

medicine minute

December 30, 2025

announcements



Rubin Named Professor Emeritus

Following more than 40 years of distinguished service and a career characterized by exceptional contributions to clinical care, education, research, and program development, **Craig Rubin, M.D.**, has been appointed Professor Emeritus of Internal Medicine.

Dr. Rubin joined the Division of General Internal Medicine (GIM) faculty in 1985 after completing his residency training at UT Southwestern under Donald Seldin, M.D. In 1989, he established the Section of Geriatric Medicine within GIM, and in 2013, he became the inaugural Chief of the newly formed Division of Geriatric Medicine. Under his stewardship, the division expanded from three full-time faculty to 15, supported by affiliated and adjunct faculty, emeritus professors, a multidisciplinary team of nurse practitioners, social workers, nurse coordinators, and administrative staff.

Dr. Rubin championed innovative programs that improved care for older adults, including the Care of the Vulnerable Elderly (COVE) house-call program, the Acute Care for Elders (ACE) unit, and the Perioperative Optimization of Senior Health (POSH) program. He also served as Director of the Mildred Wyatt & Ivor P. Wold Center for Geriatric Care, further advancing clinical excellence.

His commitment to education was equally transformative. Dr. Rubin established the Geriatric Medicine fellowship in 2000 and launched the Medicine-Geriatrics Residency pathway in 2022, the only program of its kind in Texas. He secured continuous grant funding for the Southwestern Aging and Geriatrics Education (SAGE) program and implemented the UT Medical Student Training in Aging Research (UT-STAR) initiative. A dedicated mentor and educator, Dr. Rubin played a pivotal role in the Academic Colleges program, culminating in his service as Head of Seldin College. His teaching excellence was recognized with numerous honors, including designation as a

Distinguished Teaching Professor, the Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award, and induction into both the Kenneth I. Shine Academy of Health Science Education and the Southwestern Academy of Teachers.

Beyond education and clinical innovation, Dr. Rubin contributed significantly to institutional service, including 12 years on the Admissions Committee and to research collaborations that advanced understanding of postmenopausal osteoporosis and Alzheimer's disease. ■

kudos



Glynnis Garry Bann Receives ASCI Early Career Award

Glynnis Garry Bann, M.D., an Assistant Professor in the Division of Cardiology, has received a Young Physician-Scientist Award from the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI) in recognition of early-career achievements.

Dr. Bann holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame and a medical degree from Vanderbilt University, graduating Alpha Omega Alpha. She received molecular biology training at UT Southwestern in the laboratory of **Eric Olson, Ph.D.**, after being awarded the Sarnoff Cardiovascular Research fellowship. She then completed internal medicine residency training, postdoctoral research fellowship training, and clinical cardiology fellowship training through the Physician-Scientist Training Program (PSTP) at UT Southwestern. She then joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2024.

Her research interests are focused on discovery of therapies for heart failure and myocardial infarction.

During her postdoctoral fellowship in the Olson laboratory, Dr. Bann discovered a potent epigenetic activator of direct fibroblast-to-cardiomyocyte reprogramming, PHF7. In postdoctoral research and, later, in her independent laboratory, she showed that PHF7 was sufficient as a single factor to induce reprogramming and recover cardiac function following myocardial infarction in the mouse heart. Her work has been acknowledged by several awards, including the Louis N. and Arnold M. Katz Prize and the Melvin L. Marcus Early Career Investigator Award from the American Heart Association and the Burroughs Wellcome Fund Career Award for Medical Scientists.

Dr. Bann's NIH-funded laboratory focuses on the transcriptional and epigenetic control of heart development, regeneration, and cardiac cell fate differentiation, with a focus on developing therapies for heart failure through direct fibroblast-to-cardiomyocyte reprogramming. ■

[Learn More About Dr. Bann's Research](#)



Lee to Retire Following Distinguished Career in Hepatology Research and Clinical Care

After 35 years of service, **William Lee, M.D.**, will retire on Dec. 31. A pioneer in the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases, Dr. Lee was among the first faculty members to establish a robust university-based outpatient practice. His commitment to patient care earned consistently high satisfaction scores and inspired multiple endowments from grateful patients.

Originally from New York, Dr. Lee earned his bachelor's degree in American Studies at Amherst College and his medical degree from Columbia University. He completed internal medicine residency training at Presbyterian Hospital in New York, where he served as Chief Resident, followed by advanced training through a research fellowship at Kings College Hospital Medical School in London.

Prior to joining the UT Southwestern faculty in 1990, Dr. Lee served on the faculty at Columbia University and at the Medical University of South Carolina, where he served as Director of its Gastroenterology Division.

Dr. Lee is internationally recognized for research that has transformed the understanding of acute liver failure, drug-induced liver injury, and chronic viral hepatitis. He conceived, orchestrated, and launched a landmark NIH-supported multicenter study evaluating causes and potential therapies for acute liver failure, serving as principal investigator, and coordinating efforts across 25 sites nationwide. This study fundamentally changed the field's approach to acute liver failure. In addition, Dr. Lee directed two other NIH-funded projects: one leading a hepatitis B consortium to investigate improved treatments and disease progression, and another coordinating an eight-institution study on drug-induced liver injury. His research program also included multiple industry-sponsored clinical trials exploring therapies for liver diseases.

Throughout his career, Dr. Lee demonstrated a strong commitment to mentorship, training generations of residents, fellows, and junior faculty, many of whom now serve on the UT Southwestern faculty. His professionalism and academic leadership have been widely acknowledged, including the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases Distinguished Clinician Educator/Mentor Award, Columbia University's Alumni Gold Medal for Clinical Excellence, and the Dallas Historical Society's Award for Excellence in Community Service. ■

research report



Nijhawan Team Partners with Area Nonprofit to Expand Access to Preventive Care

Ank Nijhawan, M.D., M.P.H., M.S.C.S., a Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine, has teamed up with Unlocking Doors, a Dallas-based nonprofit, to launch an 18-month research initiative focused on preventing and treating HIV through pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).

"Although HIV rates in Dallas are high overall, we found that new HIV diagnoses in the Dallas County Jail were three times higher than the general Dallas population and 10 times higher than national rates," Dr. Nijhawan said. "With an HIV incidence of 41.1 per 100,000 people in Dallas County, this new study will build on my previous work by integrating a PrEP-focused health coach into Unlocking Doors' reentry services to increase PrEP awareness and uptake among people with justice involvement."

These health coaches will play a pivotal role in the program, connecting justice-involved individuals to essential physical and mental health services as they transition back into the community, educating them about PrEP, and guiding them through the process of accessing medication.

"PrEP is for anyone at risk for HIV," Dr. Nijhawan emphasized. "It's a powerful way to stay healthy and take control of your sexual health."

Beyond HIV prevention, the initiative addresses broader challenges faced by justice-involved individuals and highlights the intersection of public health and public safety.

"Ongoing health care after incarceration is challenging without access to housing and employment—needs that often fall outside the health system's reach," she explained.

"Untreated health issues can hinder successful reentry. Addressing these needs is vital for individuals to remain healthy, housed, employed, and out of prison." ■

To learn more about Dr. Nijhawan's research, visit the [Nijhawan Research Team site](#).

in case you missed it

News and Digital Media Featuring Internal Medicine Colleagues

- [Our Health Care System Depends on You Staying Sick. Better Food Could Change That.](#) (via *The Hill*, with Jaclyn Albin, M.D.)

personnel updates



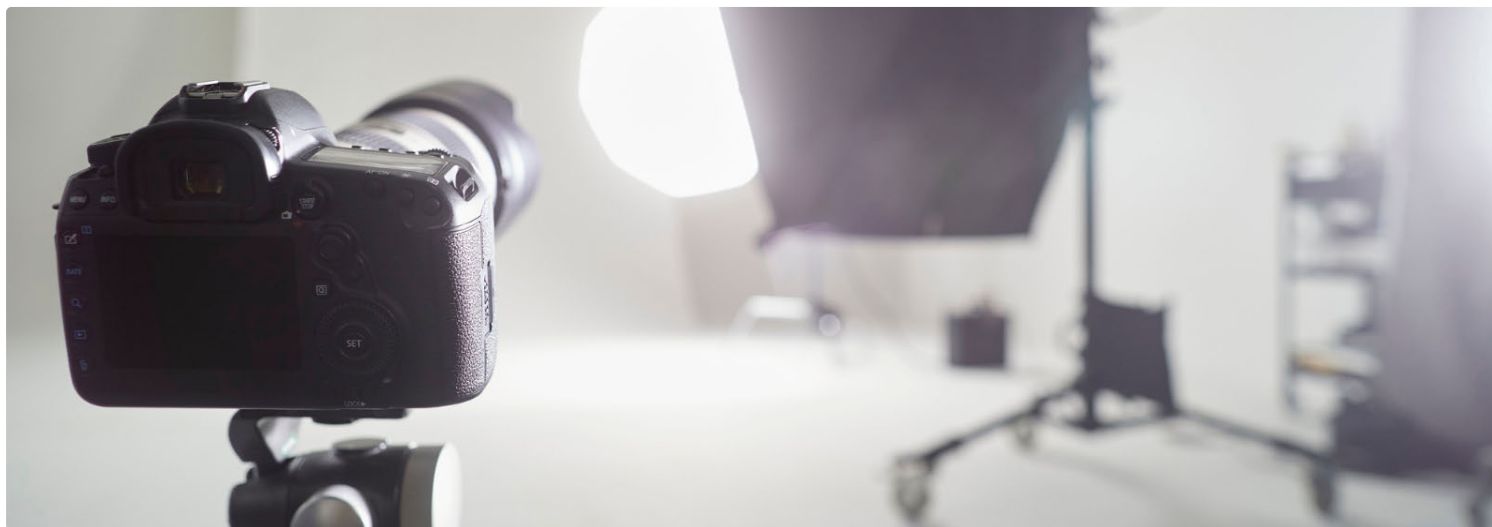
Dalton Appointed Interim Chief of Geriatric Medicine

Thomas Dalton, M.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Geriatric Medicine, has been appointed Interim Chief of Geriatric Medicine.

Originally from the North Texas area, Dr. Dalton holds a bachelor's degree from the University of North Texas and a medical degree from UT Southwestern, where he also completed residency training in Internal Medicine. After serving an additional year as Chief Resident, he obtained fellowship training in geriatric medicine with a concentration in medical education at Duke University.

Dr. Dalton joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2014. ■

need to know



Internal Medicine Photo Studio Has Relocated

The Internal Medicine Photo Studio has moved to F4.208, just down the hall from the Faculty Club on South Campus. This relocation supports the Department's growing need for additional office space while providing a more convenient option for faculty members who may wish to schedule a photo session before or after lunch at the Faculty Club.

At the new location, printed posters will also be available for pick-up. The Department continues to offer limited studio photography services at no charge for Internal Medicine faculty, staff, and trainees, and maintains an archive of photo files on MEDpoint.

Studio sessions for professional business portraits are available every other Tuesday and Thursday. ■

[IM Faculty/Staff Photo Scheduler](#)

Registration Open for Quality Improvement Courses

The Office of Quality, Safety, and Outcomes Education has announced registration for two Quality Improvement (QI) courses aimed at strengthening system-wide improvement efforts.

- **QI Basics – Your Foundation for Improvement**

The next cohort begins on **Monday, Jan. 12**. This interactive course introduces essential tools for driving meaningful change. No prior experience is required. It's open to physicians, nurses, advanced practice providers, administrators, researchers, and any team member committed to improvement.

- **Advanced Course in Quality Improvement**

Starting **Tuesday, Jan. 27**, this four-session program builds on QI Basics or Yellow/Green Belt training. Participants will apply systems thinking and leadership principles to real-world projects with expert coaching.

Registration closes on **Monday, Jan. 5**, and seats are limited. ■

[Learn More About the QI Courses](#)

reminders



WHAT'S NEW IN GI 2026 SYMPOSIUM

Saturday, February 21
Marriott Dallas Las Colinas

Annual GI Symposium Scheduled for Feb. 21

Faculty members from the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases will present their annual "What's New in GI" symposium on **Saturday, Feb. 21, at the Marriott Dallas Las Colinas**. The one-day, in-person CME course, directed by **David Fudman, M.D., Neha Patel, M.D., and Tarek Sawas, M.D.**, is designed for gastroenterologists, GI surgeons, internal medicine physicians, family practice providers, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and other healthcare providers with an interest in gastroenterology and hepatology. Attendees will be provided with practical information that can be applied to their clinical practice. Discussions will include the latest updates on recognizing symptoms and using current data to establish diagnoses and formulate appropriate treatment plans for the management of gastrointestinal diseases. ■

For more information, click [here](#).



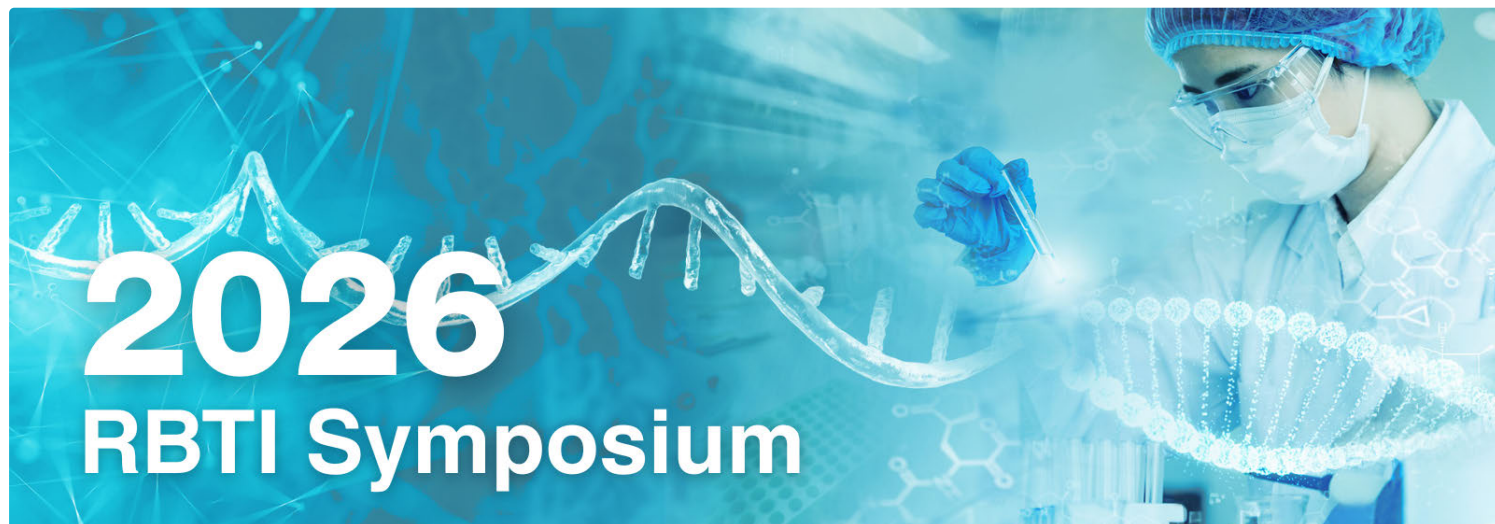
Richard Losick to Present 'History of Molecular Biology'

UT Southwestern will become the first U.S. institution outside Harvard University to offer "The History of Molecular Biology," a renowned course taught by **Richard Losick, Ph.D.**, Emeritus Professor, former HHMI investigator at Harvard, and one of the most celebrated educators in molecular biology.

"This is a deep dive into the groundbreaking discoveries and seminal papers that shaped the field," said **Andrew Zinn, M.D., Ph.D.**, Dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and a Professor in the McDermott Center for Human Growth and Development. Students will engage directly with pivotal publications, guided by Dr. Losick himself, who brings firsthand insight as someone who was often "in the room where it happened."

Graduate students and postdoctoral fellows may enroll for credit. Faculty and staff are invited to audit. The 10-session, in-person course will take place **March 16-20 and 23-27 from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the NB2.EEF auditorium**. Those who miss a class can reference Dr. Losick's eBook, *The River Divides into Thousands of Branches*.

"This is a rare opportunity to learn from one of molecular biology's great scientists," **Dr. Zinn** said. "Don't miss this chance to be part of something truly special." ■



Second RNA Biology and Therapy Initiative Seminar Set for April 23

The RNA Biology and Therapy Initiative (RBTI) is gearing up for its second campus-wide symposium, set for **Thursday, April 23**. This event will bring together leading scientists to explore the rapidly evolving world of RNA biology and therapeutics, a field that has surged to the forefront of biomedical research.

From its role in infectious disease and cancer to groundbreaking RNA-based therapies and vaccines, RNA science is transforming medicine, and UT Southwestern is recognized for its internationally known experts in the field. The RBTI was launched in 2024 to unite this talent, spark collaboration, and advance our standing as a global leadership in RNA research and therapy.

The inaugural symposium in 2024 drew more than 200 attendees and featured 70 posters and 17 oral presentations. Building on that success, the 2026 event will feature as its keynote speaker **Anastasia Khorovod, Ph.D.**, of the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School. Dr. Khorovod is a leading scientist and inventor whose [laboratory](#) has reshaped how RNA-based drugs are designed, delivered, and translated into real-world treatments.

A call for abstracts will be announced in early 2026. ■

[Visit the RBTI Site for More Information](#)



Jon Garinn
Medicine Minute Editor

Look for the next *Medicine Minute* on **Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2026**.

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

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