

medicine minute

October 14, 2025

kudos



Khera to Receive AHA Chairman's Award at Annual Meeting

Amit Khera, M.D., a Professor in the Division of Cardiology, Clinical Chief of Cardiology, and Founding Director of Preventive Cardiology program, will be honored with the 2025 Chairman's Award at the American Heart Association's (AHA) Scientific Sessions in New Orleans this November.

Dr. Khera, a nationally recognized leader in preventive cardiology, will receive the award in recognition of his longstanding service to the AHA, including leadership of the Scientific Sessions Program Committee and contributions to the Association's Centennial programming.

"Dr. Khera's professional career has transformed the field of preventive cardiology, and he has earned acclaim for several groundbreaking clinical studies," according to the AHA. "He has made significant contributions to the area of cardiovascular risk assessment with several impactful observations from the Dallas Heart Study on applications of coronary artery calcium scanning."

In addition to his clinical role, Dr. Khera also led and shaped the Cardiology Fellowship program for 15 years, serving as both its associate and program director, for which he won numerous teaching awards. He is an NIH-funded investigator and serves as associate editor for both the journal *Circulation* and the *American Journal of Preventive Cardiology*, which he helped to found in 2020. ■



Voit Honored for Outstanding Student Advising

Jessica Voit, M.D., an Assistant Professor in the Division of Geriatric Medicine and Medical Director of the Geriatrics Care Clinic, has been named Public University Advisor of the Year by the Health Professional Student Association.

Dr. Voit established and directs the Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP) which, in addition to improving the care of hospitalized older adults, helps educate trainees across the professional spectrum about the hazards of hospitalization of the elderly and the importance of preventing and recognizing delirium.

Dr. Voit holds a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Texas at Dallas, which she earned magna cum laude. She received her medical degree at UT Southwestern Medical Center and completed internal medicine residency training at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, where she served as Chief Resident. She then obtained advanced training through a fellowship in geriatric medicine at UT Southwestern Medical Center. ■

[Watch an Interview with Dr. Voit on YouTube](#)



Barina Selected as APP Champion of the Year

Alexis Barina, M.D., an Assistant Professor in the Palliative Medicine Section of the William T. and Gay F. Solomon Division of General Internal Medicine, has received the APP Champion of the Year award from the Office of Advanced Practice Providers. The award honors non-APP colleagues who exemplify the CHAMP values: **Collaborative** in building trust and partnerships with APPs, fostering **Harmony** by integrating APPs into care teams, demonstrating **Advocacy** for top-of-license practice, offering **Mentorship** that supports professional growth, and serving as a **Proponent** who elevates APPs in leadership and service roles. Eligible nominees include physicians, nurses, administrators, executives, non-clinical staff, and researchers.

Originally from San Angelo, Dr. Barina holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Dartmouth College in New Hampshire. She earned her medical degree at UT Southwestern, where she also completed internal medicine residency training and a fellowship in hospice and palliative medicine. She joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2017. ■

education and training



PSTP Blends Clinical Practice and Research Innovation

The Internal Medicine Physician Scientist Training Program (PSTP) is designed to cultivate the next generation of academic leaders in internal medicine by integrating rigorous clinical training with advanced research opportunities. Participants in the program begin with a strong foundation in clinical medicine through the Internal Medicine Residency, while simultaneously engaging in structured mentorship and career development activities through the Jean Wilson Society.

"After completing residency, trainees transition into fellowship training followed by a dedicated research phase, which is supported by protected time and financial resources," says Program Director **Rodney Infante, M.D., Ph.D.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases. "This allows them to focus on developing independent research projects."

The program offers access to an array of research labs across UT Southwestern's departments and centers, encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation. Trainees receive substantial financial support, including stipends and educational allowances, and are guided toward securing career development grants such as NIH K awards.

"The PSTP has a strong track record of success, with many of its alumni receiving competitive career development awards, securing faculty positions, and maintaining active research careers," says Associate Program Director **Josephine Thinwa, M.D., Ph.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine. "This program is ideal for individuals committed to advancing medical science while practicing clinical medicine at a high level." ■

Dr. Infante holds the Kern and Marnie Wildenthal President's Research Council Professorship in Medical Science.



IMG Recognition Week to Highlight Diverse Physician Workforce

During International Medical Graduate (IMG) Physicians Recognition Week, Oct. 20-24, we join the American Medical Association in honoring and celebrating IMG physicians who are a vital component of the physician workforce.

IMG physicians play a crucial role in the delivery of health care services. This initiative not only recognizes the diverse backgrounds and perspectives IMGs bring to American medicine, but also encourages dialogue around the barriers they face, including licensure, residency placement, and clinical integration.

Currently, 75 IMG physicians are receiving residency and fellowship training through the Department.

"Compared with U.S. medical school graduates, IMGs provide medical care to a disproportionate number of patients in underserved communities," says **Salahuddin "Dino" Kazi, M.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Rheumatic Diseases, Vice Chair of Education, and Director of Residency Training. "So, we honor them for their determination to complete medical training and serve their patients." ■

[View Current IMG Residents & Fellows](#)

[Internal Medicine News Portal](#)

in case you missed it

Featuring
Bethany Cartwright, MD



Podcast Highlights Research on Childhood Obesity

A new episode of the *DiabetesBio* podcast, co-hosted by Kevin Williams, Ph.D., an Associate Professor in the Center for Hypothalamic Research, spotlights research by Bethany Cartwright, M.D., Ph.D., an Assistant Instructor of Pediatrics and a member of the Touchstone Diabetes Center, which explores the vital role of adipose tissue in health and disease. The episode features insights from her recent article with Philipp Scherer, Ph.D., a Professor and Director of the Touchstone Diabetes Center, "[Adipose Tissue as a Target for Precision Medicine Approaches in Childhood Obesity](#)," which expands on innovative approaches to treating pediatric obesity. In recognition of Childhood Obesity Awareness Month (September), the episode also includes a segment featuring questions from children, whose curiosity and candor offer a new perspective on the importance of this work. ■

News and Digital Media Featuring Internal Medicine Colleagues

- [Taking Too Much Tylenol Has Proven Risks. Trump Didn't Talk About Those.](#) (via *The New York Times*, with William Lee, M.D.)
- [Kidney Cancer Drug Shows Promise Against Dangerous Calcium Imbalance Caused by Tumors](#) (via *UTSW Newsroom*, with James Brugarolas, M.D., Ph.D.; Arjit Mal, Ph.D.; and Bingqing Xie, Ph.D.)

personnel updates



Vemulapalli Appointed Clinical Chief of Digestive and Liver Diseases

Roopa Vemulapalli, M.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases, Director of GI Services at Clements University Hospital, and Medical Director of the Digestive Diseases Clinic, has accepted an appointment as Clinical Chief of Digestive and Liver Diseases. She will succeed **Hendrikus “Dutch” Vanderveldt, M.D.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases, who will be leaving in December to become Chief of the Division of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition at the University of South Florida.

“We are appreciative of the work Dr. Vanderveldt has done as a faculty member and Clinical Chief, and we are excited to see all that he will achieve in this next phase of his career,” says **Ezra Burstein, M.D., Ph.D.**, Professor and Interim Chair. “Dr. Vemulapalli’s leadership roles have prepared her well to manage our GI clinical enterprise. I’m very confident that she will do a fantastic job in the role of Clinical Chief.” ■

happening today



Five Faculty to Present at Research Forum

Five recently appointed Internal Medicine faculty members will introduce their research during the [2025 Faculty Research Forum](#), scheduled for **today, Oct. 14**, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in NG3.112.

- **Glynnis Garry Bann, M.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Cardiology, will present “Rewiring Fate: Epigenetic Factors as Drivers of Cardiac Reprogramming.”
- **Laurel Lee, M.D., Ph.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Cardiology, will present “Immune Modulation of Vascular Susceptibility to Atherosclerosis.”
- **Yoshiharu Muto, M.D., Ph.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Nephrology, will present “Cracking the Code of Kidney Disease Through Methionine Metabolism.”
- **Hani Suleiman, M.D., Ph.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Nephrology, will present “Molecular Determinants of Podocyte Actin Cytoskeleton in Health and in Disease.”
- **Jialing “Shirley” Wang, Ph.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Nephrology, will present “Cell-Type Specific Transcription Regulation in Skeletal Disease and Bone Cancer.”

All members of the UT Southwestern community are welcome to attend the in-person event. ■

this week



Heberton to Discuss Cancer Therapy-Associated Skin Rashes at Dallas Internist Club

Meghan Heberton, M.D., an Assistant Professor in the Department of Dermatology and Founding Director of the Oncodermatology Program, will speak at the Dallas Internist Club on **Thursday, Oct. 16, at noon in the A.W. Harris Faculty Club and Alumni Center**. Her topic: “Skin Rashes Associated with Cancer Therapy.”

Dr. Heberton earned her medical degree at UTHealth Houston and completed residencies in internal medicine and dermatology at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, where she served as Chief Resident. She joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2022.

The Dallas Internist Club welcomes all physicians engaged in the practice of internal medicine, particularly those with an interest in primary care or general medicine seeking to stay up-to-date with recent developments and clinical advances. ■



Mehta to Discuss Podcasts in Medical Education on Oct. 17

Hina Mehta, M.D., an Assistant Professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine and Co-Director of the Residency Essentials Course, will present the [Internal Medicine Grand Rounds](#) lecture on Friday, Oct. 17, at 8 a.m. in D1.502. Her topic: "Press Play: Power of Podcasts in Medical Education."

Originally from Monaca, Pennsylvania, Dr. Mehta holds a bachelor's degree in biochemistry from Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas. She completed master's credits and a medical degree at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock. She then obtained internal medicine residency training at St. Louis University.

Dr. Mehta joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2017. ■



Collins to Discuss Targeting Parasitic Worms to Stop Disease at its Source

James Collins, Ph.D., a Professor and Interim Chair of Pharmacology, will present the [Internal Medicine Research Conference](#) on Friday, Oct. 17, at noon in D1.502. His topic: "Understanding the Sexual Development of Parasitic Schistosomes to Define Novel Therapeutic Approaches."

A Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Investigator, Dr. Collins holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Southeast Missouri State University and a doctoral degree from Washington University in St. Louis. He conducted postdoctoral research at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Dr. Collins studies schistosomes, parasitic flatworms responsible for schistosomiasis, a tropical disease that affects more than 200 million people worldwide. Infection typically occurs through contact with contaminated freshwater, where the parasites penetrate the skin and migrate through blood vessels to organs such as the liver and bladder.

[The Collins Lab](#) focuses on the sexual development of the worms, particularly how male schistosomes trigger female maturation and egg production (these eggs are the primary cause of disease symptoms). By targeting the production of beta-alanyl-tryptamine, a key molecular signal that plays a critical role in this process, Dr. Collins and his team hope to block female development and reproduction, offering a novel therapeutic strategy to reduce disease burden. ■

Dr. Collins, a William P. Clements, Jr. Scholar in Biomedical Research, holds the Jan and Bob Bullock Distinguished Chair for Science Education and the Jane and Bud Smith Distinguished Chair in Medicine.

Other Upcoming Lectures & Conferences of Note

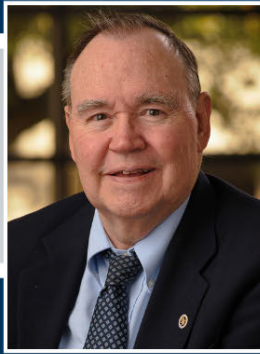
- **Tuesday, Oct. 14, Noon:** [Ethics Grand Rounds](#) with Dr. Mario Malički (Stanford University) – “Ensuring Integrity of Research and Peer Review: Lessons Learned by Being an Editor”
- **Wednesday, Oct. 15, 8 a.m.:** [Geriatrics Grand Rounds](#) with Dr. Aanand Naik (UTHealth Houston) – “Patient Priorities Care: An Evidence-Based Approach to Age-Friendly Healthcare”
- **Wednesday, Oct. 15, 5:45 p.m.:** [Global Lobular Breast Cancer Awareness Day Discussion](#) with Drs. Lynda Bennett, Suzanne Conzen, Heather McArthur, Nisha Unni and Sheeba Catenelli (Hematology & Oncology)
- **Thursday, Oct. 16, 8 a.m.:** [Infectious Diseases Grand Rounds](#) with Dr. Matthew Goodwin (Duke University) – “The Shifting Landscape of Nocardiosis”
- **Thursday, Oct. 16, Noon:** [Pathology Seminar](#) with Dr. Shu-Yuan Xiao (University of Chicago) – “Vascular Anomalies in GI Disorders: An Unexpected Culprit”
- **Thursday, Oct. 16, Noon:** [Infectious Diseases Works in Progress](#) with Drs. James Colbert and Robert Cole Evans (Infectious Diseases & Geographic Medicine) – “Investigating Bacterial Communities as Determinants of Sepsis Incidence and Severity” and “Investigating the Role of Alpha Synuclein in the Innate Immune Responses of CNS Neurons”
- **Thursday, Oct. 16, 4 p.m.:** [President's Lecture](#) with Dr. Saad Omer (O'Donnell School of Public Health) – “Leveraging UT Southwestern's Academic Excellence for Public Health Impact”

on the horizon

Dr. Sharon Reimold Fall Faculty Reception Set for Oct. 28

The Women in Science and Medicine Advisory Committee (WISMAC) will host the Dr. Sharon Reimold Fall Faculty Reception on **Tuesday, Oct. 28, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the A.W. Harris Faculty Club**. Featured speaker **Alyson Nakamura, M.D.**, a Professor of Psychiatry, will discuss “Building and Maintaining Resilience in Uncertain Times.” Panelists will include **Jane Johnson, Ph.D.**, Professor of Neuroscience; **Suzanne Farmer, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor and Associate Vice President of Talent Development; **Jonathan Efron, M.D.**, Professor and Executive Vice President for Health System Affairs; and **April Brooks, LCSW-S**, Employee Support Liaison.

[Register for the Fall Faculty Reception](#)



Scott Grundy Symposium

Scott Grundy Symposium Scheduled for Oct. 30

The Scott Grundy Symposium will take place on **Thursday, Oct. 30, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in NB2.EEF**. The in-person event honors the late Scott Grundy, M.D., Ph.D., founding Director of the Center for Human Nutrition, and features distinguished speakers whose work has been shaped by his groundbreaking research. Lunch will be provided to those who pre-register.

[Register for the Grundy Symposium](#)

save the date

2025 Oncology Year in Review

Annual Oncology Review Scheduled for Nov. 15

The 2025 Oncology Year in Review is scheduled for **Saturday, Nov. 15, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in NG3.112**. Co-directed by **Sawsan Rashdan, M.D.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology, the in-person CME program will provide participants the most up-to-date and clinically relevant information presented at key oncology conferences throughout the year.

Faculty from the Division of Hematology and Oncology will present didactic lectures offering expert analysis and highlight practice-changing data from these major meetings, with a focus on their direct impact on patient care.

[Register for the Oncology Year in Review](#)

reminders

Heart & Vascular Team to Support AHA Heart Walk on Oct. 18

The American Heart Association (AHA) Heart Walk is scheduled for **Saturday, Oct. 18, at Levy Event Plaza**, 501 East Las Colinas Boulevard, in Irving. Members of the Heart & Vascular Service Line team invites all faculty, staff, and trainees to join them in supporting this important event.

A nationwide initiative, AHA Heart Walks raise awareness of cardiovascular disease, celebrate heart health, and honor those whose lives have been affected by heart-related conditions. By participating, the Heart & Vascular team seeks to fulfill its mission of improving cardiovascular health. ■

[Register to Join the Heart & Vascular Team](#)

Team UTSW to Raise Awareness of Kidney Disease at Annual Event on Oct. 18

On **Saturday, Oct. 18**, Team UTSW will take part in the National Kidney Foundation's (NKF) Kidney Walk to raise awareness of and support for those affected by kidney disease.

The Dallas-Fort Worth event, which starts at **8 a.m. at Lone Star Park**, serves as a meaningful opportunity to honor the lives of individuals who live with the daily challenges of kidney disease, as well as remember those who died from this chronic illness.

Team UTSW's participation affirms its commitment to advancing the NKF mission of ensuring that patients and families have access to essential resources and promotes innovation in transplantation to reduce wait times and improve outcomes.

The team invites you to join in this important effort. ■

[Join Team UTSW or Support a Team Member](#)



Jon Garinn
Medicine Minute Editor

Look for the next *Medicine Minute* on **Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2025**.

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

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