

medicine minute

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

kudos

PUBLICATIONS

Levine Co-authors Statement on Athletes with Cardiovascular Abnormalities



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, was co-vice chair of the writing group that published a scientific statement for the American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology on clinical considerations for competitive sports participation for athletes with cardiovascular abnormalities or diseases. It is the fifth U.S.-based expert consensus article addressing the topic.

The [statement](#) is divided into 11 sections, each addressing sports-specific topics or disease processes related to the risks of adverse cardiovascular events, such as sudden cardiac arrest, during competitive sports. International experts in sports cardiology formed task forces for each section and created clinical considerations tables for practitioners to use as references.

“This update integrates 40 years of scientific progress and advances past antiquated concepts,” the authors write. “For the first time, we emphasize that this is not an article outlining ‘disqualification recommendations,’ but rather a compendium of clinical considerations that should guide the shared decision-making process for athletes who present with cardiovascular abnormalities or disease.”

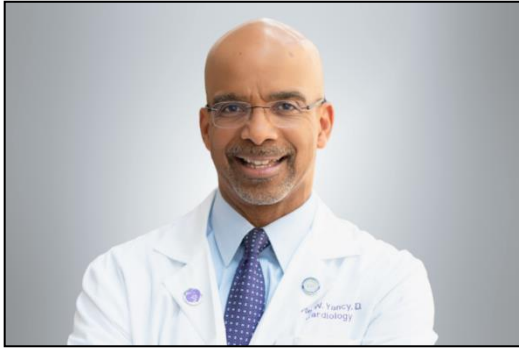
*The writing group also included **Keri Shafer, M.D.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Cardiology and Director of the Adult Congenital Heart Disease Program.*

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.

To access the top clinical considerations from the document, click [here](#). To view a video interview with the writing group leaders, click [here](#).

HONORS

Northwestern’s Clyde Yancy to Receive Distinguished Alumni Award



Clyde Yancy, M.D., M.Sc., Chief and Magerstadt Professor of Cardiology at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine has been selected to receive Internal Medicine's inaugural Distinguished Alumni Award. He will receive the award during the Residency Graduation Dinner on **Saturday, May 17**, and deliver commencement remarks. Dr. Yancy will also present the Internal Medicine Grand Rounds lecture on **Friday, May 16**, to inaugurate the Daniel W. Foster Lecture.

Originally from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Dr. Yancy holds a bachelor's degree from Southern University. He received his medical degree from Tulane University in 1982 and, in 1985,

completed internal medicine residency training at UT Southwestern, where he also obtained advanced training through fellowship programs in cardiology (1989) and in advanced heart failure transplant (1991).

Dr. Yancy joined the faculty at UT Southwestern faculty in 1989 and, over the course of 17 years, he became the Carl H. Westcott Distinguished Chair in Medical Research, Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, and served as Medical Director of the Heart Failure/Heart Transplant Program.

In 2006, Dr. Yancy joined the faculty at Baylor University Medical Center and was named Medical Director of the Baylor Heart and Vascular Institute. In 2010, he earned a master's degree in healthcare management from the University of Texas at Dallas. He joined the Northwestern University faculty in 2011.

In addition to numerous honors he has received throughout his career, Dr. Yancy was elected to the National Academy of Medicine, in 2016, and to the Association of American Physicians, in 2020. He also served as President of the American Heart Association, from 2009-2010.

RECOGNITION

Hussain Receives Rosalind Franklin Society Award in Science



Iram Hussain, M.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Endocrinology, has received a 2024 Rosalind Franklin Society Award in Science in recognition of her publication, "Which Patients Can Achieve Graves' Disease Remission Using Radiofrequency Ablation?" in [Clinical Thyroidology](#).

The Society promotes the contributions of women in the life sciences and affiliated disciplines in honor of Rosalind Franklin, a British X-ray crystallographer whose work producing X-ray images of DNA was essential in the discovery of its structure but whose accomplishments were not recognized in her lifetime.

Originally from the United Kingdom, Dr. Hussain holds a bachelor's degree in anatomy, physiology and biochemistry from Punjab University in Lahore, Pakistan. She earned her medical degree at King Edward Medical University in Pakistan and completed internal medicine residency training through what was then a UT Southwestern program in Austin. She received advanced training in endocrinology, diabetes, and metabolism through a fellowship at UT Southwestern.

Dr. Hussain joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2015.

research roundup

AWARDS

Zechner Recognized for Phosphate Research



Christoph Zechner, M.D., Ph.D., an Assistant Professor in the Division of Endocrinology and in the Pak Center for Mineral Metabolism and Clinical Research, received an award for outstanding poster presentation at the Gordon Research Conference on Physiology, Biology and Pathology of Phosphate in Lucca, Italy.

“This is the most important international conference, which meets once every two years, gathering the brightest minds and latest discoveries in phosphate research,” says **Orson Moe, M.D.**, Professor and Director of the Pak Center.

Originally from Frankfurt, Germany, Dr. Zechner earned his medical degree and his doctorate in biomedical sciences at Albert-Ludwigs University in Freiburg, Germany, where he graduated *summa cum laude*. He conducted postdoctoral research at Washington University in St. Louis and the Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute in Lake Nona, Florida. He then completed internal medicine residency training and endocrinology fellowship training at UT Southwestern as part of the Physician Scientist Training Program.

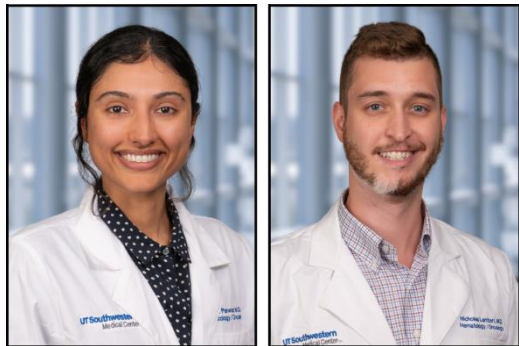
Dr. Zecher joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2014. He focuses his research on phosphate balance and energy metabolism.

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

education and training

LEADERSHIP

Panwar and Lambert Named HemeOnc Chief Fellows



Current Fellows **Puja Panwar, M.D.**, and **Nicholas Lambert, M.D.**, have been selected as Chief Fellows for the 2025-2026 academic year.

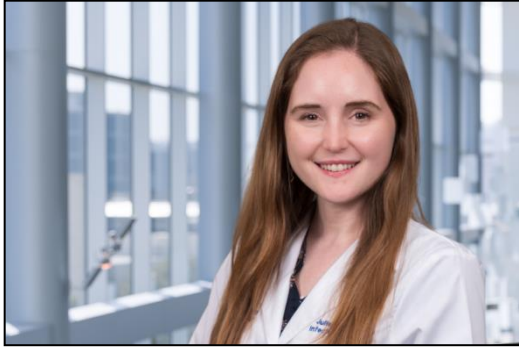
Originally from Allen, Dr. Panwar completed her undergraduate studies at UT Dallas, attended medical school at Texas A&M, and trained in the Osler Medical Residency at Johns Hopkins.

Originally from Omaha, Nebraska, Dr. Lambert graduated from the University of Minnesota, earned his medical degree from the University of Nebraska, and completed his internal

medicine residency at Baylor College of Medicine.

Over the next few months, Drs. Panwar and Lambert will transition into their new roles, learning from outgoing Chief Fellows **Hollie Sheffield, M.D.**, and **Sean Taasan, M.D.**

England Selected as Chief Fellow for Infectious Diseases Fellowship



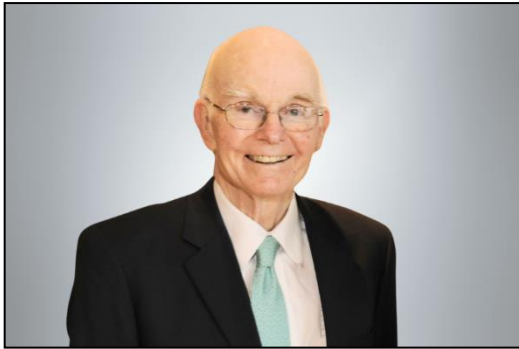
Current Fellow **Julie England, M.D.**, has been selected as Chief Fellow for the Infectious Diseases Fellowship.

Originally from Winters, Texas, Dr. England received her undergraduate degree *summa cum laude* at Texas A&M University, where she also completed her medical degree and was inducted into the AOA & Gold Humanism Society. She obtained internal medicine residency training at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), where she also served as Chief Resident.

“During her time at UAB, she obtained numerous awards, including the Doctor’s Doctor Award, presented to the graduating resident whose peers would want as their own physician,” says **James “Brad” Cutrell, M.D.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine and Infectious Diseases Fellowship Director. “We were delighted when she joined UTSW and that she agreed to serve as our Chief Fellow.”

in memoriam

John Fordtran, Former Professor and Chief of Gastroenterology



John Fordtran, M.D., a former Professor and Chief of Gastroenterology who trained and mentored generations of physicians at UT Southwestern and at Baylor University Medical Center, died at his home north of Dallas on Feb. 23. He was 93.

Dr. Fordtran joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 1962, recruited by Dr. Donald W. Seldin. A year later, he became the institution’s first Chief of Gastroenterology, a position he held until 1979, when he became Chair of Internal Medicine at Baylor University Medical Center. There, he established the Diagnostic Center for Digestive Diseases, one of only two such centers in the world that offered advanced diagnosis and treatment of digestive diseases and cancers.

His pioneering research on fluid and ion transport across the intestinal epithelium and the role of glucose in this process significantly advanced the understanding of water and salt absorption in the human intestine. This work led to a new physiological classification of diarrheal diseases and informed their treatment.

In 1973, Dr. Fordtran co-authored *Gastrointestinal Disease*, which became an authoritative source for training gastroenterology fellows for decades. It was considered by many clinicians as the gold standard of gastroenterology textbooks.

To read more about Dr. Fordtran’s life and career, click [here](#).



Internal Medicine News Portal
Click for more Department news and updates

personnel updates

ADMINISTRATION

Dudley Named Division Ops Administrator for Digestive and Liver



Tammy Dudley, M.B.A., has accepted a position as Division Operations Administrator in the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases. In her new role, she will oversee the day-to-day operations across the Division's administration, finance, research, employee relations, faculty and staff recruitment, and education enterprises.

Ms. Dudley holds a master's degree in business administration and a bachelor's degree in business management from the University of Phoenix. She has a strong background in clinical and academic operations, business strategy, team building and employee engagement.

Prior to joining UT Southwestern, she served as a Practice Administrator at Baylor Scott & White Health, where she served as a Practice Administrator and oversaw the operations of multiple physician practices within the Health Texas Provider Network (HTPN). Prior to that, Tammy served as a Surgery Program Administrator in the Department of Surgery at Morehouse School of Medicine (Atlanta, GA). She worked closely with the Chair of Trauma and Critical Care and oversaw their day-to-day clinical, educational and research operations.

She is an active member of several professional organizations, including the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE).

need to know

SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

Research Support Center Opens on North Campus

To support the ongoing work of UT Southwestern labs and researchers, Supply Chain Management has opened the North Campus Research Supply Center at ND1.104. The center stocks media, media supplements, reagents and consumables.

For more information, contact [Fabian Obregon](#).

in case you missed it

MEDBLOG

Battaile Discusses Genetic Disorder that Could Lead to Nosebleeds



Hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia (HHT), also known as Osler-Weber-Rendu syndrome, is a genetic disorder that causes abnormal development of capillaries, leading to unstable blood vessels. These vessels can burst spontaneously, causing frequent and sometimes severe nosebleeds, says **John Battaile, M.D., M.Sc.**, a Professor of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine and Medical Director of the Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia Center of Excellence, in a new [MedBlog post](#).

About 90 percent of people with HHT experience spontaneous nosebleeds, which can range from mild to severe. The condition is often misdiagnosed due to its rarity and symptom overlap with other conditions, such as migraines, lung disease, and allergies. This misdiagnosis can cause generational symptom trends to go unnoticed.

Getting a diagnosis of Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia (HHT) can be lifesaving, as there are effective treatments to reduce serious complications, Dr. Battaile says.

To learn more about UT Southwestern's HHT Center of Excellence, click [here](#).

this week

INTERNAL MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS

Harvard's Katherine Liao to Speak on Feb. 28



Katherine Liao, M.D., M.P.H., an Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Rheumatology at Brigham & Women's Hospital, will present the [Internal Medicine Grand Rounds](#) lecture on **Friday, Feb. 28, at 8 a.m. in D1.502**. Her topic: "Inflammation and Cardiovascular Risk: Insights from Rheumatoid Arthritis."

Dr. Liao holds a bachelor's degree in biology and economics from Williams College. She completed her medical degree at SUNY Downstate Medical Center, followed by internal medicine residency training at Massachusetts General Hospital and rheumatology fellowship training at Brigham and

Women's Hospital.

Dr. Liao's research focuses on the clinical impact of inflammation on cardiovascular disease with a specific interest in rheumatoid arthritis. Her lab also specializes in developing and applying bioinformatics approaches to utilize electronic health record data for clinical and translational studies.

INTERNAL MEDICINE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Shiloh to Discuss Nociceptor Activation on Feb. 28



Michael Shiloh, M.D., Ph.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine, will present the [Internal Medicine Research Conference](#) on **Friday, Feb. 28, at noon in D1.502**. His topic: "A Commotion in the Lung: Nociceptor Activation by Airway Pathogens Triggers Cough."

Dr. Shiloh earned a bachelor's degree with honors in chemistry from Pennsylvania State University in State College. He received his medical degree and his doctorate in immunology at Cornell University in New York. He then completed internal medicine residency training, a fellowship in infectious

diseases, and a molecular medicine fellowship at the University of California San Francisco.

Dr. Shiloh's research interests include tuberculosis, immunology, and microbiology. In his laboratory, his long-term research goal is to discover the mechanisms by which *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (Mtb) causes disease in humans.

Dr. Shiloh joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2011.

Noteworthy Lectures & Conferences

- **Tuesday, Feb. 25, 11:30 a.m.:** [Critical Care Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Michael Rubin** (Neurology) – "Brain Death Determination for the Intensivist"

- **Tuesday, Feb. 25, Noon:** [Pathology Seminar](#) with **Dr. Chonghui Cheng** (Baylor College of Medicine) – “RNA Splicing in Breast Cancer Metastasis”
- **Wednesday, Feb. 26, 8 a.m.:** [Geriatrics Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Tara DuVal** (Geriatric Medicine) – “Alcohol-Related Cognitive Changes in Older Adults”
- **Wednesday, Feb. 26, 8 a.m.:** [GI Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Vincent Chen** (University of Michigan) – “Genetics in Steatotic Liver Disease: From Discovery to Clinical Application”
- **Wednesday, Feb. 26, 9 a.m.:** [Nephrology Works in Progress](#) with **Dr. Courtney Karner** (Nephrology) – “Investigating the Necessity of Glutathione in Bone and Kidney”
- **Wednesday, Feb. 26, Noon:** [Hematology & Oncology Faculty Recruitment Seminar](#) with **Dr. Jean-Antoine Ribeil** (GLOB Therapy Consulting) – “Overview of the Main Principles of Gene Therapy for Hemoglobinopathies and Results of Clinical Trials in Sickle Cell Disease”
- **Thursday, Feb. 27, Noon:** [Biochemistry Seminar](#) with **Dr. Andrea Kasinski** (Purdue Institute for Cancer Research) – “To the Tumor and Beyond: Mechanisms Involved in miRNA Import and Export”
- **Thursday, Feb. 27, Noon:** [Pathology Seminar](#) with **Dr. James Brugarolas** (Hematology & Oncology) – “Kidney Cancer: Bench to Bedside and Back”
- **Thursday, Feb. 27, Noon:** [Nephrology M&M](#) with **Dr. Naveen Balakrishnan** (Nephrology) – “Emergent Dialysis at Parkland is a Self-fulfilling Prophecy in its Current State”
- **Friday, Feb. 28, Noon:** [Cardio-Oncology Conference](#) with **Dr. Angela Price** (Nephrology) – “Management of Secondary Hypertension in Cancer Patients”
- **Friday, Feb. 28, 1 p.m.:** [Endocrine Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Richard Achus** (University of Michigan) – “New Kids on the Block: 11-Oxyandrogens in Health and Disease”

on the horizon

LEADERSHIP LECTURE SERIES

Burstein, Das to Speak About Retirement Planning on March 3



The Leadership Lecture Series continues on **Monday, March 3, at noon**, with a presentation by **Ezra Burstein, M.D., Ph.D.**, Professor and Chief of Digestive and Liver Diseases, and **Sandeep Das, M.D., M.P.H.**, a Professor in the Division of Cardiology. Their topic: “Retirement Planning and Preparing.”

All lectures are virtual, informal, and brown bag. Faculty, APPs, administrators, and trainees are welcome to attend.

To register in advance for the virtual event, click [here](#).

reminders

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](#).



Internal Medicine Events Calendar

[Click to view additional events](#)

Look for the next *Medicine Minute* on **Tuesday, March 4, 2025**.
Share feedback and news items with us at IMNews@UTSouthwestern.edu

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