

medicine minute

May 6, 2025

announcements



LEADERSHIP

Chapman Appointed Associate Dean for Health Informatics

Wendy Chapman, Ph.D., will be joining UT Southwestern in July as Associate Dean for Health Informatics and Director of the Center for Clinical Informatics and Director of the Center for Clinical Informatics. Dr. Chapman will hold an appointment as Professor of Internal Medicine.

Dr. Chapman's research primarily focuses on natural language processing (NLP) of clinical texts. She has developed algorithms to extract information from clinical notes, aiming to improve decision support systems and quality assurance in healthcare. Her work includes creating tools for mapping text to medical concepts and enhancing the usability of NLP outputs for clinical research and decision support.

In her new role, Dr. Chapman will continue advancing research in these areas, leveraging her expertise to improve health care delivery and support student learning, positioning UT Southwestern as a national model of a research-driven learning health system.

A recognized leader in the field of medical informatics, Dr. Chapman is a member of the National Academy of Medicine, a recipient of the American Medical Informatics Association's Donald A.B. Lindberg Award for Innovation in Informatics, and a Distinguished Fellow of the American College of Medical Informatics. ■



LEADERSHIP

Perl Appointed OSPH Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs

Trish Perl, M.D., M.Sc., a Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine, has been appointed Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs in the O'Donnell School of Public Health (OSPH), where she has served as Interim Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Professor of Epidemiology since 2023.

In her new role, Dr. Perl will oversee a diverse faculty and support initiatives related to faculty development, advancement, and engagement.

Prior to joining UT Southwestern in 2016 as Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine, Dr. Perl served as a Professor of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Professor of Epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She has received global recognition for her pioneering research in healthcare-associated infections, antimicrobial resistance, and respiratory viruses and their prevention. Her expertise in outbreak management and mitigation has made her a leading consultant on guideline development and strategies to counter emerging threats in healthcare. ■

Dr. Perl holds the H. Ben and Isabelle T. Decherd Chair in Internal Medicine in Honor of Henry M. Winans, Sr., M.D.

kudos



HONORS

Brugarolas Elected to Association of American Physicians

James Brugarolas, M.D, Ph.D., a Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology, has been elected to the Association of American Physicians (AAP), the oldest physician honorary society in the U.S., in recognition of his contributions to medicine.

Dr. Brugarolas is the founding director of the Kidney Cancer Program, one of two programs recognized by the National Cancer Institute with a Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE) award. The program brings together experts across basic and clinical sciences, as well as patient advocates, and is recognized for its breadth, interdisciplinary nature, and innovation. It has led to a first-in-class HIF2 inhibitor, now approved by the FDA for both familial and sporadic kidney cancer, as well as novel radiation applications.

Research at the Brugarolas lab provided insights into mechanisms of action and resistance including of UTSW's HIF2 inhibitor as well as rapalogs; implicated genes in the pathogenesis of kidney cancer showing that they control tumor grade, influence tumor latency and metastases tropism; and developed animal models faithfully reproducing the disease providing insights into the tumor/host interplay as well as paraneoplastic syndromes.

Dr. Brugarolas joined the UT Southwestern in 2006. ■

Dr. Brugarolas holds the Sherry Wigley Crow Cancer Research Endowed Chair in Honor of Robert Lewis Kirby, M.D.



SERVICE

Barker Selected for Southern Group on Educational Affairs

Blake Barker, M.D., an Associate Professor in the William T. and Gay F. Solomon Division of General Internal Medicine and Associate Dean of Students, has been selected Member-at-Large for the Southern Group on Educational Affairs (SGEA), an affinity group within the Association of American Medical Colleges dedicated to advancing medical education and curriculum development, scholarship, research, and assessment.

Originally from Indianapolis, Indiana, Dr. Barker holds a bachelor's degree in economics and psychology from Rice University in Houston and a master's degree in physiology and biophysics from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. He received his medical degree from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston and then completed internal medicine residency training at McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University in Chicago.

He joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2011. ■

RECENT JOB CHANGES

Staff Members Take on New Roles

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

- **Shristy Bashyal** – Manager of Department Operations (Faculty Affairs), Department Administration
- **Hye-jeong Cho** – Research Scientist, Hypothalamic Research

- **Stephanie Davis** – Division Operations Administrator, Infectious Diseases & Geographic Medicine
- **Luis Esquivel** – Manager of Department Operations (Classified Staff Affairs), Department Administration
- **Jon Garinn** – Manager of Marketing & Communications, Department Administration
- **Troy Perez** – Senior Business Operations Analyst, Department Administration
- **Sadhona Pulukuri** – Manager of Financial Affairs, Department Administration
- **Lisa Tobolka** – Department Faculty Coordinator, Department Administration

research roundup



FUNDING

Pandey Receives AHA Implementation Science Grant

Ambarish Pandey, M.D., an Assistant Professor in the Division of Cardiology, has received a \$400,000 Implementation Science Award from the American Heart Association (AHA) to support his evaluation of a home-based cardiac rehabilitation program among rural patients with heart failure and preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF).

This grant intends to use evidence-based theories and frameworks to identify strategies that facilitate the uptake of home-based cardiac rehab in patients with HFpEF to improve health outcomes by using a type 2 hybrid effectiveness implementation trial approach.

Specifically, Dr. Pandey plans to conduct a multi-center randomized controlled trial to evaluate a 12-week remotely delivered cardiac rehabilitation intervention among recently hospitalized patients with HFpEF. The study will use the RE-AIM framework to ensure the intervention is not only effective but also widely adopted, properly implemented, and sustained over time.

“Heart failure with preserved ejection fraction leads to exercise intolerance, poor quality of life, and high hospitalization and mortality rates,” Dr. Pandey says. “Traditional cardiac rehabilitation (CR) programs, focusing mainly on aerobic training, are not tailored for frail, older patients and are less accessible to rural patients and not approved for use among patients with HFpEF. Home-based CR offers a potential alternative solution to bring exercise training to a patient’s home with the goal to improve their clinical outcomes.” ■

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Kidney Cancer Program Announces Intramural Grant Competition

The Kidney Cancer Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE) is again sponsoring an [intramural competition](#) for three to six grants of \$25,000 to \$40,000 (direct costs) as part of its Developmental Research and Career Enhancement programs.

The **Developmental Research Program** supports high-risk/high-payoff projects and projects with a translational projection. The **Career Enhancement Program** supports pilot projects from junior faculty, as well as established investigators refocusing their careers to include kidney cancer research.

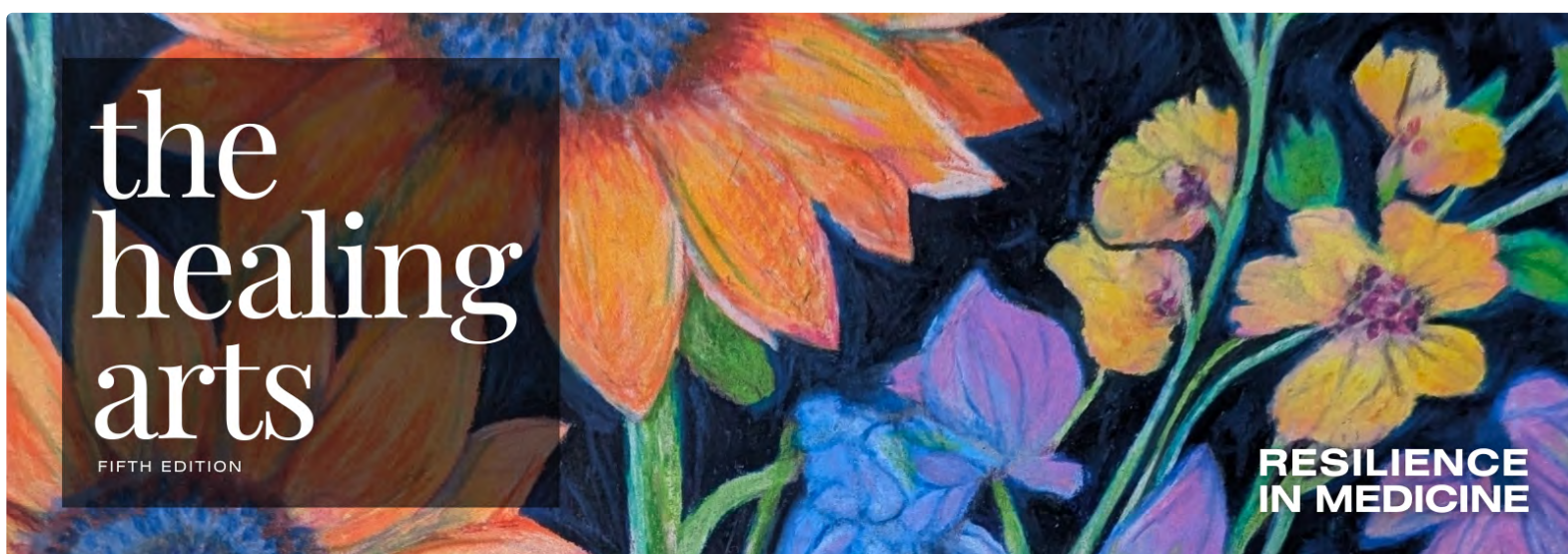
Women and under-represented minority faculty are strongly encouraged to apply.

James Brugarolas, M.D., Ph.D., a Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology and Director of the Kidney Cancer Program, and **Payal Kapur, M.D.**, a Professor of Pathology and Urology, are available to discuss potential projects.

Deadline for submission is **Friday, June 6**. Awardees will be notified in July. ■

For more information, contact Program Coordinator [Kathy Worland](#).

education and training



HUMANITIES

Resident-Initiated Literary Journal Now Available

The fifth edition of *The Healing Arts*, a publication of original prose, poetry, photography, and art, is [now available](#).

This year's theme, "Resilience in Medicine," celebrates and honors the community that nurtures its development, according to the editors.

"Since its conception during the fear and isolation of the COVID pandemic, *The Healing Arts* has served as an artistic outlet that fosters connection, introspection, and growth," the editors say. "We are humbled by our authors' and artists' authenticity and vulnerability and are excited to showcase the courage and creativity that characterize our Internal Medicine Department." ■

Internal Medicine News Portal

in case you missed it



MEDBLOG

Mitchell, Unni Discuss the Complicated Link Between Alcohol Consumption and Cancer

The [U.S. Surgeon General's 2025 Advisory on Alcohol and Cancer Risk](#) highlights a concerning link between alcohol consumption and cancer. Despite 62% of American adults reporting they drink, less than half are aware of the increased cancer risk associated with alcohol use. The advisory identifies seven types of cancer linked to alcohol: breast (in women), liver, mouth, throat, voice box, esophageal, and colorectal cancers.

While heavy drinking is widely recognized as harmful, the definition of moderate drinking remains ambiguous, with some past research suggesting potential health benefits, write **Mack Mitchell, M.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases and Vice President of Medical Affairs, and **Nisha Unni, M.D.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology, in their [latest MedBlog post](#).

"The Surgeon General's Advisory should serve as a wake-up call to people about the cancer risks associated with drinking, empowering you with knowledge about personal risks – modifiable and not," they say. "Drinking also complicates cancer treatment. Alcohol use is not recommended for people who are taking chemotherapy, immunotherapy, or hormone therapy because it can make the drugs less effective. If a patient has liver damage, we cannot safely give the recommended dose of cancer medications because they are processed through the liver." ■

News and Digital Media Featuring Internal Medicine Colleagues

- [Channeling the Afterglow, not the Aftermath: Tips from AIMW25 for Navigating during and after Feedback Conversations](#) (Via "The Curbsiders" podcast with Reeni Abraham, M.D.)
- [Obesity in Childhood Raises Risk of Experiencing Weight Stigma](#) (Via UTSW Newsroom with Jaime Almandoz, M.D., M.B.A., and Chellse Gazda, M.D.)

personnel updates



ADMINISTRATION

Lyken Djibo Joins Faculty Affairs Group

Candace Lyken Djibo, M.B.A., has joined the Central Administration office as a Faculty Affairs Coordinator, in support of the divisions of Combined Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, General Internal Medicine, Geriatric Medicine, Hospital Medicine, Nephrology, and the Touchstone Diabetes Center.

Originally from California, Ms. Lyken Djibo holds a bachelor's degree in human development and family studies from the University of Nevada in Reno and a master's degree in human resources management from Southern New Hampshire University. Prior to joining UT Southwestern as a faculty affairs coordinator in the Department of Pediatrics in 2023, she worked as a program coordinator at West Coast University in Richardson. ■

this week



INTERNAL MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS

Harvard's Mark Zeidel to Discuss Physiology and Medicine on May 9

Mark Zeidel, M.D., Herrman L. Blumgart Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Chair of Medicine at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, will present the [Internal Medicine Grand Rounds](#) lecture on **Friday, May 9, at 8 a.m. in D1.502**. His topic: "Neural Control of Somatic Function: The Future of Physiology and Medicine."

Dr. Zeidel received his medical degree from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. He completed internal medicine residency and nephrology fellowship training at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. He joined the faculty at the University of Pittsburgh, where he served as chief of the renal and electrolyte division, and then as the Jack D. Myers Professor and chair of the Department of Medicine. He joined the Harvard Medical School faculty in 2005 and became Chair of Medicine at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

Dr. Zeidel has made many seminal observations in the field of nephrology: defining the role of atrial peptides in renal salt excretion, characterizing the biophysical function of water channels and barrier membranes, and advancing urothelial cell biology.

[His lab](#) focuses on fundamental research questions in animal models that attempt to understand how the brain regulates kidney function and hence blood pressure, the precise neural circuitry that controls how and when we urinate, and attempts to create realistic mouse models of urinary tract disease, so that we gain scientific insights that can lead to better treatments for patients. His group uses state-of-the-art techniques in next generation single cell RNA sequencing, opto- and chemo-genetics, neural tracing, fMRI, Cre-recombinase reporter mice, electrophysiology and in vivo physiological measurements. ■

Dr. Zeidel's lecture is made possible by the Henry M. Winans Professorship Fund.



INTERNAL MEDICINE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Conzen to Present Research Findings on May 9

Suzanne Conzen, M.D., M.Sc., a Professor and Chief of the Division of Hematology and Oncology, will present the Internal Medicine Research Conference on **Friday, May 9, at noon in D1.502**.

Originally from New York City, Dr. Conzen holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, where she graduated *magna cum laude*. She earned her medical degree at Yale School of Medicine in New Haven, Connecticut, and completed internal medicine residency training at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center in New York City. She then received advanced training in hematology and medical oncology through a clinical fellowship at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center and in molecular oncology through a research fellowship at Dartmouth Medical School in Bedford, New Hampshire. She also holds a master's degree from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

[Her lab](#) examines the role of the glucocorticoid receptor in prostate, breast, and ovarian cancers. Dr. Conzen's previous research at the University of Chicago led to the recognition of a role for glucocorticoid receptor signaling in breast cancer biology and, more recently, in cancer progression and therapy resistance in prostate and ovarian cancer. ■



Heart Failure Symposium

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

Heart Failure Symposium Scheduled for May 10

The Heart Failure Symposium is scheduled for **Saturday, May 10, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Clements University Hospital Education and Conference Center.**

Under the direction of **Maryjane Farr, M.D., M.Sc.**, Professor and Section Chief of Heart Failure, Mechanical Circulatory Support, and Heart Transplantation, and **Justin Grodin, M.D., M.P.H.**, Associate Professor and Medical Director of the Internal Medicine Clinical Trials Unit, the one-day event will offer state-of-the-art lectures and panel discussions on guideline-directed medical therapy, exercise testing, pulmonary hypertension in patients with heart failure, cardiogenic shock temporary and durable mechanical support device therapy, heart and multi-organ transplantation, cardiac amyloidosis, sarcoidosis, myocarditis, and adult congenital heart disease.

Attendees who successfully complete the course will receive 5 units of CME credit. ■

Dr. Farr holds the Jackie and Charles Solomon Distinguished Chair in Clinical Excellence.

To learn more or to register for the event, click [here](#).

Other Noteworthy Lectures & Conferences This Week

- **Tuesday, May 6, Noon:** [Pathology Seminar](#) with Dr. Kathleen Burns (Harvard Medical School) – “A Retrotransposon in Cancer: The Marker and the Mutator”
- **Wednesday, May 7, Noon:** [Mary Beth Maddox Award and Lectureship](#) with Dr. Gerta Hoxhaj (Children's Research Institute) – “Metabolic Regulation of Cancer Cell Growth”
- **Thursday, May 8, 8 a.m.:** [Infectious Diseases Grand Rounds](#) with Dr. Laila Castellino (Infectious Diseases & Geographic Medicine) – “From OPAT to COpAT: Through the Lens of Diabetic Foot Infections”
- **Friday, May 9, Noon:** [Hematology & Oncology Grand Rounds](#) with Dr. Anna Moscovitz (Hematology & Oncology) – “Expanding CAR-T Applications in Colorectal Cancer”

Look for the next *Medicine Minute* on **Tuesday, May 13, 2025.**

Share feedback and news items with us at IMNews@UTSouthwestern.edu

