

medicine minute

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

kudos

AWARDS

Thinwa Joins Disease-Oriented Clinical Scholars Program



Josephine Thinwa, M.D., Ph.D., an Assistant Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine, has been accepted into the Disease-Oriented Clinical Scholars (DOCS) Program, which will provide a \$1 million grant package over three years to support her research.

Twenty-five scholar physicians are part of the DOCS Program.

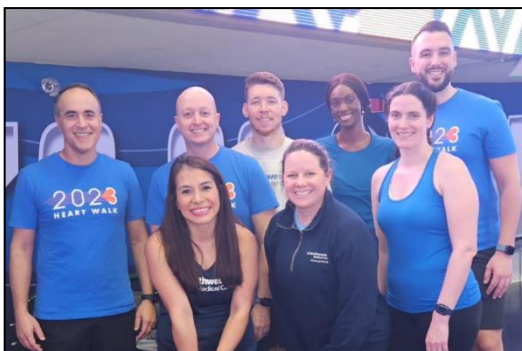
Dr. Thinwa's research focuses on autophagy, a natural cell-recycling process that helps cells break down and eliminate viruses and other unnecessary components. Her laboratory investigates how autophagy becomes activated by viruses that

cause infections of the central nervous system. Her goal is to increase understanding on the role of autophagy in the immune response to viruses and, ultimately, to use this knowledge to develop new vaccines and treatments for an array of viruses.

Dr. Thinwa joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2021.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Mavs Marathon Contest Raises Awareness of Heart Health



For the second consecutive year, **Amit Khera, M.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Cardiology and Director of the Preventive Cardiology Program (far right), raced side-by-side on a treadmill against a Dallas Marathon runner as part of Heart Health Awareness Night during the Dallas Mavericks game with the San Antonio Spurs on Feb. 14.

To view a video summary of the event on LinkedIn, click [here](#).

ACHIEVEMENTS

Palliative Care Team Wins Tipping Point Challenge

The John A. Hartford Foundation

Tipping Point CHALLENGE

Caitlin Siropaides, D.O., an Associate Professor in the Palliative Medicine section of the William T. and Gay F. Solomon Division of General Internal Medicine and Interim Director of Palliative Care at Clements University Hospital and the Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center (SCCC), has received a clinical training award from the Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC).

[The John A. Hartford Foundation Tipping Point Challenge](#) is a national competition that recognizes small hospitals with clinicians who have completed the most courses in the CAPC's online clinical training curriculum.

"Over the past year, both palliative care and non-palliative care clinicians across your organization enhanced their clinical skills in order to effectively serve your highest need, most complex patients, and their families," says **Brynn Bowman, M.P.A.**, Chief Executive Officer of the CAPC. "This included skill-building in communication, pain and symptom management, and support for the all-important family caregiver."

"I appreciate our Cancer Center colleagues who embraced and operationalized CAPC resources during onboarding and training our nursing, APP, physician, and interdisciplinary staff," says Dr. Siropaides.

HONORS

Engelking Named Fellow of American Gastroenterological Association



Luke Engelking, M.D., Ph.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases, has been named a Fellow of the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA), one of 41 longstanding members to receive the honor for 2024.

Fellows are honored by the organization for "superior professional achievement in clinical practice or academic practice and in basic or clinical research." Current faculty members with primary or secondary appointments in the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases who are AGA Fellows include **Ezra Burstein, M.D., Ph.D., Moheb Bektor, M.D.,**

Kerry Dunbar, M.D., Ph.D., Yujin Hoshida, M.D., Ph.D., Thomas Kerr, M.D., Ph.D., William Lee, M.D., Willis Maddrey, M.D., Marlyn Mayo, M.D., Jacqueline O'Leary, M.D., and Daniel Podolsky, M.D.

Dr. Engelking's clinical interests include the treatment of patients with either known or suspected inherited disorders of polyposis and colorectal cancer, including Lynch syndrome, Familial Adenomatous Polyposis syndrome, Peutz-Jeghers syndrome, Juvenile Polyposis syndrome, and Cowden syndrome. His research focuses on lipid-derived oncometabolites that could be used to treat colon cancer, and to clarify the links between dietary lipids and intestinal cancers.

To learn more about Dr. Engelking's research, visit the [Engelking Lab](#).

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

Dr. Hoshida holds the H. Ray and Paula Calvert Chair in Gastroenterology Oncology in Honor of Udit Verma, M.D.

Dr. Lee holds the Meredith Mosle Chair in Liver Disease in Honor of Dr. William M. Lee.

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.

research roundup

FUNDING

Two UTSW Projects Receive AHA 'Health Care by Food' Grants



The American Heart Association recently awarded \$7.8 million to [19 research projects nationwide](#), including two at UT Southwestern, as part of its [Health Care by Food](#) initiative.

Ambarish Pandey, M.D., M.S.C.S., an Associate Professor in the Division of Cardiology, and **Eric Peterson, M.D., M.P.H.**, a Professor in the Division of Cardiology, and Vice Provost and Sr. Associate Dean for Clinical Research, received a one-year, \$430,000 grant to conduct a randomized controlled trial (PRODUCE-HF) examining the impact of a produce delivery program on health outcomes and engagement among patients with heart failure.

“This study will focus on the impact of providing produce boxes (and/or medically tailored meals) and education on patient diet, medication adherence, patient follow up, and heart failure readmissions among patients recently hospitalized for acute decompensated heart failure,” Dr. Pandey says. “This study will examine the potential for how produce prescriptions could be used to leverage compliance with health care recommendations, as well as how produce prescriptions could impact a population that typically has a high utilization of health care services.”

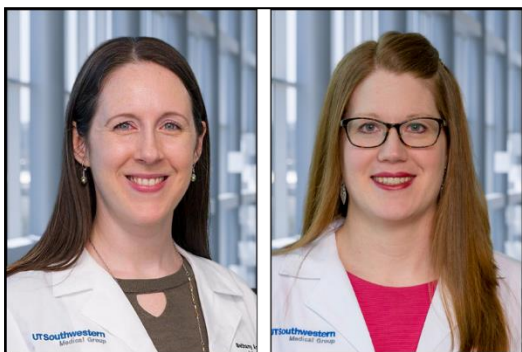
Jaclyn Albin, M.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Combined Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, **Kelseanna Hollis-Hansen, Ph.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Peter O’Donnell Jr. School of Public Health, and **Tammy Leonard, Ph.D.**, a Professor in the Peter O’Donnell Jr. School of Public Health, received an 18-month, \$400,000 grant to conduct a randomized controlled trial to identify the impact of employing a food resource coach along with a medically tailored grocery intervention, including feasibility and early-stage effectiveness.

“This is an example of the expanding focus on food is medicine,” Dr. Albin says. “All of the funded projects examine the effectiveness of strategic approaches to providing healthy food as part of patient care to the treatment, management, and prevention of chronic health conditions in ways that reduce health inequities.”

Dr. Peterson holds the Adelyn and Edmund M. Hoffman Distinguished Chair in Medical Science.

PUBLICATIONS

Agusala, Albin Call for Advancing Nutrition Education



Bethany Agusala, M.D., an Assistant Professor in the William T. and Gay F. Solomon Division of General Internal Medicine, and **Jaclyn Albin, M.D.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Combined Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, recently published [an article](#) in the *Journal of Medical Education and Curricular Development*, along with collaborator **Emily Broad Leib, J.D.**, a Clinical Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, calling for advancement of nutrition education in Graduate Medical Education programs.

“We briefly review the critical role of nutrition in health, including the context of unsustainable costs of diet-sensitive disease,” Dr. Albin says. “The recent evolution of national attention to food is medicine interventions (from research, clinical, education, and policy contexts) in order to equip the next generation of physicians to advance this important work in collaboration with our interprofessional colleagues, especially registered dietitian nutritionists. Addressing this GME now is vital, and we make this case in our manuscript while offering suggestions on where to begin.”

in case you missed it

Magnetic Fields Kill Bacteria that Infect Medical Implants



The same technology at work in induction cooktops cut the amount of bacteria present in a prosthetic joint infection when used in conjunction with antibiotics in a mouse model, UT Southwestern Medical Center researchers report in a new study. Their findings, published in [Scientific Reports](#), advance a concept developed at UTSW and [first reported](#) in 2017 that eradicates the slimy biofilm protecting bacteria from treatment through drugs alone.

“We previously demonstrated that alternating magnetic fields (AMF) can reduce bacterial biofilm in the test tube. This study is the first to show that AMF can reduce bacterial biofilm in an

animal model, which is an important next step in trying to get this technology into human clinical trials,” said study leader **David Greenberg, M.D.**, Professor of Internal Medicine and Microbiology and a member of the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine at UTSW.

To read the complete article from the UTSW Newsroom, click [here](#).

this week

INTERNAL MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS

Cedars-Sinai’s Karumanchi to Discuss Preeclampsia on Feb. 23



S. Ananth Karumanchi, M.B.B.S., a Professor of Medicine and Director of the Renovascular Research Center at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, will present the [Internal Medicine Grand Rounds](#) lecture on **Friday, Feb. 23, at 8 a.m. in D1.502**. His topic: “Molecular Mechanisms of Preeclampsia: Implications for Cardiovascular Disease and Chronic Kidney Disease.”

Dr. Karumanchi earned his medical degree from the University of Madras in India. He then received internal medicine residency training at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit and completed advanced training through a nephrology fellowship at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (Harvard Medical

School) in Boston. He has been in practice for more than 20 years and has expertise in treating chronic kidney disease.

Dr. Karumanchi’s research lab focuses on hypertension in pregnancy. He investigates the role of angiogenesis and endothelial function in health and in disease with an emphasis on the pathogenesis of preeclampsia, a pregnancy disorder characterized by hypertension, proteinuria and glomerular endotheliosis. Novel angiogenic biomarkers for use in early diagnosis and prediction of preeclampsia and its related complications are being tested in prospective clinical studies.

Another area of interest is uremia-related cardiovascular disease. Dr. Karumanchi is attempting to elucidate vascular mechanisms of uremia related complications. Using animal models, Dr. Karumanchi and his collaborators have identified novel factors that lead to bone and cardiovascular disease in patients with chronic kidney disease.

Noteworthy Lectures & Events

- **Wednesday, Feb. 21, 8 a.m.:** [Geriatrics Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Ravindra Bharadwaj** (Geriatric Medicine) – “Constipation in the Elderly”

- **Wednesday, Feb. 21, 9 a.m.:** [Komen Distinguished Lecture Series](#) with **Dr. Laura Vantveer** (University of California San Francisco) – “Optimal Outcome for High-Risk Breast Cancer”
- **Thursday, Feb. 22, Noon:** [Radiology Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Steven P. Rowe** (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) – “Prostate-Specific Membrane Antigen PET: What We Know, What We Think We Know, and What We Need to Know”



Internal Medicine Events Calendar

[Click to view additional events](#)

hot jobs in internal medicine

Looking to advance your career? Want to refer a friend? Check this job opening:

- [Assistant Director, Department Finance](#)

save the date

O'DONNELL BRAIN INSTITUTE

OBI Symposium to Focus on Neuroimmunology of CNS Disorders



The third annual **Peter O'Donnell Jr. Brain Institute Symposium** will be held on **Wednesday, March 27, and Thursday, March 28**, in the T. Boone Pickens Auditorium.

This free in-person event will consist of didactic lectures, case studies, and interactive Q&A discussions in five sessions: 1) Viral models of CNS autoimmunity (early MS); 2) MS phenotypes; 3) Disease-modifying factors in CNS autoimmunity; 4) Cellular mediators of CNS inflammation; and 5) Other neuroinflammatory conditions (psychiatric disease, neurodegeneration, encephalitides).

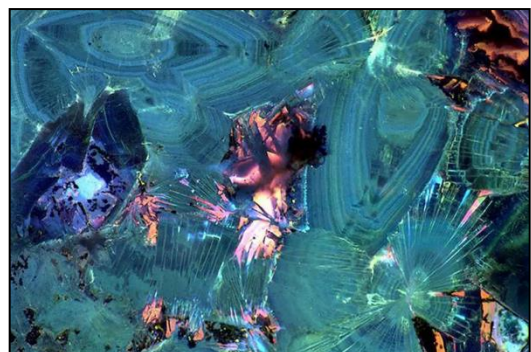
David Beckham, M.D., a Professor of Internal Medicine and Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine, will present “Innate Immune Response in the Brain to Viral Pathogens.”

Dr. Beckham holds the Jay P. Sanford Professorship in Infectious Diseases.

To register for the symposium, click [here](#). To view the symposium agenda and faculty presenters, click [here](#).

RESEARCH

Experts to Speak on Urolithiasis at Pak Symposium



The third **Pak Symposium on Mineral Metabolism Research** is scheduled for **Friday, April 5, 2024, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** in the T. Boone Pickens Auditorium (NG3.112). The focus of this year's conference will be urolithiasis, a condition that occurs when kidney stones pass into the urinary tract.

Fredric L. Coe, M.D., a Professor of Medicine at the University of Chicago, will present the keynote address: “Interactions Between Crystal Deposits, Inflammation and Renal Physiology in Pathogenesis of Calcium Renal Stones.”

Other visiting presenters include **Barbara Cellini, Ph.D.**, an Associate Professor of Biochemistry from the University of Perugia in Italy; **Hatim Hassan, M.D., Ph.D.**, an Associate Professor of Medicine from the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota; and **Jeffrey D. Rimer, Ph.D.**, a Professor of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering from the University of Houston.

UT Southwestern presenters include **Naim Maalouf, M.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Endocrinology and Associate Director of the Charles and Jane Pak Center for Mineral Metabolism and Clinical Research; **Orson Moe, M.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Nephrology and Director of the Pak Center; and **Margaret Pearle, M.D., Ph.D.**, a Professor of Urology and Internal Medicine.

Dr. Maalouf holds the Frederic C. Bartter Professorship in Vitamin D Research.

Dr. Moe holds the Charles and Jane Pak Distinguished Chair in Mineral Metabolism Research and the Donald Seldin Professorship in Clinical Investigation.

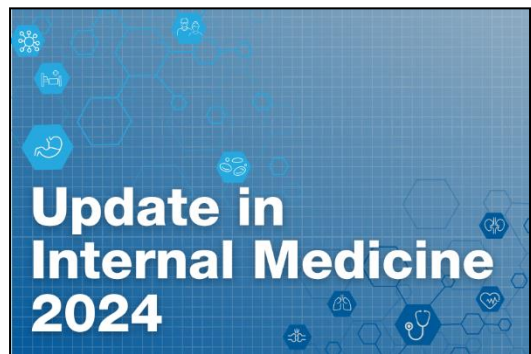
Dr. Pearle holds the Dr. Ralph C. Smith Distinguished Chair in Urologic Education.

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

Photo credit: Mayandi Sivaguru, Jessica Saw from Bruce Fouke Lab, Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology, U. of I., via The New York Times.

UPDATE IN INTERNAL MEDICINE

Annual CME Conference Scheduled for April 13



The annual Update in Internal Medicine CME Conference is scheduled for **Saturday, April 13, from 7:45 a.m. to 3 p.m.** The course, under the direction of **Brad Cutrell, M.D.**, and **Vlad Zaha, M.D., Ph.D.**, will offer state-of-the-art, practical advice on common conditions and new developments in women's health, vascular medicine, thyroid nodule and cyst management, central nervous system infections, and much more. The one-day live event will again be offered as a hybrid learning experience, with synchronous in-person and online presentations in addition to pre-recorded on-demand content. The presentations will be available for up to one year after the conference, totaling 18 units of CME credit and the opportunity

to apply for MOC within the timing requirements of the ABIM rules.

To learn more or to register for the event, click [here](#).

reminders

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. 27.**

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

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