

# medicine minute

April 22, 2025

## kudos



### HONORS

#### **Beckman to Receive AHA's Meritorious Achievement Award**

**Joshua Beckman, M.D., M.P.H.**, Professor and Chief of Vascular Medicine, has received a Meritorious Achievement Award by the American Heart Association (AHA). He will be honored during the AHA's National Volunteer Awards for his work as Chair of the American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology Joint Committee on Clinical Practice Guidelines.

Originally from New York, Dr. Beckman holds a bachelor's degree in American political history from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. He earned his medical degree from New York University and completed internal medicine residency training at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, where he served as Chief Resident. He then received advanced training through fellowships in cardiovascular medicine and vascular medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. He also holds a master's degree in epidemiology from the Harvard School of Public Health.

Prior to joining the UT Southwestern in 2022, he served on the faculties of Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, and Harvard Medical School

*Dr. Beckman holds the Gayle and Paul Stoffel Distinguished Chair in Cardiology.*

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#### INFLUENCERS

## Kuppalli Elected to European Society's Mpox Guideline Committee

**Krutika Kuppalli, M.D.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine, has been elected by the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID) to serve on its Mpox Guidelines Committee.

Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, the organization includes more than 12,000 microbiologists and infectious disease specialists from across the European continent. Dr. Kuppalli will assist in developing guidelines for the treatment and management of mpox, as well as dissemination and implementation of the guidelines.

"It's a bit of a challenge to develop guidelines given the different resources among countries and different clades," Dr. Kuppalli says.

Originally from Palo Alto, California, Dr. Kuppalli holds dual bachelor's degrees in biochemistry and international relations from the University of California San Diego. She received her medical degree at Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine and completed internal medicine residency and infectious diseases fellowship training at Emory University in Atlanta, and a postdoctoral fellowship in global public health at UC San Diego. She also was an Emerging Leader in Biosecurity Fellow at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security.

Awarded the NIH Fogarty International Clinical Research Fellowship, she conducted research in Southern India that focused on the progression of emerging infections in persons living with HIV and the optimization of their care. She also served as Medical Director of a large Ebola Treatment Unit in Sierra Leone during the 2014 West Africa Ebola outbreak, helping lead the development and implementation of pandemic preparedness and response activities in resource-limited settings and consulting on the development of therapeutics and monitoring of adverse vaccine events for emerging pathogens.

In August 2021, Dr. Kuppalli joined the World Health Organization (WHO) Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, as a medical officer for the COVID-19 pandemic response, where she was an integral part of the global Incident Management Support Team (IMST). She contributed to the development of educational resources, supported the clinical characterization and management working group for COVID-19, and played a key role in creating the COVID-19 clinical management and therapeutics guidelines. Additionally, she was a core member of the WHO IMST for mpox from the onset of the multicountry outbreak in May 2022 until April 2024, helping develop educational resources and technical documents, including normative guidance for surveillance, public health, and diagnostics.

Dr. Kuppalli joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2024. ■

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#### ACHIEVEMENTS

### Levine Recognized with Wilderness Organization's Founders 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 selected to receive the Founders Award from the Wilderness Medical Society.

The award is given in recognition of contributions to the principles and objectives of the field of wilderness medicine as envisioned by the Society's founders through pioneering research, clinical leadership, education, and mentorship. Wilderness medicine focuses on providing medical care in remote and austere settings where access to traditional resources is limited or non-existent.

Dr. Levine's clinical and research interests center on the adaptive capacity of the human circulatory system in response to exercise training, deconditioning, aging, and environmental stimuli such as high altitude.

*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.*

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## Chowdhury Discusses Psychological Safety at Meeting of Physician Advisors

**Shweta Chowdhury, M.D.**, a Clinical Associate Professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine and Chief Physician Advisor, was a featured speaker at the National Physician Advisor Conference earlier this month in Chicago, where she spoke about creating an environment of psychological safety, where physicians feel safe to express their thoughts, concerns, and ideas without fear of reprisal.

Dr. Chowdhury's interest in quality improvement and regulatory compliance was a driving force in pursuing a career as a physician advisor. She started the Physician Advisor program at UT Southwestern, growing the team from one to 13 over the course of four years.

Originally from India, Dr. Chowdhury completed her medical education at Bharti Vidyapeeth Medical College and received internal medicine residency training at Rochester General Hospital in New York, where she served as Chief Resident.

Dr. Chowdhury joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2016.

## publications



### CLINICAL EXPERTISE

## Ahmad, Garg Co-author Clinical Review on Rare Lipid Disorder

**Zahid Ahmad, M.D.**, an Associate Professor, and **Abhimanyu Garg, M.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Endocrinology, recently co-authored "[\*Familial Chylomicronemia Syndrome: An Expert Review from the National Lipid Association\*](#)," providing an in-depth examination of the diagnosis, management, and treatment for this rare and severe genetic disorder.

Familial Chylomicronemia Syndrome (FCS) is characterized by extremely high triglyceride levels and an elevated risk of life-threatening recurrent acute pancreatitis. It affects approximately one in 10 individuals per million and is typically caused by bi-allelic pathogenetic variants affecting the clearance of triglyceride-rich lipoproteins. Due to its rarity and overlapping features with more common lipid disorders, FCS is frequently underdiagnosed or misdiagnosed, often leading to delayed care and preventable complications.

“This comprehensive statement synthesizes critical knowledge on FCS,” lead author Dr. Ahmad says. “The expert opinion highlights the challenges of diagnosis, the necessity of lifelong ultra-low-fat diet, and the promise of new therapies targeting apolipoprotein C-III, which offer hope for reducing triglycerides and pancreatitis risk in patients with FCS.”

Dr. Ahmad’s research aims to identify the causes of cholesterol and triglyceride disorders and to develop new treatment options for patients who suffer from them. He joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2010.

Dr. Garg is widely considered a leading expert on lipodystrophy treatment and research. He joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 1988. ■

*Dr. Garg holds the Distinguished Chair in Human Nutrition Research.*

## education and training



### GRANTS

## Rogers Receives Grant to Fund Education Initiative

Hayley Rogers, M.D., a third-year Gastroenterology Fellow, has received a grant from the American Gastroenterological Association's Academy of Educators to fund her work in sexual and gender minority education in gastroenterology.

Dr. Rogers serves as Education Chair for [Rainbows in Gastro](#), a nonprofit organization dedicated to understanding the unique digestive health needs of sexual and gender minorities.

Dr. Rogers holds a bachelor’s degree in biomedical sciences from Texas A&M University. She received her medical degree from UT Medical Branch in Galveston and completed internal medicine residency training at The George Washington University Hospital in Washington, D.C. Upon completing her fellowship training, she will begin an advanced endoscopy fellowship at Duke University.

## need to know

### UNIVERSITY BRAND STANDARDS

## Policy on Email Signatures Updated

Every email we send is an opportunity to promote UT Southwestern's brand while providing essential contact details. To ensure that all email communications maintain brand consistency, email signatures are to be kept simple, clean, and to the point for easy readability.

Long-form and short-form versions are permitted as long as they stay within UTSW brand standards.

Long-form signatures should include name (credentials as needed), title/position, UT Southwestern Medical Center, phone (office and/or cell), email address, and address. For personal safety, all physical addresses should be the university's general mailing address with the individual's four-digit mail code.

Short-form signatures should include name (credentials as needed), title/position, UT Southwestern Medical Center, and one form of contact information.

Taglines, photos, images, graphic badges, social channel icons, or any unapproved verbiage are not permitted.

Aptos is the new approved font for UTSW email signatures.

To learn more and to see an example of both the long-form and short-form signatures, click [here](#).

## this week



INTERNAL MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS

## UCLA's Debra Saliba to Deliver Sulkin Shein Lecture on April 25

**Debra Saliba, M.D., M.P.H.**, Professor of Internal Medicine and Director of the Anna and Harry Borun Center for Geriatric Research at the University of California Los Angeles, will present the [Internal Medicine Grand Rounds](#) lecture on **Friday, April 25, at 8 a.m. in D1.502**. Her topic: "What Every Internist Should Know About Post-acute and Long-term Care."

Dr. Saliba received her medical education at the University of Alabama School of Medicine, where she also completed internal medicine residency training. She then obtained advanced training through fellowships in geriatrics and health services research at UCLA and the Los Angeles VA while also earning a master's degree in public health.

Among noteworthy career highlights are Dr. Saliba's work to develop and test the Vulnerable Elders 13-item Survey (VES-13), a survey that uses individuals' reports of function and health to efficiently identify older adults at risk for decline or death. The VES-13 has been translated into eight languages and is used in clinical practice, research, and health systems around the world. A second highlight is her leadership of a nationwide team that developed a new Minimum Data Set (MDS) assessment — a tool used more than 14 million times a year to identify the needs of persons in nursing homes and to guide their care planning. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services also uses MDS to generate care quality measures and to inform reimbursement for post-acute care in U.S. nursing homes. Dr. Saliba and colleagues pioneered the use in MDS of patient self-report questions to identify patient needs. This work laid the foundation for inclusion of patient reported symptoms in other post-acute care settings to improve coordination and care quality. Dr. Saliba's research has also explored home and community-based services and supports, the relationship of staffing patterns to care quality, and interventions to decrease the need for and adverse consequences of hospitalization.

She has served in multiple roles for the American Geriatrics Society, including President (2017-2018) and Board Chair (2018-2019).

*Dr. Saliba's lecture is made possible by the Lorraine Sulkin Schein Endowment Fund.*

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## Other Noteworthy Lectures & Conferences This Week

- **Wednesday, April 23, 8 a.m.:** [GI Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Mamatha Bhat** (University of Toronto) — "Development and Deployment of Multimodal AI Tools in Hepatology"

- **Wednesday, April 23, Noon:** [Excellence in Immunology Lecture](#) with Dr. Terry Fry (University of Colorado) – “Enhancing CAR T Cells for Pediatric Leukemias”
- **Thursday, April 24, 8 a.m.:** [Infectious Diseases Grand Rounds](#) with Dr. Madhuri Sopirala (Infectious Diseases & Geographic Medicine) – “The Kingpins of Healthcare Acquired Infections: Carbapenem-Resistant Pathogens”
- **Thursday, April 24, Noon:** [Nephrology M&M Conference](#) with Dr. Danny Yang (Nephrology) – “Case of Delayed Diagnosis”
- **Thursday, April 24, Noon:** [Vertically Integrated Programs in Cancer](#) with Drs. Suzanne Conzen, Jay Lohrey, and Marisa Kometas (Hematology & Oncology)
- **Friday, April 25, Noon:** [Hematology & Oncology Grand Rounds](#) with Dr. William Schwartzman (Hematology & Oncology) – “Consolidative Radiation Treatment in the Metastatic Setting”
- **Friday, April 25, 1 p.m.:** [Endocrine Grand Rounds](#) with Dr. Reuben De Almeida (Endocrinology) – “Effects of Perioperative Dexamethasone Use on Post-operative Length of Hospital Stay and Resource Utilization in Patients with Poorly Controlled Diabetes”

## on the horizon



### CARDIOMETABOLIC RESEARCH

## Kaiser Permanente's Ankeet Bhatt to Discuss Improving Cardiometabolic Care on April 29

**Ankeet Bhatt, M.D., M.B.A., Sc.M.**, a Research Scientist at Kaiser Permanente, Associate Physician at The Permanente Medical Group, and Adjunct Professor at Stanford University, will present the [Cardiometabolic Lecture](#) on **Tuesday, April 29, at noon in D1.502**. His topic: “Applying Implementation and Behavioral Economic Science to Improve Cardiometabolic Care.”

Dr. Bhatt earned a bachelor's degree in biological sciences at the University of Connecticut, where he obtained both medical and business training in a joint MD/MBA program. He completed his residency at Duke University, followed by fellowships in

cardiovascular diseases and critical care medicine at the Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School. He then completed a research fellowship and earned a master's degree in epidemiology from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Dr. Bhatt has several interests across cardiometabolic health, including the design and execution of large pragmatic clinical trials, with a particular focus on care delivery and implementation science.

## upcoming events

UT SOUTHWESTERN



### WELLNESS

#### Faculty and APP Wellness Retreat Scheduled for June 6

The Office of Faculty Wellness will host a Faculty and APP Wellness Retreat on **Friday, June 6, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Pegasus Park**. The in-person event will focus on fostering wellness, humanism, and professional growth in academic medicine.

**Melanie Sulistio, M.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Cardiology, will present the keynote address, detailing her finding joy, fulfillment, and purpose in medicine.

Directed by **Susan Matulevicius, M.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Cardiology and Associate Dean of Faculty Wellness, the retreat will include workshops, discussions, and activities designed to rejuvenate and inspire. **Bonnie Prokesch, M.D.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine, will guide interactive workshops and discussions to promote humanism in action and relational resilience.

[Retreat Registration](#)

## Other Upcoming Events Featuring Internal Medicine Faculty

- Saturday, May 3: [Update in Internal Medicine](#) with Drs. Gloria Ayuba, Sandeep Das, Elizabeth Hardin, Nimesh Patel and Anand Rohatgi (Cardiology); Thomas Kerr and Anna Tavakkoli (Digestive & Liver Diseases); Alex Tessnow, Tonia Vinton, and Christoph Zechner (Endocrinology); Arthur Hong and Emily Kahl (General Internal Medicine); Natalie Bavli, Sheena Bhalla, Timothy Brown, Suzanne Conzen, and Kevin Courtney (Hematology & Oncology); James “Brad” Cutrell, Siddharth Kogilwaimath, Joslyn Strebe, and Alex Tatara (Infectious Diseases & Geographic Medicine); Orson Moe, Ramesh Saxena, Taylor Schaub Schlager, Miguel Vazquez, and David Wojciechowski (Nephrology); Leah Cohen, Luke Engelking, Xiao-Fei Kong, Paul Lederer, and Bethany Lussier (Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine); and Luigino Bernabela and Joseph Merola (Rheumatic Diseases)
- Saturday, May 10: [Heart Failure Symposium](#) with Drs. Mark Drazner, Maryjane Farr, Justin Grodin, Elizabeth Hardin, Nicholas Hendren, Katherine Michelis, Jennifer Thibodeau, Lauren Truby, and Christopher Wrobel (Cardiology)

Look for the next *Medicine Minute* on Tuesday, April 29, 2025.

Share feedback and news items with us at [IMNews@UTSouthwestern.edu](mailto:IMNews@UTSouthwestern.edu)

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