Summer Issue

Dear Colleagues,

In our Summer newsletter, we welcome several new faculty and say goodbye to two of our esteemed colleagues. We also have an update on the new PM&R clinic and the latest technology in physical therapy to arrive at UT Southwestern. Plus, two firsts in neuroscience nursing at UT Southwestern and faculty promotions for 2017.

Please feel free to pass along news items by sending an email to obinews@utsouthwestern.edu. We publish the larger newsletter each quarter and publish updates in the intervening months.

Sincerely,
Chris Madden

Christopher Madden, M.D.
Executive Clinical Director
O’Donnell Brain Institute

What’s Inside

2 Faculty Promotions Exoskeleton
3 New Faculty Neurosurgery Retirements
4 U.S. News Rankings PM&R Clinics Open
5 NNRC Symposium Upcoming Events OBI Headlines
6 Neuroscience Nursing Neuroradiology Fellows Child Neurology Residents

Physical therapists at Zale Lipshy University Hospital’s Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit work with a patient using a new device that is the latest in rehab technology. See page 2 for the story.
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

gets cutting-edge therapy device

UT Southwestern’s Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation has a new tool for helping patients recover from brain or spine injuries. Earlier this month, two exoskeletons arrived at UT Southwestern – one for the Inpatient Rehab Unit at Zale Lipshy University Hospital and one for the outpatient clinic in Sprague.

The exoskeleton is a wearable robot that is one of the most sophisticated interventions available today in physical rehab. The particular model that UT Southwestern offers, the Ekso GT, is the only one approved for use in hemiplegia and spinal cord injury.

“The exoskeleton allows the patient to use their trunk and working limb muscles in normal posture and walking, something not accomplished with standard therapy,” said Dr. Kathleen Bell, Chair of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. “It is another step for us in facilitating neurorecovery for our patients.”

Faculty Promotions 2017

Neurological Surgery
Babu Welch, M.D. to Professor

Neurology and Neurotherapeutics
Shilpa Chitnis, M.D., Ph.D. to Professor
Ryan Hays, M.D. to Associate Professor
Elizabeth Maher, M.D., Ph.D. to Professor
Darin Okuda, M.D. to Professor
Craig Powell, M.D., Ph.D. to Professor
Rong Zhang, Ph.D. to Professor

Neuroscience
Taekyung Kim, Ph.D. to Associate Professor
Genevieve Konopka, Ph.D. to Associate Professor

Psychiatry
Suselina Acosta, M.D. to Assistant Professor
Rajbir Bakshi, M.D. to Professor
Theresa Bjorness, Ph.D. to Assistant Professor
Joshua Hubregsen, M.D. to Assistant Professor
Tina Kaviani, M.D. to Assistant Professor
Lindsey Pershern, M.D. to Associate Professor
Julia Smith, Psy.D. to Associate Professor
Charles South, Ph.D. to Assistant Professor
Sarah Spain, Ph.D. to Associate Professor
Matan White, M.D. to Assistant Professor
Gus Zhang, M.D. to Assistant Professor
Two of UT Southwestern’s esteemed neurosurgeons set to retire

Dr. Fred Sklar

Dr. Howard Morgan

Message from Dr. Hunt Batjer, Chair of Neurological Surgery

This coming September marks a bittersweet moment for the Department of Neurological Surgery. Two of our star surgeons are retiring from active neurosurgery to pursue other passions.

Dr. Fred Sklar was on the full-time faculty during my residency in the 1970s and I had the pleasure of learning the principles of pediatric neurosurgery from him. He was an outstanding teacher, surgeon, and physician, well loved by his patients and their parents. He had a wonderful career in neurosurgery and clearly has left his mark on the way we think about pediatric problems affecting the brain and spinal cord.

Dr. Howard Morgan joined us very early in my practice here at UT Southwestern. He brought years of private practice experience with him to the benefit of our patients, residents, fellows, and fellow faculty members. His methodical and principled approach to patients with spine problems developed a very strong following in the Southwestern region for his expertise. His internal code of ethics made him a wonderful resource to the Promotion and Tenure process here at UT Southwestern and to the Professional Conduct Committee of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons. More recently he availed his talents to the benefit of our professional athletes serving as an Unaffiliated Neurotrauma Consultant at AT&T Stadium.

We will dearly miss these two fine men and look forward to their future endeavors and contributions as well as their mentorship of our young people in an ongoing way.
Neurology and Neurosurgery nationally ranked by U.S News

Neurology and Neurosurgery at UT Southwestern are nationally ranked in U.S. News & World Report's 2017-2018 list of Best Hospitals. U.S. News combines Neurology and Neurosurgery as one specialty, and together, the departments were one of six UT Southwestern specialties that earned the national ranking.

UT Southwestern was ranked the No. 1 Best Hospital in Dallas-Fort Worth and the No. 2 Best Hospital in Texas.

New Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation clinics open in Aston, Moncrief

PM&R has expanded its services with the opening of a new clinic on the fifth floor of the James W. Aston Ambulatory Care Center. The new location expands the neurological rehabilitation service line which includes a Multidisciplinary Concussion Program and Pelvic Floor Dysfunction Team.

Supporting these services at the Aston Clinic are Rehabilitation Psychology, Liaison Psychiatry and Speech Therapy. The Sprague Clinic location continues to house the Spasticity Management Program, Multiple Sclerosis Rehabilitation, Wheelchair Seating Clinic, Spinal Cord Injury, Electrodiagnosis, Musculoskeletal and General Rehabilitation.

PM&R providing patient care in Fort Worth

PM&R is one of 16 specialties now offering patient care in the new Monty and Tex Moncrief Medical Center at Fort Worth. The Moncrief Center opened earlier this year in Fort Worth’s Medical District. Neurology will also see patients there starting in the fall.
Neuroscience Nursing Research Center holds first symposium

UT Southwestern’s Neuroscience Nursing Research Center (NNRC) held its inaugural symposium on August 12, 2017, to share nursing research studies conducted with the support of the NNRC, and to encourage more nurses to conduct their own studies.

Nurse researchers from diverse disciplines presented information on how to conduct projects aimed at improving outcomes for neuroscience patients. Speakers also discussed how recent neuroscience nursing research has positively impacted patient care.

“We wanted to hold this symposium to reach more nurses, on and off campus, and show them that research conducted by nurses is making a difference to patients,” said Dr. Sonja Stutzman, Project Manager.

“Nurses bring a unique and valuable perspective to research because they have a great deal of direct contact with patients and their families and can pinpoint questions and potential changes that can impact patient care and outcomes.”

Since the establishment of the NNRC in the fall of 2013, nursing fellows, with support and training from NNRC staff, have investigated a range of topics including pharmacogenomics, waiting room anxiety, and the therapeutic potential of music for neurologic injury.

If you are interested in becoming an NNRC Fellow, you can apply now. The deadline to submit your application is September 29, 2017.

The second annual NNRC Research Symposium will be held on August 4, 2018.

Save the Date

**Neurology and Neurotherapeutics Update**
**Date:** Saturday, October 28, 2017  
**Location:** T. Boone Pickens Auditorium  
NG3.112, Dallas, TX

**Stroke Symposium 2017:**  
**Critical Decisions in Stroke**  
**Date:** Saturday, November 11, 2017  
**Location:** McDermott Lecture Halls,  
D-Lower Level, Dallas, TX

**Bass Symposium: The Technology of Neural Restoration**  
**Date(s):** March 2-3, 2018  
**Locations:** Belo Mansion, Dinner  
March 2, 6p-9p  
T. Boone Pickens, Symposium  
March 3, 8a - 3p

Headlines from UTSW News

- **Study:** Muscle, not brain, may hold answers to some sleep disorders
- **Researchers ID network of neurons crucial for vocal learning**
- **Study answers why ketamine helps depression, offers target for safer therapy**
- **Study:** New approach to destroying deadly brain tumors
- **Study:** Eating at ‘wrong time’ affects body weight, circadian rhythms
Welcome to New Residents and Fellows 2017-2018

Neuroradiology Fellows
Ryan Durel, M.D.
Faraz Jeelani, M.D.
Cameron McDougall, M.D.
Nikhil Mehta, M.D.
Viet Nguyen, M.D.
David Reading, M.D.
Benjamin White, M.D.
Alexander Wyckoff, M.D.

Child Neurology Residents
Kaitlin Batley, M.D.
Hanan El Shakankiry, M.D., Ph.D.
Kendra Williams, M.D.

Child Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Resident
Tuba Rashid Khan, M.D.

Neurosurgery/Otolaryngology/Spine Unit: (l-r) Sarah Jannusch, BSN, RN (Manager)

Psychiatry Unit: (l-r) Patricia Zulim, BSN, RN (Preceptor); Tracy Cistone, BSN, RN; Gail Hall, BSN, RN (Preceptor)

Rehabilitation Unit: (l-r) Cynthia Hill, BSN, RN (Manager)
Irene Philip, BSN, RN

Congratulations to the Zale Lipshy neuroscience nursing residents who recently graduated from the first ever neuroscience nursing cohort.

First cohort of Neuroscience nursing residents graduates at Zale Lipshy

The Peter O’Donnell Jr. Brain Institute newsletter is produced and edited by our communications team.

If you have questions, comments, or news items, please contact Julie Kirchem, Web Editor, or Melissa Martin, Content Producer. obinews@utsouthwestern.edu.

Kimberly Oas, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, presented three lectures at the National Nurse Practitioner Symposium held in Keystone, Colorado in July. Kim serves as the National Chair of the AHS NP/PA Special Interest Section and her lectures were part of an educational offering developed by the American Headache Society (AHS).