

medicine minute

October 28, 2025

kudos



Kazi Earns National Honor Following Local GME Recognition

Just weeks after being named Program Director of the Year by UT Southwestern's Graduate Medical Education office, **Salahuddin "Dino" Kazi, M.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Rheumatic Diseases, Vice Chair of Education, and Program Director of the Internal Medicine Residency, has earned national acclaim as a recipient of the 2026 Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

The award honors program directors who find innovative ways to teach residents and to provide quality health care while remaining connected to the initial impulse to care for others. It is among the highest honors in medical education, conferred on only 10 program directors nationally across all medical and surgical specialties.

"I am humbled to be recognized among such leaders in graduate medical education," says Dr. Kazi. "No award in education belongs to an individual. It belongs to the community that sustains the learning – the faculty who model professionalism, the residents who bring energy and insight, the staff who hold the place together, and the patients who trust us with their care."

Dr. Kazi joins a distinguished group of past recipients whose work and contributions to graduate medical education represent the best in the field, including Preston Blomquist, M.D., a Professor of Ophthalmology, who received the award in 2020.

“We are fortunate to have Dr. Kazi as an integral member of our leadership team,” says **Ezra Burstein, M.D., Ph.D.**, Professor and Interim Chair of Internal Medicine. “In addition to his numerous contributions to the Department, his unwavering dedication to mentoring trainees and faculty alike is of paramount importance for our partner institutions and the communities and the patients they serve.”

The 2026 award recipients will be formally recognized at the ACGME Annual Educational Conference, which will be held in San Diego next February. ■

Dr. Burstein holds the Berta M. and Dr. Cecil O. Patterson Chair in Gastroenterology.



Trivedi Elected to SHEA Board of Trustees

Julie Trivedi, M.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine, has been elected as Councilor for a two-year term to the Board of Trustees of the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA). Founded in 1980, the organization has about 1,800 members who seek to improve public health by supporting healthcare epidemiology, infection prevention, and antimicrobial stewardship.

Dr. Trivedi joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2017. She served as Medical Director of Infection Prevention for UT Southwestern from 2017-2024. She specializes in general infectious diseases, attending on the inpatient services at Clements University Hospital. She is also a certified Life & Leadership Coach and most often coaches women physicians struggling with burnout and overwhelm. ■



Awan Appointed Co-Chair of National Lymphoma Research Committee

Farrukh Awan, M.D., M.S., M.B.A., a Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology, has been named co-chair of the Lymphoma Working Committee for the Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research (CIBMTR).

CIBMTR, a collaboration between the Medical College of Wisconsin and the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP), is the leading national organization advancing stem cell transplantation and cellular therapies. It maintains the world's largest database of transplant and cellular therapy outcomes and biological samples. Reporting to CIBMTR is required by the Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT) to ensure compliance with global standards.

As co-chair, Dr. Awan will guide high-impact research, mentor junior investigators, and help shape national and international guidelines for managing lymphoid malignancies. He also recently contributed to Australasian guidelines addressing cardiovascular toxicities in cancer patients treated with kinase inhibitors—an extension of international consensus guidelines he co-developed with **Daniel Addison, M.D.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Cardiology and its Director of Translational Research.

Dr. Awan serves as Director of the Lymphoid Malignancies Program and Associate Director of the Section of Hematologic Malignancies/Transplantation and Cellular Therapies at UT Southwestern. ■

Dr. Addison is Associate Director for Survivorship and Outcomes Research in the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center. He holds the Audre and Bernard Rapoport Chair in Cardiovascular Research.



Strasserking Appointed Co-Coordinator of Cardiology Program in Zambia

Fiona Strasserking, M.D., has been appointed Co-Coordinator of a newly established master's degree program in adult cardiology at the University of Zambia School of Medicine, where she serves as a Visiting Professor of Internal Medicine. In her new role, Dr. Strasserking will collaborate with the program coordinator to support the delivery of a comprehensive and innovative curriculum. Her responsibilities will include supervising postgraduate trainees, coordinating virtual lectures delivered by UT Southwestern faculty, and ensuring the program has access to the high-quality medical education.

Dr. Strasserking joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2022. She currently serves as course director for the Cardiology Critical Care Unit at Parkland Health. ■



Hill to Receive Ošťádal Award on Nov. 3

Joseph Hill, M.D., Ph.D., a Professor in the Division of Cardiology and Director of the Harry S. Moss Heart Center, will receive the 2025 Bohuslav Ošťádal Award for Excellence in Cardiovascular Sciences and deliver a plenary talk at the 11th International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences (IACS) European Section Meeting on **Monday, Nov. 3, in Prague, Czech Republic**. His topic: "Cardiology on High Beam: Obstacles and Opportunities."

Founded in 1996, the IACS connects global experts to accelerate the public dissemination of life-saving heart health research through conferences, publications, and emerging technologies. The award is named in honor of Dr. Ošťádal, a former president of the organization, whose research focuses on developmental cardiology and the heart's resistance to oxygen deficiency.

Dr. Hill is a leading investigator in cardiac hypertrophy and heart failure, with a focus on the molecular, structural, functional, metabolic, and electrophysiological remodeling of the heart. ■



Rashdan Receives Humanitarian Award

Sawsan Rashdan, M.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology, has received the 2025 Humanitarian Award from MedGlobal in recognition of her commitment to serving vulnerable populations and advancing medical care in resource-limited settings. MedGlobal is a nonprofit organization that delivers health care to populations affected by crisis and poverty worldwide.

Dr. Rashdan frequently travels with various medical and surgical experts from the Syrian American Medical Society to her native Syria, where she serves patients and trains residents and medical students on the latest updates in medical practices.

Dr. Rashdan earned her medical degree at the Faculty of Medicine of Damascus University. She completed her internal medicine residency at the Indiana University School of Medicine, where she also obtained advanced training through a fellowship program in hematology and oncology.

She joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2016. ■

research report

Kidney Cancer Program Researchers Receive DOD Awards Totaling More Than \$6M

Four faculty and three postdoctoral fellows received awards from the Department of Defense Kidney Cancer Research Program (KCRP). Accounting for about 20 percent of the 2025 awards, UT Southwestern has the largest institutional representation.

James Brugarolas, M.D., Ph.D., a Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology and founding Director of the [Kidney Cancer Program](#), received a \$1.3 million grant to support his research into using next-generation mouse models that mimic human kidney cancer mutations to develop better treatments. In addition, the KCRP renewed its funding for the [Academy of Kidney Cancer Investigators](#), an international academy for early-career faculty, including **Peter Ly, Ph.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Children's Medical Center Research Institute at UT Southwestern, and **Chen Yao, Ph.D.**, an Assistant Professor of Immunology, to develop successful research programs in kidney cancer. Dr. Brugarolas serves as the Academy's Deputy Director and Chair of its Advisory Board.

Thomas Carroll, Ph.D., a Professor in the Division of Nephrology and Director of Nephrology Basic Research, received a \$1.2 million award to support his investigation of sarcomatoid renal cell carcinoma, a rare and aggressive form of kidney cancer, to find specific genes or proteins that affect immune response.

Jae Mo Park, Ph.D., an Associate Professor in the Advanced Imaging Research Center, received nearly \$1.3 million to support his research using advanced imaging and biological markers to study how two key nutrients, glutamine and aspartate, interact inside kidney cancer cells.

Qing Zhang, Ph.D., a Professor in the Department of Pathology, received a \$1 million grant to support his research into the NEK5 gene as a driver of kidney cancer growth.

In addition, postdoctoral fellowships were awarded to **Jun Fang, Ph.D.**, and **Tao “Dylan” Wang, Ph.D.**, in the [Zhang Lab](#), and **Arijit Mal, Ph.D.**, in the [Brugarolas Lab](#). ■

Dr. Brugarolas holds the Sherry Wigley Crow Cancer Research Endowed Chair in Honor of Robert Lewis Kirby, M.D.

Dr. Carroll holds the NCH Corporation Distinguished Chair in Molecular Transport.

Dr. Zhang holds the Komen Distinguished Chair in Basic Breast Cancer Research.

Internal Medicine News Portal

personnel updates



Chowdhury Appointed Assistant Vice President and Chief Physician Advisor for the Health System

Shweta Chowdhury, M.D., a Clinical Associate Professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine, has been appointed Assistant Vice President and Chief Physician Advisor for the UT Southwestern Health System.

Dr. Chowdhury's interest in quality improvement and regulatory compliance was a driving force in pursuing a career as a physician advisor. She started the Physician Advisor program at UT Southwestern, growing the team from one to 13 over the course of four years.

Originally from India, Dr. Chowdhury completed her medical education at Bharti Vidyapeeth Medical College and received internal medicine residency training at Rochester General Hospital in New York, where she served as Chief Resident.

Dr. Chowdhury joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2016. ■

in case you missed it

News and Digital Media Featuring Internal Medicine Colleagues

- [UTSW Study Identifies Factors Affecting Survival of Patients with Metastatic Breast Cancer](#) (via UTSW Newsroom, with Isaac Chan, M.D., Ph.D.)
- [Scott Grundy Symposium Honors Legacy of Nutrition Scientist's Groundbreaking Research](#) (via *Center Times+*, with Jay Horton, M.D.)
- [Major Breakthrough in Cancer Screening](#) (via Fox 4 News, with Heather McArthur, M.D., M.P.H.)
- [More Data on Tricuspid Valve Interventions Reassure, Yet Questions Remain](#) (via *TCTMD*, with Dharam Kumbhani, M.D.)

this week



Duval to Discuss Geriatric Assessments at Dallas Internist Club

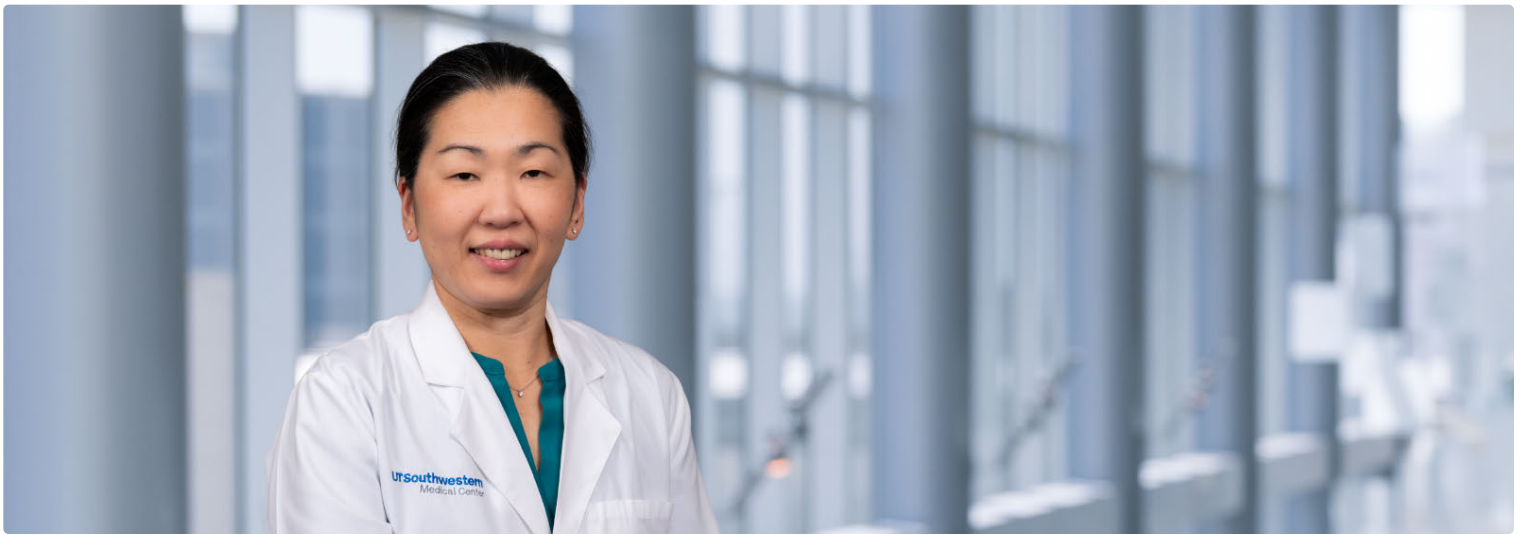
Tara Duval, M.D., a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Division of Geriatric Medicine, will speak at the Dallas Internist Club on **Thursday, Oct. 30, at noon** in the **A.W. Harris Faculty Club and Alumni Center**. Her topic: "Geriatric Assessment."

A native of New York, Dr. DuVal holds a bachelor's degree in neurobiology and behavior from Cornell University. She earned her medical degree at the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin, Ireland, and completed internal medicine residency training at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Massachusetts. After serving as a hospitalist for two years, she then obtained fellowship training in geriatric medicine at UT Southwestern.

Dr. Duval joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2012.

At UT Southwestern, Dr. DuVal instructs medical and graduate students in small groups and clinic rotations. She also trains fellows in elder abuse, functional assessment, and related topics.

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. ■



Park to Share Insights on Structural Heart Disease at Internal Medicine Grand Rounds on Oct. 31

Ki Park, M.D., M.S., an Associate Professor in the Division of Cardiology and Program Director of the Advanced Adult Structural Interventional Fellowship, will present the [Internal Medicine Grand Rounds](#) lecture on **Friday, Oct. 31, at 8 a.m. in D1.502**. Her topic: “Structural Heart Disease Interventions in Safety-Net Populations.”

Dr. Park earned her medical degree at the University of Florida College of Medicine. She completed a residency in internal medicine at UF Health, where she also gained advanced training through fellowships in cardiovascular disease and interventional cardiology. In addition, she completed a research fellowship in cardiovascular medicine at the University of Florida’s Cardiovascular Cell Therapy Research Network and earned a master’s degree in clinical and translational science.

Prior to joining the UT Southwestern faculty in 2024, Dr. Park was Director of the Cardiac Cath Lab and Structural Heart Program at the Malcolm Randall VA Medical Center in Gainesville, Florida, as well as the Director of Women’s Cardiovascular Health Services at the University of Florida. She also served as Program Director for Interventional Cardiology Fellowship at the University of Florida.

Dr. Park’s clinical and research interests include complex coronary and structural interventions and women’s cardiovascular health. ■

Other Upcoming Lectures & Conferences of Note

- Wednesday, Oct. 29, 8 a.m.: [Geriatrics Grand Rounds](#) with Dr. David Crawford (Mayo Clinic) – “Clinical Pearls on Delirium”
- Wednesday, Oct. 29, Noon: [Health Disparities Research Lecture](#) with Dr. L. Ebony Boulware (Wake Forest University) – “Not a Zero-Sum Game: Dismantling Race-Based Medicine on our Quest to Improve Health for All”
- Thursday, Oct. 30, 8:30 a.m.: The [Scott Grundy Symposium](#)
- Thursday, Oct. 30, Noon: [Renal Grand Rounds](#) with Drs. Kelley Harris and Eleanor Lederer (Nephrology) – “The Seldin Challenge”
- Friday, Oct. 31, 12:15 p.m.: [Endocrine Grand Rounds](#) with Dr. Wanpen Vongpatanasin (Cardiology) – “What’s New in the 2025 AHA/ACC High BP Guidelines?”

of interest



MIT's Robert Langer to Speak at BME Symposium on Oct. 31

The 2025 BME Symposium, hosted by the Department of Biomedical Engineering, will be held on **Friday, Oct. 31, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the TI-BMES Building (1st floor).**

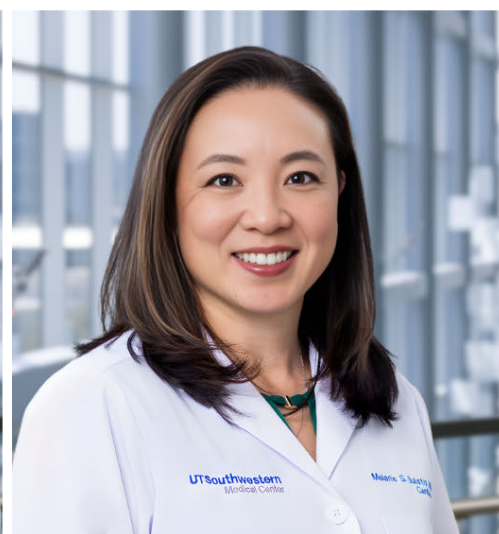
The program will feature the [Kam Family Lecture](#) presented by **Robert Langer, Sc.D.**, the David H. Koch Institute Professor at MIT. His topic: "The Road Not Taken: My Unusual Path from Chemical Engineering to Nanotechnology to Advances in Biology and Medicine"

The symposium will also include presentations by leading BME faculty, a poster session, and a panel discussion on technology commercialization.

Lunch will be provided for all registered attendees. ■

[Register for the Symposium](#)

on the horizon



Three Faculty Members Named Leaders in Clinical Excellence

Three faculty members will be honored at the 2025 [Leaders in Clinical Excellence Awards ceremony](#) on **Wednesday, Nov. 5, at 4:30 p.m. in the Tom and Lula Gooch Auditorium.** Established in 2018, these awards recognize clinical faculty for their exceptional contributions to the care of patients, to the education and training of health care professionals, and to the advancement of UT Southwestern.

Nicholas Hendren, M.D., an Assistant Professor in the Division of Cardiology, will receive the [Rising Star Award](#), presented to exceptional early-career clinical faculty whose actions and activities consistently exemplify commitment, professionalism, and leadership.

Susan Matulevicius, M.D., a Professor in the Division of Cardiology and Associate Dean of Faculty Wellness, will receive the [Institutional Service Award](#), presented to clinical faculty who consistently share time and expertise in service to internal committees, task forces, and other institutional activities that make a significant impact on the care delivered to UT Southwestern patients.

Melanie Sulistio, M.D., a Professor in the Division of Cardiology, will receive [The President's Award for Humanism in Clinical Care](#), presented to clinical faculty who exemplify the humanistic spirit of patient-centered medicine, both through clinical excellence and in outstanding compassion in the delivery of care.

A reception will follow the ceremony. ■

Event Livestream



Multidisciplinary Team to Discuss Lung Nodules and Cancer on Nov. 4

The Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center will host a virtual Lunch & Learn on **Tuesday, Nov. 4, at Noon**, about the “Evaluation and Treatment of Lung Nodules and Lung Cancer.”

The educational webinar will explore the importance of management of lung nodules, early detection of lung cancer, and the latest treatment advances for all stages of disease. Leading experts representing thoracic surgery, interventional pulmonology, medical oncology, and radiation oncology as they discuss how they work together to help patients determine next steps and get access to the care they need, when they need it.

Speakers include, from left, **Sheena Bhalla, M.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology, and **Steven Wu, M.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine. **Inderpal Sarkaria, M.D.**, a Professor in the Department of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery, and **Kenneth Westover, M.D., Ph.D.**, a Professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology, will also participate. ■

Register for the Webinar



Jon Garinn
Medicine Minute Editor

Share feedback and news items with us at IMNews@UTSouthwestern.edu

Copyright 2025 UT Southwestern Medical Center. All rights reserved.

Medicine Minute is a publication of the Department of Internal Medicine at UT Southwestern Medical Center.