

medicine minute

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

kudos

LEADERSHIP

Wang is President-Elect of APM



Thomas J. Wang, M.D., Professor and Chair, has been elected President-Elect of the Association of Professors of Medicine, the national organization of Department of Medicine chairs. His three-year term will include one year as President and one year as Past-President.

Additionally, Dr. Wang will serve on the Board of Directors for the larger Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine, of which the APM is a part.

Two previous UTSW Internal Medicine chairs have served as APM President: **Donald W. Seldin, M.D.**, and **Daniel W.**

Foster, M.D.

Dr. Wang also serves as Physician-in-Chief of Clements University Hospital.

Dr. Wang holds the Donald W. Seldin Distinguished Chair in Internal Medicine.

HONORS

Faculty Members, Resident to be Inducted into Honor Society



Three faculty members and a resident will be inducted into the [Gold Humanism Honor Society](#) during the group's annual induction ceremony on **Wednesday, March 19, at 5:30 p.m. in the A.W. Harris Faculty Club.**

The GHHS was established in 2002 to recognize medical students, residents, physician educators and others for excellence in clinical care, leadership, compassion, and dedication to service. The national honor society currently has more than 160 chapters in medical schools and internship programs.

Faculty honorees include **Vidushi Golla, M.D.**, a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine; **Temple Howell-Stampley, M.D.**, a Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine; and **Jessica Voit, M.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Geriatric Medicine.

Resident honorees include **Zach Blair, M.D.**, a fourth-year resident in the Internal Medicine-Pediatrics Residency program.

Dr. Howell-Stampley holds the Cissy and W. Plack Carr, Jr. Professorship in Medical Education and the P. Eugene Jones, Ph.D., PA-C Professorship in Physician Assistant Studies.

AWARDS

Levine Receives Space Life Science Award



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, has been honored by the American Astronautical Society with its Space Life Sciences Award for “exceptional scientific leadership to ensure human health and performance for the benefit of space flight.”

Dr. Levine’s background in space medicine includes serving as a co-investigator on four Spacelab missions, and as principal investigator of a large cardiovascular experiment on the International Space Station (ISS). In 2013, he was also

awarded by NASA for the “most Compelling Results from the ISS.” He served as team leader of NASA’s Cardiovascular Section for 10 years, advising the organization’s flight surgeons on cardiovascular medical issues. His work with astronauts has translated into one of his other areas of clinical expertise, namely patients with syncope (fainting) and orthostatic intolerance (the inability to stand up and withstand the effects of gravity on Earth).

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.

RECENT JOB CHANGES

Staff Members Take on New Roles



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

- **Shadaan Abid** – Sr. Research Scientist, Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine
- **Norberto Aguilar** – Lead Clinical Research Assistant, Endocrinology
- **Kathryn Anderson** – Project Manager – Clinical Research, General Internal Medicine
- **Rhoda Annoh Gordon** – Research Programs Manager,

Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine

- **Danielle Botello** – Clinical Research Assistant II, Infectious Diseases & Geographic Medicine
- **Diallo Ramatoulaye** – Clinical Research Coordinator II, Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine
- **Victoria Lamberson** – Assistant Professor, Cardiology
- **Marroquin Heiner** – Clinical Research Assistant I, Infectious Diseases & Geographic Medicine
- **Shalonda McFerren** – Sr. Program Coordinator, Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine
- **Kennedy Redmon** – Clinical Research Coordinator II, General Internal Medicine
- **Kumari Sweta** – Financial Affairs Manager, Department Administration
- **Alyssa Tijerina** – Clinical Research Manager, General Internal Medicine

Lakhia Receives First R01 to Support Research Into Kidney Disease



Ronak Lakhia, M.D., an Assistant Professor in the Division of Nephrology and Director of the Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) clinic, has received a \$2.5M R01 grant from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, an institute within the National Institutes of Health, to investigate intracellular cholesterol biosynthesis as a regulator in the progression of polycystic kidney disease.

“Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease (ADPKD) is the most common genetic cause of kidney failure, and there is no cure,” says Dr. Lakhia. “The only approved drug to slow disease progression is often poorly tolerated and has a risk of

significant life-threatening side-effects. The objective of our research program is to improve our understanding of the pathogenesis of the disease so that we can identify potential druggable targets. Our preliminary work has identified that enhancing the activity of transcription factors that drive the biosynthesis of cholesterol can dramatically slow cyst growth. This grant will provide the resources to understand how enhancing intracellular cholesterol slows PKD progression and identify potential new drug targets.”

Established by Dr. Lakhia in 2016, UT Southwestern’s PKD Clinic serves more than 300 patients in the community and from neighboring contiguous states. In 2022, the PKD Foundation designated the clinic as a Center of Excellence.

Dr. Lakhia serves as co-chair of the PKD Foundation’s Centers of Excellence program.

To learn more about the PKD Centers of Excellence program, click [here](#).



Internal Medicine News Portal
Click for more Department news and updates

personnel updates

ADMINISTRATION

Allen to Supervise Technical Support Team



Jason Allen, B.S., has accepted the position of Supervisor of Information Technology Services, with responsibility for providing technical support for all hardware, software, and networks used throughout the Department.

In his new role, Mr. Allen will oversee a team of four technical support specialists, and will manage Department-issued devices and accessories, conference room audio-visual equipment, onsite secure file storage and the O: drive.

Mr. Allen holds a bachelor’s degree in information technology from Bellevue University in Bellevue, Nebraska. Prior to joining

UT Southwestern, he served in various IT roles, including five years as a systems security engineer at Lockheed Martin and nearly 10 years in the U.S. Air Force.

Vanderveldt, Vemulapalli Take on New, Expanded Roles



Hendrikus “Dutch” Vanderveldt, M.D., M.B.A., has accepted the position of Clinical Chief of the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases.

“Dutch is familiar with all our sites of clinical practice, including our main campus and our satellite practice sites,” says Ezra Burstein, Professor and Division Chief of Digestive and Liver Diseases. “He has served as our GI Director in Frisco, and most recently as Medical Director of the UTSW Frisco clinics, a role within the health system administration. These leadership roles have prepared him well to manage our complex clinical enterprise, particularly as we continue to grow our practice in

community locations.”

Originally from Washington, D.C., Dr. Vanderveldt holds a bachelor’s degree in history from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, and an M.B.A. from Virginia Polytechnic & State University in Blacksburg, Virginia. He received his medical degree from East Tennessee State University in Johnson City and completed internal medicine residency training at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital. He then obtained additional training through a fellowship in advanced endoscopy at SUNY Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York.

Dr. Vanderveldt, also serves as Commander of the 931st Aerospace Medical Squadron at McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita, Kansas. A flight surgeon in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, Lt. Col. Vanderveldt has been deployed domestically during Operation Enduring Freedom to Wilford Hall, San Antonio, to receive wounded warriors medically evacuated from the theatre of operations, and twice to Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan.

He joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2017.

Roopa Vemulapalli, M.D., has accepted the role of Director of Gastrointestinal Services at Clements University Hospital, with responsibility for endoscopy operations and inpatient services. This role expands her current responsibilities as Medical Director of the Digestive Disease Clinic.

“Roopa has been instrumental to the growth of our University practice,” Dr. Burstein says. “She has a wealth of experience relating to clinical operations at our UT Campus.”

Dr. Vemulapalli earned her medical degree at Kakatiya Medical College in India and completed a residency in internal medicine at Chicago’s Louis A. Weiss Memorial Hospital. She received advanced training through a Clinical Nutrition fellowship at the University of Chicago Hospital and a Gastroenterology and Hepatology fellowship at UT Southwestern.

Dr. Vemulapalli joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2010.

in case you missed it

MEDBLOG

Uzendu Recounts Firsthand Experience in Discussion of Heart Attacks



More than 300,000 Americans suffer from cardiac arrest outside of a hospital every year, and when this occurs, only about 10 percent of these individuals survive.

Anezi Uzendu, M.D., an Assistant Professor in the Division of Cardiology, is among them. “I was 25 years old when I collapsed at the gym during a basketball game. My heart stopped,” he says. “Someone called 911, and another person began performing chest compressions. The gym also had an automated external defibrillator (AED), which attempted to restart my heart before EMTs arrived. Thanks to their collective efforts, I was able to recover fully.”

Dr. Uzendu discusses the effectiveness of hands-only CPR in such an emergency in his [latest MedBlog post](#).

“One of the most frequently asked questions I hear is, ‘How can I tell whether I should step in?’ There are generally two major signs of cardiac arrest: If a person is unresponsive; and if he or she has stopped breathing or is breathing abnormally,” he says. “Those are indications that you should begin CPR immediately. In public spaces, people tend to be slower to respond out of wariness or uncertainty. But in cases like these, inaction has far more devastating consequences than intervening.”

News and Digital Media Featuring Internal Medicine Colleagues

- [Video Helps Defibrillator Patients Make Informed Choices](#) (via UTSW Newsroom, with **Melanie Sulistio, M.D.**, **Kelley Newcomer, M.D.**, **Nainesh Shah, M.D.**, **Nimesh Patel, M.D.**, **Sarah Godfrey, M.D., M.P.H.**, **Jingwen Zhang, M.D.**, and **Christopher Viamontes, M.D., M.A.**)
- [Willig Joins UTSW as Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education](#) (via *CenterTimes Plus*, with **James Willig, M.D., M.S.P.H.**)

this week

INTERNAL MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS

Bedimo to Present Grand Rounds on March 7



Roger Bedimo, M.D., a Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine, will present the [Internal Medicine Grand Rounds](#) lecture on **Friday, March 7, at 8 a.m. in D1.502**. His topic: “What Drives the Survival Gap? Cardiometabolic Risk of People with HIV on Antiretroviral Therapy.”

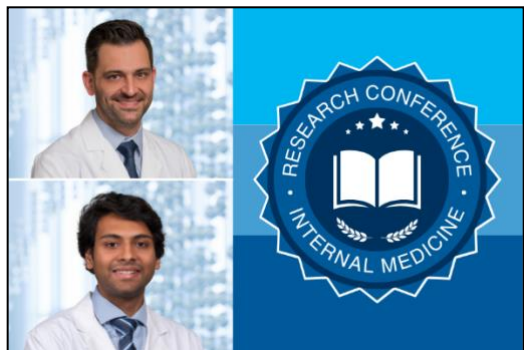
Originally from Cameroon, Dr. Bedimo obtained his medical degree with honors at the University of Yaoundé. After serving as District Chief of Public Health in Cameroon, he moved to the U.S. and earned a master's degree in parasitology at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. He then

completed internal medicine residency training at Wright State University, where he served as Chief Resident. He received advanced training through a fellowship program in infectious diseases at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Dr. Bedimo joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2003.

To learn more about Dr. Bedimo's research, visit the [Bedimo Lab](#).

PSTP Fellows to Present Lectures on March 7



Kurt Reichermeier, M.D., Ph.D., top, a Research Fellow in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, and **Vinayak Subramanian, M.D., Ph.D.**, bottom, a Research Fellow in the Division of Cardiology, will present the [Internal Medicine Research Conference](#) on **Friday, March 7, at noon in D1.502.**

Dr. Reichermeier will present, “Unbiased Genome Wide Mutagenesis Screening to Identify the Target of Pirfenidone.”

Dr. Subramanian will present, “Personalizing Exercise Training for Patients with Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection

Fraction.”

Noteworthy Lectures & Conferences

- **Tuesday, March 4, Noon:** [Psychiatry Subspecialty Presentation](#) with **Dr. Thomas Cotter** (Digestive & Liver Diseases) – “Liver Disease in Alcohol Use Disorder”
- **Wednesday, March 5, 8 a.m.:** [Geriatrics Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Ravindra Bharadwaj** (Geriatric Medicine) – “Sarcopenia in Older Adults”
- **Thursday, March 6, 8 a.m.:** [Infectious Diseases Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Donald Storey** (Infectious Diseases & Geographic Medicine) – “Case Presentations”
- **Thursday, March 6, Noon:** [Moss Heart Center Seminar](#) with **Dr. Kory Lavine** (Washington University) – “Cardiac Macrophages in Myocardial Inflammation, Fibrosis, and Heart Failure”
- **Thursday, March 6, Noon:** [Renal Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Jaclyn Albin** (Combined Internal Medicine & Pediatrics) – “But What’s for Dinner? Applying Practical, Community-based Strategies to Support Renal Health”
- **Friday, March 7, Noon:** [Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center Distinguished Lecture](#) with **Dr. Philipp Scherer** (Touchstone Diabetes Center) – “Fibroinflammation, Cancer and the Underlying Cardiometabolic Renal Syndrome”
- **Friday, March 7, 1 p.m.:** [Endocrine Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Steven Smith** (Zealand Pharma) – “Advances in Obesity Pharmacotherapy 2025 and Beyond”

save the date

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

Pancreatic Cancer Symposium Scheduled for April 12



The second annual [Pancreatic Cancer Symposium](#) will be held on **Saturday, April 12, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the T. Boone Pickens Auditorium.**

The live, in-person event will feature didactic lectures and a panel discussion focused of the latest treatment approaches for pancreatic cancer, including minimally invasive and robotic techniques, the role of pancreatic prevention programs, therapeutics research, genetics, novel treatment agents, and utilization of ctDNA. Additionally, the symposium will feature a live transmission of a robotic pancreaticoduodenectomy.

Presenters include **Salwan Al Mufar, M.D.** and **Timothy Brown, M.D.**, both Assistant Professors in the Division of Hematology and Oncology, and **Tarek Sawas, M.D., M.P.H.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases.

To view the symposium agenda, click [here](#).



Internal Medicine Events Calendar

[Click to view additional events](#)

correction

An announcement in the Feb. 25 edition misidentified a division chief. Dr. Ezra Burstein is the Division Chief of Digestive and Liver Diseases, not Nephrology.

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, March 11, 2025**.
Share feedback and news items with us at IMNews@UTSouthwestern.edu

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