

# UT Southwestern Medical Center

## Leaders in Clinical Excellence Awards – Announcement of 2018 Recipients

December 18, 2018

Dr. Dwain Thiele, Dr. John Warner, and I are very pleased to announce the recipients of the inaugural UT Southwestern Leaders in Clinical Excellence Awards, as chosen by our faculty selection committee.

The Leaders in Clinical Excellence Awards program was established earlier this year following a proposal from the Clinicians Advisory Committee to the UT Southwestern Medical Group Board of Directors. With the approval of the Board, six categories of Clinical Excellence Awards were created (five individual and one program award) to honor the exceptional contributions of clinical faculty to the care of our patients, the education of the next generation of health care professionals, and to UT Southwestern overall.

Nominees were solicited from the UT Southwestern community, and the selection committee received more than 200 nominations for the various awards – an indication of the breadth of excellence we have across the Medical Center in our hospitals and clinics and affiliated partners.

The recipients of these awards are identified below. Each of these colleagues embodies the very best of UT Southwestern in our service to patients and the community and, indeed, to each other. Through their work and now their selection for a Clinical Excellence Award, these faculty are an inspiration for all of us.

We invite you to read more about each of our recipients in [Center Times Plus](#). Please join Dr. Thiele, Dr. Warner, and me in congratulating these colleagues, as well as all of our nominees, not only for their well-deserved consideration for a Clinical Excellence Award but, most importantly, for their outstanding efforts on behalf of our patients and their families.

We thank all of our clinical faculty and their clinician colleagues for their commitment to compassionate, innovative, high-quality patient care.

Sincerely,

Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.  
President, UT Southwestern Medical Center

Dwain Thiele, M.D.  
Interim Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost  
Dean, UT Southwestern Medical School

John Warner, M.D.  
Executive Vice President for Health System Affairs

## **Leaders in Clinical Excellence Awards**

### **President's Award for Diversity and Humanism in Clinical Care**

This award honors clinical faculty who exemplify the humanistic spirit of patient-centered medicine, both through clinical excellence and in outstanding compassion in the delivery of care.

Elizabeth Paulk, M.D.  
Department of Internal Medicine

### **Institutional Service Award**

This award honors 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.

Robyn Horsager-Boehrer, M.D.  
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Kevin Klein, M.D.  
Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Management

### **Mentoring Award**

This award celebrates clinicians who demonstrate exceptional commitment and effectiveness as a mentor to health care providers.

Jeffrey S. McKinney, M.D., Ph.D.  
Department of Pediatrics

Larissa I. Velez, M.D.  
Department of Emergency Medicine

### **Patient and Family Recognition Award**

This award honors clinical faculty whose dedication to the compassionate, respectful delivery of exceptional patient care has garnered the highest degree of patient trust and satisfaction.

John Andersen, M.D.  
Department of Pediatrics

Rachel Wooldridge, M.D.  
Department of Surgery

Philippe Zimmern, M.D.  
Department of Urology

### **Program Development Award**

This award celebrates the innovation and collaboration that are foundational to the success of UT Southwestern Medical Center. It recognizes a group of clinical faculty and staff who have partnered to create,

develop, and sustain an innovative program that significantly advances our ability to improve the care received by our patients.

*Lung Transplant Program*

Fernando Torres, M.D.  
Department of Internal Medicine

Michael Wait, M.D.  
Department of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery

*Parkland Hospital Outpatient Parenteral Antibiotic Therapy (OPAT) Program*

Kavita Bhavan, M.D.  
Department of Internal Medicine

*Parkland Hospital Perinatal Intervention Program*

Kurt Kleinschmidt, M.D.  
Department of Emergency Medicine

**Rising Star Award**

This award recognizes exceptional early career clinical faculty whose actions and activities consistently exemplify enthusiasm, commitment, professionalism, and leadership.

Thomas Dalton, M.D.  
Department of Internal Medicine

Theodore Laetsch, M.D.  
Department of Pediatrics

David Nelson, M.D.  
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology