

★ LEADERS IN CLINICAL
EXCELLENCE AWARDS ★



NOVEMBER 10, 2022

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Craig Peters, M.D.

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Gary Reed, M.D.



Leaders in Clinical Excellence Awards Presentation Program Agenda

Introductory Remarks from Dr. Daniel K. Podolsky

Presentation of Awards by Drs. Daniel K. Podolsky, W. P. Andrew Lee, and John Warner

Rising Star Award

- James “Brad” Cutrell, M.D., FIDSA
- Linda A. Dultz, M.D., M.P.H., FACS

Mentoring Award

- David Gerber, M.D.
- Myra H. Wyckoff, M.D., FAAP

Patient and Family Recognition Award

- Erin E. Gordon, D.O.

Program Development Award

- Multidisciplinary Liver Tumor Program – Amit Singal, M.D., M.S.; Adam Yopp, M.D.
- Obstetrics Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement – Shivani Patel, M.D.

Institutional Service Award

- Mary Jane Pearson, M.D.

The President’s Award for Diversity and Humanism in Clinical Care

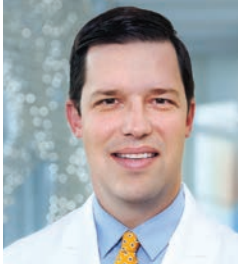
- Mehari Gebreyohanns, M.D.

Patricia and William L. Watson Jr., M.D. Award for Excellence in Clinical Medicine

- Robert H. Collins Jr., M.D., FACP

Rising Star Award

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



James "Brad" Cutrell, M.D., FIDSA

Associate Professor of Internal Medicine

Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine

From the onset of the COVID-19 epidemic, Dr. Cutrell, an infectious diseases specialist, has been involved in nearly every aspect of UT Southwestern's institutional response.

Notably, he led the development of inpatient and outpatient COVID-19 treatment protocols.

In addition to being at the forefront of caring for patients, he has played a crucial role in creating UT Southwestern policies for COVID-19 prevention, serving on the institution's COVID-19 Recovery of Operations Committee, the Committee for Deployment of COVID-19 Antibody Testing, the COVID-19 Vaccine Science Review Committee, and other related task forces. He is a trusted adviser on COVID-19 prevention and management and is frequently featured on national media.

An article Dr. Cutrell wrote about pharmacologic treatments of COVID-19 was published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* in 2020 and is one of the most-cited articles about the disease.

His receipt of the Rising Star Award is just one of a series of honors and achievements during his medical training and in his professional career, beginning with the Ho Din Award, presented to the top UT Southwestern medical student upon graduation. ■



Linda A. Dultz, M.D., M.P.H., FACS

Assistant Professor of Surgery

Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, at a time when many physician practices had slowed or moved to telemedicine, Dr. Dultz was busier than ever in her work as a trauma and acute care surgeon and Medical Director of Parkland Memorial Hospital's Surgical Intensive Care Unit.

Not only did her workload increase during a difficult time, but she also volunteered to take on more by covering the COVID-19 ICUs and regularly operating on patients who had the virus.

Taking over leadership of the Surgical ICU, she has taken steps to improve the quality of care, including establishing protocols for treatment of patients with traumatic brain injury, as well as those aiming to reduce ventilator-associated pneumonia.

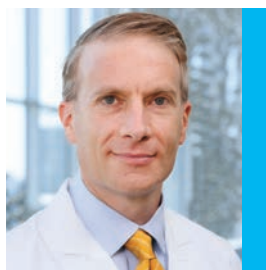
Dr. Dultz, whose clinical specialty is trauma, emergency general surgery, and surgical critical care, serves as the Program Director of UT Southwestern's Surgical Critical Care Fellowship.

She joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2017 after completing fellowships in both surgical critical care and trauma and acute care surgery at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

She earned her medical degree at New York Medical College in 2008, followed by her general surgery residency at New York University School of Medicine. ■

Mentoring Award

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



David Gerber, M.D.

*Professor of Internal Medicine and in the Peter O'Donnell Jr. School of Public Health
Division of Hematology and Oncology*

An oncologist who champions translational research as a key element of clinical care for cancer patients, Dr. Gerber is a mentor for trainees who also wish to pursue the bench-to-bedside approach.

In addition to numerous trainees and physicians, he also has encouraged and advised nurses, advanced practice providers, Ph.D. students, and clinical researchers. One such relationship led to a change in national policy. In working with a nurse practitioner, Dr. Gerber noted that the National Cancer Institute (NCI) had prohibited advanced practice providers from prescribing treatments in clinical trials. Dr. Gerber encouraged her to push for a change, guiding her through the process of publishing an article and petitioning NCI leadership.

In 2016, he received an NCI Midcareer Investigator Award in Patient-Oriented Research, an NCI grant that specifically supports mentoring.

Dr. Gerber serves as the Associate Director of Clinical Research at UT Southwestern's Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center and holds the David Bruton, Jr. Professorship in Clinical Cancer Research. ■



Myra H. Wyckoff, M.D., FAAP

Professor of Pediatrics

Division of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine

It's hard to say what Dr. Wyckoff values most – resuscitating newborn babies or teaching trainee physicians how to do this important work, knowing there will be many more hands to carry the mission forward.

“Myra is the clinical mentor that everyone hopes to impress and never wants to disappoint,” wrote one nominator.

Dr. Wyckoff is a newborn intensive care specialist who cares for babies who are born too early or enter the world with serious health issues. She is the Director of the Neonatal Resuscitation Program at Parkland Memorial Hospital.

In recognition of her superior mentorship skills, Dr. Wyckoff has been honored with the Pediatric Faculty Teaching Award on three separate occasions.

Said another nominator, “Through Myra’s creation and oversight of the Parkland Newborn Resuscitation Program, her clinical mentorship has reached thousands of learners over her 22-year tenure and positively impacted the lives of countless newborns who have reaped the benefits of these well-trained residents and fellows.”

After completing a degree in engineering, Dr. Wyckoff earned her medical degree at UT Southwestern Medical Center. ■

Patient and Family Recognition Award

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



Erin E. Gordon, D.O.

*Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
Division of Pediatric Critical Care*

Working with pediatric patients with congenital heart disease can be emotionally draining work, but Dr. Erin Gordon's own heart is more than up to the task.

Supervisors, colleagues, and families of her patients all tout Dr. Gordon's ability to bond with those she encounters, to create a climate of comfort and competence in difficult circumstances.

"She is the physician every patient and family hopes to have when faced with some of medicine's most daunting challenges," wrote one of her nominators.

A patient's mother added: "She listens but also displays confidence in her decisions. Our child is still here because of her quick reaction time, knowledge of cardiac output, and the nurturing environment she creates."

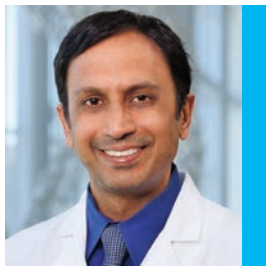
Dr. Gordon serves as the Medical Director of UT Southwestern's Inpatient Developmental Care Program, in which she leads the Heart Center's efforts to improve patient neurodevelopment outcomes. She is also a committed member of the Patient and Family Advisory Committee.

She has a passion for parental mental health and is interested in the dynamic of congenital heart disease and the incidence of both oral aversion and feeding intolerance.

She earned her Doctor of Osteopathy degree at Midwestern University Chicago and completed her residency and fellowship at the University of Iowa, as well as an advanced fellowship in pediatric cardiac critical care at UT Southwestern. ■

Program Development Award

This award celebrates the innovation and collaboration that are foundational to the success of UT Southwestern Medical Center. It recognizes a group of clinical faculty and staff who have worked together as a team to create, develop, and sustain an innovative program that significantly advances our ability to improve the care received by our patients.



Multidisciplinary Liver Tumor Program

Amit Singal, M.D., M.S.

*Professor of Internal Medicine and in the Peter O'Donnell Jr. School of Public Health
Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases
Medical Director, Liver Tumor Program*



Adam Yopp, M.D.

*Associate Professor of Surgery
Division of Surgical Oncology
Surgical Director, Liver Tumor Program*

Liver cancer rates are rising rapidly in the United States, in part due to increased prevalence of obesity and diabetes, and the state of Texas has the highest incidence nationwide. These figures underscore the critical need filled by UT Southwestern's Multidisciplinary Liver Tumor Program.

One of the largest in the country, the Program is noteworthy for its collaborative and comprehensive approach to the treatment of liver cancer.

Under the leadership of Dr. Singal and Dr. Yopp, it has substantially grown over time and now cares for more than 300 patients with liver cancer annually.

Clinics at both the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center and Parkland Health are staffed with hepatologists, hepatobiliary and transplant surgeons, interventional radiologists, and oncologists – providing patients streamlined access to all the specialists they will need.

Using a team-based approach, leveraging areas of expertise across campus, the program has successfully implemented interventions that have reduced liver cancer incidence, improved early cancer detection, and reduced liver cancer mortality. Focused efforts at each of these steps have not only allowed UT Southwestern to offer aggressive and innovative treatments to our patients in the North Texas area, but also help shape the field on a national scale. ■



Obstetrics Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement

Shivani Patel, M.D.

Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Postpartum hemorrhage, which is excessive bleeding by a woman who has given birth, is a serious condition that can sometimes necessitate a hysterectomy and can lead to organ damage and even death.

The Obstetrics Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI) program, led by Dr. Patel, made changes to obstetrics practices that dramatically reduced the incidence of postpartum hemorrhage, cutting it from 14% to just 5% of births.

In 2019, the Obstetrics QAPI program began its efforts to lower the postpartum hemorrhage rate by taking a comprehensive look at the labor and delivery process. QAPI faculty and staff worked with the blood bank to create an obstetrics-specific massive transfusion protocol, which allowed blood to get to the unit faster. This reduced the average time it took for blood to reach the patient by a precious five minutes.

Additionally, a new system was set up to measure the amount of blood loss for postpartum patients, ensuring measurements would occur at 15-minute intervals. A certain level of measured blood loss now automatically initiates a set of orders for dealing with hemorrhaging.

With these changes and more in effect, the need for blood transfusion of more than four units decreased from 10% to 3%, and the number of women being admitted to the ICU dropped from two per month in 2019 to just five total since the beginning of 2021.

The QAPI program substantially improved outcomes on other quantifiable measures as well, including the time to treatment for patients with severe hypertension and the number of surgical site infections. ■

Institutional Service Award

This award honors clinical faculty who consistently share time and expertise in service to internal committees, task forces, and other institutional activities that make a significant impact on the care delivered to UT Southwestern patients.



Mary Jane Pearson, M.D.

Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Dr. Pearson has demonstrated time and again her devotion to UT Southwestern by serving on departmental and institutional committees and developing educational programs to advance the mission of the institution.

She is a proud UT Southwestern alumna and has dedicated years of service to the Student Promotions Committee, the Employee Wellness Committee, and the Faculty Senate, among others. She was elected at-large to serve on the Medical Education Curriculum Committee.

She has worked with students, residents, and patients at the Parkland Women's Health clinics, and has advocated for patients as a member of the Family Planning Coordinating Committee for UTSW/Parkland Health System from 2007 to the present.

She is a member of the University of Texas System's Kenneth I. Shine, M.D., Academy of Health Science Education and the UT Southwestern Academy of Teachers (SWAT), for which she was president in 2021.

Dr. Pearson is a beloved teacher and has received many teaching awards for her work with students, residents, and faculty. She was elected by students into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society in 2014. One of the highest honors that can be bestowed on a faculty member by students is to be selected as a Commencement Marshal and Dr. Pearson received that honor for several years. ■

The President's Award for Diversity and Humanism in Clinical Care

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



Mehari Gebreyohanns, M.D.

Associate Professor of Neurology

Dr. Gebreyohanns specializes in stroke, telemedicine, and global health, and his work in Ethiopia has put UT Southwestern at the forefront of efforts to treat brain disease in less-developed parts of the world.

He became involved with telehealth stroke diagnosis and treatment because he wants people across North Texas, as well as those thousands of miles away, to have access to the first-class treatment available at UT Southwestern.

After a 2016 visit to the city of Bahir Dar in Ethiopia, Dr. Gebreyohanns launched a program called Bahir Dar Outreach for Neurology Education (BORNE). Through BORNE, physicians are now able to use electroencephalography (EEG) machines to diagnose epilepsy, and telehealth technology allows them to consult with UT Southwestern staff on difficult cases.

Dallas has a large Ethiopian community – Amharic is the fourth-most common language spoken by patients at Parkland Memorial Hospital. So, Dr. Gebreyohanns partnered with fellow Ethiopians to develop the Amharic phrase “ye-angol tikat” to mean “stroke,” thereby expanding opportunities for stroke education in Dallas as well as Ethiopia.

Dr. Gebreyohanns is also active in mentoring medical students. Immediately upon arriving at UT Southwestern, he became involved with such programs, including the “Gotcha Covered” program for underrepresented minority first-year medical students and the “First Generation” student program. ■



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Patricia and William L. Watson Jr., M.D. Award for Excellence in Clinical Medicine

This award recognizes a UT Southwestern clinician who exemplifies excellence in patient care and is a leader in advancing clinical innovation. It honors a faculty member who has had a profound impact on patients, students, trainees, and colleagues through the quality of his or her clinical work.



Robert H. Collins Jr., M.D., FACP

*Professor of Internal Medicine
Division of Hematology and Oncology*

Dr. Collins, a blood cancer specialist, has led the Hematological Malignancies/Bone Marrow Transplantation (BMT) Clinical Program at UT Southwestern Medical Center since establishing it in 1998.

The BMT program, which is widely recognized as one of the top programs in the country, cares for more than 1,500 new patients a year and performs approximately 180 transplants annually. These patients are among the sickest cancer patients, and their care is exceptionally complex.

“Our goal from the beginning has been to offer a program that delivers very complicated therapy with excellence and compassion. Today’s treatments are less toxic and more effective, have lower mortality rates, and cause fewer side effects,” Dr. Collins said in 2017, when the program reached its 1,000th transplant.

The many clinical trials that he has offered his patients over the years not only provide hope to those for whom traditional chemotherapy has failed, but also led to improved standard treatments with fewer side effects for future patients.

Dr. Collins also instructs medical students, residents, and fellows in the treatment of blood cancers.

His ability to connect with his patients is key to his selection as this year’s Watson Award recipient. “Importantly, Dr. Collins maintains a spiritual and emotional connection with many of his patients, helping them navigate through their difficult cancer journey,” his nominator said.

The evidence of his ability to provide not only scientifically top-notch treatment, but also a warm, human touch, can be found in the comments of Press Ganey respondents. Words like “kind,” “caring,” and “compassionate” appear over and over.

Said one Press Ganey respondent, “Of all of the doctors I saw during my illness, he is the one who gave me hope of being well, and I believe that had a profound influence on my outcome.” ■

