

medicine minute

May 13, 2025

kudos



UT Southwestern Certified as a Comprehensive Cardiac Center

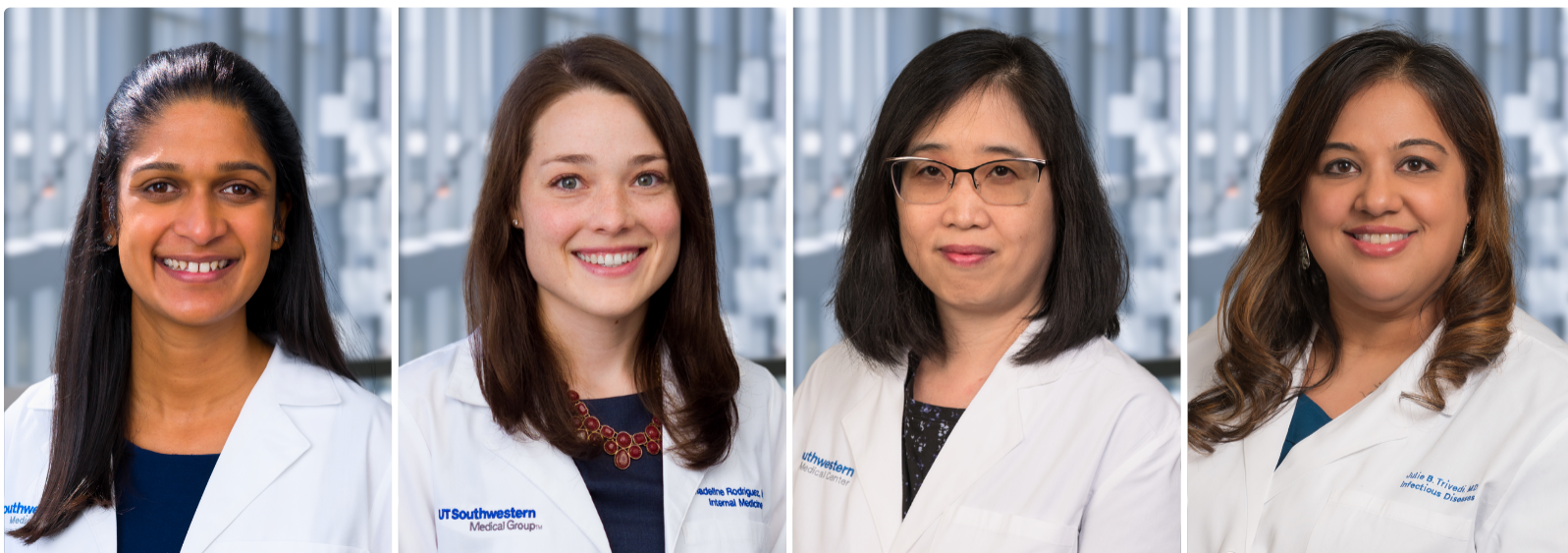
UT Southwestern has earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval and the American Heart Association's Heart-Check mark for Comprehensive Cardiac Center (CCC) Certification, making it the third hospital in North Texas and one of only 24 nationwide to meet the high standards required for certification.

This certification highlights UT Southwestern's dedication to providing the highest quality of service at every point of a patient's continuum of care.

In March, UT Southwestern underwent a rigorous, two-day onsite review to earn this certification. During the visit, a team of Joint Commission reviewers evaluated compliance with the hospital's standards spanning several areas, including the effective integration of evidence-based clinical practice guidelines, a systematic approach to performance measurement and improvement, and the delivery and facilitation of clinical care. These standards are developed in collaboration with healthcare experts, providers, measurement specialists, and patients. The review process also included onsite observations and interviews.

To achieve this certification, five years in the making, UT Southwestern demonstrated comprehensive care, treatment, and services for managing various cardiac conditions, such as ischemic heart disease, cardiac valve disease, arrhythmias, advanced heart failure, cardiac arrest, cardiac rehabilitation, cardiovascular risk factor identification, and disease prevention.

The CCC certification was created by The Joint Commission in 2017 to showcase cardiac programs with a complete approach to care that are committed to excellent quality and outcomes. To maintain CCC certification, UT Southwestern will undergo another review process in two years. ■



Faculty Members Receive Inaugural Wellness Grants

Several faculty members are among 10 recipients of inaugural Thrive and Flourish Wellness Development Grants from the Office of Faculty Wellness. They will be paired with a process-improvement coach and a well-being expert to design, implement, and test their projects to ensure they are impactful and sustainable.

- **Rachna Goswami, M.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine, received a grant to support her project, “Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Team Building and Bonding.”
- **Madeline Rodriguez, M.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine, received funding for her project, “Coaching as Compass: A Small Group Coaching Pilot.” She will be joined in this project by **Haidy Galous, M.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Rheumatic Diseases, **Jhee “June” Lee, M.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine, and **Julie Trivedi, M.D.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine, under the mentorship of **Una Makris, M.D.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Rheumatic Diseases.
- **Parisa “Ann” Suthun, M.D.**, a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine, received funding for her project, “Let’s Take the Stairs: A Physical Activity Rewards Program.”
- **Dr. Trivedi** also received a grant to support her individual project, “Improving Wellbeing of Inpatient Infectious Diseases Consult Faculty and Fellows.”

The grant program offers funding, mentorship, workshops, and a supportive network – all designed to empower emerging leaders and foster a culture of wellness and growth. ■



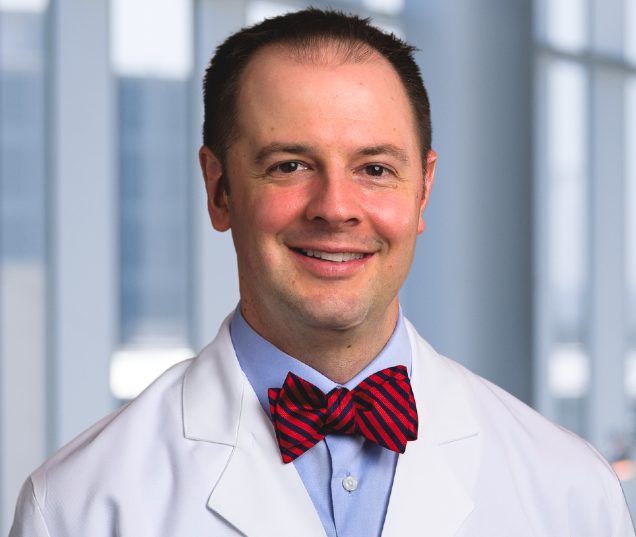
Tatara, Colleagues Discuss Emerging Field of Immunoengineering

Alexander Tatara, M.D. Ph.D., an Assistant Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine, and colleagues recently presented basic concepts associated with immunoengineering, an emerging field in infectious diseases. Their [article, published in *The Journal of Infectious Diseases*](#), describes how immunoengineering applies engineering strategies and precision to modulate immune response.

“Engineering strategies have benefited immunotherapy in infectious diseases in the past,” Dr. Tatara says. “For example, biomaterials scientists discovered ways to add polymer motifs to cytokine therapies to treat hepatitis C. In a more recent example, the lipid nanoparticles used for the COVID-19 vaccine had a long history of immunoengineering research in their development that allowed for optimal delivery.”

While some of the terminology surrounding immunology may be new to clinicians, there is a rich history of designing strategies to improve host immunity against infection, Dr. Tatara says. “By using novel engineering techniques, we can be more elegant in how we deliver immunotherapy in the infection space to help treat and prevent disease.” ■

research roundup



Bowen, Colleagues Derive Diabetes Risk Score Using Data Commonly Available in the EHR

Michael Bowen, M.D., M.P.H., M.S.C.S., an Associate Professor in the William T. and Gay F. Solomon Division of General Internal Medicine, and colleagues have derived and validated a novel risk score to detect dysglycemia using electronic health record (EHR) data without requiring additional

information collection. Their study, [published in *Diabetes Care*](#), could close screening gaps and provide a useful adjunct to routine screening in clinical practice by supporting population health screening strategies to improve detection of undiagnosed dysglycemia (type 2 diabetes and prediabetes) within health systems.

Despite established screening guidelines, approximately 8.7 million U.S. adults have undiagnosed type 2 diabetes, and 80.6 million have undiagnosed prediabetes. Limited access to healthcare contributes to higher rates of undiagnosed diabetes, and current screening practices remain insufficient. Early diagnosis is essential to prevent complications, and systematic screening strategies are needed to improve detection rates, the authors say.

“Our team has shown that non-diagnostic random blood glucose values, which are routinely measured in laboratory panels, are associated with increased risk for diabetes and prediabetes,” Dr. Bowen says. “Clinicians often overlook mild to moderate elevations of random glucose in patients because we don’t have a clear sense of what a ‘normal’ blood sugar is when a patient isn’t fasting. Non-diagnostic elevations of random glucose perform well to detect cases of undiagnosed diabetes; however, its performance to detect undiagnosed cases of prediabetes is suboptimal. This test combines random glucose with other diabetes risk factors such as age, race or ethnicity, body mass index, and diagnosed hypertension to detect cases of undiagnosed diabetes and prediabetes in clinical practice.”

Diabetes screening guidelines recommend screening based on clinical risk factors and are designed to be highly sensitive, Dr. Bowen explains. “Because they have a single screening threshold, they can recommend screening for a lot of patients. We developed a point-based score that allows users to select a screening threshold based on the tradeoffs in sensitivity and specificity and available screening resources in the system. It actually performs better than diabetes screening guidelines in clinical practice and recommends screening for fewer people.”

By taking a population health approach, Dr. Bowen and his team showed they could use available health information to conduct risk assessment on an entire clinic or health system, allowing them to reach patients outside of routine clinical encounters to complete diabetes screening. ■

Internal Medicine News Portal

in case you missed it



Thiele Appointed Professor Emeritus of Internal Medicine

Dwain Thiele, M.D., a former Professor in the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases, Vice Provost and Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Initiatives, has been appointed Professor Emeritus of Internal Medicine.

Originally from Kingsville, Texas, Dr. Thiele holds a bachelor's degree in biochemistry from Rice University in Houston, where he graduated *summa cum laude*. He earned his medical degree at Baylor College of Medicine and completed internal medicine residency training at Duke University School of Medicine. He then received advanced training in liver diseases and gastroenterology at UT Southwestern.

Dr. Thiele joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 1983, serving for more than four decades until his retirement last August. ■

To read the complete article in CenterTimes Plus, click [here](#).

News and Digital Media Featuring Internal Medicine Colleagues

- [10 Weird Symptoms that Might be Allergies](#) (Via *Time* magazine, with Jeffrey Chambliss, M.D.)
- [Protein Linked to Immunotherapy Resistance in Kidney Cancer](#) (Via UTSW Newsroom, with Hans Hammers, M.D., Ph.D.)
- [Measles Cases Cross 1,000 Mark: How to Protect Yourself and Others](#) (Via *MedBlog*, with Saad Omer, M.P.H., Ph.D., M.B.B.S.)

this week



Northwestern's Clyde Yancy to Present Inaugural Foster Lecture at Grand Rounds on May 16

As the inaugural recipient of the Internal Medicine Distinguished Alumni Award, **Clyde Yancy, M.D., M.Sc.**, Magerstadt Endowed Professor and Chief of Cardiology at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine, will present the Daniel W. Foster, M.D., Lecture during [Internal Medicine Grand Rounds](#) on **Friday, May 16, at 8 a.m. in D1.502**. His topic: "HF, 2025: A Spectacular Journey in Science, Discovery, and Implementation."

Originally from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Dr. Yancy holds a bachelor's degree from Southern University. He received his medical degree from Tulane University and completed internal medicine residency training at UT Southwestern, where he also obtained advanced training through fellowship programs in cardiology and in advanced heart failure transplant. During fellowship, he received research training in the human physiology laboratories of Drs. Gunnar Blomqvist and Jere Mitchell, as well as advanced heart failure and heart transplant training from Dr. Maria-Teresa Olivari. He also holds a master's degree in healthcare management from the University of Texas at Dallas.

Dr. Yancy joined the faculty at UT Southwestern faculty in 1989 and, over the course of 17 years, 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. During this time, he also took a particular interest in disparities in cardiovascular disease. In recognition of his achievements, the American Heart Association (AHA) named him Physician of the Year in 2003.

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 2009, he was elected President of the AHA. He joined the Northwestern University faculty in 2011.

In 2018, he was appointed to the Minority Health Affairs Subcommittee, Department of Health and Human Services. He also held leadership positions in the National Institutes of Health, National Heart Lung and Blood Institute, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute.

Among Dr. Yancy's many honors, he was elected to the National Academy of Medicine (2016), the Association of American Physicians (2020), and received the New York Academy of Medicine John Stearns Medal for Distinguished Contributions in Clinical Practice (2023).



Drapkin to Discuss Lung Cancer Research on May 16

Benjamin Drapkin, M.D., Ph.D., an Assistant Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology, will present the [Internal Medicine Research Conference](#) on Friday, May 16, at noon in E6.200. His topic: "Extrachromosomal MYC Amplification Drives Chemoresistance in Small Cell Lung Cancer."

Dr. Drapkin holds a bachelor's degree in molecular, cellular and developmental biology from Yale University, where he graduated *cum laude*. He earned his medical degree and his doctoral degree in cell biology and genetics through the Tri-Institutional M.D.-Ph.D. Program sponsored by Weill Cornell Medicine, Rockefeller University, and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. He completed internal medicine residency training at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston and received advanced training through a fellowship in hematology and oncology at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Brigham and Women's hospital.

Dr. Drapkin joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2020.

Dr. Drapkin's research focuses on small-cell lung cancer (SCLC) clinical trials and translational research in SCLC and other aggressive neuroendocrine tumors. His laboratory leverages patient-derived xenograft models to discover new targets and develop new therapies for these deadly diseases. ■

Other Noteworthy Lectures & Conferences This Week

- Tuesday, May 13, 6 p.m.: [Family & Community Medicine Grand Rounds](#) with Dr. Aysegul Karaca (Family & Community Medicine) – "Re-Emerging Diseases"
- Wednesday, May 14, 7 a.m.: [Obstetrics & Gynecology Grand Rounds](#) with Dr. Hena Tewari (Obstetrics & Gynecology) – "Building Emotional Resilience in Physicians: The Role of Coaching"
- Wednesday, May 14, 8 a.m.: [Geriatrics Grand Rounds](#) with Dr. Fatima Mahmood (Geriatric Medicine) – "Managing Weight in the Golden Years: Clinical Insights on Obesity in Older Adults"

- Wednesday, May 14, 2 p.m.: [Personal Wellness Session](#) with Dr. Julie Trivedi (Infectious Diseases & Geographic Medicine) – “The Journey Home: Defining Your Path to Personal Fulfillment”
- Thursday, May 15, 8 a.m.: [Infectious Diseases Grand Rounds](#) with Dr. Robert Munford (National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases) – “What Does that UT Southwestern Enzyme Really Do?”
- Thursday, May 15, 8 a.m.: [Infectious Diseases Works in Progress](#) with Lanxi Wu (Infectious Diseases & Geographic Medicine) – “Alphavirus and Host Organellar Interactions”
- Thursday, May 15, Noon: [Nephrology M&M Conference](#) with Dr. Alvin Kwon (Nephrology) – “When You Feel Something is Off”
- Thursday, May 15, Noon: [Moss Heart Center Seminar](#) with Dr. Dian Cao (Cardiology) – “Curbing Macrophages’ ‘Drink and Drive’ and Forging Neutrophil in Fire”
- Friday, May 16, 1 p.m.: [Endocrine Grand Rounds](#) with Dr. Joshua Joseph (The Ohio State University) – “People, Communities and Populations: The Alpha and Omega for Cardiometabolic Health for All”
- Monday, May 19, Noon: [General Internal Medicine Grand Rounds](#) with Dr. Adeel Khan (Hematology & Oncology) – “MGUS-to-Myeloma Spectrum”

Look for the next *Medicine Minute* on **Tuesday, May 20, 2025**.
 Share feedback and news items with us at IMNews@UTSouthwestern.edu

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