

medicine minute

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

kudos

LEADERSHIP

Vemulapalli Elected to UTSW Executive Committee



Roopa Vemulapalli, M.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases and Medical Director of the Digestive Disease Clinic, has been elected to the Executive Committee of the UT Southwestern Board representing the Outpatient Medical Director Group.

The Executive Committee, which includes UT Southwestern President **Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.**, the Executive Vice Presidents, elected Department Chairs and other elected institutional leaders, plays an essential role in reviewing and making key institutional decisions on behalf of the UT Southwestern Board and Practice Plan.

“I feel honored and thankful to my colleagues for placing their trust in me,” Dr. Vemulapalli says.

Dr. Vemulapalli earned her medical degree at Kakatiya Medical College in India and completed internal medicine residency training at Louis A. Weiss Memorial Hospital in Chicago. She then received advanced training through a clinical nutrition fellowship at the University of Chicago Hospital and a gastroenterology and hepatology fellowship at UT Southwestern.

Dr. Vemulapalli joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2010.

“I am incredibly proud of all Dr. Vemulapalli has accomplished in our division,” says **Ezra Burstein, M.D., Ph.D.**, a Professor of Internal Medicine and Chief of the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases. “I am confident that she will have a positive impact on the outpatient enterprise as a whole.”

Dr. Podolsky holds the Doris and Bryan Wildenthal Distinguished Chair in Medical Science, and the Philip O'Bryan Montgomery, Jr., M.D. Distinguished Presidential Chair in Academic Administration.

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

CLINICAL CARE

Nurses Achieve National Certification



Taylor Branch, B.S.N., RN, AMB-BC, EFM-C, an Ambulatory Nurse in the Weight Wellness Clinic (left), and **Laura Perales, B.S.N, RN, AMB-BC**, an Ambulatory Nurse in the Internal Medicine Subspecialty Clinic, have received Ambulatory Care Nursing Certification from the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

Ambulatory care nurses work with patients outside of the acute care setting. The ANCC certification indicates a high level of expertise and demonstrates that the nurse is up to date with standards of care and practice.

PUBLICATIONS

Khashami Publishes Textbook on Magnetic Resonance Fundamentals



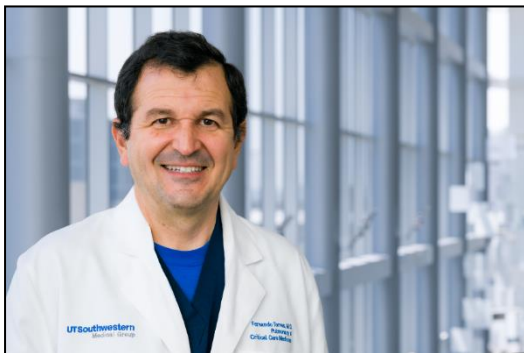
Fatemeh Khashami, Ph.D., a Postdoctoral Researcher in the Division of Cardiology, has published [*Fundamentals of NMR and MRI: From Quantum Principles to Medical Applications*](#), a book that brings together the physical foundations and medical applications of nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

Dr. Khashami hold a master's degree in fundamental physics from the University of Mohaghegh Ardabili in Iran. She earned her doctorate in physics from the University of Texas at Dallas.

At UT Southwestern, she works with **Vlad G. Zaha, M.D., Ph.D.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Cardiology, concentrating on translational cardiac metabolic MR imaging with [1-13C] pyruvate hyperpolarized MRI. Her primary research goal is to pioneer a novel approach for the early detection of heart damage in women with breast cancer who are undergoing standard care therapy.

INFLUENCERS

Torres Speaks at Transplantation Summit



Fernando Torres, M.D., a Professor in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, Medical Director of Lung Transplantation, and Head of the Pulmonary Hypertension Program, spoke about advances in pulmonary hypertension at the Stanford Cardiothoracic Transplantation Summit earlier this month in Vail, Colorado.

Originally from Puerto Rico, Dr. Torres holds a bachelor's degree in biology and chemistry from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, where he also received his medical degree. He completed internal medicine residency training at UT Southwestern and then obtained advanced training through a fellowship in pulmonary disease and critical medicine with a focus on lung transplant and lung volume reduction at the Anschutz Medical Campus at the University of Colorado Denver.

Dr. Torres joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2000.

education and training

RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT

Trainee-Led Voter Registration Effort Yields Higher Civic Interest



Arthur Hong, M.D., M.P.H., an Assistant Professor in the William T. and Gay F. Solomon Division of General Internal Medicine, and colleagues recently published [a research letter](#) in *JAMA Internal Medicine* describing a voter registration initiative that was incorporated into the residency training program during the 2020 election cycle. The trainee-led intervention achieved 99 percent voter registration among eligible residents.

“Although we describe a single-site experience, this organizing model can serve as a blueprint for increasing civic engagement in medical training programs nationally, especially in states without online or same-day voter registration,” the authors say. “Our model also can promote institutional and cultural change around civic engagement in medicine, which historically has been poor.”

Originally from Seoul, South Korea, Dr. Hong holds a bachelor’s degree in economics from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, where he also earned his medical degree. He completed internal medicine residency training at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, and then obtained advanced training through a fellowship in general internal medicine at the Harvard Medical School Department of Population Medicine. He also holds a master’s degree in public health from the Harvard School of Public Health.

Dr. Hong joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2017.

*Additional authors who contributed to the article were former residents **Daniel Arteaga, M.D., M.B.A.**, and **Hussain S. Lalani, M.D., M.P.H., M.Sc.***

To learn more about Dr. Hong’s research, visit the [Cancer Care Delivery Research Collaborative site](#).

this week

CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS

February is Black History Month



Black History Month recognizes the generations of Black Americans who struggled with adversity and celebrates their many contributions to our nation.

The observance began in 1926, when American historian Carter G. Woodson established Black History Week. It became a month-long celebration in 1976.

Throughout the month, the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) will feature Black pioneers and NAM members who have worked to benefit the health of others and advance the field of health and medicine.

To learn more, visit the [National Academy of Medicine](#).

HEALTHCARE OBSERVANCES

Learn About Cardiac Health During American Heart Month



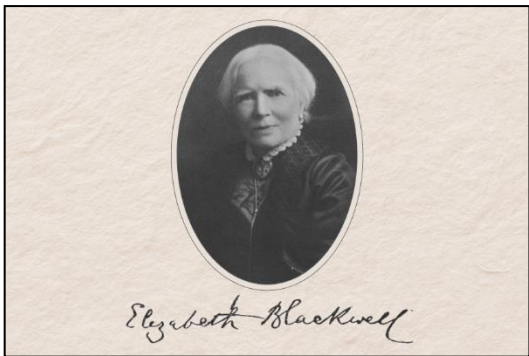
February is **American Heart Month**, a time to support and promote heart-healthy living and learn more about the management of all forms of heart disease.

Faculty and fellows in our Division of Cardiology provide a spectrum of clinical subspecialty care, from cardiovascular disease prevention to heart transplantation. The Division is also the home to a large number of clinical and translational research programs, examining prevention, risk prediction, genetics, biomarker discovery, hemodynamic adaptations to exercise, cardio-oncology, hypertension, and more.

This month, take some time to celebrate our many biomedical discoveries that have changed the field of cardiovascular medicine, and enabled us to provide some of the most advanced therapies available.

WOMEN IN MEDICINE

Friday is National Women Physicians Day



National Women Physicians Day honors [Elizabeth Blackwell, M.D.](#), who, in 1849, became the first woman in the U.S. to earn a medical degree. It's also an opportunity to celebrate the generations of women physicians who followed in her footsteps.

The Women in Science Advisory Committee will host a happy hour from **4:30-6:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 2** in the A.W. Harris Faculty Club (E4.400). The event will include light refreshments and a discussion of resources available on campus for members, followed by a networking session. All are welcome to attend.

To RSVP for the happy hour event, click [here](#).

INTERNAL MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS

Omer to Discuss Lessons Learned from the Pandemic on Feb. 2



Saad B. Omer, M.B.B.S., M.P.H., Ph.D., a Professor in the Peter O'Donnell Jr. School of Public Health and in the Department of Internal Medicine, will present the [Internal Medicine Grand Rounds](#) lecture on **Friday, Feb. 2, at 8 a.m. in D1.502**. His topic: "The Science of Pandemic Response: Lessons Learned from COVID-19."

Dr. Omer, who also serves as Dean of the Peter O'Donnell Jr. School of Public Health, received his medical education from Aga Khan University in Pakistan. He then obtained a master's degree in public health from Johns Hopkins University, where he also completed his doctorate.

Dr. Omer has conducted studies in the U.S., Guatemala, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, South Africa, and Australia. His research portfolio includes epidemiology of respiratory viruses such as influenza, RSV, and COVID-19; clinical trials to estimate efficacy of maternal and/or infant influenza, pertussis, polio, measles, and pneumococcal vaccines; and trials to evaluate drug regimens to reduce mother-to-child transmission of HIV. Moreover, he has conducted several studies on interventions to increase immunization coverage and acceptance.

He has published more than 430 peer-reviewed papers that have been cumulatively cited more than 150,000 times. Dr Omer's published work, which includes *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *JAMA*, *The Lancet*, *Cell*, *Science*, and *Nature*, is consistently cited for policy recommendations and has informed legislative policy and clinical practice in many countries.

He has served on advisory panels including the U.S. National Vaccine Advisory Committee, Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria-Vaccine Innovation Working Group, several high-level World Health Organization advisory committees, multiple National Academy of Medicine expert panels, the boards of the Sabin Vaccine Institute and Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance, and as an academic affiliate of the Office of Evaluation Sciences – formerly known as the White House Social and Behavioral Sciences Team. He has received multiple awards, including the Maurice Hilleman Award by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases for his work on the impact of maternal influenza immunization on respiratory illness in infants younger than 6 months for whom there is no vaccine.

A member of the National Academy of Medicine, Dr. Omer holds the Lyda Hill Deanship in the School of Public Health.

Noteworthy Lectures & Events

- **Tuesday, Jan. 30, 3 p.m.:** [62nd Annual Medical Student Research Forum](#) with **Dr. Denise Marciano** (Nephrology)
- **Wednesday, Jan. 31, 8 a.m.:** [Geriatrics Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Sarah Godfrey** (Cardiology) – “Advanced Therapies for Older Persons: Who, What, When and Which One”
- **Thursday, Feb. 1, 8 a.m.:** [Infectious Diseases Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Theodoros Kelesidis** (Infectious Diseases & Geographic Medicine) – “HIV Comorbidities”
- **Thursday, Feb. 1, Noon:** [Moss Heart Center Seminar Series](#) with **Dr. Reza Ardehali** (Baylor College of Medicine) – “The Role of Mural Cells in Cardiac Fibrosis”
- **Thursday, Feb. 1, 4 p.m.:** [PROVIDES Seminar Series](#) with **Dr. Josephine Thinwa** (Infectious Diseases & Geographic Medicine) – “Turning on Autophagy to Fight Viruses”
- **Friday, Feb. 2, Noon:** [Accelerating Clinical Research in Texas](#) with **Dr. David Karp** (Rheumatic Diseases) – “The Trial Innovation Network and How it Can Help Multisite Investigators”
- **Friday, Feb. 2, Noon:** [Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center Lecture Series](#) with **Dr. Robert Schoen** (University of Pittsburgh) – “The New Frontier: Blood Based Testing for Colorectal Cancer”



Internal Medicine Events Calendar

[Click to view additional events](#)

on the horizon

NETWORKING

Faculty Development Workshop Scheduled for Feb. 27



Faculty members from the departments of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics will present a faculty development and networking workshop on **Tuesday, Feb. 27, from noon to 4 p.m. in the Faculty Club**. The workshop, “A Rich Life: How to Thrive in Your Academic Career,” will focus on clinician and clinician-educator faculty who are in their first seven to 10 years of service.

Led by **Jessica Moreland, M.D.**, a Professor of Microbiology and Pediatrics and Associate Dean for Faculty Development, and **Suzanne Farmer, Ph.D.**, Assistant Vice President for Organizational Development and Training, the workshop will

include an overview of faculty development programs and resources, a faculty panel representing a diverse range of career journeys, and breakout sessions with faculty facilitators.

To register for the workshop, click [here](#).

Look for the next *Medicine Minute* on **Tuesday, Feb. 6**.
Share feedback and news items with us at IMNews@UTSouthwestern.edu

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