

medicine minute

June 17, 2025

announcements



Rubin Announces Retirement After Distinguished Career in Geriatric Medicine

Craig Rubin, M.D., a Professor of Internal Medicine and Chief of the Division of Geriatric Medicine, has announced his intention to retire at the end of the year. Dr. Rubin has been a cornerstone of the institution since joining the faculty in 1985, and his leadership has shaped the field of geriatric medicine both locally and nationally.

Over the past 24 years, Dr. Rubin has led the growth and transformation of geriatric care at UT Southwestern. He became the inaugural Chief of the Division of Geriatric Medicine when it was established 12 years ago. Under his guidance, the division expanded from three full-time faculty to 14, along with additional affiliated faculty, emeritus professors, and a dedicated staff.

Under his leadership, the division developed the Care of the Vulnerable Elderly (COVE) house-call program, the Acute Care for Elders (ACE) unit, and the Perioperative Optimization of Senior Health (POSH) program. The latter is a service offered in partnership with the departments of Surgery and Anesthesiology that provides comprehensive evaluation of older adults planning surgery. Dr. Rubin has also served as Director of the Mildred Wyatt & Ivor P. Wold Center for Geriatric Care.

Dr. Rubin oversaw the establishment of the Geriatric Medicine fellowship in 2000 and the Medicine-Geriatrics Residency pathway in 2022, the only one of its kind in Texas. He secured continuous grant funding to develop the Southwestern Aging and Geriatrics Education (SAGE) program in 2009 and implemented the UT Medical Student Training in Aging Research (UT-STAR) program. He has also been a major contributor to the Academic Colleges since the program was initiated in 2006, culminating in his service as Head of Seldin College. His teaching and mentoring have been recognized with multiple honors, including being

named a Distinguished Teaching Professor, receiving the Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award, and being inducted into the Kenneth I. Shine Academy of Health Science Education and the Southwestern Academy of Teachers.

Dr. Rubin's institutional service has also included 12 years on the Admissions Committee, including five years as the Chair. He stepped down from this role last July.

Dr. Rubin's contributions to clinical research, particularly through his collaborations with colleagues in the Charles and Jane Pak Center for Mineral Metabolism and Clinical Research, have distinguished him as an expert in postmenopausal osteoporosis and Alzheimer's disease. ■

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



Fundraising Effort Underway to Honor Sharon Reimold

Contributions are being accepted to honor the late Sharon Reimold, M.D., who died on Nov. 13, 2024, after a lengthy illness.

The fund will be used to establish a permanent endowment that will continue the work she championed: advancing patient-centered care and supporting the career development of fellows and early career faculty.

"Dr. Reimold was a role model for a generation of clinicians," says James de Lemos, M.D., Professor and Division Chief of Cardiology. "She created a culture in her image, with empathetic, servant-leadership and a commitment to clinical excellence and teamwork." ■

To donate to the fund and to learn more about Dr. Reimold's life, click [here](#).

kudos



Hong Awarded ACS Discovery Boost Grant, Appointed to Grant Review Committee

Arthur Hong, M.D., M.P.H., an Assistant Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine, has received a Discovery Boost Grant from the American Cancer Society for his project, “Investigating Safety-net Financial Account Data for Cancer Health Services Research.” The project will begin on September 1, 2025.

Dr. Hong’s research aims to explore how financial account data from safety-net health systems can inform and improve cancer care delivery and equity. This innovative study could provide new insights into how financial structures within safety-net settings impact access, quality, and outcomes in cancer treatment.

Dr. Hong has also been appointed to a three-year term on the American Cancer Society’s Grant Review Committee for Healthcare Outcomes, Policy, and Services Research. In this role, Dr. Hong will help evaluate and guide funding decisions for cutting-edge research projects that aim to improve cancer care delivery and policy. His appointment reflects a strong recognition of his expertise in health services research and commitment to advancing equitable and impactful cancer care through evidence-based strategies. ■



McGuire Named ‘Luminary in Cardiometabolic Medicine’

Darren McGuire, M.D., M.H.Sc., a Professor in the Division of Cardiology, received the 2025 Luminary in Cardiometabolic Medicine Award at the ninth annual Heart in Diabetes Conference earlier this month in Philadelphia. The award recognizes recipients for their “impact on research innovation, the progression of clinical management strategies, and the development of treatment approaches for individuals living with diabetes and/or cardio-renal and metabolic diseases.”

“What a thrill to be honored by one’s peers and mentees,” Dr. McGuire says. “A good day indeed!”

With over 25 years of groundbreaking work, Dr. McGuire has been at the forefront of transforming care for patients with Type 2 diabetes, a population known to face double the risk of heart disease and stroke. At the start of his career, there were no clinical trials examining how diabetes treatments impacted cardiovascular outcomes. Determined to fill this gap, Dr. McGuire began building a global network of researchers committed to launching large-scale, international clinical trials.

His efforts, in collaboration with peers worldwide, led to the initiation of more than 20 major clinical outcomes trials over the span of a decade – an achievement that has reshaped the landscape of diabetes and cardiovascular care.

Dr. McGuire's ongoing research continues to inform and enhance patient care in his cardiology clinic, where he applies the latest evidence-based strategies. His work underscores the importance of specialized cardiovascular care for individuals with diabetes, offering them improved outcomes and a higher standard of treatment. ■

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

research roundup



UTSW Ranks Among Top Global Sites in Groundbreaking Bladder Cancer Trial

Waddah Arafat, M.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology, co-authored the updated results of the pivotal EV-302 trial. The study, published in *Annals of Oncology*, marks a major advancement in the treatment of metastatic urothelial carcinoma, establishing Enfortumab Vedotin plus Pembrolizumab as the new standard of care, replacing platinum-based chemotherapy for the first time in nearly three decades.

UT Southwestern played a key role in the trial as the No. 2 enrolling site in the U.S., and No. 5 globally.

"This achievement reflects the collaborative efforts of the Genitourinary Medical Oncology team and the Community Oncology Program, led by Dr. Suzanne Cole," says Dr. Arafat. ■



VanWagner Honored with AST Clinical Science Investigator Award

Lisa VanWagner, M.D., M.Sc., an Associate Professor in the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases and Director Clinical Research and Director of the Internal Medicine Clinical Scientist Training Program (CSTP), has received the 2025 Clinical Science Investigator Award from the American Society for Transplantation (AST). This national recognition is presented to a select group of AST members for their exceptional contributions to the field of transplantation.

"Receiving this award is a reflection of the incredible collaborative spirit that defines transplantation," Dr. VanWagner says. "It's a field where innovation thrives through teamwork, and I'm proud to be part of a community that continually pushes the boundaries of science and patient care."

The AST is a multidisciplinary society with over 4,000 members dedicated to advancing the field of transplantation. ■

Internal Medicine News Portal

in case you missed it



Levine Prize in Autophagy Research Goes to Andrea Ballabio

Italian medical geneticist **Andrea Ballabio, M.D.**, has been named the recipient of the 2025 Beth Levine, M.D. Prize in Autophagy Research. The biennial \$20,000 award honors scientists who have made groundbreaking contributions to the field of autophagy.

Dr. Ballabio, founder of the Telethon Institute of Genetics and Medicine and professor at the University of Naples "Federico II," is internationally recognized for his pioneering work on the lysosome's role in cellular metabolism. His research identified Transcription Factor EB (TFEB) as a master regulator of lysosomal biogenesis and autophagy, reshaping scientific understanding of the lysosome as a dynamic metabolic hub.

A visiting professor at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston and a co-founder with Dr. Levine of Casma Therapeutics, Dr. Ballabio continues to explore therapeutic strategies targeting TFEB to treat neurodegenerative diseases and cancer.

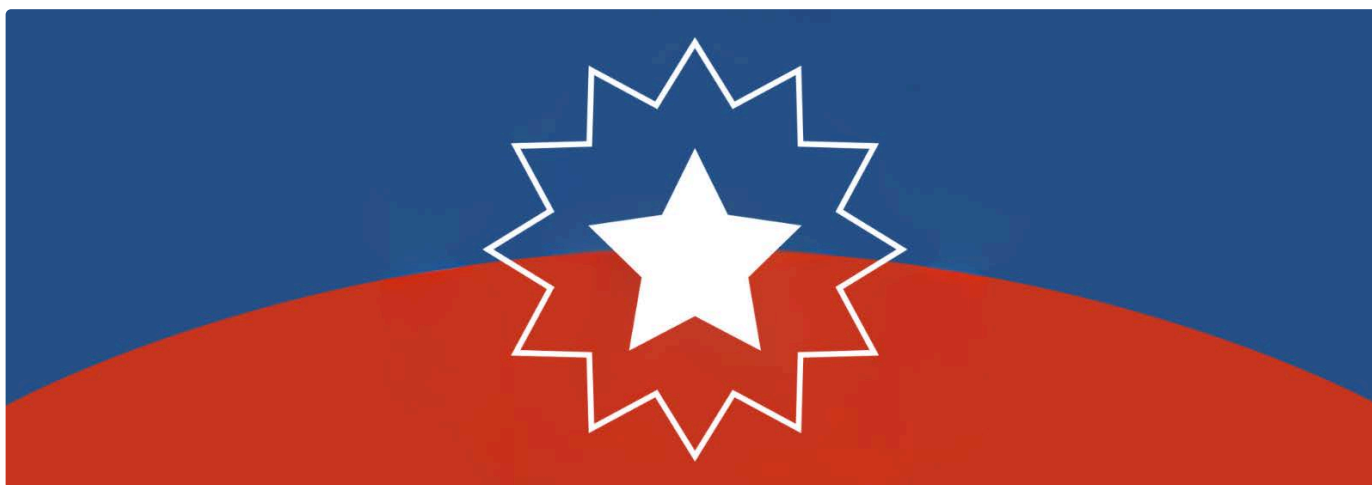
"I am truly honored to receive this prize dedicated to Beth, an amazing scientist and a wonderful colleague," Dr. Ballabio said in a UT Southwestern [news release](#). ■

Dr. Levine was a Professor of Internal Medicine and Microbiology whose pioneering research identified the role of autophagy in the development of human diseases. She is best known for discovering the first mammalian autophagy gene, which she named beclin 1. In addition to having served as Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases and the Jay P. Sanford Professor in Infectious Diseases, she also was Director of the Center for Autophagy Research and holder of the Charles Sprague Distinguished Chair in Biomedical Science, a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator, and a member of the National Academy of Sciences. She died in 2020.

News and Digital Media Featuring Internal Medicine Colleagues

- [Children's Research Institute Scientists Uncover Unique Pathway Tumors Use to Acquire Antioxidant Lipids](#) (Via UTSW Newsroom, with James Brugarolas, M.D., Ph.D., and Ian Corbin, Ph.D.)

need to know



Clinics, Academic Offices, and Labs Closed on June 19 in Observance of Juneteenth

Thursday, June 19, is a [designated holiday](#) for UT Southwestern in observance of Juneteenth National Independence Day, which commemorates the end of slavery in the United States after the Civil War.

All UTSW clinics, central administration, academic offices, and research labs will be closed. Hospitals will be fully operational with the appropriate staff in support areas.

Note: Due to the holiday, there will be no Internal Medicine Grand Rounds lecture on Friday, June 20. ■

If you have questions about the holiday policy, call Human Resources at 214-648-0821.



Windows 10 Support Ending: Upgrade to Windows 11 Coming Soon

Microsoft will officially end support for Windows 10 in October 2025. In preparation, an upgrade to Windows 11 will begin rolling out across our systems in the coming months. The new version features a modern interface, enhanced security, and improved performance to better support daily operations.

A detailed rollout timeline and support resources will be shared soon. For immediate questions or to request an early upgrade, please submit a Technical Support request via the Internal Medicine Service Request system. ■

this week



Mettlen to Discuss Quantitative Light Microscopy on June 20

Marcel Mettlen, Ph.D., an Associate Professor of Cell Biology and Director of the Quantitative Light Microscopy Core, will present the [Internal Medicine Research Conference Career Development](#) lecture on **Friday, June 20, at noon in D1.200**. His topic: "Updates in Quantitative Light Microscopy."

Originally from Belgium, Dr. Mettlen holds a bachelor's and a master's degree in cell biology from the Catholic University of Louvain in Brussels, where he also earned his doctoral degree in biomedical sciences.

Prior to joining the UT Southwestern faculty in 2014, Dr. Mettlen served as a staff scientist at the Scripps Research Institute, where he developed quantitative and multi-dimensional live cell imaging in combination with statistical models that allowed him to identify in situ the spatial and temporal relationships between cellular outputs and underlying molecular activities.

Dr. Mettlen's research interests include early regulation of clathrin-mediated endocytosis and general membrane traffic, and live-cell imaging coupled to quantitative computer-based image analysis. ■

To learn more about the Quantitative Light Microscopy Core Facility, click [here](#).

Other Noteworthy Lectures & Conferences This Week

- **Wednesday, June 18, 9 a.m.:** [Komen Breast Cancer Forum](#) with Dr. Philipp Scherer (Touchstone Diabetes Center) – "Fibroinflammatory Targets to Curb Breast Cancer Progression"
 - **Wednesday, June 18, Noon:** [Hematology & Oncology Faculty Recruitment Seminar](#) with Dr. Lakshmi Subramaniam (Agrani Health) – "How Recent Advances are Redefining the Treatment of Metastatic Gastric Cancer"
 - **Monday, June 23, Noon:** [General Internal Medicine Grand Rounds](#) with Dr. Yair Lotan (Urology) – "Hematuria and Screening for Bladder Cancer"
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Look for the next *Medicine Minute* on **Tuesday, June 24, 2025**.
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