedical Engineering) – “Endogenous Targeting of Lipid Nanoparticles to Kidney Tumors”
- **Wednesday, Feb. 12, Noon:** [Clinical Scholar Track P&T Workshop](#) with **Drs. Jeffrey Cadeddu** (Urology) and **Heidi Jacobe** (Dermatology)
- **Thursday, Feb. 13, 8 a.m.:** [Infectious Diseases Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Ajit Limaye** (University of California San Francisco) – “New Twists on Old Tools to Tame the Troll of Transplantation (CMV)”
- **Thursday, Feb. 13, Noon:** [Renal Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Sanjeev Kumar** (Cedars Sinai Medical Center) – “Identification of a Switch that Determines Healing With or Without Fibrosis at the Single-cell Level in Mammalian Kidneys”
- **Thursday, Feb. 13, 4 p.m.:** [President's Lecture Series](#) with **Dr. Daniel Siegwart** (Biomedical Engineering) – “Innovation in Nanotechnology: From Vaccines to Novel Genetic Disease Treatment”
- **Friday, Feb. 14, Noon:** [Hematology & Oncology Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Hollie Sheffield** (Hematology & Oncology) – “An Approach to EGFR Inhibition in Lung Cancer”

one last thing

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

Harvard's Tyler Berzin to Give Keynote at Annual GI Symposium



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 will feature a keynote address by **Tyler Berzin, M.D.**, an Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Director of the Advanced Endoscopy Fellowship program at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. His topic: “AI in Gastroenterology: Beyond Polyp Detection.”

The registration deadline is Monday, Feb. 17. Registration is \$75, but free with promo code **UTSW**. For more information, click [here](#).



Internal Medicine Events Calendar

[Click to view additional events](#)

Look for the next *Medicine Minute* on **Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2025**.
Share feedback and news items with us at IMNews@UTSouthwestern.edu

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