

# CENTER TIMES

MAY 2019

A PUBLICATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER

CAMPUS EDITION

## Commencement 2019: National Academy of Medicine President Dzau, Phillips to give keynote addresses

From Staff Reports

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Class of 2019 Medical School graduates are the first students to complete the revised curriculum, which allows medical students to step into hospitals and clinics earlier in

their educational journey and better trains students to be knowledgeable, confident, and forward-looking physicians. This year's class includes 26 students graduating with distinction, an Olympic level athlete, a former F-16 pilot for the Air Force, an advocate for foster children, one who danced with a team on *America's Got Talent*, and one who launched a group to reach out to disadvantaged elementary school students to motivate them to pursue careers in medicine.

Ceremonies for the 93 graduates of the Graduate School will be in the Gooch Auditorium beginning at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 23.

The 2019 Graduate School Class includes students who began the UT Southwestern chapter of the Association for Neuropsychology Students in Training, co-founded the Graduate Student/Postdoc Wellness Committee, co-founded the UTSW Science Policy, Education, and Communication group (SPEAC), founded the Clinical Psychology Student Research



Please see COMMENCEMENT on page 11 Dr. Victor J. Dzau



Dr. Margaret Phillips

## A passion for service: Family, health crises inspired Ho Din winner

By Carol Marie Cropper

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Dr. Werner decided on her future career while still in elementary school, listening to her paramedic father talk about his days rescuing people after traffic accidents and heart attacks and rushing expectant moms to the emergency room. "He would talk about different patients he had seen and taken care of, but his stories always ended with, 'and then we dropped them off at the hospital.' Looking back, I realize I was always curious about what happened to those people after getting to the hospital," the newly minted UT Southwestern Medical School graduate and Ob/Gyn said.

She got that chance in 2008 – in a dramatic way – at age 14 when she suddenly started having trouble breathing. Her left lung had collapsed, the result of an air blister on her lung that had burst. "I was petrified," Dr. Werner said. Three days in the hospital, a fairly simple procedure to allow her lung to reinflate, and a comforting explanation from a hospital physician about the blisters (called "blebs"), and how she may have been born with the defect, seemed to put her back on track and able to return to playing high school volleyball.

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repair the defect in her lung.

That summer, just before her 16th birthday, she found out her mother had a sarcoma cancer in her thigh. From that point and continuing into 2011, Dr. Werner helped her mom navigate the health care system. She traveled with her from their home in Plano to Dallas for doctor visits and served as an at-home caretaker when her mother underwent chemotherapy. Today, her mom, who holds an MBA and owns her own business, is in remission.

Those experiences showed Dr. Werner how important a caring physician is during stressful times. "When you're involved with something like that, you really need someone to be the captain of the ship. I really saw my mom's physicians do that. I was just incredibly impressed and grateful for all their work in caring for her."

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explaining what was about to happen. After the surgery, she talked to the girl and her family about what to expect during recovery. "It's those types of experiences where you know that you've made a difference that make me so excited to become a doctor so I can continue to have that sort of impact," Dr. Werner said.

"Bethany Werner is an absolute star," Dr. Angela Mihalic, Dean of Medical Students and Associate Dean of Student Affairs, said in explaining why Dr. Werner was chosen to receive the Ho Din, the Medical School's oldest and most prestigious student award, presented each year by Southwestern Medical Foundation. It was established in 1943 to recognize those with the attributes inherent in great physicians and comes with a Ho Din medal, certificate, and scholarship of \$10,000.

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Please see HO DIN on page 11

## UT Southwestern to lead national effort to develop new weapons against pathogens

By Carol Marie Cropper

Amid growing concern about pathogens becoming more drug-resistant worldwide – and emerging new pathogens that have no current treatment – UT Southwestern has been selected to lead a five-year investigation into a promising new approach for controlling infections funded by a grant of up to \$37 million.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded program will be headed by Dr. Beth Levine, Director of UT Southwestern's Center for Autophagy Research and a Professor of Internal Medicine and Microbiology. She will serve as Program Director over five separate research projects at UT Southwestern and across the country – all focused on the potential to exploit a cellular process known as autophagy to destroy invading

bacteria and viruses.

"The process of autophagy takes place inside all human cells and is used to break down damaged parts of the cell," explained Dr. Levine, an internationally recognized expert in the field and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator. "Since the late 1990s, there has been a growing body of research showing that cells can also use autophagy to destroy pathogenic invaders and to regulate host immune responses to infectious diseases."

"If we can find ways to enhance autophagy in our cells, this could result in new treatments that would harness the body's own defenses to help fight infections," she added.

"During autophagy, the target to be destroyed

Please see PATHOGENS on page 2



Dr. Beth Levine, assisted by Dr. Michael Shiloh, will investigate how to use a cellular recycling process called autophagy to improve defenses against viruses and tuberculosis, respectively, as part of a nationally funded effort.

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### DEDICATED TO SERVING

UT Southwestern's nearly 600 volunteers who assist in hospitals and clinics are honored at the recent Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, including some furry companions from Heart of Texas Therapy Dogs.

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★ ALUMNI EDITION

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"The process of autophagy takes place inside all human cells and is used to break down damaged parts of the cell," explained Dr. Levine, an internationally recognized expert in the field and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator. "Since the late 1990s, there has been a growing body of research showing that cells can also use autophagy to destroy pathogenic invaders and to regulate host immune responses to infectious diseases."

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# Matulevicius named Assistant Dean for Faculty Wellness

By Steve Kaskovich

Dr. Susan Matulevicius has been named Assistant Dean for Faculty Wellness, a new position created to lead efforts on campus to promote physician well-being and resilience against burnout. The appointment takes effect June 1.

Under her leadership, the new Office of Faculty Wellness will strive to promote a culture of health and professional well-being that empowers faculty members to reach their full academic and personal potential. To accomplish this, the Office will assess and track faculty well-being through standardized measures; engage leaders at all levels to support steps that improve work satisfaction; promote better work-life balance; and seek funding for the scientific study of interventions targeted to enhance faculty wellness.

Dr. Matulevicius, a cardiologist and Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, serves as the Medical Director of Noninvasive Cardiovascular Imaging for both UT Southwestern and Parkland Health & Hospital System.

"UT Southwestern's mission is to promote health and a healthy society that enables achievement of full human potential through education, discovery, and healing. As an institution, we must support the same principles of excellence, innovation, teamwork, and compassion that we value in patient care in the development and support of our faculty," she said. "Without an engaged and passionate faculty who feel supported and valued by their leader-



Dr. Susan Matulevicius

ship, we can't achieve our academic mission."

The initiative is the result of efforts launched in the fall of 2016 by UT Southwestern President Dr. Daniel K. Podolsky, who convened an ad hoc committee to assess faculty wellness and resilience on campus in the wake of growing national attention on physician burnout. That group sponsored

a survey of more than 1,800 faculty physicians at UT Southwestern. The results revealed that while overall rates of emotional exhaustion and some degree of burnout were below national averages, burnout rates among some subgroups, including early career women, were higher.

In response to the survey results, a Committee on Faculty Physician Wellness/Resilience was formed in late 2017, chaired by Dr. Steven Bloom, Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Associate Dean of Clinical Sciences. In a report issued last spring, the Committee made recommendations in five areas: improving the faculty experience in clinical settings; enhancing work-life harmony; supporting women's career development; improving the career path for clinician educators; and increasing institutional leadership and resources for faculty wellness, including creation of the new Office.

"The establishment of the Office of Faculty Wellness, to be led by Dr. Matulevicius, underscores the commitment of UT Southwestern to support the well-being and development of all of our faculty as we continue to expand our research, education, and clinical programs," said Dr. W. P. Andrew Lee, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Provost, and Dean, UT Southwestern Medical School.

Dr. Matulevicius said her first priority would be to foster a sense of community among UT Southwestern physicians. She plans to organize events such as lunch-and-learns and networking sessions to provide informal opportunities for physicians to meet one another and share ideas.

Another goal is to identify physician champions in each department to advocate for well-

ness initiatives and provide feedback on issues. She would also like to address physician concerns regarding electronic medical records with a working group on "EMR detoxification."

As a 43-year-old female physician and mother of two who is married to a translational researcher, Dr. Matulevicius understands the challenges many midcareer professionals, particularly women, face with work-life integration and job fulfillment. She hopes to harness the strengths of the faculty to create a culture supportive of empowering each other to build a career that is both professionally and personally rewarding.

"As faculty feel the pressures of expansion, administrative tasks, and an emphasis on increased productivity, it is easy to feel more cynical, more emotionally exhausted, and less invested," she said. "My goal as the Assistant Dean for Faculty Wellness is to ensure that the administration values its faculty, promotes pursuit of passion and lifelong personal and professional growth, and creates a culture dedicated to making faculty members feel invested in and supported as we create the 'future of medicine, today.'"

*Dr. Bloom holds the Jack A. Pritchard, M.D. Chair in Obstetrics and Gynecology.*

*Dr. Lee holds the Atticus James Gill, M.D. Chair in Medical Science.*

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

## IN MEMORIAM

### Dr. John "Jack" Johnston: Ashbel Smith Professor Emeritus and expert in lipid biochemistry and function

From Staff Reports

Dr. John "Jack" Johnston, an expert in lipid biochemistry, died Jan. 11. He was 90.

Born in North Platte, Nebraska, Dr. Johnston attended Hastings College and graduated in 1949 with a B.A. in chemistry and mathematics. His brother, Bob, once a student in Nobel Laureate Dr. Konrad Bloch's laboratory, sparked his interest in lipid biochemistry. For his graduate studies, Dr. Johnston attended the University of Colorado and then completed his Ph.D. research in the laboratory of Professor Cosmo G. MacKenzie.

After attending Army Officer Training School at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Dr. Johnston was assigned as a research associate to Walter Reed Army Medical Center where he conducted research on the biochemical response of the brain to trauma.

Upon completion of his military obligation in 1955, Dr. Johnston was recruited to UT Southwestern as an Instructor of Biochemistry and began his research on intestinal absorption of lipids. Utilizing everted intestinal sacs – a system he learned at Walter Reed – he discovered the 2-monoglyceride pathway as an energy-efficient lipid absorption pathway used preferentially by the small intestine.

In 1962, Dr. Johnston was invited by the noted Swedish biochemist Dr. Bengt Borgström to join him in a collaborative project at Lund

University in Sweden. Their important work led to groundbreaking discoveries regarding how 2-monoglycerides are taken up by the intestine, packaged into lipid particles, and secreted into the blood for use by various tissues of the body.

Following the birth of the Johnstons' first grandchild, who was premature and suffered from respiratory distress syndrome, Dr. Johnston began to study the biosynthesis and secretion of lung surfactant, a glycerophospholipid-rich, surface tension-lowering lipoprotein that is critical for breathing. Surfactant deficiency in the lungs of premature infants can lead to respiratory distress syndrome, a major cause of infant death.

In the course of these studies, he made the key discovery that the potent proinflammatory glycerophospholipid, platelet-activating factor (PAF), was produced in increasing amounts by the fetal lung near term and was secreted into amniotic fluid in association with surfactant. He also found that PAF levels were increased in the amniotic fluid of women in labor and that PAF caused uterine contractions when applied to tissue strips in vitro. This was the very first indication that the fetal lung may contribute a signal for the initiation of labor. PAF was known to be produced by immune cells and to contribute to allergic and hypersensitivity reactions, but had not been linked to physiological processes.

In subsequent studies, Dr. Johnston and

colleagues discovered that PAF served a role in the pathogenesis of necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), a devastating inflammatory condition of the intestine that affects premature infants. The incidence of NEC was known to be lower in breastfed newborn infants. His lab made the important discovery that human milk contains the enzyme PAF acetylhydrolase (PAF-AH), which inactivates PAF. Interestingly, cow's milk and infant formula do not contain this enzyme. Notably, he found that administration of recombinant PAF-AH markedly reduced the incidence of NEC in a rat model of the disease. Dr. Johnston's research has significantly impacted treatment strategies for this disease, which include feeding with human breast milk.

Dr. Johnston's career continued to flourish at UT Southwestern with his promotion to Professor in 1966. He was granted a joint faculty appointment as Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology in 1974 and was appointed as Director of the Division of Lipid Research in the Department of Biochemistry in 1980. In 1981, Dr. Johnston was named The Frank C. Erwin, Jr. Professor in Obstetrical Biochemistry, a position he held until 2001. From 1981 to 1985, he served as Interim Chair of Biochemistry.

During his 50 years at UT Southwestern, Dr. Johnston co-authored more than 200



Dr. John "Jack" Johnston

publications and mentored six Ph.D. students and 39 postdoctoral fellows. He received the Distinguished Alumni Award of Hastings College, the Presidential Award of the American Oil Chemists' Society, and the Purdue-Frederick Award of the American College of Obstetrics.

In 2006, the UT System Board of Regents named Dr. Johnston an Ashbel Smith Professor – the only Systemwide professorship honor and one that is limited to five per UT institution. This great honor was bestowed in recognition of Dr. Johnston's role as a dynamic teacher and his exceptional academic contributions and achievements. Upon full retirement, Dr. Johnston was named an Ashbel Smith Professor Emeritus.

## Pathogens Continued from page 1

is encased in a double-membrane compartment inside the cell called an autophagosome, which then merges with other compartments containing enzymes and acids to degrade the target," said Dr. Michael Shiloh, Associate Professor of Internal Medicine and Microbiology, who will assist Dr. Levine as the program's Associate Director.

"Maximizing this natural defense could result in treatments effective against a broad range of pathogens – even before the cause of an illness is identified," Dr. Shiloh said. "That would make it a vital tool for combating a new outbreak or an act of bioterrorism requiring rapid response. Also, enhancing autophagy could kill infectious organisms that are resistant to traditional antibiotics."

Under the grant, awarded March 14, UT Southwestern and five other research sites will work as a Center of Excellence for Translational Research supported by the National Insti-

tute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

"The Center has been charged with investigating possible treatments for emerging and reemerging infectious diseases, in particular so-called 'priority pathogens' that are drug-resistant, have no treatment, or could be used by bioterrorists," Dr. Shiloh said.

As co-leader of one of the projects, Dr. Shiloh will investigate using autophagy to treat tuberculosis. This disease killed 1.6 million people worldwide in 2017 and has developed significant multidrug resistance, according to the World Health Organization, or WHO.

Dr. Levine will lead one of the other projects focused on how to ramp up autophagy within the body in order to augment host defenses against West Nile and other mosquito-borne viruses. Last year, Dr. Levine's group published a report in *Nature* showing that genetically engineered mice with increased autophagy live longer and healthier lives. These findings raise the possibility that pharmacological strategies to increase autophagy, including in the setting

of infectious diseases, may be well tolerated.

The new NIH grant (No. AI142784) follows a similar five-year award funded in 2013 that UT Southwestern was involved in, although that previous grant was managed by another institution. Research conducted with the earlier funding generated several patents, licensing agreements, and promising compounds that can potentially be used to develop autophagy-inducing anti-infective agents, Dr. Levine said.

Other sites funded with the new grant include the Broad Institute in Cambridge; Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston; VIR Biotechnology Inc. in San Francisco; Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis; and The Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California.

*Dr. Levine holds the Charles Cameron Sprague Distinguished Chair in Biomedical Science.*

*Dr. Shiloh holds the Professorship in Infectious Diseases, in honor of James P. Luby, M.D.*

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Center Times is published by the Office of Communications, Marketing, and Public Affairs at UT Southwestern Medical Center. UT Southwestern is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Women, minorities, veterans, and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

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# STUDENT AWARDS



## Dr. Reed Macy and Dr. Katherine Pouns: Class of 2019 Leadership Award

Dr. Reed Macy and Dr. Katherine Pouns served as Co-Presidents of the Class of 2019. Both have been recognized for their leadership efforts in implementing the new curriculum, as well as helping to improve it.

**Mentor comment:** "It has been an absolute pleasure to work with Katherine and Reed over the past four years. Their leadership skills in working collaboratively to implement the new curriculum and help us identify and make improvements have been remarkable. They are examples and role models to others. I am incredibly grateful for their partnership as we have worked together to shape both the learning environment and the educational program. They have definitely made their mark on UT Southwestern for the better." – Dr. Angela Mihalic, Dean of Medical Students and Associate Dean for Student Affairs

### Dr. Reed Macy

**What this award means:** "Serving as Co-President has been a phenomenal experience. As the first class matriculating into the new curriculum, we met a number of challenges and opportunities to shape the didactics at UT Southwestern. It was a real privilege to work with and learn from so many of my peers, while witnessing the remarkable maturity and personal growth of our class over these past four years."

**Background and family:** "I was born and raised in Massachusetts with my younger brother and made my way to the Lone Star State for



Dr. Reed Macy

college. I've since lived in Texas, New York, and Washington, D.C., and was elated to be accepted to medical school at UT Southwestern."

**What led to your career path:** "I took the scenic route to medical school, first cutting my teeth in the financial services sector for a number of years before finding medicine. I have always enjoyed science, working in teams, and work-



Dr. Katherine Pouns

ing with my hands. Medicine is the perfect trifecta of these characteristics."

**College:** "I attended Rice University as a double major in economics and political science and served as President of my residential college."

**UTSW activities:** "I served as Co-President of the Class of 2019, became a member of the Gold Humanism Honor Society, joined the Emergency Medicine Interest Group, and was a volunteer at the Agape Clinic."

**Future plans:** "I will complete my emergency medicine residency at the University of Maryland in Baltimore and am interested in EMS, administration, and sports medicine."

**Surprising fact:** "When I was 12 years old, I got lost in the woods on a Boy Scout trip for a day and a half. It turned into one of the best camping trips ever."

### Dr. Katherine Pouns

**What this award means:** "Being Co-President over the last four years has been incredibly rewarding, but it has also been overwhelming at times. In everything that I do, I strive to do it with excellence. I hope this award means that I accomplished what was needed – whether it was a minute, tedious task or a sweeping, major event – to the highest standard possible."

**What led to your career path:** "I actually started working in energy consulting right after college before re-evaluating what I really wanted in a career. A mix of researching, networking, and trusting my gut led me to medicine. I am convinced every day that it was the right choice for me."

**College:** "I attended Rice University as a double major in history and Asian studies. I studied abroad in Beijing in 2008, which was the perfect time to go since the Beijing Summer Olympics were closing."

**UTSW activities:** "I have served as a class Co-President for all four years of medical school. Additionally, I was the Administrative Editor-in-Chief for the Class of 2019 yearbook, a peer mentor, and a weekend tour guide for UT Southwestern Medical School applicants."

**Future plans:** "I'll be completing my residency in general surgery at UT Southwestern and would either like to stay in general surgery or possibly specialize in surgical oncology or breast surgery. In the distant future, I would like to get involved in leadership again, though I am not sure what that looks like yet."

**Surprising fact:** "I have seen every season of ABC's *The Bachelor/The Bachelorette* and can provide deep analysis and historical context on anything that happens in the show."

**About the award:** The award is given each year to the student officers of the graduating class and includes a shared \$1,000 award.

**"A mix of researching, networking, and trusting my gut led me to medicine. I am convinced every day that it was the right choice for me."**

– Dr. Katherine Pouns

## Dr. Alice Jean: Iatros Award and Minnie Lancaster, M.D., Scholarship Award in Family Medicine



Dr. Alice Jean

Dr. Alice Jean's work as a medical student and her charitable service in Texas and other countries has been recognized by both faculty and fellow students. The Medical School Class of 2019 chose her to receive the Iatros Award, while the Department of Family and Community Medicine honored her with the Minnie Lancaster, M.D., Scholarship Award in Family Medicine.

**What the Iatros Award means:** "I am honored to be the recipient of the Iatros Award. I alone do not deserve this recognition because it is only through many passionate health professionals working together in solidarity with communities that we can achieve wellness."

**Mentor comment:** "Alice Jean is so deserving of this prestigious award for her absolute selflessness, dedication to service, compassion, and tireless work ethic. She regularly goes above and beyond for her patients, to be there for her peers, or to help make lives better for the underserved in the community. Aptly recognized by her peers, she demonstrates the qualities that we all hope to attain as physicians. We could not be prouder of her and know that she will continue to make an incredible impact in residency and throughout her career." – Dr. Angela Mihalic, Dean of Medical Students and Associate Dean for Student Affairs

**What the Lancaster Award means:** "I am honored to receive this scholarship because Dr. Minnie Lancaster devoted her life to serving the community. She was an inspiring female figure who paved the way for women in medicine to care for patients and their families."

**Mentor comment:** "Alice Jean is an exceptional student, hardworking, passionate, and dedicated. It has been my pleasure to serve as her mentor. She has committed herself to primary care and people in need. Her enthusiasm and commitment have been outstanding and I feel confident that she

will continue to succeed in the future of family medicine." – Dr. Nora Gimpel, Associate Professor and Vice Chair of Community Health in the Department of Family and Community Medicine, who holds the Dr. John L. and Louise Roan Professorship in Family Medicine

**Background and family:** "My interest in global health and international disaster relief began in high school while I attended the Global Studies Academy. I grew up in Sugar Land, Texas, with my younger brother. My parents are from Taiwan. My father, a retired chemical engineer, and my mother, a nurse, taught us the importance of education."

**What led to your career path:** "My mother volunteered at many health fairs with the Tzu Chi Foundation and often brought me along. The Foundation's missions that were instilled in me were education, medicine, humanistic culture, and charity."

**College:** "I attended UT Austin, where I majored in environmental science with a concentration in biological sciences. I participated in GlobeMed, traveling to El Salvador with a team for an internship at Clinica Ana Manganaro. I was also part of the Tzu Chi Collegiate Association, Kappa Rho Pre-Med Honor Society, Asian Health Professions Organization, and the Lions Club."

**UTSW activities:** "I've continued to participate with international service groups such as Tzu Chi Foundation and Foundation for Peace, which allowed me to do volunteer work in the Dominican Republic. I also enjoyed leadership roles in orga-

nizations such as V-Day and the Texas Medical Association Medical Student Section."

**Surprising fact:** "I like watching Korean dramas with Spanish subtitles."

**Future plans:** "I plan to attend a family medicine residency program that serves a diverse population and offers international clinical experience. I will also pursue a Master of Public Health degree to help me better understand how to advocate for population health and facilitate policy changes. After residency at Loma Linda University in California, I plan to work in underserved communities, such as rural Texas, and gain more experience abroad by potentially working with organizations such as Doctors Without Borders and Doctors of the World. I hope to ultimately start my own nonprofit to work with other nonprofits to share information about successes and lessons learned to increase access to and quality of health care worldwide."

**About the awards:** The Iatros is the only award for which the recipient is chosen by the class. The Class of 1984 established the honor, hoping that each subsequent graduating class would select the individual who most emulates the complete qualities of a physician. "Iatros" is the Greek word for "physician." The Lancaster Award honors Dr. Lancaster and her husband, Dr. Edgar Lancaster, who in 1953 opened the Grapevine Clinic and Hospital, the first clinic in Grapevine and the forerunner of Baylor Scott & White Medical Center at Grapevine.

## Dr. Taylor Guinn: American College of Emergency Physicians Medical Student Professionalism and Service Award



Dr. Taylor Guinn

*Dr. Taylor Guinn describes the opportunity to serve within UTSW and throughout the broader community as a rewarding experience that contributed to her personal growth. It also earned her national recognition as recipient of the American College of Emergency Physicians Medical Student Professionalism and Service Award.*

**What this award means:** "Receiving an award has never been my goal as I have truly enjoyed my time with patients, learning about their conditions and the plan to best treat them. I look forward to serving in some of the same capacities as I move forward in my Emergency Medicine (EM) career. Knowing that I was nominated by the EM Department for this award is truly an honor, and I am humbled and excited to receive this."

**Mentor comment:** "Taylor embodies the qualities the award recognizes – professional and humanistic care to patients and a leader in providing service to the community. Her induction into the Gold Humanism Honor Society is another marker of her dedication."

– Dr. Christine Kulstad, Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine

**Background and family:** "I grew up in the Dallas area with my wonderful parents. I met my now-husband in middle school. Although he lived a few houses down from me, we did not start dating until medical school."

**What led to your career path:** "My interest in science led me to a two-year medical course in high school where I obtained my Certified Nursing Assistant license. Through this class, I worked in a nursing home and various floors in a hospital setting with many different types of physicians. I enjoyed the pace and variety that I experienced in the Emergency Department while I was there, although I had an open mind coming into medical school. After going through MS3 rotations, shadowing in the ED, doing research, and ultimately completing my subinternship, I was sure that emergency medicine was a perfect fit for me."

**College:** "A summa cum laude graduate of Baylor University, I majored in Baylor Business Fellows with a focus on finance and accounting, served as Treasurer and Journal Club leader of BURST (Baylor Undergraduate Research in Science and Technology), and competed in club gymnastics."

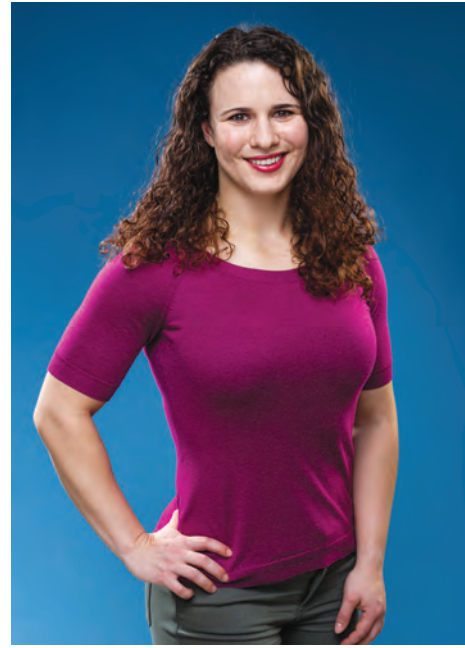
**UTSW activities:** "I served as a Brown Bag Initiative Co-Chair, United to Serve booth leader, Camp John Marc volunteer, Pre-Clerkship Curriculum Feedback Committee member, MS4 peer mentor, and a PRE+OP volunteer."

**Surprising fact:** "I am a second-degree black belt in the American Taekwondo Association. I can also lick my elbows."

**Future plans:** "I am excited and grateful to be staying at UTSW this coming year for residency!"

**About the award:** Given by the American College of Emergency Physicians, a 28,000-member national medical specialty society, the award recognizes medical students intending to pursue a career in emergency medicine who excel in compassionate care of patients, professional behavior, and service to the community and/or specialty.

## Dr. Elise Burger: Award for Excellence in Dermatology



Dr. Elise Burger

*With a background in immunology research, Dr. Elise Burger quickly developed an interest in dermatology after coming to UT Southwestern. By earning both medical and doctorate degrees, she hopes to use her knowledge to research and treat dermatologic diseases. Due in part to her passion, she is this year's recipient of the Award for Excellence in Dermatology.*

**What this award means:** "This is meaningful to get acknowledgement for many years of hard work, both in medical school and graduate school, and because it shows that the Department of Dermatology believes in me and my future goals of becoming a physician-scientist in dermatology."

**Mentor comment:** "Elise, who intends to become an academic dermatologist with a focus on laboratory-based research, fully embodies the spirit of this award. In addition to her academic achievements, which include membership in the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society and outstanding grades throughout medical school, Elise has already

published research in high-impact journals. Similarly, Elise is a compassionate, wonderful clinician. Taken together, Elise has demonstrated incredible enthusiasm and devotion to a career as a physician-scientist." – Dr. Heidi Jacobe, Associate Professor of Dermatology, who holds the James N. Gilliam, M.D. Chair in Dermatology.

**Background and family:** "I grew up in Salt Lake City as an only child. I played soccer and ran track in high school. I am a first-generation doctor, as there are no physicians or scientists in my family."

**What led to your career path:** "Since a young age, I've always loved science. During undergrad studies, I engaged in translational immunology research, then struggled to choose between medical and graduate school. Ultimately, I decided to pursue both training pathways in the Medical Scientist Training Program."

**College:** "I received my B.A. from Occidental College, where I majored in biochemistry. I was a hammer thrower on the track and field team, a biology tutor, and a library manager."

**UTSW activities:** "I've volunteered at the Agape Dermatology Clinic over the past eight years, which allowed for wonderful interactions with patients, residents, and faculty and helped foster my clinical love of dermatology. I also participated in many events with the Bike Club, and I am the previous President of the Medical Genetics Interest Group."

**Surprising fact:** "When I am off campus, I can usually be found at a CrossFit gym, which has given me the opportunity to compete at both a local and national level and provided an incredibly supportive community of lifelong friends."

**Future plans:** "I plan to pursue a dermatology residency at UC San Diego Medical Center, and my ultimate goal is to become a physician-scientist, where I can see a cohort of patients in clinic and study their diseases in the lab."

**About the award:** The award is given to a UT Southwestern graduating medical student who has advanced dermatological patient care, research, or teaching in a special way, or who shows promise for leadership in these areas. The recipient receives a certificate and \$1,000.

## Dr. James Sutton: Society for Academic Emergency Medicine Award



Dr. James Sutton

*Dr. James Sutton has long had dual interests in science and the outdoors – so, naturally, it didn't take long for him to realize that emergency medicine was a perfect fit. Further confirmation that he made the right choice is his selection as recipient of the 2019 Society for Academic Emergency Medicine Award.*

**What this award means:** "This award is particularly meaningful because it comes at a time of life when there is an enormous amount of change. It causes me to reflect on all the support that I have had over the past four years. UT Southwestern has been an unbeatable medical school to attend and has offered many fantastic academic opportunities and mentors. On a personal level, the support of family, friends, my fiancée, and my dog, Nala, have been nothing short of vital along this journey."

**Mentor comment:** "James has demonstrated overall excellence as a medical student bound for an outstanding career in emergency medicine. He has demonstrated leadership as an officer in the Emergency Medicine Interest Group and the Wilderness Medicine Society, as well as a peer mentor in Colleges. His research career is

off to an impressive start, demonstrated by his work in the Department of Emergency Medicine on how health literacy affects patients presenting with chest pain and those with complications of diabetes. This research led to his presentation at a national EM scientific meeting." – Dr. Christine Kulstad, Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine

**Background and family:** "I grew up in Littleton, Colorado, prior to moving to Bozeman, Montana, to complete my undergraduate degree. I then made my way to Texas for medical school, following the lead of my sister, who is a professional civil engineer in Austin."

**What led to your career path:** "I attended college in Montana and volunteered as an EMT ski patroller at Big Sky Resort while also volunteering in the Emergency Department of the local hospital. This experience offered a window into the world of emergency medicine and allowed me to combine my interests in science and the outdoors. At this time, I also was working in a basic science research lab, and the contrast of these experiences quickly led me to the realization that I was best suited for a very active profession. Ultimately, as I progressed through medical school, I found that no other discipline provided the same fulfillment as caring for every patient who walks into the Emergency Department. I had an inescapable feeling that I had 'found my people' in the Department of Emergency Medicine."

**Surprising fact:** "Fly fishing and river rafting are two of my favorite activities. Also, I had a cubicle at the Kennedy Space Center for two weeks when my lab sent an experiment to the International Space Station in 2014."

**Future plans:** "I plan to complete my residency in emergency medicine at Denver Health Medical Center in Colorado and practice in the Western United States. I hope to contribute with research and leadership, and I have interests in wilderness medicine, emergency medical services, and medical education."

**About the award:** The award is given annually to a senior medical student for demonstrating excellence and commitment to emergency medicine.

## Dr. Madison Bailey Argo: Hudson-Penn Award for Excellence in Surgery



Dr. Madison Bailey Argo

*Dr. Madison Bailey Argo, who happily grew up in a supportive household, sees art in the human anatomy. The Berger, Texas, native also loves science and lifelong learning, as well as using her hands. Dr. Argo's diverse and intense skill set no doubt helped in her selection as the 2019 recipient of the Hudson-Penn Award.*

**What this award means:** "It's an honor – and means even more considering the other excellent students who were nominated and who are equally as qualified and deserving. While this award is a wonderful culmination of my medical school career, I recognize that I have a long way to go in becoming the exceptional surgeon I want to be. I want to say thank you and promise I will continue to work hard to make all my teachers, my colleagues, and my family proud."

**Mentor comment:** "In 20 years of medical education, I have rarely encountered a student like Madison Argo. Unquestionably, Madison's stellar academic record speaks volumes, but this is not her best attribute. Madison has an

incredibly inquisitive mind with endless curiosity and a limitless drive for learning. Above all, she is an extraordinarily kind and warm individual with such humility that makes those involved in her medical education cherish what we do." – Dr. Sergio Huerta, Associate Professor of Surgery

**Background and family:** "I'm from the Panhandle of Texas. My older sister and I were raised by our single mother. By the nature of a small family of four girls – my maternal grandmother, my mother, my sister, and myself – we all grew up extremely close. We are still four girls strong to this day."

**What led to your career path:** "While completing a summer anatomy course at Johns Hopkins, and after walking out of the OR for the first time, I decided medicine – specifically surgery – was what I wanted to do every day for the rest of my life. I would not have been able to articulate this back in 2013, but now I see this choice has been coming to fruition for quite some time. I graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 2015 with a Bachelor of Science in biology as a 4.0 Distinguished Scholar. As I leave medical school, I am beyond excited to begin this journey and learn the skills needed to be a competent surgeon."

**Surprising fact:** "I am obsessed with jigsaw puzzles and, unconventionally, complete the edges last."

**Future plans:** "During the next phase of my career, I plan to dedicate time to research. Following my residency at the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics, I would love to continue my training through a cardiothoracic fellowship in hopes of becoming a pediatric cardiothoracic surgeon someday."

**About the award:** The award recognizes a student who has demonstrated excellence in the surgical specialty, academic achievement, and a caring attitude toward patients. Established in 1979, the award is named after Dr. Lee Hudson, Chief of Surgery at the old Parkland Memorial Hospital when UT Southwestern was founded, and for Robert Penn, Dr. Hudson's brother-in-law.

## Dr. Christopher McElrath and Dr. Hannah Viroslav: MT “Pepper” Jenkins Outstanding Medical Student Award in Anesthesiology and Pain Management

*Drs. Christopher McElrath and Hannah Viroslav gravitated to the field of anesthesiology for a similar reason: respect for faculty and mentors who stoked their interest and supported them in their studies. The appreciation is mutual, as they are the 2019 co-recipients of the MT “Pepper” Jenkins Outstanding Medical Student Award in Anesthesiology and Pain Management.*

### Dr. Christopher McElrath

**What this award means:** “It is such an honor to be chosen by the incredible faculty and mentors in the Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Management. I attribute my passion for a career in anesthesiology to the support they have provided.”

**Mentor comment:** “Christopher has spent the better part of the past two years exploring anesthesiology and its various aspects. Christopher participated in an opioid stewardship project with Dr. Enas Kandil (Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology and Pain Management) as part of his scholarly activity requirement and shortly thereafter decided to pursue a residency in anesthesiology. He is one of the most kindhearted, polite, and hardworking individuals I have met.”

– Dr. Aditee Ambardekar, Residency Program Director, Associate Professor and Distinguished Teaching Professor, Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Management

**Background and family:** “I am the first person in my family to go into medicine. I owe so much of my success thus far to the incredible support of my family – parents Clarissa and Charles, and brother C.J. I would like to also give a special thanks to my fiancée and fellow medical student, Lizzie Cochran.”

**What led to your career path:** “My interest in anesthesiology started after I shadowed a family friend who was an anesthesiologist. That interest grew after several of my favorite early medical school experiences were facilitated by the Anesthesiology Department. Dr. Aditee Ambardekar, who subsequently became a primary mentor,



Dr. Christopher McElrath

very generously made room for me in the exploratory anesthesia elective, and I absolutely loved it. I knew at that time what I wanted to do.”

**UTSW activities:** “I co-founded the Return the Favor Committee, which raises funds for personalized thank-you gifts for patients who take the time to share their experiences with our Medical School Class. I also helped organize Doc for a Day, a medicine-themed arts, crafts, and games event at Children’s Medical Center Dallas, and volunteered as a counselor at Double H Ranch, a free camp for children with chronic or life-threatening illnesses.”

**Future plans:** “I am interested in pursuing a fellowship in pediatrics or pain management. I hope to become a program director or department chair and, ultimately, a leader in the field of anesthesiology.”



Dr. Hannah Viroslav

### Dr. Hannah Viroslav

**What this award means:** “Among the reasons I fell in love with anesthesiology are the residents and faculty whom I learned from during my rotations. I have tried to emulate their work ethic and empathy. I am incredibly grateful and humbled to be a co-recipient of this award.”

**Mentor comment:** “Over the last two years, I have had the privilege of watching Hannah engage in her educational environment, reflect on her learning, and grow. Since then, Hannah has engaged in respectful, professional, and compassionate clinical care, participated in a meaningful research project on pediatric burn-injured children and hypertension, and been a leader and role model to her Medical School class.” – Dr. Aditee Ambardekar, Residency Program Director, Associate Professor and Distinguished Teaching Professor, Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Management.

**Background and family:** “My parents met when they were students at UT Southwestern. My dad is an orthopedic surgeon and my mom is a neuroradiologist. I have two siblings, Olivia and Evan. Olivia was born with Prader-Willi Syndrome, which is why I have taken such an interest in research in that area. My grandfather, Dr. Joseph Viroslav (Professor of Internal Medicine), has been a UTSW faculty member for years.”

**What led to your career path:** “My interest grew out of interactions with the anesthesiologists during our pre-clerkship simulations. I looked up to their commitment to mentoring and education. On a personal level, I was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes during my first semester of medical school. I started my clinical rotations on surgery and quickly befriended the anesthesiologists and the circulating nurses, as I needed someone to tend to my insulin pump once I was scrubbed in. I loved the environment of the operating room.”

**UTSW activities:** “I received a grant from UTSW to work in a lab studying ghrelin and its effects on Prader-Willi Syndrome. Our work was published in *Endocrinology* in December 2018. I am a member of the Senior Film Committee and acted in, directed, and helped to write the Class of 2019 Senior Film.”

**Future plans:** “After residency, I hope to complete a fellowship in critical care, cardiac, or pediatric anesthesiology. I aim to be involved in academic medicine, with an emphasis on mentoring.”

**About the award:** The award recognizes students seeking careers in anesthesiology who excelled at UTSW Medical School, take an empathetic approach to patient care, and exhibit the characteristics of leadership, scholarship, and thirst for knowledge exemplified by the late Dr. M.T. “Pepper” Jenkins, who established and served as Chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Management from 1948 to 1981.

## Dr. Lizzie Cochran: Rolland C. Reynolds Pathology Award



Dr. Lizzie Cochran

*Although Dr. Lizzie Cochran followed a winding road to medical school, she long had a desire to help others as a medical professional. In recognition of Dr. Cochran’s dedication and giving nature, she has been named recipient of the 2019 Rolland C. Reynolds Pathology Award.*

**What this award means:** “It is such an honor to have been selected for this award. I am incredibly humbled, especially considering all the incredible work my fellow students have done. It means so much to me to have the opportunity to make my own contributions to the legacy of service that has been created by the award’s previous recipients.”

**Mentor comment:** “It is an honor and privilege to acknowledge Elizabeth Cochran as this year’s Reynolds Award recipient. Dr. Cochran exemplifies the spirit and intent of the award as embodied by Dr. Reynolds: academic achievement, demonstrated capacity for caring about and giving to others, and a commitment to service to the community. Her strong academic background both during medical school and during her undergraduate studies at Columbia University, as well as her significant health-related leadership and service, including her work with pediatric cancer patients

in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, merited this recognition.” – Drs. Kathleen Wilson and Dennis Burns, Professors, Department of Pathology.

**Background and family:** “I am a Dallas native. I have two awesome brothers, Jimmy and Johnny, and two wonderful parents, Jill and Jim. I can’t begin to adequately express my gratitude for their seemingly limitless patience, support, and encouragement. I also owe a tremendous thank you to my fiancée and fellow medical student, Chris McElrath, who is the most amazing study partner, cheerleader, and best friend anyone could ask for.”

**What led to your career path:** “My undergraduate education was focused on theater and history, but I always saw myself becoming a doctor. I hope that my background in the arts and humanities will allow me to be a physician who connects with patients on a personal level.”

**College:** “At Columbia University, I founded Miracle Players Foundation, a nonprofit that brings arts programming to children’s hospitals and raises funds for pediatric cancer research, and was a creative arts program leader and cabin counselor at Double H Ranch, a summer camp for children with chronic and life-threatening illnesses.”

**UTSW activities:** “I was the founder of Epidemia Designs, an athletic apparel company that features prints created from microscopic images of human cells. A portion of the proceeds from sales was used to provide summer camp and after-school programming to young girls interested in science through the organization Girlstart. I also was a co-founder of the Return the Favor Committee, a group within student government that provides personalized gifts to those who have contributed to our medical school experience.”

**Surprising fact:** “My fiancée, Chris McElrath, and I met at a party I had at my parents’ house just before we started medical school and we are getting married at the end of May!”

**Future plans:** “I will be starting my general surgery residency at UTSW in July and hope to pursue a career in pediatric surgery.”

**About the award:** The award is presented to a graduating medical student whose actions demonstrate care and giving. Honoring the late Dr. Reynolds, a UT Southwestern alumnus and faculty member remembered as a gifted pathologist and a generous person, the award includes \$1,500.

## Dr. Jenny Weon: Vernie A. Stembridge, M.D., Scholarship Award in Pathology



Dr. Jenny Weon

*A daughter of Korean immigrants, Dr. Jenny Weon went from studying business at UT Austin to discovering a love for research in a lab at UT Southwestern. Her next adventure is a career in pathology, starting with a residency right here at UTSW.*

**What this award means:** “I was stunned when I heard I was selected for this award. It is meaningful to me because the people I met from the Department of Pathology have all been very welcoming and supportive – from residents and fellows to faculty. I was very impressed by the breadth and depth of knowledge of the pathologists I worked with and their commitment to teaching. I am truly honored and thankful to have been chosen for this award by people I admire.”

**Mentor comment:** “Jenny epitomizes the physician-scientist, and we have been delighted to see her discover the avenue of pathology as the foundation for her career in academic medicine. She discovered pathology late in her medical school career, but immediately displayed talent and enthusiasm for the specialty. She excels at the communication between pathologists and clinical caregivers, and she possesses the analytical

skills necessary to draw a diagnosis from slides and stains. We fully expect her to be an outstanding resident and eventually an equally outstanding physician-scientist in pathology.” – Dr. Charles Timmons, Professor of Pathology

**Background and family:** “I was born in Chicago and grew up in Houston. My parents are first-generation emigrants from Korea who grew up near the end of the Korean War. My father is a retired marine engineer and my mother is a retired nurse. My parents did not get to choose their careers due to postwar hardships, so I’m grateful that they supported me and provided me the opportunity to pursue my own interests. I’m the first physician from my family.”

**What led to your career path:** “I knew I wanted to be a doctor when I saw the emotional and financial pain my family suffered from the loss of my grandmother to lung cancer. I studied business at UT Austin because I heard physicians have trouble with the financial aspects of medicine, and then I enrolled in medical school at UT Southwestern. I loved the lab research work I did during my first summer so much that I almost didn’t want to go back to medical school! I decided to add a Ph.D. to my M.D. degree to open the door to future research work.”

**Surprising fact:** “When I’m not at school or work, I enjoy biking around White Rock Lake with my significant other, Dr. Philip Cheng, who has been accepted to the Ophthalmology Residency Program at UT Southwestern. I also enjoy taking photographs and creating art in my spare time.”

**Future plans:** “I will pursue training in anatomic pathology. I hope to stay in academia and continue basic science research. I’m also interested in medical student recruitment to pathology as a specialty.”

**About the award:** The award was established by friends and colleagues of Dr. Stembridge, the former UTSW Pathology Chair who died in 2000. The \$1,500 award is given to the most outstanding graduating medical student whose performance in the sophomore pathology course was exemplary and who is interested in a pathology career.

## Dr. Kelsey Kirkman:

Pediatric Society of Greater Dallas Award for Excellence in Pediatric Medicine



Dr. Kelsey Kirkman

*Organizing free health fairs helped Dr. Kelsey Kirkman discover a passion for working with children from underserved areas. She's focused on being an advocate for young patients and, because of these values, is the recipient of the Pediatric Society of Greater Dallas Award for Excellence in Pediatric Medicine.*

**What this award means:** "After years of hard work, it feels amazing to finally see my dream of becoming a pediatrician come true. I am committed to working in underserved communities because there are too many areas where children have poor access to health care and health education. Receiving this award encourages me to continue educating, serving, and advocating for children."

**Mentor comment:** "Kelsey's eyes were opened to the inner workings of the medical system from a young age. She is simply a gem. Her passion for primary care makes her an ideal candidate for this recognition from our local society of primary care pediatricians." – Dr. Soumya Adhikari, Associate Professor of Pediatrics

**Background and family:** "I am from San Antonio and a first-generation doctor. My dad owns a small marketing business and my mom works in health care communications. My family is my biggest support system and means the world to me."

**What led to your career path:** "Growing up, my mom worked in corporate communications at University Health System in San Antonio. Hearing story after story about the medical miracles that would make the news spurred my interest in medicine. Then, when my equestrian trainer's daughter was diagnosed with bilateral retinoblastoma, I saw her go through radiation and an enucleation. This made me realize that, by becoming a pediatrician, I could work to prevent or cure diseases so that maybe one day fewer children would have to suffer or undergo terrifying procedures."

**College:** "I graduated summa cum laude from Trinity University with a B.S. in biochemistry and molecular biology. I served as a peer tutor, was elected Service Chair for the premed honor society, and conducted organic chemistry research for three years."

**UTSW activities:** "As the Pediatric Interest Group's Health Fair coordinator, I co-organized several events for children in underserved areas in D/FW. I was Co-President of Helping Augment Neonatal Development (HANDs) and was a manager of the student-led free clinics. I also served as a tutor for MS1s. With Dr. Darryl Miles at Children's Medical Center Dallas (also Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at UTSW), I helped design and implement a clinical trial to noninvasively assess for elevated intracranial pressures in children via an ultrasound measurement of the optic nerve sheath diameter."

**Surprising fact:** "I competed in hunter/jumper equestrian riding since I was 10 years old and only recently sold my horse, Hazel."

**Future plans:** "I am excited to start my pediatric residency at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. I look forward to discovering what kind of pediatrician I will become, as I strive to focus on medical education and advocacy over the next three years."

**About the award:** The award recognizes an outstanding graduate who has the personal character and dedication to serve as well as be an advocate for children.

## Dr. Shivani Gaitonde:

John D. McConnell Award for Excellence in Urology



Dr. Shivani Gaitonde

*The specialty of urology felt like a perfect fit for Dr. Shivani Gaitonde. This year, she is recognized with the John D. McConnell Award for Excellence in Urology for her commitment to the field.*

**What this award means:** "I am honored that the Department of Urology selected me for this award. It means so much that my mentors recognize my potential and believe in me. Looking forward, I hope that I will continue to meet this standard of excellence throughout my residency training."

**Mentor comment:** "Dr. Gaitonde exemplified the best of UT Southwestern. She was heavily involved in research activities in the Department over the last few years, which resulted in presentations nationally. During her clinical rotation, she distinguished herself as extremely knowledgeable and incredibly hardworking. She involved herself seamlessly in clinical activities and received universal praise from all of the Urology trainees." – Dr. Gary Lemack, Professor of Urology, who holds the Rose Mary Haggard Professorship in Urology

**Background and family:** "I grew up in San Antonio. My older sister is also a UTSW graduate and both my parents are pharmacists. I have an uncle and many cousins who are also doctors. Graduating medical school this year, I am proud to finally join the long lineage of Gaitonde doctors in my family."

**What led to your career path:** "Growing up in a family of health care professionals, I always knew a career in medicine was the only path for me. As a child, I remember listening excitedly as my uncle, a general surgeon, would tell anecdotes from the operating room, and my interest in surgery only grew as I continued through medical school. I discovered urology while on rotations, and immediately fell in love with the field."

**College:** "I majored in biomedical science and psychology at Texas A&M University and received many academic recognitions including summa cum laude, university honors, and psychology honors. Outside of the classroom, I was the captain of Wreckin' Raas, a co-ed competitive Indian folk dance team, and the President of the Indian Students Association."

**UTSW activities:** "I am a Junior Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society member and have been involved with organizations including United to Serve, the Multicultural Week Committee, student government, and academic tutoring services."

**Surprising fact:** "I trained in classical Indian dance throughout my childhood and have continued with my hobby through medical school by choreographing, organizing, and performing at our annual multicultural talent show."

**Future plans:** "I am continuing my urology residency training at UT Southwestern. I am also considering pursuing a fellowship, and I hope to include both medical student and resident teaching in my career and become more involved with curriculum development."

**About the award:** The award honors Dr. McConnell, a former UTSW faculty member who once led Urology from a Division into a Department. He is now Executive Director of Wake Forest Healthcare Ventures in North Carolina, which develops and commercializes health care products and services.

## Dr. Christian Leal and Dr. Joseph Stegeman:

Vanatta, Hesser, Schmalstieg Excellence in Tutoring Award

*Graduating from medical school is a great adventure that can take a village to complete. Over the past four years, Dr. Christian Leal and Dr. Joseph Stegeman triumphantly managed their own course loads while also helping fellow students succeed, earning recognition with tutoring awards from Student Academic Support Services.*

### Dr. Christian Leal

**What this award means:** "It is a tremendous privilege to be able to help teach the MS1s and MS2s. I know how daunting this information was for me to learn (I still get palpitations thinking about neuroanatomy), so I can't think of a better way to give back than by teaching."

**Mentor comment:** "Christian's dedication to the art of tutoring knows no bounds. He thinks carefully, not just about what to present in his sessions, but how to present information in ways that take incredibly complex processes and break them down for first-year students." – Carol Wortham, Student Academic Support Services (SASS) Manager

**Background and family:** "My grandfather in El Salvador never learned how to read or write, and my father was unable to attend high school since he had to care for his siblings and mother in Mexico. My mom immigrated to the U.S. from El Salvador during the Salvadoran Civil War. My parents have sacrificed so much for me to pursue an education, having encouraged me at every step of the way, and to be able to give back is so profoundly fulfilling."

**What led to your career path:** "I realized how gratifying it was to see patients in the Parkland Ophthalmology Clinic receive vision-preserving care. Seeing a patient cry tears of joy after cataract surgery was an unforgettable experience. I want to join my love of service and my love of teaching by caring for a diverse population, teaching residents, and sharing my love of ophthalmology with medical students."

**College:** "I graduated from Stanford University with a degree in molecular and cellular biology. I led an organization called HABLA, in which Stanford students helped teach English as a second language (ESL) skills to the Stanford custodial staff. I also taught SAT prep at a



Dr. Christian Leal

low-income high school in East Palo Alto and served as an interpreter coordinator at Arbor Free Clinic."

**UTSW activities:** "With Alpha Omega Alpha, I helped to give teaching strategies for students preparing for Step 1. At The Monday Clinic, I served as Operations Manager and helped to implement and teach the use of a new EMR (electronic medical record) system and led student teams in the care for uninsured Dallas patients. I also created a new anatomy course for the Joint Admission Medical Program (JAMP)."

**Surprising fact:** "I met my wife when I was 12 years old, and we have been dating since we were 15! I was also captain in the Texas 5A state championship football game in 2010."

**Future plans:** "I will do an ophthalmology residency at the Dean McGee Eye Institute at the University of Oklahoma. My goal is to eventually become an ophthalmology program director and do ophthalmic surgery in underserved communities globally."



Dr. Joseph Stegeman

### Dr. Joseph Stegeman

**What this award means:** "Teaching is actually what I'd like to do as a career within emergency medicine. We've all experienced the difference it makes when you have a teacher who is enthusiastic and invested in their students, but I think that skill is often undervalued in the medical field where physicians have so many other performance metrics to worry about."

**Mentor comment:** "Joe has been a key part of the SASS tutoring team for the past three years, and stands out for his faithful service to fellow medical students at all levels – first- and second-year coursework reviews, clinical skills coaching, and as the organizer of peer support for national boards. Joe's answer to every request for help is always yes, and we know any project he undertakes will be done with the perfect blend of professionalism and genuine concern for student success." – Carol Wortham, SASS Manager

**Background and family:** "I grew up in Springfield, Illinois. Both of my parents were in medicine (family practice and ophthalmology), but I'm the only one out of five, so far, who ended up following them into medicine."

**What led to your career path:** "During college, I had two jobs. As a freshman and sophomore, I coached a diving team of about 45 kids ranging in age from 5 to 18. That experience was essentially an exercise in teaching to different skill levels and learning how to frame material for specific audiences. As a junior and senior, I worked as an emergency department scribe, where I really fell in love with the pace and the variety of problems that emergency medicine encompasses. Putting all of that together, academic emergency medicine is an opportunity for me to work as a clinician educator that really takes the educator part of the job seriously."

**College:** "I graduated with a B.S. in biology from Texas Christian University. I was also a diver for the TCU swimming and diving team, and I earned All-Big 12 and Academic All-Big 12 honors."

**UTSW activities:** "I was involved in tutoring, the Emergency Medicine Interest Group, and Colleges peer mentoring."

**Surprising fact:** "I go to trivia night every Wednesday at Community Brewing, and my team is currently on an eight-week winning streak. Collectively, we're the Ken Jennings of brewery trivia."

**Future plans:** "I'm planning on going into emergency medicine, and hopefully staying in academics after residency at Massachusetts General Hospital/BWH-Harvard so that I can incorporate teaching into my practice."

**About the award:** The award recognizes graduating medical students who have made outstanding contributions to serve fellow medical students in need of academic assistance.

## Dr. Jordan Hoese and Dr. Margaret Leland: William F. Ross, M.D., Scholarship Award in Family Medicine

*This year's Ross Award recipients share multiple common experiences: becoming the first physicians in their families, moving to Texas while young, emerging from the dual degree M.D./M.P.H. program at UT Southwestern Medical School, desiring to practice family medicine in rural or underserved communities, and matching their residencies at Oregon Health & Science University hospitals.*

### Dr. Jordan Hoese

**What this award means:** "I am passionate and dedicated to raising family medicine's priority not only on UTSW's campus, but also in medical education in general. I am grateful and honored to have these efforts recognized and supported by the Department of Family and Community Medicine as we work together to build healthier populations and stronger health systems."

**Mentor comment:** "Jordan has demonstrated an amazing commitment to family medicine and primary care since her first year at UTSW. She is a passionate advocate for the underserved. You rarely meet students with such a keen understanding of their mission in medicine as well as an unstoppable drive." – Dr. Dan Sepdham, Associate Professor of Family and Community Medicine and holder of the Drs. Malone V. Hill and John W. Pate Professorship in Family Medicine

**Background and family:** "I was born and raised in California, but my family moved to San Antonio and I graduated from high school there. I majored in neuroscience at the University of Southern California, graduating with honors. My dad works in marketing, my mom is an esthetician, and I have one younger sister who currently is pursuing degrees in ecology and English."

**What led to your career path:** "I was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes (T1DM) when I was 12. I think I would still have ended up becoming a doctor if I didn't have T1DM, but these experiences certainly pushed me in that direction. The person-centered approach to treating T1DM applies to a variety of chronic and acute conditions, and I want to be able to use this as



Dr. Jordan Hoese

a family medicine physician to help people take ownership and control over their health."

**Surprising fact:** "I've run seven marathons, including two while in medical school. I ran my first one at age 14, and I am the youngest Type 1 diabetic to run a marathon. I'm also an ambassador for the nonprofit Beyond Type 1. As an ambassador, I publicly trained for and ran the 2017 New York City Marathon on a team of all-Type 1 diabetics while wearing the first closed-loop insulin delivery system. While going through my internal medicine and surgery clerkships I was able to raise more than \$3,000 for education, advocacy, and cure efforts for T1DM."

**Future plans:** "I am so excited to begin my career as a broad-spectrum family medicine physician, using strong public health and social justice perspectives to alleviate health inequity and improve individual outcomes for a variety of patients who are in rural, underserved, or resource-limited settings."



Dr. Margaret Leland

### Dr. Margaret Leland

**What this award means:** "I've been involved with the Department of Family and Community Medicine, the interest group, and faculty since my first year. The support and encouragement that they have offered throughout my medical school journey has been invaluable. Being recognized with the Ross Award is an honor."

**Mentor comment:** "Maggie possesses a ferocious passion for addressing social injustices and the inequalities in our current system of care delivery. She brings a level of maturity and insight to patient care that is matched by very few students." – Dr. Dan Sepdham, Associate Professor

**"My husband has been so supportive, giving me all the hugs I could ever ask for and never once looking at me like I was crazy for taking my flashcards to bed with me."**

– Dr. Margaret Leland

of Family and Community Medicine

**Background and family:** "I worked as an MCAT tutor and scribed in the Emergency Departments at Parkland Hospital and in suburban hospitals. My sister is a paramedic, and I sometimes got to hang out with her in the ambulance bay while I was on my emergency medicine rotation. My husband has been so supportive, giving me all the hugs I could ever ask for and never once looking at me like I was crazy for taking my flashcards to bed with me."

**What led to your career path:** "I want to be a family medicine physician because I want to help people be healthy, but I also want to be comfortable with the atypical, the undiagnosable, and the complex patient. Family medicine encourages a broad range of interests while also teaching us how to treat unique individuals with all their idiosyncrasies."

**Surprising fact:** "I went to Hampshire College in Massachusetts and majored in international relations, which is not a typical path to medical school. I have three cats, which is probably too many cats, but I love them so much. I worked at bookstores for years, and prior to medical school I used to read more than 100 books a year."

**Future plans:** "I want to work in a rural area and be a full-spectrum doctor – delivering babies, taking care of multiple generations of families, and even judging the high-school chili cook-off if asked."

**About the award:** The award, named after the Chair of Family and Community Medicine at UT Southwestern Medical Center from 1984 to 1993, includes a \$1,000 scholarship from the Dallas Chapter of the Texas Academy of Family Physicians Foundation.

## Dr. Laura Yuan:

Herbert S. Salomon, M.D., Class of 1967, Memorial Scholarship Award



Dr. Laura Yuan

*Dr. Laura Yuan has always had a passion for the brain, but realized her heart was in psychiatry. This year, the UT Southwestern Medical Student receives recognition for her demonstrated excellence in psychiatry on campus.*

**What this award means:** "Dr. Salomon was a beloved colleague whose life was shortened by a rare cancer. To me, this award represents the need for research and the hope for the future of medicine. While our society has taken strides to better understand and treat cancer, we are only at the infancy of understanding psychiatric disorders. I want to strive to broaden our knowledge of psychiatric diseases so that we can give patients the best care possible."

**Mentor comment:** "Our faculty were so impressed by Laura's rare combination of passion for research and patient care. She has incredible potential as a true clinician-scientist." – Dr. Adam M. Brenner, Professor of Psychiatry, Distinguished Teaching Professor, and Vice Chair for Education and Residency Training Director in Psychiatry

**Background and family:** "I was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, but because my parents moved to the U.S. with nothing and had no family here, my younger brother and I were sent to China to live with my grandmother and extended family. We spoke over the phone regularly, but did not see our parents or older sister until we moved back to the U.S. when I was 6 years old. I went to elementary and high school in Cincinnati and was lucky to have had fantastic school experiences throughout my childhood."

**What led to your career path:** "I have been interested in the brain since high school and majored in neuroscience in college. When I entered medical school through the Medical Scientist Training Program, I knew I had an interest in the brain, but did not have a strong sense of what clinical specialty I would enjoy the most. This resulted in me joining a basic science lab to give me a broad foundation in molecular and cellular biology. It was only after I returned to medical school that I discovered my clinical passion for psychiatry, and I could not be more excited to start residency!"

**College:** "I attended UT Dallas and majored in neuroscience. Some of my undergrad activities included research every summer and various positions within Gamma Sigma Sigma (a sorority dedicated to service). I also was a member of the Collegium V Honors Program."

**UTSW activities:** "I was an active member of the Medical Scientist Training Program, planning and leading various activities throughout the years. I also loved helping with the annual Carnaval de Salud."

**Surprising fact:** "I have been pescatarian since high school, and potatoes are my favorite 'vegetable.'"

**Future plans:** "I am thrilled to be training in the psychiatry research track residency here at UT Southwestern. I cannot wait to learn more about the practice of psychiatry from our amazing clinical faculty and residents, and I am even more excited to be working with research faculty to study the molecular mechanisms of psychiatric disorders."

**About the award:** The award recognizes a UT Southwestern medical student who demonstrates excellence in psychiatry. It is named after Dr. Herbert Salomon, who graduated from UT Southwestern in the 1960s and died shortly after graduation.

## Dr. Sydney Pinch:

Southwestern Gynecologic Assembly Award



Dr. Sydney Pinch

*Even as a child, Dr. Sydney Pinch was unwavering in her desire to be a physician. That passion and focus have led her to where she is now. Her efforts also have garnered her recognition from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology as recipient of the 2019 Southwestern Gynecologic Assembly Award.*

**What this award means:** "This award is a further solidification of my passion for gynecology. It was meaningful to know that physicians in Dallas recognized my career interests and research pursuits in the field and affirmed my efforts to become the best gynecologist I can be."

**Mentor comment:** "This award is given to a student who demonstrates scholarship, leadership, and deep interest in women's health care – and Sydney more than exceeds all of these qualities. Sydney is an extraordinary and accomplished student. She is a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society and has been involved with numerous research publications, abstracts, and presentations. In addition to maintaining these academic standards, Sydney shares her passion and enthusiasm for women's health care by volunteering

at local clinics. She is poised and professional and epitomizes all the qualities of an excellent Ob/Gyn resident." – Dr. Alicia Kiszka, Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology

**Background and family:** "I was born and raised in Plano. I'm the first doctor in the family. My parents are franchisees and my sister is an architect."

**What led to your career path:** "My entire life I wanted to be a doctor. When adults would ask me, 'What do you want to be when you grow up?' I always responded with a straightforward, confident answer. No doubts. No hesitations. When I was 16 years old, I entered an operating room for the first time as a Plano West clinical rotations student, and I was hooked. I entered medical school knowing I wanted to become a surgeon, but was unsure of what route that would take. Then, my very first rotation was in gynecologic oncology, and I absolutely fell in love with the field."

**College:** "I graduated summa cum laude from UT Austin with a bachelor's in human biology. I also was a medical microbiology teaching assistant, a health care clinic volunteer, and a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Kappa Delta. I received the College of Natural Sciences book award for academic excellence."

**UTSW activities:** "I did extensive research while at the Medical School and was awarded a \$100,000 grant. I also was a Colleges peer mentor, Pre+OP retreat counselor, and urgent care clinic volunteer. I participated in the Note-ochords UTSW Student Orchestra."

**Surprising fact:** "Most importantly I care about my relationships. Friends and family are extremely important to me, as is my Christian faith. I hope every day to make people around me feel cared for and valued."

**Future plans:** "I plan to serve a four-year residency in obstetrics and gynecology here at UT Southwestern and continue on to a four-year fellowship in gynecologic oncology. Also, I will be married in May, and I'm looking forward to all the fun that comes with building a life together!"

**About the award:** The Southwestern Gynecologic Assembly Award is given annually to an outstanding UT Southwestern Medical School graduate pursuing a career in obstetrics and gynecology.



## Dr. Trey Bowen: Dr. Richard Mays Smith Award



Dr. Trey Bowen

*Dr. Trey Bowen's primary goal is simple: to be the best advocate for his patients. Known for his compassion and kindness by faculty and peers alike, he is a recipient of the Dr. Richard Mays Smith Award.*

**What this award means:** "As I looked back on all of the students who have been given this award, I came across so many names of people I truly admire, and it is so humbling to share this honor with them. As I enter residency, I hope to emulate their passion and commitment to their patients, community, and colleagues."

**Mentor comment:** "Trey is an inspiring role model and leader in every aspect of his life. Trustworthy and compassionate, he is continuously striving to better himself. His commitment to always do the right thing and better the world around him motivates me to be a better clinician, teacher, and citizen."

– Dr. Reeni Abraham, Associate Professor of Internal Medicine and Co-Director of the Internal Medicine Clerkship

**Background and family:** "I grew up in Ama-

rillo, Texas, the middle of three boys. My wife of three years, Ally, and I both grew up in the same church, but we did not start dating until 2013 when we were set up by mutual friends. We have a precious 1-year-old named Ellis."

**What led to your career path:** "After graduating from high school, I shadowed an emergency physician, and I instantly fell in love with the combination of critical thinking with relationship and the opportunity to use such a career to serve in so many different ways. During medical school, I began to see how my interests aligned with those of primary care while on my ambulatory rotation: walking alongside patients in their medical journeys, managing a variety of medical problems in the outpatient setting, and reaching out to those with limited access to care."

**College:** "While a biomedical engineering major at Texas A&M University, I led Bible studies and conversational English classes for international students through the

Baptist Student Ministry, participated in a medical mission trip to Honduras, and was treasurer of the Texas A&M Chapter of Cure International."

**UTSW activities:** "I was a teacher for the smoking cessation class at Calvert Place Men's Shelter, a Union Gospel Mission clinic manager, and a VNA (Visiting Nurse Association) medical student summer fellow. I also was a member of the Southwestern Christian Fellowship student group, Gold Humanism Honor Society Community Engagement Committee, and Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society."

**Surprising fact:** "Although we are a bit out of practice, my wife and I love to sing duets together while I play guitar. We even got to sing at a coffee shop near our hometown on the night of our engagement."

**Future plans:** "I will begin residency at the Yale-New Haven Hospital Primary Care program in Connecticut. After residency, I hope to return to my hometown as an academic general internist."

## Dr. Kylie Cullinan: Dr. Richard Mays Smith Award



Dr. Kylie Cullinan

*Chronic injuries as a student-athlete opened Dr. Kylie Cullinan's eyes to the importance of a physician with a gift for teaching, and a gap year as a middle school teacher sharpened her own skills. Now as a recipient of the Dr. Richard Mays Smith Award she looks forward to a career of educating and empowering her patients.*

**What this award means:** "It has been such a rewarding experience to be a medical student at UTSW. I have found such excellent examples of how to practice medicine from residents and attendings alike in Internal Medicine. It is very flattering to be recognized among such an outstanding group of peers by this Department."

**Mentor comment:** "Kylie is the type of student for whom textbook and lecture knowledge easily translates to the bedside, making her a natural all-around practitioner for medicine. Combined internal medicine-pediatrics suits her particularly well, given her self-confidence and leadership skills, demonstrated to all levels of team members as well as patients." – Dr. Angela Orfino, Associate Professor of Internal Medicine

**Background and family:** "I was raised in the sub-

urbs of Houston. Both of my parents are in education. Though no one in my family is involved in health care, my parents were incredible role models of compassion, patience, and dedication to a craft and examples of why great teaching matters."

**What led to your career path:** "In college, I had a fairly disappointing athletic career riddled with injuries. It took an incredibly patient and thorough sports medicine doctor to unscramble the various issues and explain how to address them. I gained a real appreciation for the physician not only as an investigator, but also as a teacher with the ability to empower patients. When I spent a gap year teaching seventh-grade English, I had an opportunity to build critical skills as a communicator delivering messages to a diverse audience and had an eye-opening look at the impact of socio-economic inequalities on children."

**College:** "At Rice University, I double majored in biochemistry and English, was an 800- and 1,500-meter runner for the women's track and field team, led a peer-tutoring group, served as

a freshman orientation coordinator, was a 2014 Rice Scholar Athlete, and received the Pfeiffer Senior Service Award."

**UTSW activities:** "I was a member of the Camp Sweeney medical staff, Hematology & Oncology Student Interest Group, and Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. I also served as President of the Med/Peds Student Interest Group, Girls on the Run assistant coach, and YMCA boys basketball coach."

**Surprising fact:** "The first year, I coached a seventh-grade boys basketball team with fellow medical students Jenine Hassoun and David Cho. We went 0-13."

**Future plans:** "I plan to continue my training at UT Southwestern. I am entering med/peds, aiming to work with young adults transitioning from the pediatrics world to adult medicine. Young adults with chronic conditions provide challenges, both in navigation of social and interpersonal situations and in management of complex disease processes. As a pediatrician and internist, I want to balance medical expertise with compassion and education so that I can be the physician that this population deserves."

## Dr. Gene Hu: Dr. Richard Mays Smith Award



Dr. Gene Hu

*Service is at the heart of everything Dr. Gene Hu does. Known for his service to peers, community, and patients, he is a recipient of the Dr. Richard Mays Smith Award.*

**What this award means:** "This award is meaningful to me because it represents part of an effort to decrease the financial burden placed on medical students and allow those such as myself with interests in academic medicine to better pursue our passions."

**Mentor comment:** "Professional, compassionate, measured, and bright, Gene embraces the leadership role as he is always observing his environment for opportunities to exercise his gifts and talents in service to others. His remarkable insight, desire to continually challenge himself, and ability to grow are invaluable assets to our profession. His capabilities as a physician and a leader are limitless." – Dr. Reeni Abraham, Associate Professor of Internal Medicine and Co-Director of the Internal Medicine Clerkship

**Background and family:** "I was born and raised in Houston. My parents were both first-gen-

eration Americans from Taiwan and worked hard to put themselves through school. Each graduated with an undergraduate engineering degree."

**What led to your career path:** "My love for medicine has always stemmed from the beautiful marriage of the objective with the subjective – how we as physicians must puzzle through laboratory values, the 'evidence,' and the heuristics of illness scripts while also developing a rich relationship with the patient, understanding their social determinants of health, and seeing how all of their unique parts help us in the endeavor of making them whole."

**College:** "I graduated with a B.A. in biology, chemistry, and psychology from Cornell University, with research culminating in an honors thesis. During college, I completed 600 volunteer service hours through Alternative Breaks and also participated in Asian American InterVarsity."

**UTSW activities:** "I served as a student member of the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) and the Curriculum

Committee, member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, and officer of DFW HepB Free. Additionally, I was involved in research (six publications) and quality improvement (QI) projects with the Cardiology Division."

**Surprising fact:** "I danced Bhangra (an Indian folk dance) in undergrad. That is how I met my fiancée. I also play five musical instruments: violin, guitar, djembe, cajón, and keyboard."

**Future plans:** "I hope to go into internal medicine and spend most of my time as a practicing clinician. I also hope to follow in the footsteps of so many of my amazing mentors and go into academic medicine to be able to give back to the body of knowledge through research, help improve health systems through QI, and – most importantly – have a helping hand in teaching and raising up each new generation of physicians. I am excited to begin my training at the University of California San Francisco's prestigious program."

## Dr. Anisha Ganguly: Dr. Richard Mays Smith Award and U.S. Public Health Service 2019 Excellence in Public Health Award



Dr. Anisha Ganguly

Going from an idyllic Austin, Texas, childhood to college on Chicago's South Side opened the eyes – and heart – of Dr. Anisha Ganguly to the plight of underserved communities. She's been a change agent ever since, and now the

M.D./M.P.H. graduate is a recipient of a UTSW Dr. Richard Mays Smith Award and a U.S. Public Health Service 2019 Excellence in Public Health Award.

**What the Smith Award means:** "This award means a great deal to me because it serves as validation that dedication and humanism in medicine are worthy of recognition. This award is conferred to students based on clinical performance and patient-centered care, and to receive an award that stands for such core tenets of physicianship is truly humbling."

**Mentor comment:** "We find Anisha to be precisely the hypercompetent, intelligent student driven by a clear mission to make a difference, especially in the lives of the underserved. She is passionate about high-value care, system innovation, and health care justice." – Dr. Stephanie Brinker, Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine

**What the USPHS Award means:** "My hope is to one day make the health care system more equitable and more efficient in delivery of care for everyone. This award is a stepping stone toward making that dream possible."

**Mentor comment:** "Anisha has demonstrated through her research a genuine interest in understanding not only the medical problems, but also the social determinants of health faced by a largely uninsured patient population cared for in Parkland Hospital's safety-net hospital setting."

– Dr. Kavita Bhavan, Associate Professor of Internal Medicine and Associate Vice Chair of Clinical Innovation and High Value Care

**Background and family:** "My parents are both engineers, and I have a younger sister who is an elementary school teacher in Austin. My mother was the only woman in her electrical engineering class in her college in India and has really been a trailblazer for women her entire life. My dad is also the most feminist dad I could have asked for. Growing up, he taught me how to fix lots of things myself, how to use power tools, etc."

**What led to your career path:** "I grew up in Austin and had a wonderful childhood. I had a rude awakening when I went to the University of Chicago and moved from Austin – considered one of the nicest places in America to live – to the South Side of Chicago. I was overwhelmed by all the poverty I encountered. To confront this shock, I started volunteering in a clinic in the heart of the South Side. I learned from people from very different walks of life than mine, and I learned about how social determinants of health (access to care, housing, transportation, nutrition) impact people's lives. In that Chicago clinic, I began my journey as a future primary care physician and public health researcher."

**College:** "I went to the University of Chicago, where I double majored in biochemistry and Spanish literature. I spent two summers as an intern at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, where I did bench research on acute myeloid leukemia and rotated through the leukemia clinics."

**UTSW activities:** "I completed the M.D./M.P.H. dual degree program and served as UTSW class representative at the Association of American Medical Colleges Organization of Student Representatives. I volunteered at the Monday Clinic and also served as a research assistant to Dr. Bhavan."

**Surprising fact:** "People might not know that I'm fluent in Spanish because my second major was Spanish literature. Part of my major included a 20-page thesis written completely in Spanish. I wrote my essay about an epic poem by a baroque Spanish poet. It was maybe one of the most intense academic exercises of my life."

**Future plans:** "I matched at the University of Washington in their primary care internal medicine program. I am very excited to move to Seattle and train at an institution known for general internal medicine. Following residency, I plan to do a general internal medicine fellowship to receive additional training in health systems research methods. I plan to be an academic general internist, which means I will have the opportunity to do all the things I love: see patients, do research, and teach!"

**About the awards:** The Smith Award is given annually to one or more graduating medical students who excel academically during clinical rotations and who exhibit an interest in and compassion for patients. Administered by the U.S. Public Health Service Physician Professional Advisory Committee and now in its eighth year, the Excellence in Public Health Award recognizes medical students who have positively impacted public health in their communities.

## Dr. Shayna Ratner:

Lorraine Sulkin-Schein Medical Student Award in Geriatric Medicine and North Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians Award for Outstanding Medical Student in Psychiatry



Dr. Shayna Ratner

Dr. Shayna Ratner entered UT Southwestern Medical School with a keen interest in geriatric medicine. But exposure to psychiatry clerkships helped her to hone her skills and specialize in helping older patients navigate their mental health needs.

**What the Sulkin-Schein Award means:** "Geriatrics has held a special place in my heart since before I started medical school. It is my hope and intention to develop into a physician who takes thoughtful, patient-centered care of older adults, and to receive this award in a field that has taught me so much is a huge honor."

**Mentor comment:** "What impressed me the most was observing her on the Acute Care of the Elderly service at William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital. Shayna provided empathetic care for patients with challenging medical and social problems while often supporting their families facing crisis." – Dr. Craig Rubin, Professor of Internal Medicine, who holds The Margaret and Trammell Crow Distinguished Chair in Alzheimer's and Geriatric Research, the Seymour Eisenberg Distinguished Professorship in Geriatric Medicine, the Sinor/Pritchard (Katy Sinor and Kay Pritchard) Professorship in Medical Education Honoring Donald W. Seldin, M.D., and the Walsdorf Professorship in Geriatrics Research.

**What the Psychiatric Physicians Award means:** "I had some wonderful mentors who supported my research interest in medical student mental health. It means so much to me to receive an award in the field that has helped me grow as a future doctor and as a person."

**Mentor comment:** "Shayna designed and conducted one of the most rigorously thought-through studies with medical students without compromise. Her unapologetic advocacy for the recognition of brain health needs of medical students and connecting them to treatment and full wellness is not only a tribute to her astuteness but also shows how dedicated she is to the cause." – Dr. Madhukar Trivedi, Professor of Psychiatry and Director of the Center for Depression Research and Clinical Care, who holds the Betty Jo Hay Distinguished Chair in Mental Health and the Julie K. Hersh Chair for Depression Research and Clinical Care

**Background and family:** "I grew up in San Antonio and have an older brother. My dad is a radiologist and my mom has an MBA in marketing. My parents started a nonprofit organization to help patients navigate the health care system."

**What led to your career path:** "My maternal grandmother developed Lewy body dementia when I was in high school and my paternal grandmother developed Alzheimer's disease, so I had exposure to the impact that these illnesses can have on patients and their families. I started medical school thinking I was going to go into geriatric medicine, but I started developing an interest in mental health in medical school. I realized that mental health strongly impacts every person and often contributes in a major way to a patient's physical health problems. It became clear that psychiatry was the best fit for me, but I am still interested in working with the geriatric population."

**College:** "At Cornell University, I majored in human biology, health, and society and minored in gerontology. I regularly volunteered at a nursing home and completed my honors thesis on older adults' decision-making when considering undergoing joint replacement surgery."

**UTSW activities:** "At UTSW, I started the Mental Health and Wellness Committee, which is dedicated to promoting wellness, destigmatizing mental health, and increasing the accessibility of the Student Wellness and Counseling Office. At one event we hosted, 'Acknowledging our Humanity,' students, residents, and faculty shared stories of their own experiences with mental health challenges. I was honored to be inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society and became the President of that organization."

**Future plans:** "I am soon headed for my psychiatry residency at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center."

**About the awards:** The Sulkin-Schein Award recognizes a medical student who has demonstrated compassion, keen interest, and commitment to the care of older adults. The award is named in honor of Mrs. Schein, a longtime supporter of UT Southwestern who bequeathed funds to promote geriatrics as a career path for medical students. She died in 2007 at the age of 89. The Psychiatric Physicians Award honors a student for excellent work in psychiatry and mental health.

## Dr. Benjamin Kirby:

Rohrich Family Excellence in Plastic Surgery Award



Dr. Benjamin Kirby

The eldest son of physician parents, Dr. Benjamin Kirby has always loved building things. The wooden-block structures and Lego spaceships of his youth later advanced to 3D printed facial models. Dr. Kirby, recipient of the Rohrich Family Award, enthusiastically believes that advances in material science and custom manufacturing over the next decades will greatly expand the repertoire that plastic surgeons can employ to make their patients whole again.

**What this award means:** "It is really a testament to all of the people who have helped me along my medical school journey. It is nearly impossible to succeed on your own, and I attribute much of my success to those people who were there for me along the way: my fiancée, my parents, my Colleges and Departmental mentors, and my plastic surgery peers."

**Mentor comment:** "Dr. Kirby is a very talented individual who combines the unique attributes of dedication, hard work, and focus combined with emotional intelligence, ability to execute, and constant hunger to know more. These qualities will serve him well, since much of the specialty demands constant innovation and the ability to apply principles learned to a wide array of clinical and surgical situations." – Dr. Shai Rozen, Professor of Plastic Surgery

**Background and family:** "I graduated magna cum laude in mathematical economic analysis and

chemistry from Rice University. My parents exposed my brother and me to careers in medicine from day one. Family dinners would often revolve around interesting or challenging patient encounters, clinical problems, ethics, or policy dilemmas."

**What led to your career path:** "When I started medical school, I thought I would join the ranks of internists like my dad or radiologists like my mom. That changed during my second year when I had the opportunity to participate in an ulnar nerve reconstruction case. Peering through the microscope I could discern each glistening nerve fascicle as the attending surgeon meticulously sutured the nerve graft into place. It would take time, but our patient would eventually regain motor and sensory function in the regions damaged by his injury. In that moment I was hooked. Throughout my career, I want to learn and practice techniques that allow me to shape scarred tissue into flexible skin, fibula into mandible, and abdominal soft tissue into breasts. It is an exciting time to enter the field with ample opportunity to participate in the advancement of these techniques."

**Future plans:** "I am thrilled to embark on the next stage of my life as a resident in plastic surgery at the University of Missouri Hospitals in Columbia, and I can't wait to get married this coming May to Dr. Stephanie Barata, who also matched there in obstetrics and gynecology."

**About the award:** The award recognizes a medical student who demonstrates superior dedication and achievement in research and clinical work. It was created to honor Catherine and Claude Rohrich – the parents of former Department Chair Dr. Rod J. Rohrich.

**"It would take time, but our patient would eventually regain motor and sensory function in the regions damaged by his injury. In that moment I was hooked."**

– Dr. Benjamin Kirby

## Dr. Priya Raja: Hemphill-Gojer Award in Internal Medicine



Dr. Priya Raja

*As the daughter of a physician, Dr. Priya Raja initially considered other fields for her own career. However, after conducting research in South Africa and studying health care policy in Chicago, she was drawn to UT Southwestern Medical School to achieve her goals.*

**What this award means:** "I believe that the stories that patients share tell you just as much about how to care for them as a physical exam, labs, or imaging. To me, doctors not only piece together stories, but also shape how the rest of their patients' lives unfold – how they remember their illness, how their lives change with medical care, and what they experience after they leave the hospital. This award honors that responsibility."

**Mentor comment:** "UT Southwestern is truly privileged to have Priya Raja as one of our future alumni. She stands out for her determined optimism and boundless potential based on her exceptional intellect, creativity, and generous spirit. She is an undeniable gift to our profession." – Dr. Christiana Renner, Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine

**Background and family:** "My father works in

nuclear medicine and my mother is a homemaker. I grew up in a community of physicians – many family members from my father's side emigrated from India to retrain in the U.S. as physicians."

**What led to your career path:** "During college, I worked as a case manager at a federally qualified health center in Chicago. On my walk to the clinic, I crossed between communities where the disparity in average life expectancy was seven years. It was evident that addressing social barriers like unemployment, lack of insurance, unstable housing, or food insecurity was just as essential to the healing process as medicine. It became clear to me that advocating for the health of individuals meant learning about the social determinants of health that shape communities."

**College:** "At the University of Chicago, I earned a Bachelor of Arts in public policy studies with honors, specializing in health and human rights. I volunteered with Health Leads, serving as a case manager at federally qualified health centers in low-resource communities. I participated in our school's Mobile Application Challenge in 2013, and our team won the grand prize for developing an app to improve delivery of discharge instructions in pediatric emergency rooms."

**UTSW activities:** "Through the Schweitzer Fellowship, I counseled on HPV vaccines in low-resource Dallas clinics to improve vaccination rates. I also participated in TEDMED 2016 as a Frontline Scholar and Research Scholar, assisting with program development, and earned the Stanford-ABC News Global Health and Media Fellowship, where I spent a year working in the public information and advocacy unit at the World Health Organization in Southeast Asia and as a digital reporter/associate producer for the medical unit at ABC News."

**Future plans:** "I would like to pursue a fellowship in hematology-oncology and palliative care, working at the intersection of these fields and global health."

**About the award:** The award, presented to the top medical student in internal medicine, was established by Ross H. and Anne Seymour Hemphill in honor of their son and daughter-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. Seymour Hemphill; their daughter and son-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. Bernard Gojer; and Anne Hemphill's parents, E. Clyde and Florine Allen Seymour. Dr. Hemphill and Dr. Gojer are both UTSW Medical School alumni.

## Dr. Rachel Thomas: American Academy of Neurology Medical Student Prize for Excellence in Neurology



Dr. Rachel Thomas

*Dr. Rachel Thomas has an intellectual curiosity that sparked her interest in science and medicine at a young age. That trait helped her excel at UT Southwestern Medical School and earn a prestigious honor that recognizes her promise in the field of neurology.*

**What this award means:** "It is an immense honor to be recognized for my passion regarding the care of patients with neurologic conditions and commitment to neuroscience research. I am extremely grateful for the knowledge that I have gained and the wonderful opportunities provided through the Department of Neurology and Neurotherapeutics at UT Southwestern."

**Mentor comment:** "Rachel is a highly motivated, intelligent, focused, and sincere student with all the right attributes of a great work ethic, intellectual curiosity, compassion, hard work, and great team spirit. There is no doubt that she will be an outstanding neurology resident and will fit well into any program." – Dr. Shilpa Chitnis, Professor of Neurology and Neurotherapeutics

**Background and family:** "I grew up in Northwest Arkansas and graduated summa cum laude in biochemistry from the University of Arkansas. I completed a Ph.D. in neuroscience at UT Southwestern, earned a P.E.O. Scholar Award, and received research funding via training grants from NIMH (National Institute of Mental Health) and NIDA (National Institute on Drug Abuse). My inspiration came from the caring nature of my grandmother, who was a registered nurse with ambitions of attending medical school but lacked the financial means. In addition, my parents nurtured my love of science at a young age with endless trips to the public library to let me check out every book in existence about dinosaurs."

**What led to your career path:** "Many factors have influenced me to pursue a career in neurology. Foremost in my mind was my grandfather's diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease. This inspired me to be a source of support for families coping with neurologic disorders and work toward developing therapies to help them. My interest was further fostered by Cognitive Neuroscience and Philosophy of Mind classes that I enrolled in during college; this blended with my background in biochemistry to make a career in neurology and molecular neuroscience a perfect fit."

**Surprising fact:** "I love a good adventure and I am passionate about rock climbing, primarily bouldering (no free soloing!). I found out the hard way that you don't stay out past sunset in the Fontainebleau forest – wild boars are almost as fast as a person on a bike."

**Future plans:** "I am headed to a residency in neurology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, with an interest in neurocritical care. I plan to apply for an R25 grant during residency with the hope of pursuing research related to traumatic brain injury. I plan to pursue a career as an academic neurointensivist, blending a clinical career in the neuro ICU together with conducting basic or translational TBI research."

**About the award:** The award is presented to a graduating medical student who has promising career potential in neurology as seen by their institution's faculty and residents.

## Dr. Raamis Khwaja: Eliot Goldings Award in Rheumatology



Dr. Raamis Khwaja

*Although he's lived in America for almost 20 years, Dr. Raamis Khwaja returns to India whenever an opportunity arises to visit his grandparents and to soak in the lasting values and traditions – education, service, authenticity – that they imparted on his parents. Those deep-rooted characteristics undoubtedly helped in Dr. Khwaja's selection as this year's Goldings Award recipient.*

**What this award means:** "Receiving recognition from the faculty and fellows I had a chance to work with during the rheumatology rotation is a distinction I will forever cherish. They are role models in their knowledge of medicine, kind demeanor, and support for each other. I enjoyed the opportunity to learn from them and hope to make a similar impact as they have on the lives of people I care for. I also want to thank my classmates for their support through the years. They are an incredible group of individuals. I hold a great deal of love and respect for each of them in my heart."

**Mentor comment:** "Raamis approached his work with enthusiasm and a strong desire to learn. At

the bedside, he developed a warm relationship with the patients, gathering and interpreting relevant information in a facile manner. He is drawn to the care of the neediest, expressing empathy and care for the very sick patients we encountered on the service. His performance was truly commendable." – Dr. Salahuddin Kazi, Professor of Internal Medicine and Internal Medicine Vice Chair of Education

**Background and family:** "My family moved from India when I was 7, and we have since lived in Chicago and Dallas. My parents are very dear to me and constantly provide support and guidance. My sister is a senior at UT Austin and will be starting medical school in the fall. I also keep in close touch with my grandparents in India. They are huge influences in my life – my paternal grandfather studied philosophy at Cambridge and my maternal grandfather studied engineering at Manchester before coming back to India and leaving behind a truly remarkable legacy."

**What led to your career path:** "I grew up in a loving family that placed an emphasis on education, service, and authenticity. I felt a physician most closely embodied those traits, and I felt it would be the best combination of earning a living and giving back to the communities that had shaped me. While at Southern Methodist University, for instance, I received tremendous support and was able to conduct a research project on water contamination and public health in my hometown of Aligarh, India."

**Surprising fact:** "I originally wanted to study history and be a writer before choosing medicine. At SMU, I majored in biochemistry and also was in the liberal arts honors program."

**Future plans:** "I will be serving my residency in internal medicine at UT Health Science Center at Houston, and I am interested in rheumatology and hematology/oncology as possible careers."

**About the award:** The award, presented to the most outstanding medical student in rheumatology, is named for Dr. Eliot A. Goldings, a former Division of Rheumatic Diseases faculty member who died in 1988. Dr. Goldings distinguished himself as a scholar, teacher, and clinician.

## Dr. Sarah Doucette: TAFP Dallas Chapter Outstanding Graduate Award



Dr. Sarah Doucette

*A strong desire to be part of a community led Dr. Sarah Doucette to the field of family medicine, and it is her dedication to outreach that makes her a natural choice to receive the 2019 TAFP Dallas Chapter Outstanding Graduate Award.*

**What this award means:** "I am very grateful for and proud of my medical education. Because of the broad nature of family medicine, it is important to have a strong foundational knowledge of other medical specialties. The new curriculum at UTSW allowed me to complete electives in subspecialties that medical students are not normally exposed to, such as dermatology and sports medicine."

**Mentor comment:** "Sarah has participated in our programs with incredible creative energies and a refreshing idealism to accomplish what needed to be done. She demonstrated an amazing passion and commitment for primary care, and I feel confident that she will continue to succeed in her studies and provide the same high level of passion and commitment to the population she will serve." – Dr. Nora Gimpel, Associate Professor of Family and Community Medicine, who holds the Dr. John L. and Louise Roan Professorship in Family Medicine

**Background and family:** "I grew up in Plano. My parents both have careers in engineering. I am the first doctor in my family!"

**What led to your career path:** "During a shadowing experience with a Lubbock allergist as an undergrad at Texas Tech, a patient came in, and I could tell he and the physician had been friends for a while. When the doctor finally asked the patient how he was feeling, he answered, 'I'm all right I guess, considering it's ...,' and the doctor interrupted knowingly, 'cotton ginning season.' I was fascinated by how the residents of an area spanning thousands of square miles could feel so connected by facing similar medical problems derived from the characteristics of their region. Following this experience, I knew that community involvement was extremely important to me. When I started my clinical rotations at UT Southwestern, I found that this value was most exemplified by the field of family medicine."

**UTSW activities:** "When I moved to Dallas, I sought to form meaningful relationships not only within my Medical School class but also within the community. I began attending services at a local church and participated in its young adult activities and volunteer events. The activity I am most proud of was implementing a health and fitness curriculum at a charter school in East Dallas. I worked with UTSW Family and Community Medicine faculty, residents, and other students to design the curriculum and visit the school every Friday to interact with the students and teach the lessons. After one year of our program, the student body had significantly higher average scores in all categories."

**Surprising fact:** "When I was young, I was on a synchronized swimming team!"

**Future plans:** "I will start my residency in family medicine at Saint Joseph Hospital in Denver this summer. I recently became engaged to James Sutton, another UT Southwestern graduate, who is going into emergency medicine and will complete his residency at Denver Health."

**About the award:** The TAFP (Texas Academy of Family Physicians) Outstanding Student Award is given by the Dallas Chapter to one student annually.

## Dr. Sheena Pillai:

Karen Kowalske Outstanding Medical Student in PM&R Award



Dr. Sheena Pillai

Dr. Sheena Pillai's family has a long history with the Southwestern Medical District. Her father has worked at Parkland Hospital, where she was born, for over 20 years. Bringing that legacy back full circle, Dr. Pillai is recognized for her excellence in physical medicine and rehabilitation (PM&R) work on campus.

**What this award means:** "I have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Kowalske during my PM&R rotations. She is incredibly efficient, knowledgeable, and she sincerely cares for her patients. If this award is to distinguish students with the potential to be a physician who is anything like Dr. Kowalske, then I am extremely honored. I hope that I can live up to that potential."

**Mentor comment:** "Sheena has always been exemplary. She is a true humanitarian, and it is clear that she cares deeply for her patients and the field of PM&R. Sheena is always ready to go the extra mile and has been very helpful in advising younger classmates about PM&R." – Dr. Kelly Scott, Associate Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

**Background and family:** "I grew up in the small town of Sunnyvale, Texas. My father works at Parkland

Hospital as a lab supervisor, and my mother is a respiratory therapist. My father always saw the UTSW students in their white lab coats when he took his lunch break, and he hoped that one day his own child would go to this school. I was incredibly grateful for the opportunity to fulfill his dream."

**What led to your career path:** "I always knew I wanted to pursue a career in the health care field and initially considered nursing. My parents immigrated to this country with very little. They motivated me to make the most of my education and to see how far it could take me. During medical school, I knew I made the right choice. I had the privilege to help guide patients during their most difficult times and to practically use my knowledge. In PM&R I appreciated the team-based approach to patient care and how treatment was individualized to each patient. What ultimately made me choose PM&R was the focus on returning patients back to their lives in the community."

**College:** "I graduated magna cum laude from UT Dallas with a B.S. in biology. While at UTD, I was a member of Phi Kappa Phi, received the UTD Academic Excellence Scholarship, and graduated from the Collegium V Honors Program. I also completed a semester abroad in Hong Kong and served as a chemistry tutor, biology lab teaching assistant, Learn to Be tutor, Kerala Hindu Society Youth Coordinator, and member of the Bollywood dance team and Alpha Epsilon Delta."

**UTSW activities:** "I was involved with United to Serve (Coordinator), the Psychiatry Interest Group (President), STARS Symposium for female students interested in STEM fields, and the Gold Humanism Honor Society."

**Future plans:** "I hope to complete my residency at Stanford University Programs and take part in medical education."

**Surprising fact:** "I completed 12 years of Bharatanatyam training, a classical Indian dance form, and performed my arangetram (dance debut/graduation)."

**About the award:** Started in 2011, the award is named in honor of past Department Chair Dr. Karen Kowalske, now a Professor of PM&R who holds the Charles and Peggy Galvin Professorship in Physical Medicine. The award, which includes a plaque and a \$250 gift certificate, recognizes a medical student who demonstrates empathy, compassion, maturity, and inquisitiveness.

## Dr. Kelly Lawson:

2019 Kurt Ian Wey, M.D., Senior Pediatric Award



Dr. Kelly Lawson

A childhood emergency first sparked Dr. Kelly Lawson's interest in becoming a physician. Throughout her education she's learned how to merge her passion for science and helping people into a career focused on pediatrics, which makes her an ideal recipient for the Kurt Ian Wey, M.D., Senior Pediatric Award.

**What this award means:** "The award itself is something that holds a great deal of weight in representing someone special who is no longer with us. The fact that Dr. Wey's family and friends remember him this way is extraordinary, and I am honored to be a part of this. I am so passionate about pediatrics and want this to always show in my clinical practice and search for knowledge. This award helps me feel like I am beginning to learn how to do this."

**Mentor comment:** "Kelly is a young woman who perfectly embodies the spirit of the Kurt Ian Wey Award – she has shown grit and resilience throughout medical school and achieved scholastic excellence and the respect of her peers and her faculty for the humanistic way in which she practices medicine throughout her time on our

campus. She will make an outstanding pediatrician and I can't wait to see where her career takes her." – Dr. Soumya Adhikari, Associate Professor of Pediatrics

**Background and family:** "I grew up mostly in Richardson, Texas, but spent three years in the Netherlands as a child. My parents still live in Richardson. My sister, Tracy, lives in Jarrell, Texas, with her husband and three super-cute children. My brother, Jimmy, lives in Austin."

**What led to your career path:** "I have wanted to be a pediatrician since I was a little kid. I was in a bad car accident in Tunisia when I was 5 years old, and I remember how much the medical team's compassion and care meant to me and my family. As I got older, the idea of being a pediatrician changed from being just a dream to being a passion. I love science and human biology and have found that applying this in a setting of patient care brought all the fascinating science together with compassion and empathy."

**College:** "I majored in human biology at UT Austin. I volunteered with Foundation Communities, Cook Children's Pediatric Surgery Center, Dallas Life Foundation for the homeless, Dickinson Independent Living Center, Natural Pediatrics, and a church soup kitchen. I was proud to receive the College of Natural Sciences book award and the Rebekah L. Henderson Scholarship and be accepted as a member into the Alpha Lambda Delta and Phi Eta Sigma honor societies."

**UTSW activities:** "Since coming to UT Southwestern, I have continued to volunteer with other organizations such as No One Dies Alone, Center of Hope, and HANDS. I've also worked in a UTSW research lab studying rhabdomyosarcoma."

**Surprising fact:** "I enjoy practicing acrobatic yoga."

**Future plans:** "I will be pursuing a residency in pediatrics at UT Southwestern and hope to eventually practice in a primary care setting."

**About the award:** The award recognizes a fourth-year medical student who shows empathy and compassion for sick children, has significant knowledge, and maintains a good sense of humor. Dr. Wey was a 1998 UT Southwestern graduate who died in a car accident. The award was established by family and friends to honor his life.

## Commencement Continued from page 1

Committee, served as the Consulting Club's first female President, created the CoNECT (Cultivating Narrative for Effective Communication) course for science writing and communication in the Graduate School, founded the Biotechnology Club, and co-developed a graduate student peer mentoring program for writing grants and fellowships.

Dr. Daniel K. Podolsky, President of UT Southwestern, will confer degrees on all of the graduates.

### Dr. Dzau

In addition to serving as President of the National Academy of Medicine (NAM), Dr. Dzau is Vice Chair of the National Research Council, Chancellor Emeritus and James B. Duke Professor of Medicine at Duke University, and past President and CEO of the Duke University Health System.

Previously, Dr. Dzau was the Hershey Professor of Theory and Practice of Medicine and Chairman of Medicine at Harvard Medical School's Brigham and Women's Hospital, as well as Chairman of the Department of Medicine at Stanford University.

He is an internationally acclaimed leader and scientist whose work has improved health care in the United States and globally. His seminal work in cardiovascular medicine and genetics laid the foundation for the development of the class of life-saving drugs known as ACE inhibitors, used globally to treat hypertension and heart failure. Dr. Dzau pioneered gene therapy for vascular disease and was the first to introduce DNA decoy molecules to block transcriptions in humans in vivo.

Dr. Dzau has led efforts in innovation to improve health, including the development of the Duke Translational Medicine Institute, the Duke Global Health Institute, and the Duke Institute for Health Innovation. He has served as a member of the Advisory Committee to the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), chaired the NIH Cardiovascular Disease Advisory Committee, and currently chairs the NIH Cardiovascular Stem Cell Biology and Translational Consortia.

Since arriving at the National Academies, Dr. Dzau has designed and led important initiatives such as the Commission on a Global Health Risk Framework for the Future; the Human Genome Editing Initiative; and Vital Directions for Health and Health Care.

### Dr. Phillips

Dr. Phillips is a leading authority on drug development for the treatment of parasitic diseases. During her UT Southwestern tenure, Dr. Phillips has conducted groundbreaking research that recently yielded a treatment that kills drug-resistant malaria parasites and is now in phase two clinical development. Her research focuses on identifying and characterizing vulnerable metabolic pathways in parasitic protozoa with the goal of developing new drugs for malaria and for another neglected tropical disease, African sleeping sickness. The new drug – DSM265 – kills drug-resistant malaria parasites in the blood and liver by targeting their ability to replicate.

While the disease was eradicated in the United States in 1951, malaria remains one of the world's major infectious disease killers. Transmitted through mosquitoes, it claims nearly 450,000 lives worldwide each year.

Dr. Phillips has worked closely with colleagues in the Department of Biochemistry using high-throughput screening and chemical optimization to develop a new and highly potent antimalarial compound, now in clinical trials, as well as other antiparasitic agents. In 2010, her research team won the Medicines for Malaria Venture's Project of the Year award for their efforts to discover DSM265.

She earned her Bachelor of Science in biochemistry from the University of California, Davis, in 1981 and her Ph.D. in pharmaceutical chemistry from the University of California, San Francisco, in 1988.

Dr. Phillips has published 108 articles in scientific journals and 23 book chapters or review articles. She currently serves as an associate editor of the journal *PLOS Pathogens*.

Dr. Phillips holds The Sam G. Winstead and F. Andrew Bell Distinguished Chair in Biochemistry.

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

## CLASS NOTES

### IN MEMORIAM

#### MEDICAL SCHOOL

James R. Cole, M.D. ('57)

#### HOUSESTAFF

John D. Hammonds, M.D. (Anesthesiology)  
Ashby T. Harris, M.D. (Neurology)

#### SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Paula June Gilbert Watson ('75)

#### MEDICAL SCHOOL

**Class of 1996: Sidney Gicheru, M.D.**, co-founded a Leadership Development Program (LDP) for ophthalmologists in Africa, following volunteer faculty service for the Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology LDP and participation in missions work in Vietnam, Thailand, China, Japan, the Philippines, and Singapore. Since it was founded in 2015, the Africa LDP has taught ophthalmologists from 23 African countries and held meetings in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, South Africa, and Ethiopia. In 2018,

Dr. Gicheru became CEO of the African Ophthalmology Council (AOC), the supranational organization representing ophthalmologists and patients in Sub-Saharan Africa. The AOC will host the World Ophthalmology Congress in Cape Town, South Africa, in June 2020, marking the first time for this meeting to be held in Africa.

#### GRADUATE SCHOOL

**Class of 1975: James Chien-hua Chu, Ph.D.**, will receive the Edith H. Quimby Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Association of Physicists in Medicine in San Antonio in July. This award recognizes members with notable careers based on outstanding achievements.

**For the latest updates on alumni events and news, visit [engage.utsouthwestern.edu/alumni](http://engage.utsouthwestern.edu/alumni) and follow @utswalumni on Facebook.**

Please send your Class Notes contributions or address changes to the Office of Development and Alumni Relations, UT Southwestern Medical Center, 5323 Harry Hines Blvd., Dallas, TX 75390-9009, email [alumni@utsouthwestern.edu](mailto:alumni@utsouthwestern.edu), or call 214-648-4539.

## Ho Din Continued from page 1

"I knew Annelle Ahmed during her time here at UT Southwestern. She would be as proud of Bethany as I am," said Dr. Mary Pearson, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology. "Bethany was knowledgeable. She demonstrated true heart in caring for her patients. She was a great team player. And she did all this without flash; she just put her head down and did what was needed."

Dr. Werner plans to complete her residency at UT Southwestern in obstetrics and gynecology, a field she chose because it offers the opportunity for close doctor-patient relationships as well as the chance to perform some surgery and deal with complex and intellectually stimulating medical issues, weighing the benefits and risks for two patients at the same time.

"I just love the relationships that you can build with women," Dr. Werner said. "Ob/Gyn

is a specialty that's very dependent on the trust between the patient and the provider."

One of Dr. Werner's goals is to increase access to health care for women. Working with low-income women at Dallas County's public hospital system, Parkland Health & Hospital System, and volunteering at free clinics, Dr. Werner said she developed a deep respect for the women who remain optimistic as they struggle to find a way to pay for prenatal care and cover food and rent.

"Maybe the first time they're getting care is when they're pregnant," Dr. Werner said. "They were always so grateful to receive the care."

Teaching at an institution like UT Southwestern one day is another goal, she said.

Dr. Werner's younger sister, Geneva, also excelled in science but headed to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for an engineering degree – something Dr. Werner said she never considered.

"I just felt like my career purpose in life was to be a physician," she said.

