

★ LEADERS IN CLINICAL
EXCELLENCE AWARDS ★



NOVEMBER 9, 2023

Leaders in Clinical Excellence Awards Selection Committee Members

John Mansour, M.D., Co-Chair

Maeve Sheehan, M.D., Co-Chair

Lina Chalak, M.D.

Carlos Girod, M.D.

Craig Glazer, M.D.

Susan Hernandez, D.N.P.

Temple Howell-Stampley, M.D.

Jeffrey Kenkel, M.D.

Kimberly Kho, M.D.

Nisa Kubiliun, M.D.

Jayanthi Lea, M.D.

Christopher Madden, M.D.

Susan Matulevicius, M.D.

Mack Mitchell, M.D.

Shawna Nesbitt, M.D.

Ivan Pedrosa, M.D., Ph.D.

Craig Peters, M.D.

Gary Reed, M.D.

Sharon Reimold, M.D.

Thomas Wang, M.D.

Herbert Zeh, M.D.

Eric Zeikus, M.D.



Leaders in Clinical Excellence Awards Presentation Program Agenda

Introductory Remarks from UT Southwestern President Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.

Presentation of Awards by Dr. Podolsky

Rising Star Award

- Christina Herrera, M.D.
- Jessica H. Voit, M.D.

Mentoring Award

- Anand Rohatgi, M.D., M.S.C.S.
- Kim B. Yancey, M.D.

Institutional Service Award

- Vanessa Laibl Rogers, M.D.
- Rina Sanghavi, M.D., M.B.A., FAAP, NASPGHAN-F

Program Development Award

- Cystic Fibrosis and Bronchiectasis Program – led by Raksha Jain, M.D., M.Sc., ATSF
- Extending Maternal Care After Pregnancy (eMCAP) – led by David B. Nelson, M.D.

Patient and Family Recognition Award

- Toral R. Patel, M.D.

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

- Ellen Kitchell, M.D., FIDSA

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

- Karen Kowalske, M.D.

Rising Star Award

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



Christina Herrera, M.D.

*Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine*

After Dr. Herrera joined the faculty of UT Southwestern's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in 2020, it didn't take her long to secure funding for pioneering research in understanding the development, structure, and function of the human placenta.

She received a grant to study the placental metabolic response to chronic hypertension as a KL2 Clinical Scholar in her second year as a faculty member. Dr. Herrera was then awarded a K23 grant in 2022 from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to research magnetic resonance image profiling in normal and hypertensive placentas.

As leader of the Placenta Accreta Spectrum team at Parkland Memorial Hospital, Dr. Herrera oversees the care of pregnant women whose placenta adheres abnormally to or invades the wall of the uterus. Extensive documentation by Dr. Herrera and her team on placenta accreta spectrum, with a focus on imaging to screen, assess, and make recommendations for treatment, has led to legislative changes and enhanced standards at the state and national levels.

Dr. Herrera is working toward a Master of Science in clinical science. She graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Princeton University and earned her medical degree at Columbia University's Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons. She completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology and a fellowship in maternal-fetal medicine at UTSW.

Dr. Herrera also is affiliated with UT Southwestern's Cecil H. and Ida Green Center for Reproductive Biology Sciences. ■



Jessica H. Voit, M.D.

Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine

Division of Geriatric Medicine

In her young career, Dr. Voit has been an outstanding advocate for the medical needs of geriatric patients as a caregiver, leader, and innovator.

She joined the faculty of UT Southwestern Medical Center in 2018 and was named Medical Director of the Mildred Wyatt & Ivor P. Wold Center for Geriatric Care four years later.

In her first year, Dr. Voit established a UTSW branch of the nationally recognized Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP), in which volunteers help older patients retain cognitive skills and maintain physical well-being while in the hospital. Through a partnership with the UT Dallas Hobson Wildenthal Honors College, the Comets HELP program at UT Southwestern brings undergraduate pre-health students into regular conversation with geriatric patients at William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital who are at risk of delirium.

Although reducing cognitive confusion in older patients is the key goal of the HELP program Dr. Voit established, she had a secondary objective: generating interest among future physicians in geriatric medicine, a specialty in which enrollment is diminishing as demand grows.

She also launched a spinoff program during the COVID-19 pandemic, HELP Seniors at Home, which enables student volunteers to engage with elderly patients at risk for loneliness, depression, boredom, and social isolation.

Dr. Voit earned her medical degree at UTSW. She completed her residency in internal medicine at the University of Michigan School of Medicine, serving an additional year as Chief Resident. She returned to UTSW for a fellowship in geriatric medicine. ■

Mentoring Award

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



Anand Rohatgi, M.D., M.S.C.S.

Professor of Internal Medicine

Division of Cardiology

Dr. Rohatgi was named Associate Program Director of the Cardiovascular Fellowship Program at UTSW in 2018. He is the lead mentor for cardiology fellow research and meets with senior cardiology fellows in groups each week throughout their third year of training. He also organizes cardiology fellow research conferences and meets with all fellows individually to discuss career development and research and academic plans.

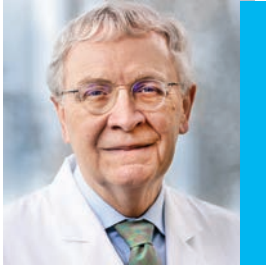
Through his research lab, which focuses on finding biomarkers for cardiovascular disease risk, Dr. Rohatgi has mentored over 25 medical students and residents interested in research careers.

He received an award for K24 Mentoring Patient-Oriented Research in Deep Lipid Phenotyping for Cardiovascular Disease from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. In addition, Dr. Rohatgi is a mentor leader and coach for faculty applying for K and R grants through the Clinical Researcher Catalyst Program. He also took part in formal professional coach training through the Office of Faculty Wellness, enabling him to provide peer coaching to UTSW faculty.

In 2023 he was named lead clinical research coach for the UTSW Successfully Obtaining an R (SOAR) grant writing workshop.

Last year, Dr. Rohatgi founded the South Asian Heart Program, in which he aligns his research and clinical interests; he mentors faculty and trainees in this endeavor. These activities are in addition to his busy clinical career in preventive cardiology.

Dr. Rohatgi earned his medical degree at Duke University School of Medicine. He trained as a resident in internal medicine at the University of Pennsylvania Health System and completed a cardiology fellowship at UT Southwestern. He also holds a master's degree in clinical science from UTSW. ■



Kim B. Yancey, M.D.

Professor and former Chair of Dermatology

Dr. Yancey has mentored many residents, medical students, and faculty members during his 16 years at UTSW. But that is only one facet of the legacy created by

Dr. Yancey, who began his tenure as Chair of the Department of Dermatology in 2007.

He stepped down as Chair on Oct. 16, 2023, when Joseph F. Merola, M.D., M.M.Sc., assumed the title.

Dr. Yancey brought national prominence to the Department, which boasts \$4.2 million in national research support and provides more than 85,000 patient encounters annually. He also broadened the reach of the Department through its staffing, meaning more mentees have benefited from his experience.

His guidance has covered numerous areas, including work-life balance, conflict resolution, research interest development, departmental project initiation and completion, career and intellectual development. He even covered shifts on holidays so his faculty and residents could spend more time with family.

After receiving his medical degree from the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University, Dr. Yancey completed his dermatology residency there. He then completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the Dermatology Branch of the National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health. In 1993, Dr. Yancey became a tenured Senior Investigator in the same branch.

Dr. Yancey is a former Director and Vice President of the American Board of Dermatology and past President and former member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the Society for Investigative Dermatology. In 2007, he received the American Academy of Dermatology's Marion B. Sulzberger, M.D., Memorial Award. ■

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.



Vanessa Laibl Rogers, M.D.

Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine

Vice Chair of Education and Faculty Development

Dr. Rogers doesn't list "bridge builder" among the many positions on her CV, but the term easily applies to her work as a successful facilitator at UT Southwestern. In the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology alone, she has served or serves on the Residency Program Clinical Competency Committee, the Program Evaluation Committee, and the Maternal-Fetal Medicine Fellowship Program Clinical Competency Committee. She was the inaugural faculty adviser to Future Residents of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and she currently serves as Chair of the Department's internal Promotion and Tenure Committee.

Her influence extends outside the Department as well. She sits on Parkland Memorial Hospital's Obstetric Peer Review and Midwife Surgical Training Committees and is a voting member of UT Southwestern's Promotion and Tenure Committee. She is also Chair of the Graduate Medical Education clinical learning environment subcommittee. In addition, Dr. Rogers is a Cultivating Active Listening in Medicine (CALM) peer supporter.

Even as a trainee, Dr. Rogers' concern for treating all colleagues and patients with respect was evident. While serving her residency at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami, she received Best Chief Resident in Obstetrics and Most Compassionate Chief Resident awards. She earned her medical degree at the University of Miami's Miller School of Medicine.

Today, she continues to empathize with and advocate for her Ob/Gyn patients, not just at the hospital but also at Parkland's Obstetric Infectious Disease clinic.

Dr. Rogers holds the Norman F. Gant, Jr., M.D. Chair in Obstetrics and Gynecology. ■



Rina Sanghavi, M.D., M.B.A., FAAP, NASPGHAN-F

Professor of Pediatrics

Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology

Physician well-being, equity, and faculty development are just a few of the areas of opportunity that Dr. Sanghavi has worked tirelessly to advance at UT Southwestern.

She serves as Director of the Office of Faculty Engagement and Development for the UTSW Department of Pediatrics. Dr. Sanghavi is also the Pediatrics representative to the Wellness Champions Committee in the Office of Faculty Wellness and clinical representative to the UT System Faculty Burnout Working Group at the state level.

Dr. Sanghavi is one of the inaugural members of the UTSW Faculty Compensation Equity Committee. Her efforts on pay equity have been successful locally and recognized nationally.

She chairs the pediatric business strategy group looking at revenue cycle operations along with optimization of physician documentation and billing.

She leads faculty development programs that include the master mentor program in the Department of Pediatrics and a junior faculty development conference for pediatric gastroenterologists nationally.

Dr. Sanghavi is a nationally known pediatric gastroenterologist who completed her medical school training at one of the premier institutions in Mumbai, India; her pediatrics residency at SUNY Downstate Medical Center in New York; and her fellowship in pediatrics gastroenterology at UT Southwestern. She established the pediatric neurogastroenterology and GI motility program at UT Southwestern and has grown it to be one of the leading such programs in the country. ■

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.



Cystic Fibrosis and Bronchiectasis Program

Raksha Jain, M.D., M.Sc., ATSF

Professor of Internal Medicine

Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine

Medical Director, Adult Cystic Fibrosis Program

The Cystic Fibrosis and Bronchiectasis Program at UT Southwestern is among the top cystic fibrosis centers in the country, providing comprehensive care for a complex disease and cutting-edge research that has led to breakthrough therapies.

A lifelong genetic condition, cystic fibrosis (CF) is often thought of as a lung disease, but CF causes multiple problems, including pancreas and liver dysfunction, digestive system disease, repeated infections, diabetes, and osteoporosis. The Cystic Fibrosis and Bronchiectasis Program leads treatment on all these issues.

Dr. Jain, the Program's Medical Director, says the multidisciplinary team treats patients' lungs and sinuses, pancreatic and digestive problems, and diabetes. The UTSW Cystic Fibrosis Program is accredited by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and is the only program in Dallas to meet its rigorous standards for care.

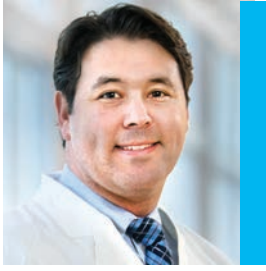
One key aspect of the Program is transitioning patients from pediatric to adult care. At one time, few people with cystic fibrosis lived beyond their teens. The prognosis for many is no longer as dire, so moving them smoothly from pediatric to adult clinics is essential.

The patient population at the Cystic Fibrosis and Bronchiectasis Clinic doubled between 2010 and 2017, and from 2017 to 2022, that number doubled again, as patients from outside the Dallas area sought to be part of the nationally recognized Program.

The CF Clinic won UT Southwestern Team Excellence Awards twice. Nationally, it received a Quality Improvement Care Award from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation in 2018. ■



Members of the Cystic Fibrosis and Bronchiectasis Program



Extending Maternal Care After Pregnancy (eMCAP)

David B. Nelson, M.D.

*Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Division Chief, Maternal-Fetal Medicine, UT Southwestern
Medical Director, Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Parkland Health*

UT Southwestern and Parkland Health established the innovative extending Maternal Care After Pregnancy (eMCAP) program in October 2020.

Based on initiatives identified in Dallas County's 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment, the program offers social services and patient care to postpartum patients with limited resources. It also targets gaps in screening and improves follow-up rates through virtual postpartum care, embedded community health workers, home blood pressure cuffs linked to a mobile unit, and screening for mental health and substance use disorders.

Over 3,000 patients who would not have received postpartum care beyond six weeks after delivering babies at Parkland Memorial Hospital have enrolled in the one-year program. If patients qualify, they are enrolled in Dallas Healthy Start, an eMCAP partner using community health workers to provide Medicaid access, well-baby care, and car seat distribution.

Enrollees who have acute or chronic medical conditions are seen at a mobile clinic staffed by an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN), social worker, and pharmacist. Virtual provider visits are offered too.

The program received a Department of Health and Human Services Racial Equity in Postpartum Care Challenge award in 2022. Its findings were presented in 2021 to Congress by eMCAP leader Dr. Nelson. Additionally, eMCAP also received the 2022 John M. Eisenberg Local Level Innovation in Patient Safety and Quality Award.

In March 2023, Dr. Nelson and Elaine Duryea, M.D., Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, secured \$18 million from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute to study the use of technology to improve access to maternal postpartum care using the eMCAP program as a pilot design platform. ■



Members of the eMCAP Program

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.



Toral R. Patel, M.D.

Associate Professor of Neurological Surgery, Neurology, and Radiation Oncology

The most essential quality for any surgeon to possess is expertise in the operating room. But when surgeons combine technical virtuosity with people skills and compassion for patients and family, they are extraordinary. Dr. Patel is that special kind of physician.

As Director of UT Southwestern Medical Center's Brain Tumor Program, Dr. Patel demonstrates leadership that emphasizes the importance of patient-centered care. As an individual, she strives to understand each patient's unique story.

She specializes in treating gliomas, meningiomas, and other central nervous system tumors, using advanced surgical techniques such as brain mapping to remove tumors in critical language and motor regions of the brain. Another sophisticated technology Dr. Patel employs to treat brain tumors is laser interstitial thermal therapy (LITT), which involves placing a small laser inside the brain to thermally ablate a tumor.

A member of the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Peter O'Donnell Jr. Brain Institute at UTSW, Dr. Patel also conducts research on methods to improve drug delivery to the brain. She holds a patent on a nanoparticle that can circumvent the blood-brain barrier and deliver drugs to brain tumors.

Dr. Patel earned her undergraduate degree in biomedical engineering from Johns Hopkins University and her medical degree from UT Southwestern. She did her internship in general surgery at Yale New Haven Hospital, followed by a residency in neurological surgery, during which she served as Chief Resident. She completed a fellowship in neurosurgical oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center before joining the UT Southwestern faculty in 2014. ■

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.



Ellen Kitchell, M.D., FIDSA

Associate Professor of Internal Medicine

Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine

As Medical Director of the largest Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program medical home in the country, Dr. Kitchell leads a team serving more than 6,000 people with HIV. She brings an unwavering dedication to a patient population that is often overlooked and stigmatized.

During her 13 years on faculty, she has provided engaging, patient-centered care that produces results: Her patient panel has an HIV viral suppression rate of over 90%. She has helped foster communitywide innovations in HIV care, such as same-day treatment initiation, injectable therapies, and coordinating a response to multiple emergent pandemics, including Ebola, COVID-19, and mpox. Based on this track record of service and compassion, Dr. Kitchell was honored as the Parkland Physician of the Year in 2023.

Her leadership in the HIV community extends beyond the hospital, as an advocate and volunteer with agencies like Agape Clinic, Fast-Track Cities, Dallas HIV Task Force, and AIDS Walk South Dallas. She also participates in national advocacy efforts with the Infectious Diseases Society of America and HIV Medicine Association.

She earned her medical degree at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine and completed a residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in infectious diseases at UT Southwestern. As UTSW's HIV Fellowship Program Director, Dr. Kitchell happily welcomes learners at all levels to train in the field. One of her proudest accomplishments is successfully recruiting multiple trainees to HIV medicine and cultivating the next generation of idealistic caretakers. ■



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 clinical work.



Karen Kowalske, M.D.

Professor of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

In her 33-plus years at UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dr. Kowalske has earned a national reputation as a fierce advocate of long-term rehabilitative care for patients suffering from catastrophic injuries. She is the heart and soul of UTSW's burn rehabilitation program and has made a positive impact on thousands of lives by providing compassionate, comprehensive care for patients' functional and emotional health.

Dr. Kowalske also has made a significant contribution to UT Southwestern's Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, helping elevate it to a nationally recognized leader in clinical treatment, research, and education. The Department now regularly makes the *U.S. News & World Report* list of top programs in the country.

Over her three decades at UTSW, Dr. Kowalske has been a mentor to countless faculty members, fellows, interns, and students. She also initiated the creation of a program for unfunded patients with amputations and a laser therapy program to reduce scarring for burn patients, and she runs an outpatient clinic for burn patients of all ages.

Dr. Kowalske is currently serving a two-year term as President of the Association of Academic Physiatrists. Her extensive research related to burn care includes more than 110 peer-reviewed articles and abstracts and she is Principal Investigator for the North Texas Burn Rehabilitation Model System.

She joined UT Southwestern in 1990 after earning her medical degree from the University of Florida College of Medicine and completing her internship in internal medicine and residency in physical medicine and rehabilitation at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia. She served as Chair of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation at UTSW from 1999 to 2014.

Dr. Kowalske holds the Charles and Peggy Galvin Professorship in Physical Medicine. ■

