

medicine minute

July 29, 2025

kudos



Cystic Fibrosis Program Recognized for Quality Improvement

UT Southwestern Medical Center has received the 2025 Quality Improvement Award from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, recognizing its exemplary use of clinical data to drive improvement, robust trainee education, meaningful patient and family engagement in enhancing care quality, and innovative communication strategies to overcome barriers to care.

"As one of only about 170 cystic fibrosis centers in the nation, we are especially honored to receive this recognition," says **Raksha Jain, M.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine and Medical Director of the Cystic Fibrosis and Bronchiectasis Program. "It demonstrates our commitment to ongoing quality improvement as we strive to provide the best care possible to our patients."

The clinic maintains a database and adds to the national registry to keep track of clinical metrics, Dr. Jain adds. "A unique feature of the quality improvement initiative is a patient advisory committee that meets monthly to provide input."

The CF clinic is among the top cystic fibrosis centers in the nation, providing holistic care for this rare and often debilitating illness. The program is the only one in the Dallas area to be accredited by the CF Foundation. It has won multiple UT Southwestern Team Excellence and Quality Care awards, and, in 2023, it received a Leaders in Clinical Excellence Program Development Award. The CF clinic also received the CF Foundation's Quality Improvement Award in 2018.

"We have an amazing group of multidisciplinary providers, including respiratory therapists, dietitians, and social workers, dedicated to caring for this population," Dr. Jain says. "It certainly takes a village of amazing people to provide this type of holistic care." ■



Residency Program Retains Top 10 National Ranking

The Internal Medicine Residency program has again secured its place among the Top 10 residency programs in the nation, according to the latest rankings from Doximity's Residency Navigator.

Doximity compiles its rankings using data from more than 80% of U.S. physicians. The Residency Navigator tool is widely used by graduating medical students to guide their residency decisions, offering insights from peer nominations, alumni feedback, and CV analyses.

"Selecting a residency program is a pivotal step in shaping a physician's future," says **Salahuddin "Dino" Kazi, M.D.**, Vice Chair of Internal Medicine Education and Residency Program Director. "Residency Navigator gives students meaningful data and peer insights so they can confidently choose programs that align with their goals and values. Our continued presence in the Top 10 reflects our longstanding commitment to excellence in medical education, clinical training, and research." ■



UT Southwestern Showcases Employee Creativity in Annual Arts Exhibition

The annual "On My Own Time" exhibition of visual arts and literary works by UT Southwestern employees is available online and on view at the A.W. Harris Faculty Club through Friday, Aug. 29.

Sponsored by the Business Council for the Arts, the regional program has a rich 51-year history, originating in Syracuse, New York, where business leaders showcased creativity and hidden talents among employees.

This year, six members of the Department have had works accepted for consideration:

- **Jennifer Cardin, M.S.**, a Clinical Research Assistant in the Division of General Internal Medicine
- **Joshua Liao, M.D., M.Sc.**, Professor and Division Chief of General Internal Medicine
- **Adam “Adan” Mora, M.D.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine
- **Jovana Valdez, B.S.W.**, a Clinical Research Coordinator in the Division of Endocrinology
- **Elsa Zhang, B.S.A.**, a Clinical Research Assistant in the Division of General Internal Medicine

Online voting for the People’s Choice Award will be open from Aug. 4-8. Winners will be announced during a reception at the Faculty Club on Thursday, Aug. 28. ■

[Click to View the Visual Arts Submissions](#)

[Click to Read the Literary Submis...](#)

in case you missed it



Wang Named Dean of University of Michigan Medical School

Thomas J. Wang, M.D., Professor and Chair, has been appointed Dean of the University of Michigan Medical School, effective Sept. 15. He will succeed Marschall Runge, M.D., Ph.D., who has served as Dean since 2016.

Ezra Burstein, M.D., Ph.D., Professor and Chief of Digestive and Liver Diseases, will serve as interim Chair. A national search for a permanent successor, led by **Herbert Zeh, M.D.**, Professor and Chair of Surgery, is underway.

Dr. Wang joined UT Southwestern in early 2020 and led the Department of Internal Medicine through the COVID-19 pandemic, overseeing care for nearly 500 hospitalized patients daily at peak. Under his leadership, the department saw transformative growth, including the recruitment of over 400 faculty, a 50% increase in clinical volume and research funding, and expansion of the residency program to become the nation’s second largest. ■

Dr. Wang holds the Donald W. Seldin Distinguished Chair. Dr. Burstein holds the Berta M. and Cecil O. Paterson Chair in Gastroenterology. Dr. Zeh holds the Hall and Mary Lucile Shannon Distinguished University Chair in Surgery.

[Click to Read the Full Announcement](#)

News and Digital Media Featuring Internal Medicine Colleagues

- [IMG Connect: Welcomed, Understood, and Empowered](#) (via the *Journeys in Medicine* blog, with Frans Serpa, M.D.)
- [UTSW Builds AI-Driven System to Improve Data Collection](#) (via *UTSW Newsroom*, with James Brugarolas, M.D., Ph.D.)

need to know

Workshop for New Faculty on Research Labs Scheduled for Sept. 11

The O'Donnell Brain Institute is sponsoring a workshop for faculty hired within the past three years on "How Research Labs Work at UTSW," **Thursday, Sept. 11, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in NM 3.930.**

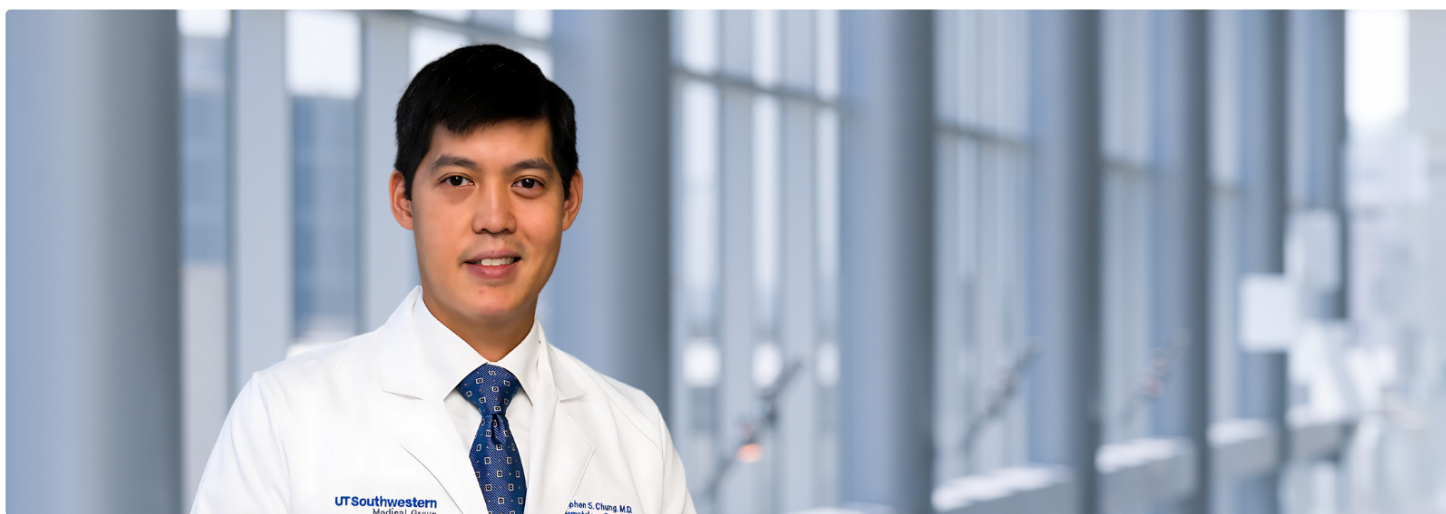
The event will include a dynamic discussion on how to establish and maintain a lab at UT Southwestern, with administrative experts from throughout the campus delivering high-impact presentations on their specific processes, policies, websites, and FAQs. Participants will have time for discussions, questions, and networking. Lunch will be provided.

Representatives will be present to discuss:

- Human Resources
- Research Cores
- Start-Up Funding
- Sponsored Projects
- Institutional Review Board (IRB)
- Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA)/Office of Clinical Research
- Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and the Animal Facility
- Export Control
- Library Research Resources
- Tech Transfer/Patents/IP
- Promotion and Tenure

[Click to Register for the Workshop](#)

this week



Chung to Discuss Stem Cells in Myeloid Malignancies on Aug. 1

Stephen Chung, M.D., an Assistant Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology, will deliver the Internal Medicine Grand Rounds lecture on **Friday, Aug. 1, at 8 a.m. in D1-502.** His topic: "Less is More: Studying Stem Cells to Improve Diagnosis and Therapy in Myeloid Malignancies."

Originally from Highland Park, Illinois, Dr. Chung holds a bachelor's degree in biology and biochemistry from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. He earned his medical degree at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. He then completed internal medicine residency training at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston followed by a medical oncology fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) in New York. As a postdoctoral fellow in the Human Oncology and Pathogenesis Program at MSKCC, Dr. Chung's work led to the identification of the hematopoietic stem cell as the cell of origin for hairy cell leukemia, as well as the identification of CD99 as a disease stem cell marker and therapeutic target in cancer treatments.

Dr. Chung's laboratory research focuses on studying the molecular alterations in the hematopoietic (blood-forming) stem cells that underlie the development of AML and MDS. By studying these immature blood cells, he aims to better understand what causes these diseases, as well as the mechanisms by which they sometimes become resistant to standard

therapies. He is also interested in identifying novel alterations in cell surface protein expression in these diseases to identify new therapeutic targets and to develop new diagnostic tests.

Dr. Chung's clinical interests include clonal hematopoiesis, the myelodysplastic syndromes, and acute myeloid leukemia. ■



Panel to Share Insights on Launching a Research Group

Three physician-scientists will participate in a panel discussion as part of the [Internal Medicine Research Conference Development Series](#) on Friday, Aug. 1, at noon in D1.502. Their topic: "Starting a New Research Group: Do's and Don'ts."

Panelists include:

- **David McFadden, M.D., Ph.D.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Endocrinology, whose research focuses on genetic engineering and chemical screening to discover cancer therapies.
- **Suraj Patel, M.D., Ph.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases, who investigates metabolic liver disease and immune system interactions using advanced transcriptomic and epigenomic techniques.
- **Josephine Thinwa, M.D., Ph.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine, who studies autophagy activation by neurotropic viruses to inform vaccine treatment and development.

The panel will offer practical guidance and lessons learned from their experiences in establishing successful research programs. ■

[Click to Visit the McFadden L...](#)



Other Noteworthy Lectures & Conferences This Week

- Wednesday, July 30, 9:45 a.m.: [Nutrition & Obesity Research Center Symposium](#) with Drs. Peng Li (Zhengzhou University), Xiao-Wei Chen (Peking University), and Dijin Xu (Westlake University)
- Thursday, July 31, 9 a.m.: [Hamon Center for Therapeutic Oncology Research & Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center Experimental Therapeutics Program Lecture](#) with Dr. Yun Wei (Pediatrics) – "Mutant MYO1 Alters Therapy Response and Epigenetic Landscape in Rhabdomyosarcoma"
- Thursday, July 31, Noon: [Hematology & Oncology Faculty Recruitment Seminar](#) with Dr. Ateefa Chaudhury (New Mexico Oncology Hematology Consultants) – "Mast Cells Gone Rogue: Systemic Mastocytosis Across the Benign–Malignant Divide"
- Monday, Aug. 4, Noon: [Pathology Seminar](#) with Dr. Juan Cubillos-Ruiz (Weill Cornell Medicine) – "Decoding and Intercepting Endoplasmic Reticulum Stress Responses for Cancer Immunotherapy"

Look for the next *Medicine Minute* on **Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2025**.
Want to access an item in a previous edition of the newsletter? [Check our *Medicine Minute* archive.](#)
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