

# medicine minute

August 5, 2025

kudos



## Vanderveldt Leads International Medical Mission in Suriname

Hendrikus "Dutch" Vanderveldt, M.D., M.B.A., an Associate Professor and Clinical Chief of Digestive and Liver Diseases, recently led a joint Canadian/U.S. medical team on a collaborative mission to Suriname, partnering with the Surinamese Ministry of Health and local medical professionals to provide health care and exchange clinical knowledge with Surinamese colleagues.

"We had people at different sites, working in the ER, the ICU at the main hospital, and at two regional hospitals," said Dr. Vanderveldt. "At the main hospital, we embedded our medics with nurses and doctors in the ICU and ER – not only to meet our readiness metrics and gain clinical experience needed for deployment, but also to learn how patient care is delivered with limited resources. We saw innovative techniques and creative approaches to treatment shaped by the environment."

Suriname, located on the northeastern coast of South America, shares borders with Brazil and Venezuela. The mission provided valuable insights into global healthcare practices and strengthened international medical collaboration.

Dr. Vanderveldt serves as Commander of the 931st Aerospace Medical Squadron at McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita, Kansas. A flight surgeon and officer in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, he has been deployed twice, domestically and to Afghanistan. He joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2017. ■

## Staff Members Take on New Roles

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

- Arshama Dehghan – Temporary Staff Associate, Cardiology
- Swathi Kumar – Clinical Research Assistant I, Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine
- April Mathis – Sr. Administrative Associate, Infectious Diseases & Geographic Medicine
- Justin Philip – Lead Advanced Practice Provider, Digestive & Liver Diseases
- Ashley Williams – Administrative Coordinator, General Internal Medicine
- Alyssa Wolfe – GME Education Program Coordinator II, Instruction Administration

## research roundup



### Hoshida, Colleagues Issue Urgent Global Call to Curb Rising Liver Cancer

Yujin Hoshida, M.D., Ph.D., a Professor in the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases and Director of the Liver Tumor Translational Research Program, and colleagues from around the world have published a major new report warning that liver cancer cases could nearly double by 2050 if current trends continue. The [report, published in \*The Lancet\*](#), calls for urgent action to reverse this trajectory.

"Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is the most prevalent form of liver cancer, responsible for roughly 80% of all primary liver cancer cases," Dr. Hoshida says. "While hepatitis B and C remain leading causes, liver cancer linked to alcohol use and metabolic liver disease is rising."

The Commission estimates that 60% of cases are preventable through control of modifiable risk factors. Because HCC often develops after years of chronic liver disease, there is an opportunity for intervention before cancer takes hold.

Despite advances in treatment, disparities in prevention, diagnosis, and care persist – especially in low- and middle-income countries. The report urges governments, global health organizations, and industry to expand access to vaccines, improve early detection, and support patients throughout their care journey.

"The message is clear," Dr. Hoshida says. "Liver cancer is a growing global threat, but one that can be curbed with coordinated, sustained action." ■

*Dr. Hoshida holds the H. Ray and Paula Calvert Chair in Gastroenterology Oncology in Honor of Udit Verma, M.D.*



### Andrews Receives Grant for 'PrEP ED' Study

**Hayden Andrews, M.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine, has received a \$300,000 investigator-initiated grant from Gilead Sciences to launch the "PrEP ED" study at Parkland Health. The study will enroll 250 Emergency Department patients identified as candidates for HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) through the EMR-based Parkland HIV Prediction Tool, developed in collaboration with the Parkland Innovation team and **Helen King, M.D.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine.

Participants will receive oral PrEP upon discharge and be linked to the Parkland Infectious Diseases Clinic for ongoing care, including access to long-acting options such as lenacapavir. The study will use an implementation science framework to assess effectiveness, scalability, and sustainability. ■

*Sub-investigators from the Infectious Diseases division include Dr. King, Professor **Mamta Jain, M.D.**, and Adjunct Assistant Professor **Brenton Hall, Pharm.D.***

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### New Insights into Airway Immunity Could Advance Mucosal Vaccine Development

A study led by **Samuel Alvarez-Arguedas, Ph.D.**, an Assistant Instructor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine, has mapped the complex cellular landscape of the human adenoid, a lymphoid tissue located in the upper airway. The [research, published in \*Mucosal Immunology\*](#), sheds new light on how the body detects and responds to airborne pathogens such as *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, SARS-CoV-2, and influenza.

Using single-nucleus RNA sequencing and immunofluorescence imaging, the team identified 26 distinct cell types, including a rare epithelial cell known as the microfold (M) cell. These airway M cells, previously studied mainly in the gut, were shown to originate from club cells and display a unique gene signature. The study also identified a previously unrecognized epithelial population with a strong interferon-stimulated gene signature that the team named WISP cells (Waldyer's ring Interferon-Stimulated Population).

This cellular atlas of the human adenoid provides a new framework for understanding mucosal immunity and offers a foundation for the development of mucosal therapies that target infections at their point of entry. ■

in case you missed it



### Parkland Health Earns National Award for Excellence in Patient Care

Parkland Health has been recognized with the American Heart Association's new Commitment to Quality award, recognizing its exceptional performance across multiple specialties in the Get With The Guidelines program.

Among [158 hospitals nationwide](#), and one of only 10 in Texas, to earn this distinction, Parkland was honored for its consistent delivery of cardiovascular care in five areas: stroke, resuscitation, heart failure, and two forms of coronary artery disease.

This recognition reflects Parkland's stated commitment to treating the whole person and advancing high-quality care across all departments.

The Get With The Guidelines initiative equips hospitals with tools, resources, and benchmarking to help improve patient outcomes. Parkland's achievement underscores its leadership in building stronger, healthier communities through better care and fewer complications. ■

[Read the Story in The Dallas Weekly](#)

### News and Digital Media Featuring Internal Medicine Colleagues

- [Cancer Patients Face Silent Crisis From Superbugs, New Research Shows](#) (via *Forbes*, with David Greenberg, M.D.)
- [Doctor's Notes: Tracking Mold Exposure](#) (via YouTube, with Traci Adams, M.D.)
- [TikTok's Role in Shaping Cholesterol Knowledge](#) (via AJMC TV, with Khush Kharidia, M.D.)
- [What You Need to Know About the NIMBUS Variant Amid a COVID Summer Surge in Texas](#) (via KERA, with Trish Perl, M.D., M.Sc.)
- [Focusing on 10,000 Steps a Day Could be a Misstep](#) (via *MedBlog*, with Bethany Agusala, M.D.)
- [How to Pack School Lunches](#) (via Facebook Video, with Jaclyn Albin, M.D.)

this week



### NYU's Ravenell to Deliver Health Disparities Research Lecture on Aug. 8

Joseph Ravenell, M.D., an Associate Professor of Population Health and Medicine and Associate Dean for Professional Development at New York University, will deliver the [Internal Medicine Grand Rounds lecture](#) on Friday, Aug. 8, at 8 a.m. in D1-502. His topic: "Community Based Approaches to Disease Prevention." Dr. Ravenell's presentation is part of the Health Disparities Research lecture series, sponsored by the Office for Institutional Opportunity and the O'Donnell School of Public Health.

Dr. Ravenell received his medical degree from the University of Chicago and completed internal medicine residency training at the University of Pennsylvania. He then obtained advanced training through a fellowship in general internal medicine and clinical epidemiology at Weill Cornell Medical College.

Dr. Ravenell has dedicated his professional career to achieving health equity for minoritized populations through clinical practice and community-based research. His research focuses on community-engaged approaches to improving hypertension-related outcomes in Black men. He has been Principal Investigator on multiple NIH and CDC grant-funded projects to test community-based strategies focused on improving awareness and management of hypertension and improving cancer screening among Black men throughout New York City. This work led directly to a community-based research network of more than 200 community-based sites including churches, barbershops, mosques and soup kitchens throughout New York City that serve Black and Latin individuals.

Dr. Ravenell has expanded his work from effectiveness research to implementation research, exploring how evidence-based solutions to address hypertension he previously tested can be implemented in real-world settings and circumstances. He currently leads a project to test an intervention led by community health workers to facilitate hypertension prevention among 400 Black men in 22 Black-owned barbershops on the North Shore of Staten Island, New York. ■



### Kittler to Discuss NGS Approaches to Profile Biological Behaviors

Ralf Kittler, Ph.D., an Associate Professor in the McDermott Center for Human Growth and Development and Director of the Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) Core, will present the [Internal Medicine Research Conference Career Development seminar](#) on Friday, Aug. 8, at noon in D1.200. His topic: "NGS Approaches to Profile Biological Behaviors."

Dr. Kittler holds a bachelor's and master's degree in biochemistry from the University of Leipzig in Leipzig, Germany, and a doctoral degree in cell biology and genetics from the Max Planck Institute for Cell Biology & Genetics in Dresden.

Prior to joining the UT Southwestern faculty in 2010, he performed postdoctoral research in the Department of Human Genetics at the University of Chicago.

Dr. Kittler focuses his research on the molecular mechanisms driving cancer, with a strong emphasis on transcriptional regulation and genomic approaches to uncover therapeutic vulnerabilities. His goal is to translate molecular insights into new cancer therapies, particularly by targeting transcriptional regulators that are often considered drug resistant. ■

*Dr. Kittler is the John L. Roach Scholar in Biomedical Research.*

## Other Noteworthy Lectures & Conferences This Week

- **Thursday, Aug. 7, 8 a.m.:** [Infectious Diseases Grand Rounds](#) with Dr. Kartik Rajagopalan (Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine) – “The Energetic Response to Infection and Inflammation”
- **Friday, Aug. 8, Noon:** [Hematology & Oncology Grand Rounds](#) with Dr. Steven Devine (National Bone Marrow Donor Program) – “Expanding Access to Transplantation Using Mismatched Unrelated Donors”
- **Friday, Aug. 8, Noon:** [Critical Care Grand Rounds](#) with Dr. Paul Palevsky (University of Pittsburgh) – “Kidney Replacement Therapy for AKI in the ICU”

save the date



## Annual Liver Conference Scheduled for Dec. 6

The Ninth Annual Liver Conference, a one-day, hybrid CME course for gastroenterologists, GI surgeons, internists, family practice physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and other healthcare providers with an interest in gastroenterology and hepatology is scheduled for **Saturday, Dec. 6, 2025, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Conference Center at Pegasus Park.**

Under the direction of **Indira Bhavsar-Burke, M.D., M.H.P.E.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases and Associate Director of the Gastroenterology Fellowship, and **Amit Singal, M.D., M.S.**, a Professor in the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases, Chief of Hepatology, and Director of the Liver Tumor Program, the course will provide attendees with practical information that can be applied immediately in their clinical practice. Discussions will include the latest updates in recognizing symptoms and using current data to establish diagnoses and formulate appropriate treatment plans for the management of gastrointestinal diseases.

Registration is free for UT Southwestern faculty and fellows using the code **UTSW**. ■

*Dr. Singal is a Dedman Family Scholar in Clinical Care and holder of the Willis C. Maddrey, M.D. Distinguished Chair in Liver Disease.*

Register for the Event

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Look for the next *Medicine Minute* on **Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2025**.  
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