

medicine minute

September 2, 2025

kudos



Forty-Nine Faculty Members Promoted

Each year, the Department's Promotion & Tenure Committee meets to consider nominations for faculty promotions and then makes recommendations to the Chair. The Chair then forwards those nominations to the Dean, who decides which nominees to submit to the UT System Board of Regents for final approval.

This year, 49 faculty members were promoted. All of them participated in a lengthy and rigorous process, demonstrating accomplishments that warranted their promotion. Fourteen faculty members received promotions to Professor. Thirty-five others were promoted to Associate Professor or Clinical Associate Professor.

The Department celebrates their achievements and also recognizes the many people behind the scenes who supported them throughout the process. ■

[Read the Full Article in Medicine Matters](#)



Thibodeau Becomes Inaugural Holder of Catherine Marie Bassett Distinguished Professorship

Jennifer Thibodeau, M.D., M.S.C.S., a Professor in the Division of Cardiology, Medical Director of the Heart Failure Program, and Medical Director of the ECMO Program, has been named the inaugural holder of the Catherine Marie Bassett Distinguished Professorship in Heart Failure.

This professorship commemorates Catherine Marie Bassett, who died in 2019, at age 50 due to heart disease. A mother of four, she developed peripartum cardiomyopathy (PPCM) late in pregnancy, a condition that significantly impacted her daily life. Despite these challenges, she became a passionate advocate for early detection of PPCM, dedicating her final year to traveling and connecting with others affected by the condition.

“This professorship stands as a tribute to Catherine’s legacy and her commitment to improving the lives of those affected by heart failure,” Dr. Thibodeau says.

Dr. Thibodeau holds a bachelor’s degree in biochemistry from Georgetown University. She earned her medical degree at the University of Maryland, where she also completed internal medicine residency training. She then obtained advanced training through fellowships in cardiology and advanced heart failure/transplant cardiology at UT Southwestern, where she also earned a master’s degree in clinical sciences. ■

Staff Members Take on New Roles

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

- **Fouzia Ahmed** – Research Associate, Digestive & Liver Diseases
 - **Eunice Amador** – Clinical Research Assistant II, Digestive & Liver Diseases
 - **Julia Anderson** – Research Assistant I, Hematology & Oncology
 - **Kevin Bass** – Clinical Research Assistant II, Digestive & Liver Diseases
 - **Jeyna Blakely** – Lead Clinical Research Coordinator, Endocrinology
 - **Iris De La Rosa** – Clinical Research Assistant I, Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine
 - **Cynthia Escareno** – Sr. Administrative Associate, Hematology & Oncology
 - **Garri Hines** – Sr. Administrative Associate, General Internal Medicine
 - **Matthew Kossally** – Research Technician I, Infectious Diseases & Geographic Medicine
 - **Arteria Mickens** – Administrative Associate, General Internal Medicine
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Abraham Named Peacock Visiting Professor at Wake Forest School of Medicine

Reeni Abraham, M.D., a Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine and Associate Vice Chair for Undergraduate Education, has been selected as the Peacock Visiting Professor for Medical Education at Wake Forest University School of Medicine. She will serve in this role during February 2026.

As Peacock Visiting Professor, Dr. Abraham will spotlight innovative educational programs and engage with medical students, residents, fellows, and faculty to enhance their skills in key focus areas for the academic year. Her visit will include delivering the Internal Medicine Grand Rounds lecture and leading faculty development workshops centered on feedback, advising, and the transition from undergraduate medical education (UME) to graduate medical education (GME).

Dr. Abraham is widely recognized for her leadership in medical education, including her work as Co-director of the Internal Medicine Clerkship and Head of Fashena College at UT Southwestern. Her research and teaching emphasize patient-centered care, communication, and reflective practice. ■

education and training



Infante, Thinwa Appointed to PSTP Leadership

Rodney Infante, M.D., Ph.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases, has been named Program Director of the Internal Medicine Physician-Scientist Training Program (PSTP), replacing **Ezra Burstein, M.D., Ph.D.**, Professor and Interim Chair of Internal Medicine. In his new role, Dr. Infante will guide the strategic direction and mentorship framework of the program while also serving as the inaugural Director of the newly established Physician-Scientist Development Office, an initiative supported by the Academic Dean's office aimed at fostering investigator careers across all clinical departments at UT Southwestern.

Joining him in leadership is **Josephine Thinwa, M.D., Ph.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine and a distinguished PSTP alumna, who will serve as Associate Program Director, succeeding **Denise Marciano, M.D., Ph.D.**, Director of the Medical Scientist Training Program. Dr. Thinwa brings a

unique perspective as a graduate of the program and a rising leader in translational research.

Together, Drs. Infante and Thinwa will lead the PSTP into its next chapter, supporting the next generation of physician-scientists through mentorship, innovation, and a strong foundation in academic medicine. ■

research roundup



Shiloh Lab Secures Over \$3.9 Million in NIH/NIAID Funding to Advance Mycobacterial Research

The Shiloh Lab, under the direction of **Michael Shiloh, M.D., Ph.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine, continues to make significant strides in understanding and combating mycobacterial diseases, securing more than \$3.9 million in new funding from the National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIH/NIAID).

A \$3.2 million R01 grant awarded to Dr. Shiloh and **Priscila Campos, Ph.D.**, an Instructor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine, will support their investigation into the "Role of Ubiquitin Ligases and Deubiquitinases in Host Defense Against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*." Building on foundational work with the late **Beth Levine, M.D.**, this project aims to uncover novel cell-autonomous mechanisms by which macrophages eliminate intracellular pathogens, particularly *M. tuberculosis*.

In addition, the lab received two complementary grants totaling \$651,000 to expand its research into non-tuberculous mycobacteria and host-directed therapies. A \$451,000 R21 grant will advance the lab's "lung-on-a-chip" model to study how pathogens like *M. avium* and *M. abscessus* affect airway immunity. A \$200,000 R43 grant, awarded in collaboration with Progenra, Inc., will explore the potential of PARKIN agonists as novel antituberculosis drugs targeting the ubiquitin pathway.

Together, these awards reinforce the Shiloh Lab's commitment to pioneering research in infectious disease and host-pathogen interactions. ■

Internal Medicine News Portal

in case you missed it

News and Digital Media Featuring Internal Medicine Colleagues

- [Supporting Adolescents and Young Adults Through Cancer Treatment and Beyond](#) (via *MedBlog*, with Vivian Irizarry Gatell, M.D.)
- [Despite Waning Headlines, Bird Flu is Still a Threat. Here's How You Can Help Farmworkers.](#) (via *The Sick Times*, with Krutika Kuppalli, M.D.)

transitions



Farr to Assume Leadership Role at University of Pennsylvania

Maryjane Farr, M.D., a Professor in the Division of Cardiology and Section Chief of the Heart Failure, Mechanical Circulatory Support, and Heart Transplantation Group, has been named the John Winthrop Bryfogle Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Section Chief of Heart Failure, Transplant, and Mechanical Circulatory Support at the University of Pennsylvania. In this role, she will oversee 23 faculty members across multiple programs, including the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit, Inherited Heart Disease, and HFpEF. Additionally, she will serve as Director of Heart Transplant Clinical and Translational Research at the Penn Transplant Institute and join its Executive Committee.

Since joining the UT Southwestern faculty in 2021, Dr. Farr expanded the volume and complexity of patients cared for in the heart transplant and LVAD programs, with more than 200 heart transplants and over 100 LVAD procedures performed under her co-leadership with **Matthias Peltz, M.D.**, Surgical Director of Cardiac Transplant. Additionally, she successfully recruited five faculty members and mentored numerous cardiology fellows.

Dr. Farr will remain at UT Southwestern through January 2026. ■

need to know

Guidelines Issued for Using AI Tools Responsibly

As artificial intelligence (AI) tools become more integrated into daily workflows, it's important to know how to use them responsibly to protect sensitive data. Public AI platforms like ChatGPT should not be used unless a formal data privacy agreement is in place. UT Southwestern has such an agreement with Microsoft, which allows employees to use Copilot, an AI-powered assistant, through the Azure OpenAI Service. This setup ensures that user data is not shared with OpenAI, and is not used to train AI models, which aligns with HIPAA and other institutional security standards.

Copilot operates within Microsoft's secure environment and serves as a helpful writing tool, similar to a dictionary, thesaurus, or style guide. It can generate content quickly, offer multiple versions of texts, and streamline routine or formulaic tasks. To get the best results, users should write clear, specific prompts that include action-oriented keywords. Well-crafted prompts lead to better outputs, saving time and reducing revisions.

For more guidance on how to use AI tools responsibly and to access a table of common keyword prompts, visit the [Communications Policies & Procedures page](#) on MEDpoint. ■

this week



INTERNAL MEDICINE Department Forum

Department Forum Scheduled for Sept. 5

Thomas Wang, M.D., Professor and Chair, and Ezra Burstein, M.D., Ph.D., Professor and Chief of Digestive and Liver Diseases, will present the Internal Medicine Department Forum on Friday, Sept. 5, at 8 a.m. in D1.502. All members of the Department are welcome to attend the in-person event or watch at one of the satellite locations. ■



Elmquist to Discuss LCoRL Regulation of Growth and Metabolism

Joel Elmquist, D.V.M., Ph.D., Professor and Vice Chair of Research and Director of the Center for Hypothalamic Research, will present the Internal Medicine Research Conference on Friday, Sept. 5, at noon in D1.502. His topic: "From Flies to Mice to Dogs; LCoRL Regulation of Growth and Metabolism."

The Elmquist Lab has found that deletion of LCoRL (ligand-dependent corepressor-like) affects body weight and glucose metabolism. While previous genome-wide association studies (GWAS) in humans and livestock linked LCoRL to metabolic traits, the Elmquist Lab has provided functional evidence of its role.

Using genetically engineered LCoRL knockout mice, the Elmquist team found that the absence of LCoRL leads to leaner body composition, reduced food intake, and enhanced insulin sensitivity. These mice also showed lower levels of IGF-1, altered liver gene expression, and resistance to weight gain on a high-fat diet.

These findings align with GWAS data and underscore LCoRL's potential as a therapeutic target for metabolic disorders. In this presentation, Dr. Elmquist will discuss his ongoing focus on the genetic and neurobiological mechanisms underlying energy balance and metabolic disease. ■

Other Upcoming Lectures & Conferences of Note

- Thursday, Sept. 4, 8 a.m.: [Infectious Diseases Grand Rounds](#) with Dr. Sheena Knights (Infectious Diseases & Geographic Medicine) – “The Epidemiology of Kaposi’s Sarcoma and Kaposi’s Sarcoma-associated Herpesvirus”
- Tuesday, Sept. 9, 6 p.m.: [Family & Community Medicine Grand Rounds](#) with Dr. Aparna Bole (Case Western Reserve University) – “What’s Good for the Planet is Good for our Patients”

reminders



Celebrating Women in Medicine Month: Honoring Excellence and Leadership

September marks the annual observance of **Women in Medicine Month**, a time dedicated to recognizing the contributions of women in the medical field. From pioneering research to compassionate patient care, women healthcare professionals have shaped the landscape of medicine throughout history and continue to lead transformative change today.

As in previous years, the SWAG (Supporting Women Achieving Greatness) Committee will host a week of special lectures and discussions led by distinguished women colleagues:

- Monday, Sept. 15, Noon: [Panel discussion](#) by Drs. Traci Adams (Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine), Amy Jones (Hematology & Oncology), Ashley Hardin (Cardiology), and Winnie Wang (General Internal Medicine) – “Assistant to Associate Professor: Working Within the System”
- Tuesday, Sept. 16, Noon: [Lecture by](#) Dr. Indy Bhavsar-Burke (Digestive & Liver Diseases) – “Finding Your Voice: Practical Lessons in Clinician Educator Development”
- Wednesday, Sept. 17, Noon: [Discussion by](#) Drs. Hetal Patel (Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine) and Rachel Bonnema (General Internal Medicine) – “Does Patient Gender Change Patient Care?”
- Thursday, Sept. 18, Noon: [Lecture by](#) Dr. Ann Lutich (Obstetrics and Gynecology) – “Perimenopause and Menopause Management”
- Friday, Sept. 19, 8 a.m.: [Internal Medicine Grand Rounds](#) with Dr. Jada Bussey-Jones (Emory University) – “Promotion of Women in Academic Medicine: A Unique Pathway to Achieve Health Equity”

save the date

Bone Marrow Failure Symposium Scheduled for Oct. 3

UT Southwestern faculty members will be among the featured speakers at the Bone Marrow Failure Symposium, scheduled for **Friday, Oct. 3, from 2 to 6 p.m. in the Thompson Family Conference Center**. Sponsored by the [Aplastic Anemia and Myelodysplastic Disease Syndromes International Foundation](#), the event will offer the latest insights into the pathophysiology, diagnosis, and clinical management of bone marrow failure diseases such as aplastic anemia, myelodysplastic syndromes, paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria, secondary acute myeloid leukemia, inherited bone marrow failure, and hematopoietic stem cell transplantation.

"In addition to clinical updates, the symposium will address critical disparities in patient care," says **Taha Bat, M.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology and Course Director. "The program will also explore long-term supportive care, quality of life considerations, and the importance of shared decision-making in treatment planning."

In addition to Dr. Bat, presenters from the Division of Hematology and Oncology include Assistant Professor **Julio Alvarenga Thiebaud, M.D.**; PSTP Fellow **Eileen Hu, M.D., Ph.D.**; Associate Professor **Ibrahim Ibrahim, M.D.**; Assistant Professor **Clayton Jackson, M.D.**; Associate Professor **Yazan Madanat, M.D.**; Assistant Professor **Alejandro Marinos Velarde, M.D.**; and Professor **Amir Toor, M.D.** ■

Register for the Symposium



Jon Garinn
Medicine Minute Editor

Look for the next *Medicine Minute* on **Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2025.**

Want to access an item in a previous edition of the newsletter? [Check our *Medicine Minute* archive.](#)

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