

medicine minute

June 10, 2025

announcements



Bonnema Named Associate Vice Chair for Faculty Development

Rachel Bonnema, M.D., M.S., a Professor in the William T. and Gay F. Solomon Division of General Internal Medicine, has been named Associate Vice Chair for Faculty Development, a leadership role that was previously held by the late Dr. Sharon Reimold. In her new role, Dr. Bonnema will be responsible for leading faculty development initiatives, supporting recruitment, onboarding, and promotion processes, aligning departmental efforts with institutional goals, fostering scholarly and leadership growth, and serving as a strategic advisor and sponsor for faculty-related programs and committees.

Dr. Bonnema holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa, and a medical degree from the University of South Dakota in Sioux Falls. She completed internal medicine residency training and a general internal medicine fellowship – both in the women's health track – at the University of Pittsburgh, where she also earned a master's degree in medical education.

Prior to joining the UT Southwestern faculty in 2018, Dr. Bonnema served on the faculty at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, where she contributed extensively to medical education, clinical quality, and faculty support through service on numerous institutional committees.

At UT Southwestern, Dr. Bonnema has served as Associate Division Chief of General Internal Medicine and Assistant Program Director of the General Internal Medicine Fellowship since 2018. In 2022, she was named Interim Division Chief of General Internal Medicine, a position she held throughout 2023. She also served as Medical Education Track Director for the Internal Medicine Residency, a role she held through 2024. ■



Faculty Leaders Complete Inaugural LEVEL Up Training

Five faculty from Internal Medicine were among the inaugural 23-member cohort to have successfully completed LEVEL Up, an eight-session training program launched last fall for faculty in mid-career leadership roles. Pictured above, from left:

- J. David Beckham, M.D., Professor and Division Chief of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine
- Joshua Beckman, M.D., M.P.H., Professor and Division Chief of Vascular Medicine
- Perry Bickel, M.D., Associate Professor and Division Chief of Endocrinology
- Samir M. Parikh, M.D., Professor and Division Chief of Nephrology
- Jennifer Walsh, M.D., Associate Professor and Division Chief of Combined Internal Medicine and Pediatrics.

The second cohort begins training in October. ■

Dr. Beckham holds the Jay P. Sanford Professorship in Infectious Diseases.

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

Dr. Bickel holds the Daniel W. Foster, M.D., Distinguished Chair in Internal Medicine.

Dr. Parikh holds the Robert Tucker Hayes Distinguished Chair in Nephrology, in Honor of Dr. Floyd C. Rector, Jr.; Ruth W. and Milton P. Levy, Sr. Chair in Molecular Nephrology.

To learn more about the LEVEL Up program, click [here](#).



Ahmad, Joshi Appointed to Roles in Lipid Association

Zahid Ahmad, M.D., (pictured at left) an Associate Professor in the Division of Nephrology, and **Parag Joshi, M.D., M.H.S.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Cardiology, have been appointed to roles in the National Lipid Association, an organization formed in 1997 by lipid researchers and clinicians to promote specialization in the area of clinical lipidology.

Dr. Ahmad serves as the national organization's secretary/treasurer.

Dr. Joshi is a board member for the Southwest Lipid Association, a chapter of the national organization serving the states of Arizona, Colorado, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wyoming. ■



UT Southwestern Celebrates Longtime Employees for Decades of Service

Twelve members of the Department are among those being honored this week for achieving significant career milestones. These include, pictured from upper left, **Craig Rubin, M.D.**, Professor and Division Chief of Geriatric Medicine, with 40 years of service; **Anil Agarwal, Ph.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Endocrinology; **David Balis, M.D.**, a Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine; **John Fitzgerald, M.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine; and **David Khan, M.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Allergy and Immunology; each with 30 years of service; and new members of the Quarter Century Club (QCC), which recognizes 25 years of continuous service. Newly inducted QCC members include **Laketra Davis**, an Administrative Associate in the Division of Nephrology, pictured upper right; and, from bottom left, **Salahuddin Kazi, M.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Rheumatic Diseases, Vice Chair of Education, and Director of the Internal Medicine Residency; **Elizabeth Paulk, M.D.**, a Professor in the Palliative Medicine section of General Internal Medicine; **Gail Peterson, M.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Cardiology; **Ramesh Saxena, M.D., Ph.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Nephrology; **Nancy Wang**, a Senior Research Nurse in the Division of Nephrology; and **Kathy Worland**, a Senior Program Coordinator in the Kidney Cancer Program. ■

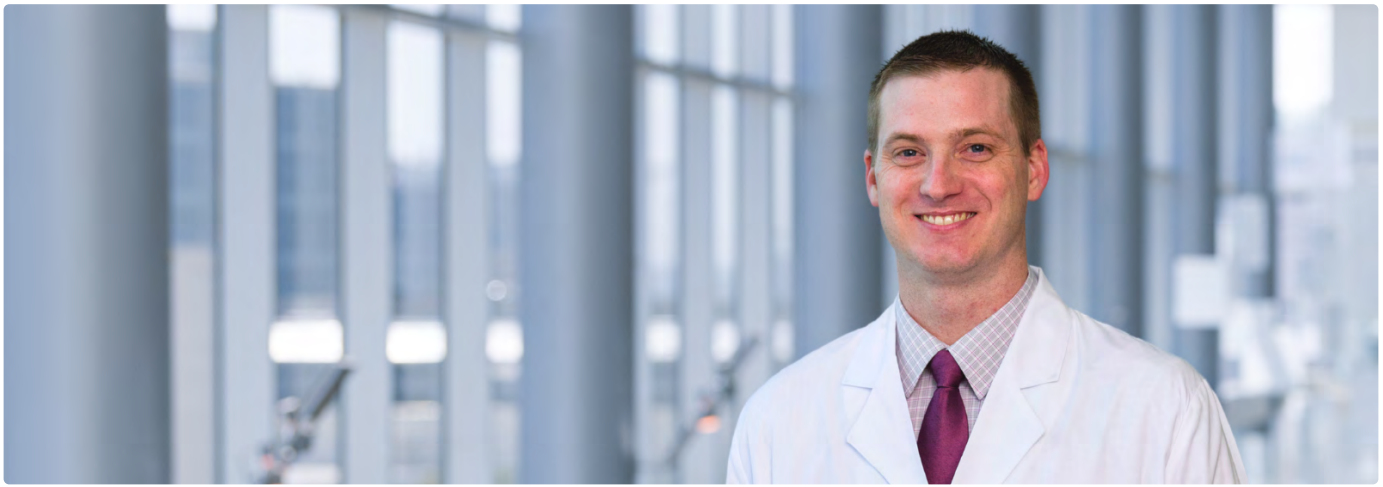
Dr. Rubin is a Distinguished Teaching Professor and holder of the Margaret and Trammell Crow Distinguished Chair in Alzheimer's and Geriatric Research; the Seymour Eisenberg Distinguished Professorship in Geriatric Medicine; the Sinor/Pritchard (Katy Sinor and Kay Pritchard) Professorship in Medical Education Honoring Donald W. Seldin, M.D.; and the Walsdorf Professorship in Geriatrics Research.

Dr. Fitzgerald holds the Elaine Dewey Sammons Chair in Pulmonary Research, in Honor of John E. Fitzgerald, M.D.

Dr. Paulk holds the Distinguished Professorship in Palliative Care, in Honor of Steven Leach, M.D.

Read more about these honorees in [CenterTimes Plus](#).

research roundup

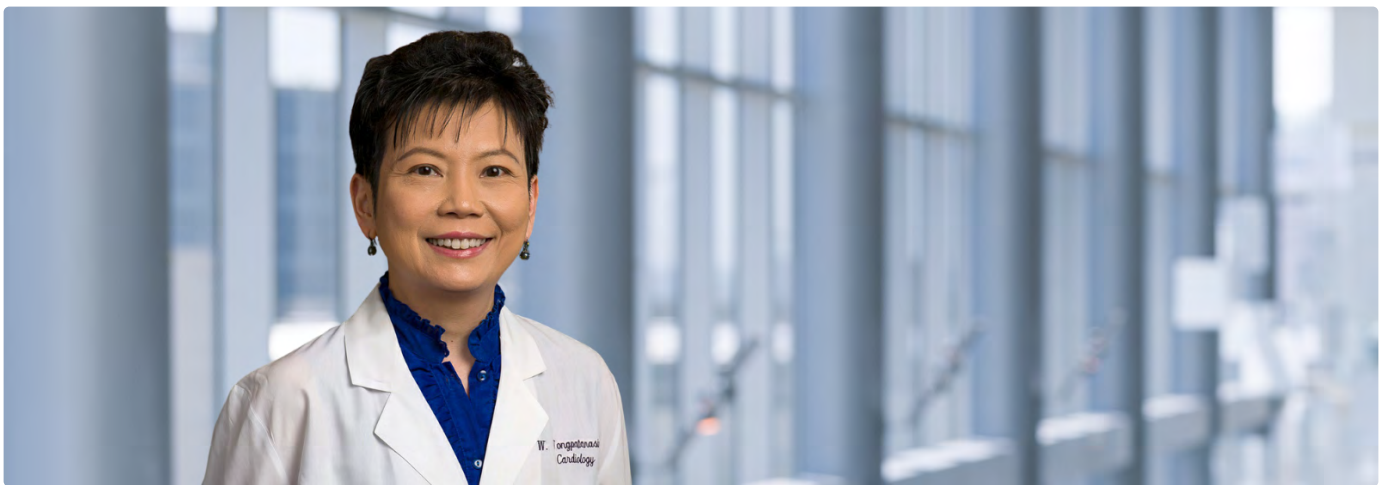


Newton Awarded NIH Grant to Create Predictive Model for Lung Disease Progression

Chad Newton, M.D., M.S.C.S., an Associate Professor in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine and Associate Director of the Interstitial Lung Disease Program, has received a \$2.5 million R01 grant to support developing a statistical model that uses telomere length – protective caps at the ends of chromosomes – as a predictive biomarker for disease progression in patients with fibrotic lung disease.

Current diagnostic methods for interstitial lung diseases often fall short in forecasting the clinical trajectory, particularly the rate of lung fibrosis that can lead to death. Dr. Newton's prior research has shown that shorter telomeres, which naturally diminish with age, are linked to increased disease risk. His new model aims to quantify progression risk more accurately, aiding clinical decision-making in the era of antifibrotic therapies.

Dr. Newton earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry at the University of North Texas in Denton, where he graduated *cum laude*. He received his medical degree at UT Southwestern, where he also completed internal medicine residency training and a fellowship in pulmonary and clinical care medicine, serving as both Chief Resident and Chief Fellow. He then earned a master's degree in clinical and translational research sciences. ■



Vongpatanasin, Colleagues Link High Phosphate Foods to Blood Pressure Spikes

A new [study published in *Circulation*](#) reveals that high dietary phosphate intake may contribute to hypertension by activating a specific brain signaling pathway. Wanpen Vongpatanasin, M.D., a Professor in the Division of Cardiology and Program Director of the Hypertension Fellowship, and colleagues found that excess phosphate increases levels of the hormone FGF23 in the brain, which then interacts with FGFR4 receptors in the central nervous system to heighten sympathetic nerve activity and raise blood pressure.

Using advanced imaging and targeted inhibitors, scientists demonstrated that blocking FGFR4 significantly reduced nerve and blood pressure responses in rats fed a high-phosphate diet. These findings suggest a previously unknown mechanism by which phosphate-rich diets can influence cardiovascular health, potentially opening new avenues for hypertension treatment.

A high phosphate diet typically includes processed foods with phosphate additives, such as deli meats, frozen meals, and sodas. While phosphorus is essential for health, many people consume far more than recommended daily amount, largely due to processed foods. This study highlights the potential cardiovascular risks of such diets and opens new avenues for treating hypertension. ■

education and training

Medical Educators Urged to Navigate 'Emoti-Stunned' Moments with Care

Feedback is a cornerstone of medical education, guiding learners toward professional growth and skill development. Yet the process of giving feedback is not always straightforward. To help attending physicians provide effective feedback in medical education, the Department's Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) team is continuing its series of articles in *Medicine Matters* with tips and resources based on best practices.

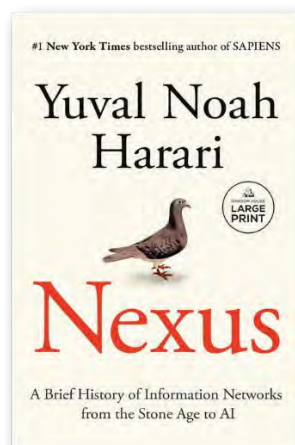
Despite best efforts and good intentions, sometimes feedback can trigger unexpected emotional reactions from learners, leaving educators momentarily "emoti-stunned." Experts advise pausing the conversation, checking in with the learner's comfort level, and either addressing the emotions or rescheduling the discussion. Post-conversation reflection is also encouraged, with a focus on potential identity-related triggers and implicit biases. By handling these moments thoughtfully, educators can promote psychologically safe learning environments for all.

To learn more about facilitating feedback and coaching during residency training, visit the UME office. ■

For more information, contact [Reeni Abraham, M.D.](#), or [Sarah Collins Kamsickas, Ph.D., M.B.A.](#) To access the Effective Feedback articles, click [here](#).

Internal Medicine News Portal

of interest



Recommended Reading: A Historical Examination of Information Networks

In his latest work, [*Nexus: A Brief History of Information Networks from the Stone Age to AI*](#), historian and philosopher Yuval Noah Harari explores the evolution of human and computer networks, warning of the growing influence of artificial intelligence on truth, power, and social order, writes **Salahuddin “Dino” Kazi, M.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Rheumatic Diseases, Vice Chair of Education, and Internal Medicine Residency Program Director.

Harari traces the dual role of information—as a tool for truth and a mechanism for control – through history, religion, and modern digital platforms. He argues that today’s AI-driven networks risk bypassing truth in favor of power. Calling for robust self-correcting mechanisms in AI systems, Harari urges readers to understand how information networks shape perception and warns of the dangers of unchecked misinformation in an increasingly algorithm-driven world. ■

To read Dr. Kazi’s complete review, click [here](#).

in case you missed it

News and Digital Media Featuring Internal Medicine Colleagues

- [UTSW Scientists Link Another Gene to Obesity](#) (Via UTSW Newsroom, with Zhao Zhang, Ph.D., Bruce Beutler, M.D., Chen Liu, Ph.D.; and Baijie Xu, Ph.D.)
- [Study Uncovers How Biomolecular Condensates Cause Some Kidney Cancers](#) (Via UTSW Newsroom, with James Brugarolas, M.D., Ph.D.; Gopinath Parkasam, Ph.D.; and Vanina T. Tcheyap, M.S.)
- [RFK May Have Just Ruined Our Best Weapon Against Bird Flu](#) (Via *The Bulwark*, with Krutika Kuppalli, M.D.)
- [Protein Pivotal for B-cell Cancers Gets a Closer Look](#) (Via UTSW Newsroom, with Bruce Beutler, M.D.)

need to know

ABIM Foundation Launches Grant Program to Advance Health Equity

The ABIM Foundation and the American Board of Internal Medicine have announced the launch of the “[Building Trust: Advancing Health Equity Grant Program](#),” a \$320,000 initiative aimed at fostering trust and promoting equity in internal medicine education and care delivery.

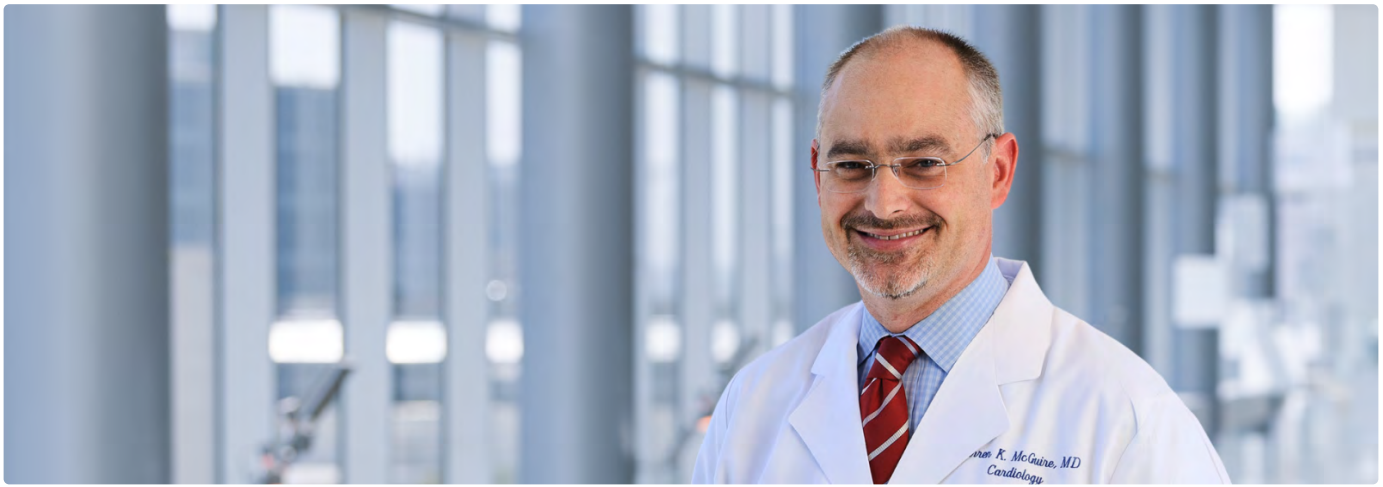
The program will fund projects – up to \$40,000 each over two years – led by residents, fellows, and faculty in internal medicine. Eligible proposals must integrate health equity into training or care models and demonstrate potential for lasting institutional change. Projects may include mentorship programs, innovative curricula, inter-professional training, and community partnerships, among others.

Applications are open to internal medicine professionals, excluding employees or governance members of the sponsoring organizations and review committee members. Selected applicants will be invited to submit full proposals following a review of letters of intent by a panel of experts.

Grantees will participate in a national learning network and receive mentorship and support throughout the project period, beginning January 15, 2026. ■

To submit a letter of intent, click [here](#).

this week



McGuire to Discuss GLP-1 Receptor Agonists and Cardiovascular Disease on June 13

Darren McGuire, M.D., M.H.Sc., a Professor in the Division of Cardiology, will present the [Internal Medicine Grand Rounds](#) lecture on Friday, June 13, at 8 a.m. in D1.502. His topic: "Getting to the Heart of the Matter: GLP-1 Receptor Agonists and CV Disease."

Originally from Fayetteville, Arkansas, Dr. McGuire holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Hendrix College in Conway. He earned his medical degree at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore and completed internal medicine residency training at UT Southwestern. He then received advanced training in cardiology through a fellowship at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, where he also conducted research for two years, working on a number of large-scale, international clinical trials and registries at the Duke Clinical Research Institute (DCRI). He also earned a master's degree in health sciences in clinical trials at the Duke University School of Medicine.

Dr. McGuire joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2001. His main clinical and research interests are in the long-term prevention of and risk-modification for cardiovascular disease, especially among patients with diabetes. ■

Dr. McGuire, a Distinguished Teaching Professor, holds the Jere H. Mitchell, M.D. Distinguished Chair in Cardiovascular Research.



Summer Career Development Series to Begin on June 13

The Internal Medicine Research Conference is launching a [summer career development series](#) on Friday, June 13, at noon in D1.200, with a presentation by Amit Singal, M.D., M.S., (pictured at left) a Professor in the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases, and Hao Zhu, M.D., a Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology. Their topic: "Hiring and Managing Your Research Team."

Dr. Singal's research focuses on diagnosing and treating liver cancer before it becomes incurable. He has received grants from the NIH to examine the HCC continuum, ranging from HCC prevention, screening and early detection to treatment and survivorship. He has received Investigator Awards from the International Liver Cancer Association and the American Gastroenterological Association. He was inducted into the American Society of Clinical Investigation in 2022.

Dr. Zhu's lab investigates how injury, regeneration, and wound healing influence liver function and cancer formation. He focuses on how somatic mosaicism shapes liver regeneration and cancer by tracking clonal selection during injury and healing using genomics, *in vivo* screening, and lineage tracing. He has received a Burroughs Wellcome Career Award for Medical Scientists, a CPRIT Scholar Award, a Stand Up To Cancer Innovative Research Grant, and the Mark Foundation Emerging Leader Award.

Regular programming for the Internal Medicine Research Conference will resume in September. ■

Dr. Singal, a Dedman Family Scholar in Clinical Care, holds the Willis C. Maddrey, M.D. Distinguished Chair in Liver Disease.

Dr. Zhu holds the Nancy B. and Jake L. Hamon Distinguished Chair in Therapeutic Oncology Research.

Other Noteworthy Lectures & Conferences This Week

- Tuesday, June 10, 6 p.m.: [Family & Community Medicine Grand Rounds](#) with Dr. Maliha Khan (Family & Community Medicine) – “Palliative Medicine in Low Resource Settings”
- Thursday, June 12, 8 a.m.: [Infectious Diseases Grand Rounds](#) with Dr. David Weber (University of North Carolina) – “Water-Related Infections in the Hospital”
- Friday, June 13, Noon: [Hematology & Oncology Grand Rounds](#) with Dr. Anna Moscovitz (Hematology & Oncology) – “Expanding CAR-T Applications in Colorectal Cancer”

reminders

Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Sharon Reimold

Friends and colleagues from throughout UT Southwestern will gather on **Monday, June 16, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Pegasus Park** to honor the life and legacy of **Sharon Reimold, M.D.**, who died last November.

Participants will be invited to share stories and memories in celebration of the values that defined her life and the legacy she leaves behind. ■

If you have photos or memories to share, please send them to IMA@UTSouthwestern.edu.

[Event Registration](#)

Look for the next *Medicine Minute* on **Tuesday, June 17, 2025**.
Share feedback and news items with us at IMNews@UTSouthwestern.edu

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