

medicine minute

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

kudos

AWARDS

Von Itzstein Named Dean's Scholar in Clinical Research



Mitchell von Itzstein, M.D., an Assistant Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology, has been selected as a Dean's Scholar in Clinical Research, providing him access to financial resources, career guidance, research training, and protected research time to facilitate his development as a clinical physician-scientist.

Originally from Australia, Dr. von Itzstein holds a bachelor's degree in pharmaceutical science and master's degree in pharmacy from Griffith University, where he also earned his medical degree and was awarded the university medal for academic excellence. He completed internal medicine

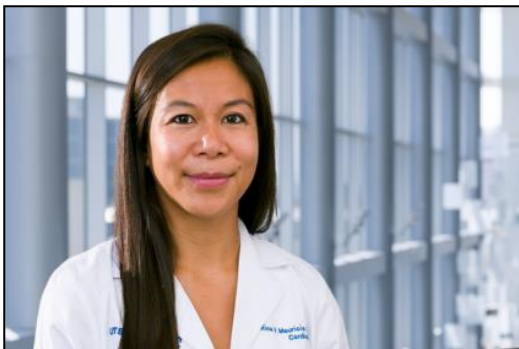
residency training and a medical oncology fellowship at UT Southwestern.

Dr. von Itzstein's research interests include lung cancer, immunotherapy, targeted therapy, artificial intelligence, and clinical trials.

Previous recipients from Internal Medicine include **Jeremy Louissaint, M.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases; **James MacNamara, M.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Cardiology; and **Lauren Truby, M.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Cardiology.

PUBLICATIONS

Mauricio Co-authors Statement on Importance of Psychological Health for Maternal Cardiovascular Health



Rina Mauricio, M.D., an Assistant Professor in the Division of Cardiology, and colleagues recently authored a scientific statement on "Optimizing Psychological Health Across the Perinatal Period: An Update on Cardiovascular Health."

The statement, [published in the Journal of the American Heart Association](#), emphasizes the importance of addressing perinatal psychological health, such as depression and anxiety, due to their significant impact on maternal mortality and adverse pregnancy outcomes in the U.S. It also highlights the link between psychological health and cardiovascular outcomes, urging the integration of psychological care into

maternal cardiovascular health. It calls for comprehensive screening and management during the perinatal period, and suggests creating care models that incorporate both behavioral and pharmacological

interventions, with a focus on extended postpartum follow-up. This approach aims to improve overall maternal and offspring health by addressing the psychological aspects of perinatal care.

Dr. Mauricio is Dedman Family Scholar in Clinical Care.

Other Noteworthy Publications

- [The Challenges of Diagnosing Seronegative Rheumatic Diseases](#) (via *Rheumatology Advisor*, with Salahuddin Kazi, M.D.)
- [Measles in Texas: Waning Vaccination and a Stark Warning for Public Health](#) (via *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*, with Krutika Kuppalli, M.D. and Trish Perl, M.D.)

research roundup

AWARDS

Mal Receives DoD-KCRP Fellowship to Study Paraneoplastic Hypercalcemia in Kidney Cancer



Arijit Mal, Ph.D., a postdoctoral researcher in the [Brugarolas Lab](#), has received a Postdoctoral and Clinical Fellowship Award from the Kidney Cancer Research Program (KCRP) under the Department of Defense's (DoD) Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) to support his project, "Dissecting the Mechanism of Selective HIF2 Regulation of PTHrP and Hypercalcemia in Clear Cell Renal Carcinoma."

Hypercalcemia in clear cell renal cell carcinoma (ccRCC) is a severe paraneoplastic syndrome driven by an overexpression of parathyroid hormone-related protein (PTHrP). In a

manuscript he submitted along with colleagues from the laboratory, they show that inhibiting the HIF2 transcription factor significantly reduces PTHrP levels, normalizing calcium and alleviating symptoms. Under the mentorship of **James Brugarolas, M.D., Ph.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology and Director of the Kidney Cancer Program, Dr. Mal aims to uncover the molecular mechanisms underlying HIF2's selective regulation of PTHrP.

"This study may enable the redeployment of HIF2 inhibitors for hypercalcemia management in ccRCC," Dr. Mal says.

Originally from India, Dr. Mal earned his doctoral degree from the Advanced Centre for Treatment Research and Education of Homi Bhabha National Institute, focusing on mechanisms of radioresistance in breast cancer. Prior to joining the Brugarolas Lab in 2022, Dr. Mal was a postdoctoral fellow at the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, where he investigated drug delivery systems for pancreatic cancer.

education and training

LEADERSHIP

Kondakindi, Panchani Named Chief Fellows for Rheumatology Program



Current Fellows **Hema Kondakindi, M.D.**, and **Nishah Panchani, M.D.**, have been elected Chief Fellows of the Rheumatology Fellowship program, succeeding **Ankitha Lingamaneni, M.D.**, and **Isabel Penabad, M.D.**

Dr. Kondakindi completed medical school with honors at Deccan College of Medical Sciences and received obstetrics and gynecology residency training at Osmania Medical College, both in Hyderabad, India. She then practiced as an attending physician in Durgabhai Deshmukh Hospital and Research Center before completing an internal medicine residency program at Texas Tech University Health Sciences

Center in Odessa.

Dr. Panchani received her bachelor's degree *magna cum laude* from Texas A&M, where she also earned her medical degree and was recognized for Outstanding Excellence as a Medical Student Mentor in the Mentoring Youth and Exposure to Medicine Program. She then completed internal medicine residency training at the University of Alabama Birmingham, where she served as the Women's Health Track Chief Resident.

MEDICAL EDUCATION

Residency Match Results to Be Announced on March 21



On Friday, March 21, UT Southwestern's Class of 2025 will join over 40,000 medical students nationwide in the highly anticipated Match Day event. At 11 a.m., students will simultaneously open envelopes to discover their residency placements through the National Resident Matching Program. The celebration will be held in the Bryan Williams, M.D. Student Center gymnasium, with a virtual stream available for those unable to attend in person.



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in case you missed it

PODCASTS

Williams Discusses Roger Unger's Pioneering Diabetes Research



Kevin Williams, Ph.D., an Associate Professor in the Center for Hypothalamic Research and co-host of [DiabetesBio](#), the American Diabetes Association's monthly podcast for its flagship publication, *Diabetes*, discussed the impact of the radioimmunoassay on diabetes research, highlighting the pioneering work of **Roger Unger, M.D.**, founding director of the Touchstone Diabetes Center.

"Dr. Unger was a towering figure in diabetes research and spent over 50 years at UT Southwestern," Dr. Williams says. "To honor his legacy, we interviewed **Dr. Christopher**

Newgard, a former Co-Director of the Touchstone Center for Diabetes Research, who shared personal insights on his mentor's influence in the field.

To listen to the segment on YouTube, click [here](#). To learn more about Dr. Unger's research, click [here](#).

need to know

FEDERAL REGULATIONS

All Digital Content to Meet Accessibility Standards by April 2026

Last year, the Department of Justice (DOJ) approved new digital accessibility standards to ensure that websites, apps, and other digital tools allow everyone to:

- Perceive the information through screen readers for people with visual impairments, or captions for those who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Operate the controls using a keyboard instead of a mouse for people with motor disabilities.
- Understand the content through the use of clear language and simple layouts for people with cognitive disabilities.

These rules apply to a range of public-facing and internal-facing digital assets, including laboratory webpages and educational content for academic courses. A [digital accessibility website](#) with templates, guides, and a section on recommendations for [academic content creation](#) is now available.

An [introductory virtual training session](#) on **Friday, April 4**, will cover accessibility in education, focusing on what it is, why it matters, and the impact of new regulations, including recent updates to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The deadline to comply with the DOJ rules is April 24, 2026.

For more information, contact [Glenn Philp](#), Information Resources Accessibility Officer.

this week

INTERNAL MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS

Yale's Robert Alpern to Discuss Renal Acidosis on March 21



Robrt Alpern, M.D., a Professor of Internal Medicine at Yale University School of Medicine, will present the [Internal Medicine Grand Rounds](#) lecture on **Friday, March 21, at 8 a.m. in D1.502**. His topic: "Renal Acidosis: More than pH."

Dr. Alpern received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Northwestern University and his medical degree from the University of Chicago. He completed internal medicine residency training at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York, followed by fellowship training in nephrology at the University of California San Francisco, where he then joined the faculty.

In 1987, Dr. Alpern was recruited to UT Southwestern to serve as Division Chief of Nephrology, a position he held for more than a decade when he was appointed Dean of the UT Southwestern Medical School. In 2004 he became the Ensign Professor of Medicine and Dean of the Yale School of Medicine.

Dr. Alpern is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine, the Association of American Physicians, and the American Society of Clinical Investigation. He has also served as president of the American Society of Nephrology.

Garry to Lecture on Cardiac Reprogramming on March 21



Glynnis Garry, M.D., an Assistant Professor in the Division of Cardiology, will present the [Internal Medicine Research Conference](#) on **Friday, March 21, at noon in D1.502**. Her topic: "Rewiring Fate: Epigenetic Factors as Drivers of Cardiac Reprogramming."

Dr. Garry holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana and earned her medical degree at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in Tennessee, where she graduated Alpha Omega Alpha. She received molecular biology training at UT Southwestern in the laboratory of Eric Olson, Ph.D., after being awarded the Sarnoff Cardiovascular

Research fellowship. She then completed internal medicine residency training, postdoctoral research fellowship training, and clinical cardiology fellowship training through the Physician-Scientist Training Program (PSTP) at UT Southwestern.

Dr. Garry's research interests are focused on discovery of therapies for heart failure and myocardial infarction. Her NIH-funded laboratory focuses on the transcriptional and epigenetic control of heart development and cardiac cell fate differentiation, with a focus on direct fibroblast to cardiomyocyte reprogramming.

Dr. Garry joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2024.

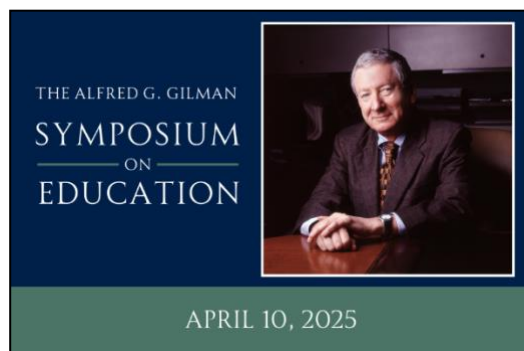
Noteworthy Lectures & Conferences

- **Tuesday, March 18, 6 p.m.:** [Family & Community Medicine Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Fatima Dabdoub** (Family & Community Medicine) – "Bridging Cultures, Building Health: Family Medicine and Refugee Care"
- **Wednesday, March 19, 8 a.m.:** [Geriatrics Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Belinda Vicioso** (Geriatric Medicine) – "Foto Test: Update"
- **Thursday, March 20, 4 p.m.:** [Pharmacology Seminar](#) with **Dr. Sarah Huen** (Pharmacology/Internal Medicine) – "Metabolism as a Defense Mechanism: Surviving Sepsis and Starvation"
- **Friday, March 21, 1 p.m.:** [Endocrine Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Kyaw Soe** (Endocrinology) – "Metabolic impact of Gender Affirming Hormone Therapy in Transgender Adults"
- **Monday, March 24, Noon:** [General Internal Medicine Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Sravanya Gavini** (Digestive & Liver Diseases) – "GERD Management"
- **Monday, March 24, Noon:** [Nutrition Considerations with Obesity Medications](#) with **Dr. Jaime Almondoz** (Endocrinology)

upcoming events

SOUTHWESTERN ACADEMY OF TEACHERS

Gilman Education Symposium Scheduled for April 10



The 14th annual [Alfred G. Gilman Symposium on Education](#) will be held on **Thursday, April 10, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.** as a hybrid event. Sponsored by the Southwestern Academy of Teachers, the event will highlight “A New Frontier: The Intersection of Medical Education and Artificial Intelligence.”

The keynote address will be presented virtually at 9 a.m. by **Marc Triola, M.D.**, a Professor of Internal Medicine at NYU Langone Health, where he is also Associate Dean for Educational Informatics and Director of the Institute for Innovations in Medical Education.

The opening plenary session will feature the first campus-wide address by **James Willig, M.D., M.S.P.H.**, a Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine and Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education. Additionally, **Jessica Abramowitz, M.D.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Endocrinology; **Reuben Arasaratnam, M.D., M.P.H.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine; **Indira Bhavsar-Burke, M.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases; and **Judah Gruen, M.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine, will provide updates on their grant projects.

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

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

reminders

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Tenth Annual Seldin Symposium Set for March 28



The 10th annual **Donald W. Seldin Research 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.

David Altshuler, M.D., Ph.D., executive vice president and chief scientific officer of Vertex Pharmaceuticals, will deliver the [keynote address](#) at 8 a.m. in D1.502. His topic: “Humanizing Drug Discovery II: Improving Success Rates for First-in-class Medicines.”

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, will deliver the [Seldin-Smith Physician-Scientist Lecture](#) at noon in E6.200. His topic: “Waking up with a Sting: Immune Evasion During Metastatic Reactivation from Dormancy.”

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



Internal Medicine Events Calendar

[Click to view additional events](#)

Look for the next *Medicine Minute* on **Tuesday, March 25, 2025**.
Share feedback and news items with us at IMNews@UTSouthwestern.edu

